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THE REGISTER OF THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

DURING THE VACANCY OF THE SEE,

USUALLY CALLED

“REGISTRUM SEDE VACANTE.”

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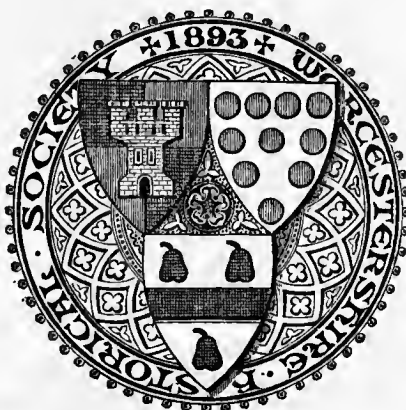
THE WORCESTERSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY

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PART I.

*From the Death of Bishop Giffard, Feb. 1301, to the Enthronization
of Bishop Ginsborough, June, 1303.*



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INTRODUCTION.

THE ecclesiastical records of the Diocese of Worcester contain vast stores of information on matters connected with the county that have so far never been published. In any attempt to collect the materials for a History of Worcestershire these records must hold, if not the first, one of the foremost places. The mass of matter is so large that the difficulty is to select what is best to publish, and the task of selecting has been one of some perplexity. The records are of two kinds: 1. Those relating to the Monastery of Worcester, which on its suppression and the establishment of the new Cathedral foundation by Henry VIII. passed into the custody of the Dean and Chapter. Of these the Register of the Priory, a document shewing what were the estates of that House, and giving various details as to its property and customs, was edited by the late Archdeacon Hale for the Camden Society, in 1865, and the Journal of Prior Moore, the last of the Worcester Priors, is, it is said, about to be published by another Society. With these exceptions, and save what has been extracted by Habington, Thomas, and others, the records of the Dean and Chapter have never yet been published or even fully calendared. 2. The other class of documents are those relating to the See of Worcester. The Bishops' Registers extend from 1267, the episcopate of Bishop Giffard, to the present day, and as the pre-Reformation registers relate to the old Diocese, that is the counties of Worcester, Gloucester, and part of Warwick, the vein of local history here is obviously a rich one. In selecting which of the records should first be published, it was decided to take one that would contain as much matter of general interest, as opposed to mere local or ecclesiastical details as possible, and therefore the Register of the events that occurred during the vacancy of the See was selected. This volume, the Sede Vacante Register, is the property of the Dean and Chapter; it contains an account of all that took place from the death of one Bishop to the enthronization of his successor, and his being let into full possession of the spiritualities

and temporalities of the See. During a vacancy of the See the Prior and Convent of Worcester were entitled to administer the Diocese and to take part of the profits thereby derived, under the terms of an agreement made in 1260 between the Prior of Worcester and Archbishop Boniface, that on a vacancy of the See the Prior should collect the revenues, and keep one third, and pay the Archbishop two thirds. We have no record of what took place on the death of Walter Cantelupe in 1266, or Nicholas of Ely in 1268; the vacancy in 1301, on the death of Godfrey Giffard, and the time until the enthronization of his successor, William de Gaynesborough, in June, 1302, is the first that appears on the Register. This is the one now published. On the principle of making hay when the sun shone, the episcopal rights were often most rigidly enforced during the time the See was vacant. It was the knowledge of this, and also the fact that the Register, by giving the history of each vacancy, was easy to publish in a fairly complete form, that caused it to be the first of the Worcester ecclesiastical documents selected for publication. The present part relates to the vacancy that occurred on the death of Godfrey Giffard in 1301, and covers the time from Feb., 1301, to June, 1302, the 30 and 31 Edward I. The entries are made in the Register without regard to order, and although mainly inserted chronologically, are yet not always so. They fall, roughly speaking, into three great divisions.

I. The matters relating to filling up the vacancy in the See and the election of a new Bishop.

II. The matters that relate to the general administration of the Diocese by the Prior and Convent during the time they were entrusted with it.

III. Miscellaneous matters that are often of considerable interest as throwing light upon the social life and customs of the time.

I. The first division is of general interest, not only to Worcestershire persons but to all who study the history of England in the 14th century; the second and third are more local, but there are some of them that have a wider interest.

The first division of the Register gives the history of the steps taken to fill up the vacancy in the See on Bishop Giffard's death. That Prelate died on the 7th of the Kalends of February, 1301¹. He was buried on the 2nd of the Nones of February.

¹ p. 1.

The Prior and Convent at once wrote to the King informing him of Godfrey Giffard's death, and asking for his Licence to elect¹. The letter was sent to Edward I. by the Sacristan, Gilbert de Maddeleya, and another monk, John de Harleye. On the 20th February, 1301, the King granted his License to the Prior and Convent to elect², and on receiving the License the monks met on the 8th of the Ides of March to settle the day of election³. The election was fixed for Lady Day⁴. The same day, the 8th of the Ides of March, the Prior and Chapter ordered William, the Precentor, to summon all absent brethren to the election on 25th March. On the 11th of the Kalends of April the Precentor sent to the Prior and Convent stating he had executed their order⁴. On Lady Day, the Prior and Chapter met. One monk was absent from illness; his proxy was read⁵. Another, John de Dumbleton, who had been made Prior of Malvern, sent renouncing all right or voice in the election, and did not appear⁶. The rule prescribing the constitution of the full Chapter was then read. The Prior solemnly warned all excommunicated or suspended persons, all under any interdict, or all who had no right to be present, to leave. A long discussion then took place, but the opposing parties were unable to agree upon a Bishop. *Via compromissionis* they appointed a Committee of seven, consisting of the Sub-Prior, Stephen de Wytton, the Precentor, William de Grimeleye, the Sacristan, Gilbert de Maddeleye, the Infirmarius, Henry de Antioch, and three monks, Nicholas de Norton, John de Sancto Germano, and Richard de Bromwich, to whom they gave for eight days the power to elect any member of the Worcester monastery that the majority of the Committee might think best fitted to be Bishop⁷. The Committee met on the same day and elected one of their own number, John de Sancto Germano, who is alleged to have been "wise in temporal and spiritual matters." The Chapter was then summoned and confirmed the Committee's report. The Precentor thereupon pronounced John de Sancto Germano to be elected as the new Bishop. A Te Deum was sung, the Bishop elect led to the altar, and his election proclaimed to the Church and the people.

On the 4th of the Kalends of April, four days after, the Prior writes on behalf of the Chapter to Edward I⁸, informing him of the

¹ p. 2.² Ibid.³ p. 1.⁴ p. 2.⁵ p. 1.⁶ p. 3.⁷ p. 1.⁸ p. 2.

election of John de Sancto Germano, asking for the Royal confirmation, and sending the Sub-Prior and the Sacristan with the letter to the King. A letter was also sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury¹, informing him of the election, and the same Monks, the sacristan, and Sub-Prior took that letter as well to Archbishop Winchelsey. The Precentor William and another monk, Richard de Bromwich, were appointed proctors on behalf of the Prior and Convent to put the case before the King and the Archbishop². On the same day the Prior and Convent caused a public proclamation to be made of the election of John de Sancto Germano as Bishop³. The King seems to have approved of the choice of the Convent, but the Archbishop did not. On the 6th of the Nones of May he wrote from Croydon to the Prior and Chapter⁴, ordering them to ask in church if there were any who opposed the election of the new Bishop, and if so, such person was to appear before the Archbishop on the 9th of the Kalends of June at "Neuwenton," near London. On the 13th of the Kalends of June, the certificate of the proclamation of the election of the Bishop having been made in the Cathedral was sent to the Archbishop⁵.

Why the Archbishop so objected to the Prior and Chapter's nominee is not very clear, except that he was poor, but the next step of the Archbishop was to submit a case to the Pope on the 16th of the Kalends of August⁶, setting out certain alleged irregularities in the election of John de Sancto Germano as Bishop. The Prior asked, on behalf of the Chapter, for a copy of the case. The Archbishop refused to recognize John de Sancto Germano as Bishop, or to hear his message, or to revise the case. The Bishop elect then took an opinion of those skilled in the Law in London, and was advised that an appeal against the Archbishop's decision would lie to Rome. He therefore wrote to the Prior stating these facts, and urged the Chapter to appeal to the Pope, and to send two agents (*instructores*), or one sufficiently instructed Proctor, to the Pope to prosecute the appeal, and asked the leave of the Prior to go to Rome himself on the matter. The Chapter met and considered the new Bishop's letter. They determined to appeal, and gave the Elect of Worcester leave to go on with the matter, their reasons being thus given "that the building of the church of Worcester should be continued by John de Sancto Germano, and

¹ p. 1.² p. 2.³ Ibid.⁴ p. 4.⁵ Ibid.⁶ p. 12.

that some improvement should be made in the condition of the monks, with regard to their food and refectioⁿ ¹."

The Prior and Chapter, in pursuance of this resolution, wrote to the Pope, informing him of the election of John de Sancto Germano as Bishop, asking for the Pope's favour to him, and stating that he set out to Rome at once on the business of the election ². The Prior also wrote to the Archdeacon of Worcester, who was a Cardinal at Rome (Francis Neapolis), asking his aid for John de Sancto Germano in the business of the election, and also proposing some alteration as to the amount of money paid by way of pension to the Archdeacon ³. Edward I. also wrote to the Pope recommending the Bishop for confirmation ⁴. John de Sancto Germano then set out for Rome. He was accompanied by Robert Orford, the Prior of Ely, whom the monks had just elected Bishop. The new Bishop of Ely had some trouble when landing in France ⁵; his household was dispersed, his horses seized, and his goods lost. The parties of the two Bishops reached Rome on the 3rd of the Nones of October. After saluting the Pope and the Cardinals, a day was fixed for the hearing of the cases. Ely was taken on the Translation of St. Ethelreda; whether the Elect of Ely was more liberal in money or for some other reason which does not appear, his election was confirmed. The Elect of Worcester did not please the Pope. The sentence in the letter to the Prior of Worcester stating why it was so has been very carefully erased in the Register ⁶. The result was that the Elect of Worcester gave up his right to the See ⁷. The Pope left the matter to three Cardinals, Mathew Rubens, Leonardus Alanes, and brother Gentili. At the next Consistory the Pope appointed William de Gaynesborough Bishop and Pastor of the Church of Worcester. The postscript of Richard de Bromwich, who wrote a letter to the Prior of Worcester, detailing these facts, is very instructive. After setting out the facts, he says: "This news was most unpleasant. But now is come to pass what is said in the Book of Proverbs, '*Donum hominis dilatat viam ejus et inter principes spatium ei faciet.*' I commend you to Christ and the glorious Virgin." The new Bishop was a Franciscan, a Reader in Divinity at Rome. He accepted the nomination, and in December left Rome for England. He arrived in London at the end of January, or the beginning of February, and his first act

¹ p. 14.² Ibid.³ p. 18.⁴ p. 15.⁵ p. 32.⁶ p. 43.⁷ p. 32.

was to go to Windsor to make his peace with the King. This, through the medium of the King's Almoner, Henry de Bluntesdon, he seems to have done. He reached London on the Tuesday before the Purification, and on that feast performed Mass before the King at Windsor [Wyndeshore]. The Bishop then wrote to the Prior on the 5th February, informing him of his arrival, and asking for money, or rather, he puts it more politely, "He hopes the Prior will assist him¹." The Prior replied², stating he was delighted to hear of the Bishop's safe arrival in England; that they owed the King's Almoner £60, and had not the money to pay it. But they sent the Bishop £20, and assured him of their fidelity. At the same time they wrote to the King's Almoner, promising to pay the £60 when they could³. The Archbishop wrote on the 7th of the Ides of February, stating that the Bishop had taken the oath of obedience to him, and made his profession, and ordering the Prior to hand over to the Bishop the spiritualities and temporalities of the See. The Bishop replied⁴ to the Prior's letter, thanking him for the £20, and admitting he was very unworthy of it, and saying he proposed to come to his Bishopric the first week in Lent. He complains of the cost of having to stay in London. Whatever the Bishop's knowledge of theology may have been, knowledge of English geography was not his strong point, for he writes from Eltham to the Prior on the 3rd of the Kalends of March⁵, that he intends, if he can, to leave London to set out for his Bishopric on the Second Sunday in Lent, travelling by Reading and Oxford, which he will leave on his right. He does not know at present what places he must go through. Hopes the Prior will meet him, and bring Bishop Giffard's register with him. On the 6th of the Kalends of April he writes to the Prior he can come to no decision as to his enthroning without the advice of the Prior and the Convent⁶, and he sends another letter with this asking for more help⁷. The monks got these letters on the Saturday before Palm Sunday, and seem to have been much disturbed, for they held a Chapter on the next day⁸, the Sunday, to discuss them, and sent the Sub-Prior to the Bishop to give an answer verbally. This did not please the Bishop. He had now reached his Diocese, having got to Bristol, and writing from there on Good Friday, complains of the Prior's answer to his

¹ p. 37.² p. 38.³ Ibid.⁴ p. 40.⁵ p. 43.⁶ p. 45.⁷ Ibid.⁸ p. 45.

requests for help. As they do not mention a sum, he desires them to tell the messenger distinctly what they will give. They need not fear making a precedent, as what is done from kindness cannot be so construed¹. The monks do not answer this by letter, but send John of Brawdwas to answer it verbally. The answer must have been fairly satisfactory, for the next letter from the Bishop is an invitation to the Prior and Convent to be present at his enthronement. The Bishop now seems to have hit upon a device to get money. The Convent owed Henry de Bluntesdon, the King's Almoner, £100. The Bishop got this sum assigned to himself, and the Almoner wrote to the Convent if they did not pay the money before a fixed date to the Bishop, he, the Almoner, would take other steps with them². Having thus got money to pay his expenses, the Bishop set out for Worcester, and reached his Palace at Kempsey. He sent for the Prior to dine with him. After dinner he told the Prior that unless he came to fetch him the next day he would not come to be enthroned³. On all points but money the Prior seems to have been conciliatory. He was not bound by custom to go more than a mile from the Monastery to meet the Bishop, but he agreed to go to Kempsey, which was four miles, as it was the Bishop's wish. On the next day he came there with some of the Convent officials, and escorted the Bishop to Worcester. They were met by the Abbots of Evesham, Pershore, and Tewkesbury, the Bishops of Hereford and Llandaff, and a number of the officials and Archdeacons. Sir Thomas Berkeley, Sir Hugh de Veyr, and a large party of horse, came up Sidbury. At the Commandery, a procession of the Friars Minors met the Bishop. Here he got off his horse and took off his shoes. The Proctor for the Archdeacon of Canterbury, Reginald de Bondone, claimed his palfrey, saddle, cap, boots, &c., which seems to have been usual, and also, which was unusual, a cup with ten marks. The last was too much for the Bishop. He said he would enquire if it was customary or not to give it. He then walked barefoot to the Cemetery and into the Priory, where the Prior and Convent received him. Going into St. Michael's Church he put on his robes, came into the Cathedral, went up to the Altar, and having kissed it, placed on it his offering, some golden cloth, and gave his first benediction. Going down to his throne the Proctor of the Archdeacon of Canterbury read his Commission, and led the

¹ p. 46.² p. 52.³ *Ibid.*

Bishop to his throne. The Bishop of Hereford began to chant the *Te Deum*, and at the end of it the Bishop gave his second blessing, went to the vestry, washed his feet, put on his sandals, returned to the Church, and celebrated the Mass of St. Wlstan, and thereupon proclaimed a 40 days' indulgence to all who had heard it. He then went to the palace and gave a banquet. The next day he preached a sermon, had a consultation with the monks on the manner of his election and on various other pending matters of business. For two days he seems to have kept open house. The Prior stayed with him at the Palace. On the first day he fed the convent, and those who eat with the Prior. He then went to Kempsey. On his return he confirmed a number of boys at the Friars Minors, and held a Chapter. At its conclusion he kissed all the monks who attended it, and then returned to his palace. Thus the See of Worcester was again filled.

The whole story of the vacancy is an instructive one, and a curious instance of the state of matters ecclesiastical in the 14th century. The change from a wealthy Bishop like Giffard to a poor man, who had difficulty in paying the costs of his enthronization, must have been very striking. But more so is the absolute control the Pope kept over the English Episcopacy. The fact, unless the candidates elected and approved by the King satisfied the Pope they were set aside by him, is brought out into striking relief. Edward I. is usually considered the strongest of the Plantagenets, but he took this matter far more quietly than his grandfather had done in the case of Langton. It may be said Worcester is not Canterbury, but the course of proceedings was very similar, and the principle at stake identical. The election of a Bishop in those days might have appeared to be more free than now, but in fact this case shews that neither the views of the electors or the King were consulted. The Archbishop was able to get the nominee of both set aside, and although there is nothing to shew his own nominee was elected, yet it is clear the fact of his objection made the confirmation of the Elect of Worcester a matter of difficulty or money. Reading between the lines, and reading the other letters to and from Rome, it would appear it was to a great extent a question of money whether the Bishop's election was confirmed or not, and the Prior and Convent of Worcester do not seem to have considered the election of their nominee worth spending money upon. Hence they got another person as their Bishop.

II. The second head of the Register relates to the administration of the Diocese during the vacancy of the See.

These begin with four writs from the King, two dated at St. Albans on the 9th and 10th April, 1302, the first directed to Humphrey de Waledene, Keeper of the Bishopric of Worcester, to hand over to the Prior and Convent the offerings at St. Wulstan's shrine¹ which the King had granted to the Prior and Convent whenever a vacancy should occur. This grant is set out in a later page of the register; it was dated the 8th April, 1302². The next writ of the 10th April was directed to Humphrey de Waledene, ordering him to abstain from committing any waste on the lands of the Bishopric during the vacancy of the See. Then came another ordering him not to enforce the attendance of the Prior and Convent at the Bishop's Courts during the vacancy, as they were in effect the court of the Prior during that time. And then came another ordering him to allow the Prior and Convent, as the spiritualities were in their hands, to receive certain monies for proxies for visitations. The King having thus recognised the title of the Prior to act, the Archbishop of Canterbury steps in. At that time the Primate was Robert de Winchelsey, who had been elected in 1292, and had been on strained terms with the King in consequence of his refusal to pay a subsidy of one fifth of the revenues of the clergy which Edward wanted to take to raise money for the Scotch war, and on an appeal to Rome by the King the Archbishop's refusal was upheld by the Pope. He wrote to the Prior, whom he does not fail to remind that he is his officer in the Diocese during the vacancy, that the Prior is to be careful not to do anything to prejudice the Archbishop's jurisdiction, or to interfere in a suit pending before the Archbishop as to the Church of Kempsey, which was claimed by Thomas de Stok as rector. This was written on the 4th of the Nones of May, 1302, and duly acknowledged by the Prior. But on hearing from W. de Gloucester that, notwithstanding the litigation that was going on as to the presentation to Kempsey and Bredon, the King had presented to both, the Prior ordered the Dean to summon Thomas de Stoke³ to attend and shew cause why Peter de Colingburn should not be ordained to Kempsey, and to summon Walter de Berton, who held the Church at Bredon, to appear before the Prior⁴, and shew cause why William de Loriaco should not be admitted and instituted

¹ p. 3.² p. 11.³ p. 4.⁴ p. 9.

as rector. A writ from the King, dated the 16th July¹, directing the Prior to levy out of the ecclesiastical goods of Walter de Berton, Rector of Bredon, £71, which Alina, daughter of William le Pocr, had recovered as damages for a disseizin in Ekington. The Archbishop on the 1st August ordered Thomas de Stok, calling himself Rector of Kempsey, to appear to receive final judgment.

The Prior was not idle. William Staneweys, a sub-dean, claimed by virtue of a Provision from the Pope to be entitled to a benefice in the Diocese. The case was heard. John de Sistneslade, the Rector of Stratton-on-Fosse², who was in prison for making false and scandalous use of certain of Bishop Giffard's letters, was let out on bail and ordered to come up for judgment before Ascension Day. The Abbot of St. Peter's, Gloucester, demanded Tithes of the temporalities of the Worcester House in aid of the Roman Church³, the Bishop of London having ordered its collection at once. Gilbert de Maddeleya⁴, monk of Worcester, was appointed Proctor to appear before the Dean of St. Paul's as to certain obventions granted to Edward I. towards an expedition to the Holy Land. The Prior was ordered on the 1st May to levy for £40 on the ecclesiastical goods of John de Ebroyt, parson of Tredynton⁵, and a similar order was made on 8th July. Another writ of the 4th June ordered the Prior to admit to the Church of Fulebrook any fit person whom Nicholas de Warewyk and Joan his wife should nominate. The Archbishop ordered that the Prior's Commissary, Geoffrey de Norwico, be cited to appear before him for having abused the Prior's jurisdiction and presumed to deprive the Archbishop of his rights.

The Abbot and Convent of St. Peter's, Gloucester⁶, seem to have disputed the jurisdiction of the Prior of Worcester during the vacancy of the See. So to shew he had jurisdiction the Worcester Prior pronounced the greater excommunication against the Gloucester House. The Archbishop took the matter up, and the Prior released the Gloucester House from the excommunication. But later the Canterbury officials allowed the Prior⁷ to proceed both against Gloucester and Tewkesbury, because they refused to admit the Prior on his visitation. The King, on the 12th July, directed an inquiry to be made, if the Church of Newenton next Guyting in Gloucestershire⁸ was vacant, as an action as to the right of presentation had

¹ p. 3. ² p. 4.

⁶ p. 11.

³ Ibid.

⁷ p. 50.

⁴ p. 7. ⁵ pp. 8, 15.

⁸ pp. 12, 27.

been begun between the Prior of Little Malvern and John de Feckenham, the Keeper of the Butchery of Worcester, and a similar writ was directed on the 4th October¹. The Prior granted a License to the Proctors and messengers of the Hospital of St. Anthony, in the diocese of Vienne, to collect the alms of the faithful².

Such is a specimen of the work of the Prior while acting as Bishop. There are several special points to which attention should be called. A good deal of space is taken up with the steps the Prior took during the vacancy of the See to get some one to ordain in the Diocese³. A letter was written to the Bishop of Llandaff (why this prelate was selected it is not easy to say) asking him to come to celebrate orders; he replied he would do so if the Archbishop did not object. The Prior wrote back and said that the Archbishop's consent was not required, as the Prior by an agreement with a former Archbishop was entitled to the spiritualities of the See during a vacancy, and begging the Bishop to come at the expense of the Priory to ordain. The Bishop replied he proposed to come, but not wanting to offend the Archbishop had written to consult him without prejudice to the Prior's rights⁴. The Bishop writes a fourth letter⁵ that, understanding it is the will of the Archbishop, he will come. Notices are then sent out to the Archdeacons of Gloucester and Worcester to summon all rectors and vicars who had not received their proper orders to appear at Worcester on the first Sunday in September, when the Bishop of Llandaff would celebrate ordination. On the Sunday named the Bishop attended⁶ and ordained no less than 263 persons, 102 sub-deacons, 68 deacons, and 79 priests. They are described as "deacons and sub-deacons, priests, and secular and religious persons." The sub-deacons required some qualifications for orders, and these are given in many instances. "The title of the patrimony he possesses" being the most usual, one is ordained to the title of the House of Llandaff, another to the title of a pensionary, another to the title of a yearly rent of 5 marks, another to the title of 2 virgates of land, another to the title of Roger de Walscot, another to sufficient title, or to a competent title, to the presentation of the Prior of Llantonny, Gloucester, to the presentation of the Prior of Malmesbury; one is said to have so much yearly rent, another to the title of the Chapel of the parish of Cyrene, another to the title of the parish of Lechlade.

¹ p. 27.² p. 12.³ p. 15.⁴ p. 16.⁵ p. 18.⁶ p. 21.

In one case it is said the candidate made oath. One is by letter dīmissory of the Bishop of Lincoln; Brother Henry de Fekerham is described as a monk of Worcester. It is the exception for any qualification to be given in the case of deacons or priests. One deacon is described as a monk of Worcester, and one priest of the House of St. Wulstan. One priest is said to have letters, and one or two are described as rectors. To several of the newly ordained the Prior gave certificates of their ordination. From this it seems clear that there was a lay qualification required for sub-deacons' orders; and also that rectors were not of necessity in Priests' orders, at least not when admitted Rectors. The whole entry is of considerable importance as a matter of local history. It shews from the names that a very large number of the clergy were local men, as their names are those of places in the neighbourhood of, or at least in the county of, Worcester. It is also a matter of interest to consider for what all these persons were ordained. The number is too great for mere parochial clergy; it is quite probable that many of them never went beyond subdeacons' orders, but still over 70 priests is a large number for one ordination. It is, however, not easy to say how often ordinations were then held. It is also curious that considering there were the Monasteries of Pershore, Evesham, Winchcombe, and Tewkesbury in the Diocese, none of them are mentioned; the only religious houses being Great Malvern, Llanthony, Worcester, where brother Simon le Botyler, a monk, was ordained deacon, and John of the House of St. Wulstan (the Commandery), a priest.

Another very interesting subject is the collection of Peter's Pence, *denarii Beati Petri*, in the Diocese¹. The account shews the sum received in each Archdeaconry, and the exemptions. It appears that the Diocese was divided into two Archdeaconries, Worcester and Gloucester; that Worcester had 14 and Gloucester 15 Rural-deaneries. The total sum received from the two Archdeaconries was

	£	s.	d.
Worcester	-	-	14 15 8½
Gloucester	-	-	17 15 3
or a total of			<u>£32 10 11½</u>

But the most interesting part of the entry is the statement that the sum total of Peter's Pence amounted to £34 2s. 7½d.; of

¹ p. 33.

this the Bishop only paid the Pope £10 5s., and kept for himself £24 7s. 7½d. The Bishop therefore found farming the Peter's Pence not wholly unprofitable. Great as were the complaints made against the payment of Peter's Pence, it is certainly not generally known that the cost of collecting the tax was more than double the amount the Pope received from the tax. Whether this was the same in other English Dioceses is not clear, but it places the matter in a new light to find that the Bishop, by collecting a so-called Papal exaction, was really adding to his income.

We get another account¹ of the revenues of the See that is also interesting,—a list of the spiritualities received by the Prior during the vacancy of the See from February, 1301, to February, 1302.

Warwick and Kynton, for the summer account gave £8 3s. 4d.; winter, £4 17s. 4d.

Worcestershire, on the whole - - - £37 10 0

Gloucestershire - - - - - 46 8 10

From the Church of Douameneye (?) in part of 4 Marks, 40.

The remainder, 5s. 4d., is paid as the tenth of these four marks granted as a subsidy to the Church of Rome.

The Church of Bebur' (?) also paid tenths to Rome.

The subject of the extortion of the Roman officials is often mentioned by historians. In the letters here recorded it is brought very clearly home to us: the Archdeacon of Worcester, a Roman Cardinal, who will not move unless "he is urged not by words but by presents, as is usual²;" the Proctor, whose salary was unpaid, and therefore hindered certain letters being sealed³; the necessity for making regular payments⁴,—all this shewed that nothing was then done at Rome without money.

One or two of the entries give a curious picture of the state of the times. Richard Kaye, a clerk, sought the privilege of sanctuary⁵. He was pursued into the crypt of the Cathedral. The Prior ordered the Dean to excommunicate all who pursued Richard Kaye. Afterwards Kaye went to dinner at the Goldsmith's House in the cemetery. The citizens seized him, arrested him, and put him in irons, with the result that he abjured the realm. On Sunday after Ascension Day the Reeve of Kempsey beheaded John de Dreycote⁶, a clerk, on the highway between Dreycote and Kempsey, by order of

¹ p. 39.

² p. 41.

³ p. 42.

⁴ p. 43.

⁵ p. 36.

⁶ p. 50.

the Bishop's Bayliff. The head was placed before the gates of the Palace at Kempsey, not taken to the Castle. It was then taken back, placed with the body, and the hue and cry raised. The coroner held an inquest, and all the men of the manor except six were indicted.

The Prior committed to the care of the Deans of Worcester¹ and Gloucester certain heretical clerks who had been convicted at the Assizes of crime.

The list of these small incidents of the life of the county during this year might be largely multiplied, but it will not be necessary here to refer to more than two other entries.

A letter from the Prior² on behalf of Isabella, the relict of Roger the clerk of Woutton, deceased, seems to point to the fact that marriage was not unknown among the clergy. At first it seems as if this referred to the minor orders only, but the clerk of Woutton appears to point to a parish priest. Another passage, however, seems to throw a doubt as to whether the parochial clergy were always in full orders. The Prior's direction³ that all the rectors and vicars who had not yet received the orders, which the cure of their benefices required, to appear at Worcester when the Bishop of Llandaff celebrated ordination points this way, so the clerk of Woutton might have not been in the orders which prohibited marriage. The other entry⁴ is a writ to the Prior, ordering him to distrain on the ecclesiastical benefice of Ralph de Wychele, a clerk, who had no lay fee, for unjustly detaining a greyhound.

It would only be repeating the register if all the entries of interest were pointed out here. They must be read in the book itself. It brings the then existing state of things before us in a way that nothing else does. The jealousy of the abbeys of Gloucester and Tewkesbury, of the Worcester house; the corruption that was already beginning to prevail; the Church being even then regarded as a mode of providing for a relation; Dodderhull was given to a brother of Gilbert de Middleton⁵; the King used the monastery as a means to provide for his servants⁶, writing to the monastery to give a cordy to his servant John le Traior;—all these bring before us a side of the life of the times it is difficult to get elsewhere. At all times the lot of a Prior could not have been an easy one, but when he was during the vacancy of the See carrying on the management of the

¹ p. 6.² p. 15.³ p. 19.⁴ p. 8.⁵ p. 49.⁶ p. 39.

Diocese, his life must have been a burden to him. One curious form of *donatio mortis causâ*¹ is given. Wulstan, Clerk of Worcester, lay dying at Gloucester. He wrote to the Prior of Worcester, asking the monks to give him their prayers, but adding he would in return forgive them the debt they owed him.

Another matter that should not be left unnoticed is the beginning of one of the great lawsuits of those days. Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, one of the greatest, if not the greatest, of the feudal nobles of the time, had left a daughter Isabella, who married Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. The marriage was called in question, as the parties were cousins, and alleged to be within the third degree of consanguinity, so that the marriage was unlawful without a Papal dispensation. Accordingly the Archbishop ordered the Prior to cite the Earl of Warwick to appear before the Archbishop to answer as to the marriage. The Pope considered the matter to be one calling for his interference, and appointed the Bishop of Winchester to hear the case, and the Bishop of Winchester accordingly issued a writ to the Prior, ordering Isabella de Clare to be cited before him or his commissary, at the Church of Hyde, in the Diocese of Winchester. The Prior seems rather to have evaded citing the Earl of Warwick, for the Archbishop had certain articles and interrogatories sent to the Prior for his contempt and disobedience in the matter of certain citations to the Earl of Warwick. The Prior appointed Simon de Worcester as his Proctor to appear before the Archbishop, and answer the articles. The rest of the suit does not fall within the time of this vacancy of the See.

III. The miscellaneous matters are of less interest, but some of them give some light on the customs of the time.

The first question that arose was whether John Dumbleton², a Worcester Monk, who had been translated to Malvern, and there made Prior, ought to dwell at Malvern, or where; this was referred to the presidents of the General Chapter of the Benedictines for the Province of Canterbury. Meanwhile John de Dumbleton stayed at Oxford, at the cost of the Worcester House. He was subsequently restored to his position at Worcester. It seems to have been a favourite custom of the parish Clergy to get leave to go away and study, or, in other words, to escape the obligation of residence. Among others, Licences were given to the Rector of Broughton

¹ p. 20.

² p. 3.

Hackett¹ to let his Church to farm for two years to Henry de la Lee, Rector of St. Swithin, Worcester; to John, the Rector of Elmeleye² under the Castle, to let his Church to farm for a year; to William de Brun³, Rector of the Church of Longdon, to absent himself for the purposes of study, so that he see the Church is served in his absence; to Robert de Worthon⁴, to absent himself for three years from his Church of Alinton, and to let it to farm to any honest and literate man while he studied Canon Law and Theology; to Geoffrey de Northwyco, Rector of Overbery, to visit Rome; to Drogo, Rector of Pyrton, extending his leave of absence for the purpose of study for three years; to Andrew de Lega, Rector of St. Peter's, Worcester, to absent himself for study; to Gilbert de Fomleya, Rector of Little Compton, to absent himself for two years for study; to Wulstan de Wigornia, Rector of Daylesford,—he had only been instituted for some five months,—to absent himself for study for seven years; others might also be cited.

Numerous instances of the manumissions of serfs are given, such as Henry, son of William le Wild of Overbury, Adam Dunt, of Wolfardleya, by Edmund Dunclent, William, son of Guy de Crothorn, by Simon de Bello Campo, of Nicholas, son of Richard le Wyte of Tedyngton, by John de Hely, and Robert, son of Henry le Feynces of Schepiston, by W. de Stok.

Another branch of miscellaneous work was giving certificates as to character. Thus the Prior gave John Sebeist a letter to the Prior of the Benedictine House of Dodford, asking that he might be granted the habit of the Benedictine Order⁵; that William, called Costard de Whorxston⁶, was of honest conversation and good fame; that Laurence de Eldresfield⁷, priest, was of laudable life and honest conversation; that Henry de Belne⁸ and others were duly ordained; that Robert de Forthampton, Clerk in Holy Orders, was of good fame and honest conversation.

The Prior's letters are on very varied subjects, among others they include letters to the Prior of Kenilworth to stay the ecclesiastical censure upon letters⁹ from the Dean of St. Paul's against William le Archer; to the Judges of Goal Delivery, informing them that certain heretical clerks convicted before them had been committed

¹ p. 12.² p. 15.³ p. 20.⁴ p. 26.⁵ p. 7.⁶ p. 14.⁷ p. 21.⁸ p. 26.⁹ p. 6.

to the custody of the Deans of Worcester and Gloucester¹; to all chaplains of Parish Churches to enquire who had laid violent hands on Thomas de Bendevile, and to excommunicate them²; to the officer of the Archdeacon of Gloucester to appoint Stephen de Brocton apparitor for Haukesbury and Stonehouse³; to the Rector of Pylladyngton, requesting him to pay a debt to Hugh de Haukeleye³; letter to the Bishop of Hereford, asking him to ordain as deacon their Clerk Walter de Sancto Germano⁴; to Sir Roger de Haukesbury, asking him to come to Worcester to treat of important matters as to the monastery⁵; to the Archbishop, reminding him of his promise to help the Monastery, which at his visitation he found so oppressed by debt that they had scarcely enough food⁵, and a letter to the King, wishing him success in his campaign against the enemies of the country, and stating that, having the help of their patron Saint, Wlstan, he could not fail, adding when the King kept his promise they intended to admit three monks⁶.

Some of the letters the Prior received are interesting, but they are almost invariably asking for favours. The Abbot of Malmesbury wrote requesting absolution for his groom⁷. The Archdeacon of Gloucester appointing a meeting to settle a dispute between the Prior and the Abbot of Gloucester⁸. The Abbot of Westminster on behalf of the Abbot's free man, Robert le Frankeleyn, clerk⁸. The Archbishop on behalf of Robert de Denebrigg, who had laboured in the Prior's business at the Court of Rome, and whose uncle had served the Archbishop many years⁸. The Abbot of Peterborough on behalf of Benedict de Besby, his chaplain⁹. The Abbot of Reading requesting the action against Alan de la Cnolle may be stopped¹⁰. The Bishop of Bath and Wells wrote complaining of the Prior's absence from his benefice at Devizes¹¹. The Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield requesting the Prior to shew favour and cease distraining the Lady Margaret de Parcheford¹². The Abbot of Malmesbury to hasten the business of Walter de Malmesbury¹³. The Abbot of Westminster asking the Prior to give the living of Daylesford to William de Evenlode¹⁴. John de Drokeneford asking for a corrody for John le Traior¹⁵. From the Chancellor of Hereford hearing that they had promised his clerk, the brother of Adam de Orleton, a pension, thanks them,

¹ p. 6.² p. 10.³ p. 19.⁴ p. 41.⁵ p. 44.⁶ p. 47.⁷ p. 6.⁸ p. 16.⁹ p. 20.¹⁰ p. 21.¹¹ p. 30.¹² p. 31.¹³ p. 35.¹⁴ p. 36.¹⁵ p. 39.

and hopes the pension will be one suitable to the recipient's position¹.

There are some curious traces of the Episcopal jurisdiction as to Wills, such as letter absolving the executors from the administration of the will of Adam de Cruce². As to the administration of a person belonging to the Diocese of Lincoln³ who died in the Diocese of Worcester. Grant of letter of administration on an intestacy to the widow⁴. Letter from the Prior⁵ to one of the Barons of the Exchequer asking him to allow the ministers of the Church to administer the goods of the Rector of Toneworth, as the estate was small, and the Rector died intestate during the vacancy of the See.

There is one statement of a person doing homage to the land at Shipston. Hugh de Teverey did homage to the Prior, John de Wykes, at Wodehall on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Hilary, 31 Edward I., for his land in Shipston. The Prior acting as Bishop was entitled to homage from all the freehold tenants of the See, especially those who came into their land during the vacancy.

As to entries for the Worcester Monastery there are but few notices. Brother John de Dumbleton was admitted monk in the Chapter of Worcester⁶, and was admitted to all grades in the monastery, choir, chapter, and churches. An entry occurs of an assignment to Emma, widow of Robert de Bella Aqua, for her dowry in her Manor of Prior Clyva of 50 shillings a year⁷.

It is difficult without making this Introduction of undue length to notice all the points of interest disclosed in the history of the vacancy of the See. Everything seems to have been entered, although strictly some of it did not properly relate to the jurisdiction of the Prior while administering the See. But it brings before us what the life of the Monastery was, and what were the matters they had to consider. The Worcester monks must have spent a large part of their time in coming and going with letters and messages to different dignitaries on matters of business, if this Register is any guide. Instead of being lazy they must have been some of the most active men of the time. The dates of sending letters and of receiving replies strike one as very short. When the Bishop was at Bristol his letter reached Worcester on the day after it was dated, was replied to at once, and the Bishop sent the answer in the

¹ p. 44.² p. 5.³ p. 17.⁴ p. 19.⁵ p. 47.⁶ pp. 35, 36.⁷ p. 44.

next week. The contests that arose when a church fell vacant, as for instance those of Kempsey, Bredon, and Dodderhill, shew that the competition for a vacant place, if it was worth having, was almost as keen then as now. There are several subjects that are only just touched upon that are of general interest, such as who were the persons who had the custody of prisons. One entry seems to point to the Dean, another to the Prior. The disputes between the different abbeys, only glanced at here, are matters of some importance. But most important of all is the picture the Register gives us how the administrative government of the county was carried on in the 13th and 14th centuries. It was not by representative institutions, not by local courts, but by those bodies we have been always taught to regard as doing nothing but indulging themselves in eating and drinking. If the publication of the *Sede Vacante Register* does nothing else, it will shew that the most active man in the county at this time was John de Wyke, Prior of the Monastery of Worcester.

J. W. B.

WICH EPISCOPI,
WORCESTER,
November, 1893.

SEDE VACANTE REGISTER.

SEDE VACANTE REGISTER.

Fol. 1. LETTER from John¹, Prior, and Chapter of Worcester to Robert², Archbishop of Canterbury. On the death of Godfrey³ late bishop on 7th of the Kalends of February, 1301, and his burial on 2nd of the Nones of the same month, licence to elect having been obtained from King Edward, the Prior and monks met in Chapter on 8th of the Ides of March and fixed the day of the Annunciation, 8th of the Kalends of April 1302, for the election. On this day after reading the proxy of a monk absent on account of illness and the constitution of the general council *Quia Propter*, the Prior desired all excommunicated, suspended or interdicted persons or others having no right to be present to leave. After discussion it was determined to elect by way of compromise, and the Chapter gave power for eight days to seven monks, viz. to brothers Stephen de Wytton, sub-prior, William de Grimeleye, precentor, Gilbert de Maddeleye, sacristan, Henry de Antioch, infirmarer, Nicholas de Norton, John de Sancto Germano and Richard de Bromwich to elect as bishop any member of the church of Worcester to whom the greater and wiser part should consent, promising to receive the person so elected, as contained in the instrument sealed with the Chapter seal. After deliberation and inquiring of other members of the Chapter, they elected John de Sancto Germano, a priest, of lawful age, born of lawful marriage and wise in temporal and spiritual matters. On the same day, the Chapter was summoned and William the precentor pronounced John de Sancto Germano to be elected according to a form of words quoted, of which election the Chapter approved. The *Te Deum* was then sung, the bishop elect led up to the high altar and the election proclaimed to the clergy and people. Asks the Archbishop to confirm the election and to consecrate the bishop elect. No date.

¹ John de la Wyke.

² Winchelsey, Archbishop, 1294—1313.

³ Giffard, Bishop from 1268—1301.

Fol. 1*b*. Licence from Edward I. to the Prior and Convent of Worcester to elect a bishop, having heard by brothers Gilbert de Maddeleya and John de Harleye, monks of Worcester, of the death of Godfrey, the late bishop. Dated at Welboure 20 Feb., 30 Edward I., 1301¹.

Letter from William, precentor of Worcester, to the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, acquainting them that he has executed their order dated the 8th of the Ides of March, 1301, to summon all absent brethren to the election of a bishop to be held on the day of the Annunciation, Godfrey the late bishop having died on 7th of the Kalends of February. Dated at Worcester 11th of the Kalends of April, 1302.

Letter from John, Prior, and the Chapter of Worcester to Edward I. asking for confirmation of the election of John de Sancto Germano as bishop in room of Godfrey deceased. They present him by Stephen de Wytton, sub-prior, and Gilbert de Maddeleye, sacristan. Dated at Worcester 4th of the Kalends of April, 1302².

Fol. 2. Appointment of brothers Stephen de Wytton, sub-prior, and Gilbert de Maddeleye, sacristan, as proctors of John, Prior, and the Chapter of Worcester, to appear before Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, concerning the election of John de Sancto Germano as bishop. Dated 4th of the Kalends of April, 1302.

Appointment of brothers William de Grimeleye, precentor, and Richard de Bromwich, monks of Worcester, as like proctors. Dated 4th of the Kalends of April, 1302.

Proclamation by John, Prior, and the Chapter of Worcester of the election as above mentioned. Dated 4th of the Kalends of April, 1302. Witnesses:—Peter de Pyritone, Simon de Wonecote, Henry de la See, W[u]lstan de Wygornia, John de Bradwas. Made in the presence of Nicholas, clerk of Richard de Bradewas, notary public.

Fol. 2*b*. Renunciation by brother John de Dombeltone³ of any right or voice in the election of a bishop, then about to be held or

¹ Printed by Thomas, p. 82.

² *Ib.* p. 82.

³ *post*, p. 33.

thereafter to be held, because he had been translated to Malvern¹ and there made prior. Wherefore, because of his present condition, the same John carries at the Schools of Oxford at the expense of the Prior and Chapter of Worcester until the presidents of the general Chapter of the Benedictine order of the Province of Canterbury shall have ordained whether a monk of Worcester ought to dwell at the same priory or elsewhere, or what otherwise ought to be done. Witnesses :—Master Gilbert de Middelton, Peter de Piriton, Geoffrey de Norwic, Simon de Wincote, and others. Made in the presence of John, clerk of Richard de Suthcerneye (?) notary public. Dated on Sunday the feast of the Annunciation, 1302.

Writ from Edward I. to Humphrey de Waledene, Keeper of the bishopric of Worcester, the see being vacant, to deliver to the Prior and Convent of Worcester the oblations made at the shrine (*feretrum*) of St. Wulstan and at his tomb in the church of the Blessed Mary of Worcester, which the king had granted to the same Prior and Convent whensoever a vacancy should happen². Dated at St. Alban's 9 April, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Writ from Edward I. to the Keeper of the bishopric of Worcester that hearing he has made waste and destruction in the lands of the bishopric that he wholly desist from making such waste. Dated at St. Alban's 10 April, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Writ from Edward I. to the Keeper of the Bishopric of Worcester ordering him to desist from distraining the Prior and Convent of Worcester to do suit for their lands at the hundred Courts and Courts of the bishopric. No date.

Fol. 3. Writ from the King to the Keeper of the Bishopric of Worcester ordering him not to impede the Prior and Convent of Worcester, by reason of the spiritualities of the bishopric being in their hands on account of the vacancy, from receiving a sum of money by name of proxies for the visitations in the churches of Bebury, Berkeleye and Donnameneye. No date.

¹ Malvern was a daughter house of St. Peter's of Westminster.

² See *post*, p. 11.

Letter from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior and Chapter of Worcester requiring them to demand in the church of Worcester if there be any one who opposed the election of brother John Germeyn, as bishop, and if so, the person so opposing, to appear before the archbishop or his commissary on Thursday after the feast of St. Dunstan the archbishop, to wit, the 9th of the Kalends of June, in the parish church of Neuwenton next London. Dated at Croydon 6 of the Nones of May, 1302.

Letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Prior of Worcester, his officer in the diocese during the vacancy of the see, that he be careful not to do anything to the prejudice of the Archbishop's Jurisdiction, or of the suit pending before him touching the church of Kemyseye, the possession whereof Master Thomas de Stok claims as rector. Dated at Croydon the 4th of the Nones of May, 1302.

Note of acknowledgment and approval of a form (*forma*) sent by the Abbot of Wynch[comb].

Letter from W. de Gloucestria, clerk, to the Prior of Worcester, acquainting him that the King, at the false suggestion of certain persons, had presented to the churches of Kemeseye¹ and Bredone², notwithstanding the litigation pending concerning the same. Dated at Croydon the Kalends of May [1302].

Certificate by the officialis of Worcester, the see being vacant, to Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, of the proclamation of the election in the cathedral church of Worcester. Dated the 13th of the Kalends of June, 1302.

Fol. 3*b*. Proceedings in an appeal by William Staneweye, sub-deacon, concerning his provision by Pope Boniface to a benefice in the Diocese of Worcester. [The 5th of the Kalends of May, 1302.]

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Worcester, to cite Master Thomas de Stoke to appear before the same Prior to

¹ See *post*, p. 27.

² See *post*, pp. 7, 13.

show cause why Peter de Colingburn should not be ordained to the church of Kemeseye¹. Dated the 5th of the Ides of May, 1302.

Bond by John de Sisteneslade, rector of the church of Stratton upon Fosse, imprisoned for the false and scandalous use of letters of the Lord G.², formerly Bishop of Worcester, to appear and receive sentence in the church of Worcester on Saturday before the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord. Witnesses:—Walter, rector of the church of St. Michael of Worcester, William de Marchleye (?), Thomas de Wythintone, John de Clenefeld, clerks, Alexander de Hodurton, Henry de Warinlidone (?) and Adam de Stevynton, laymen. No date.

Demand by J.³, Abbot of St. Peter's of Gloucester, collector of the tithe in aid of the Roman Church from the Prior of Worcester for the tithe of the temporalities of the Priory. Dated at Gloucester the 17th of the Kalends of June, 1302.

Order by Bartholomew de Ferentino, Canon of London, collector on behalf of R.⁴, Bishop of London, of the tithe levied on Religious persons for three years in England in aid of the Roman Church to the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester, sub-collectors in the city and diocese of Worcester, that whereas formerly he had ordered the delay of the collection of the said tithe that now the same be collected. Dated at London 7 May, 1302.

Bond for 40*li.* by John de Wyke, Prior, and the Convent of Worcester, to John de Staneweya, Rector of the Church of Rippel. Dated in the Chapter House at Worcester on Saturday the feast of St. Dunstan, the Archbishop, 1302.

Fol. 4. Letter from the Prior of Worcester (considering the faithful administration of the Will of Adam de Cruce of Bremesgrave, by John de Treour and Robert Dalebi, the Executors), absolving the same Executors from the charge of such administration. Dated at Worcester Feast of St. Dunstan, 1302.

¹ See *post*, p. 27. ² Godfrey Giffard.

³ John de Gamages, formerly Prior of Hereford, Abbot of Gloucester 1284 to 1307. ⁴ Richard de Gravesend, 1280—1303.

Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to the Prior of Kylneworth¹, requesting that the ecclesiastical censure against William le Archer upon letters from the Dean of St. Paul's, London, may be stayed.

Letter from W., Abbot of Malmesbury, to the Prior of Worcester, requesting that Hugh de Cotes, a groom (*valettus*) of Malmesbury, may be absolved from the excommunication and suspension issued against him by the Prior. No date.

Letter from the Pope Boniface² to Philip³, King of France, stating that the collation of no benefices or prebends belong to the same King, and that he reserve the fruits during a vacancy for the successor, and if any one think otherwise the Pope will consider him a heretic. Dated at the Lateran, 2nd of the Nones of November, in the seventh year of the pontificate of Pope Boniface, 1301.

Appointment by the Convent of Worcester of A. de B. to be their Proctor at the convocation of prelates and clerks, to be held before R., Archbishop of Canterbury, in the church of St. Paul, London, on the Sunday on which is sung *Lætare Jerosulyma*.

Alterations in above if there be two Proctors, but the name of second Proctor is not given.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester, keeper of the spiritualities of the Bishopric of Worcester, the see being vacant, to the Deans of Worcester and Gloucester, committing to their keeping certain heretical clerks convicted of crimes before the Justices of the King for Gaol Delivery in the Counties of Worcester and Gloucester. Dated at Worcester the 9th of the Kalends of June, 1302.

Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to William Inge⁴ and Roger Suthcote⁵, and their fellow Justices for Gaol Delivery in the

¹ Qy. for Kenilworth.

² Pope Boniface VIII., 1294—1303.

³ Philip IV., 1285—1314.

⁴ Inge was one of the eight persons assigned as Justices to take Assizes in aid of the regular Judges, in which office he was

continued until the end of Edward I.'s reign (Rot. Pat. I. 150—206), subsequently in 1314 appointed a Judge of the Common Pleas.

⁵ Suthcote was only one of the persons appointed in aid of the Regular Judges to hold Assizes, and was never a Judge.

Counties of Gloucester and Worcester, acquainting them with the above letter. Dated Worcester 9th Kalend of Jun. 1302.

Appointment of brother Gilbert de Maddeleya, Monk of Worcester, as Proctor of the Prior of Worcester—formerly collector of the obventions granted to Edward I. as a subsidy for the Holy Land¹, appointed by O.², Bishop of Lincoln, and J.³, Bishop of Winchester, principal Executors for the same obventions in the dioceses of Worcester and Coventry, and Lichfield, together with Masters R. Tankard and William le Archer—to appear before the Dean of St. Paul's, London, now Executor of the same obventions. Dated at Worcester the 6th of the Kalends of June, 1302.

Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to the Prior and Convent of Doddeford, that the bearer, John Sebiest, son of John Sebrest of Wlvarleya, whom we send to you, desires that you will grant him the habit of your order⁴. No date.

Writ by Edward I. to the Keeper [of the Bishopric of Worcester] commanding him to raise—as well from the ecclesiastical goods of Walter de Bertone, Rector of the Church of Bredon, lately at the King's command sequestred to the value of 100s., and which hitherto have been under your sequestration, as of other ecclesiastical goods of the same Walter in the diocese aforesaid—36*li.* of 110*li.* which Alina, daughter of William le Poer, lately recovered before Adam de Cruykdayk and Henry Spigonnell, Justices of Assize, against the same Walter and John de Bridone for damages by occasion of a certain disseizen of the manor of Ekinton Poer, and to have the same money at the Exchequer in the Octaves of St. John, as part payment of 387*li.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, which the same Alina owes to us by Sampon de Gretham⁵. Dated at York 16 May, 30 Edward I. (1302).

¹ This refers to the grant by Pope Nicholas IV., in 1288, of the tenth of all ecclesiastical benefices for six years towards the cost of an expedition to the Holy Land, a grant which caused the making of the Record known as Pope Nicholas' Valor.

² Oliver Sutton, d. 1299.

³ John de Pontissera, alias Sawbridge, 1282—1304.

⁴ Dodford in Warwickshire was a Benedictine house.

⁵ See *ante*, p. 4, and *post*, p. 13.

Writ by Edward I. to the Keeper of the Bishopric of Worcester commanding him to raise from the ecclesiastical goods of Master John de Ebroyt [Eboryces¹], parson of the Church of Tredynton, 40*li.*, and to have that sum before the Justices at York, in the quindenes of St. John the Baptist, to render to Thomas de Sutham and Ralph de Leycester, which the same Thomas and Ralph recovered against the same John. Dated at York 18 May, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Writ by Edward I. to the Keeper of the Bishopric of Worcester, whereas Nicholas de Warewyk and Joan his wife lately recovered the presentation to the church of Fulebrook against John de Huband—that he admit a fit person at the presentation of the said Nicholas and Joan, notwithstanding the appeal (*reclamatio*) of the said John. Dated at York 4 June, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Order by Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Keeper of the Bishopric of Worcester to cite Master Geoffrey de Norwico commissary of the Prior, the see being vacant, the jurisdiction whereof, as it is said, he has many times abused and presumed to defraud the same archbishop of his right and authority—to appear before the same archbishop and receive the punishment his faults deserve. Dated at Lamheth the 7th of the Ides of June, 1302.

Writ from Edward I. to the Keeper of the Bishopric of Worcester to distrain Master Ralph de Wychele (a clerk having no lay fee by which he can be distrained) upon his ecclesiastical benefice for unjustly detaining a greyhound. Dated at York 24 May, 30 Edward I.

Resignation of John de Cesterelade, formerly rector of the chapel of Stretton upon Fosse, with a request that John, son of Jordan de Heng', clerk of Aston, presented by the patron, may be admitted. Dated at Blockley the 2nd of the Kalends of May, 1302.

Writ from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester, commanding him under pain of Excommunication to

¹ See *post*, p. 15.

cite Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, to appear before the same archbishop concerning the marriage said to have been contracted between the said Earl and Isabella de Clare. Dated at Croynd[on] the 3rd of the Kalends of June, 1302.

Fol. 5. Appointment of Master Simon de Wenecote as proctor to appear before the Archbishop of Canterbury, to answer certain articles and interrogatories made to the Prior in a cause of contempt and disobedience by the same Prior by occasion of certain citations against the Earl of Warwick. Dated at Worcester the 17th of the Kalends of July, 1302.

Writ from the Bishop of Winchester, Judge of the Holy Roman Church, delegated by the Pope, to the Prior of Worcester commanding him, under canonical pain, to cite Isabella de Clare, daughter of the late Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester (*natam quondam Gilberti de Clare Comites Glovernye*), to appear before the same Bishop or his commissary in the conventual church of le Hida, in the diocese of Winchester, on the next law-day after the feast of St. Margaret the Virgin, on a cause of appeal between Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, appellant, and Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Isabella de Clare, appealed. Dated at Wlveseye the 6th of the Ides of June, 1302.

Appointment by Pope Boniface of the Bishop of Winchester to decide the appeal between Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, of the one party, and Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Isabella de Clare, of the other, concerning the cause touching the marriage between the said Guy and Isabella, they being within the third degree of consanguinity. Dated at the Lateran the Nones of May in the 8th year of the Pontificate of Pope Boniface (1302).

Citation of Walter de Berton who holds the church of Breodon¹, to appear before the Prior of Worcester, or his commissary, in the cathedral church of Worcester, on the next law-day after the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas the Archbishop and Martyr, to show wherefore William de Loriaco, priest, presented to the said

¹ See *ante*, pp. 4, 7; *post*, p. 13.

church by the true patron, should not be admitted and instituted as rector. Dated at Worcester 10 of the Kalends of June, 1302.

Letter of credence from John de Sancto Germano, elect of Worcester, for Master Adam de Olverton. No date.

Fol. 5*b*. Declaration by John, Prior of Worcester, that in accordance with the composition made between Boniface¹, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, and the predecessor of the Prior, that the said Prior has the administration of the spiritualities of the Bishopric of Worcester during the vacancy of the see by the death of G.² late Bishop of the same. Dated at Worcester the 8th of the Ides of June, 1302.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to all and singular chaplains of parish churches to inquire after and excommunicate all those who had laid violent hands on Thomas de Bendevile, clerk. Dated at Worcester the 5th of the Kalends of July, 1302.

Grant of an annuity of 40*s.* to Master Ralph del la Lee to be delivered by the hands of the Bursar. Dated on Tuesday after the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, 1302.

Appointment of Master Ralph de la Lee as proctor of the Prior of Worcester at the Court of Rome. Dated the 5th of the Nones of July, 1302.

Appointment of Ralph de la Lee as special proctor at the Court of Rome with special power to defend the church of Worcester there. Dated 5th of the Nones of July, 1302.

Fol. 6. Appointment by the Prior of Worcester of the Sub-prior and Master Simon de Wynecote, rector of the church of Bediford as³ in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester the 4th of the Nones of July, 1302.

Citation in accordance with letters from the Archbishop of Canterbury of the Dean of Campeden and four rectors and two vicars

¹ Archbishop from 1240 to 1270.

² Godfrey Giffard, see *post*, p. 16.

³ Illegible.

in his jurisdiction to appear on Thursday before the feast of St. Thomas the Martyr in the church of Worcester. No date.

Precedent of alteration in the form of revocatory letters to be used by the Prior of Worcester.

Grant by Edward I. to the Prior and Convent of Worcester of the oblations made at the shrine (*feretrum*¹) and tomb of St. Wulfstan in the church of the Blessed Mary of Worcester. Dated at Dynesle, 8 April, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Letter from the Prior of Worcester, officer of R., Archbishop of Canterbury, in the city and diocese of Worcester during the vacancy of the see to the officer of the Court of Canterbury or his commissary undertaking to absolve the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter of Gloucester from the sentence of excommunication which the said Prior had pronounced against them, concerning the matter of the dispute between the Archbishop of Canterbury and the said Prior as to the jurisdiction within the diocese, the see being vacant, in accordance with letters from the officer of the Court of Canterbury to the Prior dated the 4th of the Kalends of June, 1302, demanding the same Absolution upon complaint of the said Abbot; and citing the said Prior to appear in the Church of the Blessed Mary le Bow, London, on the fourth law-day after the feast of St. James the Apostle. Dated the 10th of the Kalends of August, 1302.

The same petition (*suggestio*) for Teukesbur'.

Fol. 6b. Notification by the Prior of Worcester that by a composition made between Boniface, late Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Prior of Worcester, whereby the Jurisdiction of the diocese of Worcester during a vacancy was declared to belong to the Prior², and whereas the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter of Gloucester having disputed the jurisdiction of the said Prior and brought upon themselves the sentence of greater excommunication, the Prior, upon representation of the Officer of the Court of Canterbury, has released the said Abbot from the sentence of excommunication. No date.

¹ See *ante*, p. 3.

² See *ante*, p. 10.

Release by the Prior of Worcester of the sentence of excommunication against the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter of Gloucester. No date.

Writ from Edward I. to the Keeper of the Spiritualities [of the Diocese of Worcester]—that whereas the Prior of Little Malvern arraigned an assize *ultimæ præsentationis* against John de Feckenham, keeper of the butchery of Worcester, concerning the church of Neuwenton next Gutyng, which is vacant as he alleged and the same John says is not vacant—to inquire if the said church be vacant or not¹. Dated at York, 12 July, 30 Edward I.

Letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury to Boniface, the Pope, submitting a *consultatio* [case for opinion?] as to alleged irregularities at the election of John de Sancto Germano as bishop of Worcester. Dated at Lameth near London, the 16th of the Kalends of August, 1302.

Fol. 7. Notes by the Precentor [of Worcester] on the above Licence from the Prior of Worcester, officer of Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, in the diocese of Worcester &c., to all abbots, priors, as well exempt as not exempt, archdeacons and their officers, deans, rectors, vicars, and chaplains of parish churches, and others, to permit the proctors and messengers of the Hospital of St. Anthony in the diocese of Vienne to collect the alms of the faithful. Dated at Worcester, Thursday the morrow of St. James the Apostle, 1302.

Licence from J., Prior of Worcester, &c., to Robert, rector of the church of Brotton-haket, in the diocese of Worcester, to let to farm for two years his church aforesaid to Master Henry de la Lee, rector of the church of St. Swithin in the City of Worcester, and that the said Robert in the meantime shall not be bound to be personally resident; nevertheless the said church shall not in the mean time be encumbered with debt. Dated at Worcester, the 7th of the Kalends of August, 1302.

Writ from Edward I. to the Keeper [of the Spiritualities of the Diocese of Worcester] to distrain the ecclesiastical goods of

¹ See *post*, pp. 27, 29.

Walter de Berton¹, parson of the church of Bredon, for a fine of 10*li.* owing to the King for a disseizen. Dated at York, 16 July, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Writ from Edward I. to the Keeper of the spiritualities of the Diocese of Worcester to raise from the ecclesiastical goods of Walter de Berton², rector of the church of Bredon, 7*li.* of the 110*li.* which Alina, daughter of William le Poer, recovered as damages for a disseizen in the manor of Ekynton Poer, from the said Walter and John de Bredon, and to send the same into the Exchequer by Sampson de Gretham, in part payment of 387*li.* 4*s.* 4*d.*, which the same Alina owes to the King, by the said Sampson. Dated at York 16 July, 30 Edward I.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to his sub-prior and precentor to hear the cause touching the presentation to the church of Preston next Henl', between Thomas Tankard presented to the same church and his adversaries. Dated at Trymele the 2nd of the Kalends of August, 1302.

Writ of Prohibition from Edward I. to the officer of the Bishopric of Worcester from holding a plea in the court Christian concerning the goods or debts whereof John de Surrey complains that William de Tamerton [?], vicar of the church of Feckenham, conveyed to him unless those chattels or debts are concerning a will or matrimony. Dated at Westminster, 9 July, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Appointment by J., Prior of Worcester, of Master S. de Wynecot, his commissary general, to hear the matter between the Friars Minors of Malvern and J. de Feckenham, master of the Butchery of Worcester³. Dated at Wodehall the 4th of the Nones of August, 1302.

Manumission of Henry, Son of William le Wild of Overbur'. Dated the vigil of St. Lawrence, 1302.

Certificate by John, Prior of Worcester, of the receipt of a citation from the Abbots of Westminster and Malmesbury to appear at a

¹ See *ante*, pp. 4, 7, 9; *post*, p. 12. p. 12, and *post*, p. 27.

² See *ante*, pp. 4, 7, 9.

³ See *ante*,

general chapter of the Benedictine order for the Province of Canterbury to be held at the Chapter House of Bermundesheye on the feast of St. Michael. Dated at Worcester the feast of St. Lawrence the Martyr, 1302.

Writ of Prohibition from Edward I. to the keeper of the Bishopric of Worcester from admitting any person to the church of Daylesford, pending the suit concerning the advowson of the same between Miles de Hastings and Thomas de Hastings. Dated at Westminster 26 July, 30 Edward I. (1302)¹.

Certificate by J., Prior of Worcester, of the honest conversation and good fame of William, called Costard de Whorxston. Dated at Worcester the 4th of the Ides of August, 1302.

Fol. 8. Letter from J. de Sancto Germano to J., Prior of Worcester, that whereas he is advised by those skilled in the law in London that having asked the Archbishop for a copy of the (case) *consultatio*², and the Archbishop having refused to hear his messengers or to correct the case, an appeal would lie; but whereas the constitution of Pope Nicholas the third which begins "*Cupientes*," compels the appealing Chapter to send two instructors (*instructores*) or one proctor sufficiently instructed to the Roman Court, if the said Prior is not able to do this, that he should excuse himself to the Pope; but the writer not wishing to put the said Prior, or his church, to such expense, desires licence to visit Rome himself. No date.

Acceptance of the licence from the Chapter of Worcester by the Elect of Worcester (J. de Sancto Germano), stating the two reasons why the right of election of the said Elect should be prosecuted; namely, that the building of the Church of Worcester should be continued by him and the state of the monks of Worcester as regards their food and refecton in the refectory should be improved. No date.

Petition of the Elect of Worcester to the Chapter, that two instructors or one proctor may be sent to the Pope upon the business of the election, and that they may have the power of re-electing if

¹ See *post*, p. 35.

² See *ante*, p. 12.

the election is quashed, and their expenses of bed and board ; if this cannot be done that the Chapter will excuse themselves to the Pope. No date.

Letter from Edward I. to Pope Boniface in favour of the Elect of Worcester. Dated at Westminster 8 August, 30 Edward I. (1302)¹.

Letter from the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to Pope Boniface, acquainting him with the election of J. de Sancto Germano, as Bishop of Worcester, who sets out for Rome on the business of the Election, and praying for the Pope's favour on behalf of the said elect. No date².

Writ from Edward I. to the Keeper [of the Bishopric of Worcester] to distrain the ecclesiastical goods of Master John de Ebroycis, parson of the church of Tredyngton, clerk, for 40*li.* which Thomas de Sutham and Ralph de Leycester recovered against him³. Dated at York 8 July, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Licence at the request of Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, by the Prior of Worcester, to John, rector of the church of Elmeleye under the Castle, to let to farm his said church for a year. Dated at Worcester, 18th of the Kalends of August, 1302.

Fol. 8*b*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Christianities of Warwick and the vicar of the church of Woutton that whereas it has been shown to the same prior on behalf of Isabella, relict of Roger the clerk of Woutton, deceased, that William called the clerk of Woutton disturbs the said Isabella from receiving a moiety of the fruits from certain land in the parish of Woutton adjudged to her, that the said dean and vicar do warn the said William to desist from his presumption under pain of excommunication. Dated at Worcester, 17th of the Kalends of August, 1302.

Note that a letter was sent to the Bishop of Llandaff *ut celebraret ordines*, "whereof there is a copy on folio 19 preceding⁴."

Letter from the Bishop of Llandaff⁵ to John, Prior of Worcester, consenting to the above if it is pleasing to R., Archbishop of Canter-

¹ Printed by Thomas, p. 83.

² *Ib.* p. 83.

³ See *ante*, p. 8.

⁴ This is on fol. 8*b* the copy is not on the preceding page nor on fol. 19.

⁵ John of Monmouth, Bishop 1293—1323.

bury. Dated at Bissoppeston in Wenth the 19th of the Kalends of September (1302).

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Bishop of Llandaff praying that he will come at the expense of the Priory to Worcester to celebrate the ordination of clerks, and that it is unnecessary to obtain the consent of R., Archbishop of Canterbury, in consequence of the composition made between Boniface, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Priory¹, whereby the prior holds the spiritualities of the see during a vacancy. Dated at Worcester the 15th of the Kalends of August, 1302.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Gloucester, praying that if the Abbots of St. Peter of Gloucester and of Tewkesbury and the rest on that instant day of St. Bartholomew wished to treat with the Prior and his council at Beckford upon a dispute then pending between them in the court of Canterbury, that the said Archdeacon would reply with all speed what day and place he could be present. No date.

Letter from W. Bundon, Archdeacon of Gloucester, to the Prior of Worcester, appointing the feast of St. Bartholomew as before arranged for a meeting between the Prior and the Abbot of Gloucester to settle the dispute between them. No date.

Letter from the Abbot of Westminster to the Prior of Worcester on behalf of the abbot's free man Robert le Frankeleyn, clerk, bearer of the presents. No date.

Fol. 9. Letter from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester in favour of Master Robert de Denebrigg, who had laboured in the business of the Prior at the Court of Rome, and whose uncle Walter, while he lived, served the Archbishop for many years. Dated at Slindon the Ides of August in the 8th year of the Archbishop's consecration (1302).

Letter from the Bishop of Llandaff to J., Prior of Worcester, that he proposed to be at Worcester at the time stated to perform the

¹ See also p. 10.

ordinations, but being unwilling to offend the Archbishop, without prejudice to the Prior, he has consulted the Archbishop. Dated at Lank' the 12th of the Kalends of September (1302).

Letter from W., Abbot of Westminster, to the Prior of Worcester thanking the Prior for the answer sent by the Prior of Great Malverne, "your kinsman," and asking that the Prior will deliberate with his clerks upon the business for which he has sent Sir H. de Longeboruwe and reply what grace the Prior can do him in the matter. No date.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to J.¹, Bishop of Lincoln, and his commissaries, as to the administration of the Will of Dyonis' de Hoddesak, who died in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Seggesboruw the 8th of the Kalends of September, 1302.

Writ from Edward I. to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the Bishopric of Worcester to distrain the ecclesiastical goods of Master Henry de Bray, clerk, for 50 marks, part of 1000 marks owing to the executors of the will of Alienora, late Queen of England, for a fine for trespass. Dated at York 6 July, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Letter from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the official of Worcester, the see being vacant, to cite Master Thomas de Stokes, calling himself rector of the church of Kemeseye in the diocese of Worcester, to appear and receive final judgment². Dated at Slindon the Ides of August, 1302.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Worcester to pronounce or cause to be pronounced the sentence of the greater excommunication in the church of St. John of Worcester and the neighbouring churches on Sundays and feast days *intra missarum solemnia, pulsatis campanis et accensis candelis* against some persons who detain the goods of Adam the Smith of St. John's [parish] in Worcester, deceased, and will not restore them to the executors of the said Adam. And also to inquire diligently

¹ John d'Aldreby, 1300—1319.

² See *ant.*, p. 4.

who are the persons so offending and, if found, to cite them to appear in the cathedral church of Worcester at the next consistory. Dated at Worcester the 4th of the Kalends of September, 1302.

Order from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Gloucester to cite all rectors and vicars within his archdeanery who have not yet received the orders which the care of their benefices requires whether they were admitted before or after the Council of Lyons to appear in the cathedral church of Worcester, where the Bishop of Llandaff will on *instanto die Sabbati quatuor temporum post festum exaltationis sanctæ crucis* celebrate ordination¹. Dated at Worcester the 3rd of the Nones of July, 1302.

Absolution granted by the Prior of Worcester to William Frebody of Doddeleye [Dudley?] executor of the will of W., his father. Dated at Worcester the 3rd of the Nones of September, 1302.

The execution of the writ from Edward I. concerning Henry de Bray. Dated at Worcester the 4th of the Nones of September, 1302.

Fol. 9b. Letter from John, Bishop (*minister*) of Llandaff, to J., Prior of Worcester, that, understanding it is the wish of the Archbishop of Canterbury, he will come to perform ordinations at Worcester *ad proximum diem quatuor temporum*². Dated at Llandaff the 3rd of the Nones of September (1302).

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Bishop of Llandaff acknowledging the receipt of the above. No date.

Letter from J., Prior of Worcester, to Francis Neapol' cardinal of the Apostolic see and archdeacon of Worcester, on behalf of John de Sancto Germano, elect of Worcester, setting out for the Roman court on the business of the Election, and also as to a pension (*firma*) paid to the said Francis. Dated at Worcester the Kalends of September, 1302. *Entry faded.*

¹ See p. 19 for a similar order for the archdeaconry of Worcester.

² i.e. the next festival day of the four

seasons, in this case the first Saturday in September. See Du Cange, *Quatuor temporum*.

Order from the Prior of Worcester to the archdeacon of Worcester to cite all rectors and vicars within his archdeanery who have not yet received the orders which the cure of their benefices requires whether they were admitted before or after the Council of Lyons, to appear in the cathedral church of Worcester, where the Bishop of Llandaff will on *instanto die Sabbati quatuor temporum post festum exaltationis Sanctæ crucis*, celebrate ordinations. Dated at Worcester the Nones of September, 1302.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Persor'¹ to cite Adam, chaplain of the chapel of St. Michael of Persor' for clandestinely performing the service of matrimony. Dated 1302. *Entry Faded.*

Note that Adam Dunt of Wolfardeleya [Wolverley?] was manumitted by Clement Dunclent (?) on 6 September (1302).

Fol. 10. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to John de Wakerl', officer of the archdeacon of Gloucester, to appoint Stephen de Brocton, clerk, in the deanery of Haukesbury and Philip de Asscherougge, clerk in the deanery of Stonhousa, apparitors of Haukesbury and Stonhousa. No date.

Grant by John, Prior of Worcester, to William de Doveria of a pension of 10*li.* on account of his old age and his services to the Priory. Dated in the Chapter House at Worcester the 7th of the Ides of September, 1302.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Master Henry de Hampton, rector of the church of Pyllardynghon, requesting the said Henry to satisfy a debt due to Hugh de Haukeleye. No date.

Grant of administration, by the Prior of Worcester, of the goods of Geoffrey de la Hoo of Kyderm², deceased, intestate, to Agnes, his wife, and Adam Cissor. Dated at Worcester the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary the Virgin, 1302.

Resignation by John called Loote and Stephen de Sancto Johanne on behalf of William de Planta, rector of the church of Wytechurch,

¹ Pershore.

² Kidderminster (?).

in the diocese of Worcester, of the said church of Wytechurch with appurtenances. No date.

Letter from G., Abbot of Peterborough, to the Prior of Worcester on behalf of Benedict de Besby, chaplain, presented to the church of Whitchurch. No date.

Letter from Wulstan, clerk of Worcester, to J., Prior, and the Convent of Worcester. That being at the gate of death at Gloucester he begs for their prayers for which he forgives them the debts they owe him. Dated at Gloucester on Monday after the feast of St. James, 1302.

Writ of *venire facias* by Edward I. to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the bishopric of Worcester for Ralph de Bolmere, rector of the church of Taneweth, executor of the will of Ela Lungspeye, formerly Countess of Warwick, deceased, to appear and answer William Wodeston of a debt of 100*li*. Dated 20 July, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Citation by the Prior of Worcester of the Prior of Sondwelle to appear at Worcester concerning the affairs of the said Prior and the College of Sondwelle. No date.

Fol. 10*b*. Letter of dispensation by the Prior of Worcester to William de Brun, sub-deacon, rector of the Church of Longedon in the diocese of Worcester, to absent himself from his duties for the purpose of study, so that he see that his church is served during his absence. Dated the 18th of the Kalends of October, 1302.

Certificate, by the Prior of Worcester to R.¹, Bishop, and Master B. de Ferrent', Canon of London, collectors in England for the subsidy imposed by Pope Boniface, as to the poverty of the religious women of Cuchulle [Churchill] in the diocese of Worcester.

Bond by John de Affordeby, rector of the church of Castre in the diocese of Lincoln, to the Prior of Worcester, in 100*li*., indemnifying

¹ Richard de Gravesend, 1280—1303.

the Prior against any damages or expenses by occasion of the admission and institution of Benedict de Boesby, his brother, into the church of Wytechurch. Dated at Worcester in the octaves of the Nativity of St. Mary, 1302.

Letter from the abbot of Reading to the Prior of Worcester requesting the said Prior to supersede the action against Alan de la Cnolle, bailiff of their manor of Kokynton due for fealty. Dated at Reading, Friday the vigil of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary (1302).

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Abbot of Reading wondering at the above letter concerning the abbot's fealty due for his portion in the vill of Tydyngton, nevertheless to please the Abbot they will delay their suit till Martinmas.

Letter from Peter de Leyc' to J., Prior of Worcester, asking that the annexation of the church of Budebroke to his prebend in the church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick might be confirmed.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Peter de Leycestr' praying to be excused replying to the above, the See of Worcester being vacant.

Certificate by the Prior of Worcester that Laurence de Eldresfeld, priest, canonically promoted to all holy orders, is of laudable life and honest conversation. Dated at Worcester the 2nd of the Ides of September, 1302.

Memorandum that Richard Willeby, rector of the church of Thormertone next Northlegh, had dispensation. *Entry torn.*

Certificate that A. de C. of the diocese of Worcester had been admitted to holy orders by J., Bishop of Llandaff. *Torn and faded.*

Fol. 11. The names of those ordained of Worcester on Saturday *iiii^{or} temporum* next after the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1302, by J., Bishop of Llandaff, invited by John de Wykes, Prior of Worcester, as well sub-deacons and deacons, as priests secular, and religious persons.

Sub-deacons to wit.

Peter de Amenya to the title of patrimony	Nicholas de Throkemerton
William de Wiston to the title of patrimony which he possesses.	William de Wykewane to the title of Roger de Walecot
Richard de Mundevile to the title of the house of Llandaff	William de Merston Meysy to the title of patrimony
William de Colne St. Aldwym to the title of a pensionary	Richard de Chaddeleya to sufficient title
Peter de Gunnerton (?) to the title of patrimony	William son of William de Dorinton to — title
William de Videbroc to the title of patrimony	Thomas Perseval of Swayles to the title of patrimony
Henry de Coldastone to the title of patrimony	Peter de Lench
Henry de Cerneya to the title of patrimony. He made oath.	John de Blockeleya
William Havedacre of Lechelade	Richard de Wolneford to the title of patrimony
Oliver de Etindon to the title of patrimony	Richard de Longeneye to presentation of the Prior of Lauton next Gloucester[<i>qy</i> .Llanthony]
Adam de Vaal to the title of patrimony	Robert de Kyngton to the title of patrimony
Ralph de Clyve	Henry de Lockesleya to the title of patrimony
John de Parva Compton to the title of patrimony	Richard de Feckenham
Nicholas de Phepsynton to the title of patrimony	John Bernard of Stretford to the title of patrimony
John Pippard to the title of patrimony	Richard de Stocton to competent title
William Lowe of Bromesgrave to the title of patrimony	Ralph de Evesham
Robert Scot to the title of the yearly rent of 5 marks	Geoffrey de Wykewane
Symon de Walton	Robert le Toyt of Perkeleya
Thomas Basset Warr'	Robert Gylemyn of Warwick
John de Wynhecumb	Walter de Wyke to the presentation of the Prior of Malmesbury (?)
John Chaneryngworth to the title of two virgates of land	Thomas de Longeberuwe
	Henry de Longeberge
	John de Longeberge
	John de Comptone

Robert de Persor of Worcester to the title of patrimony	John de Stretton next Feckenham
Thomas de Clyva Prioris	Nicholas Faber of Cyrencestir to the title of patrimony
Henry le Spixor to the title of patrimony	John de Cherlynton
Robert de Comberton Major to the title of patrimony	Richard Pencrich of Bremesgrave
Nicholas Lovecok of Warwick to a title	John de Wynecote
Vincent (?) de Lockesleye and he has 4 mark yearly rent	John of the same place
John de Stanton	Thomas de Poywyck to the title of patrimony
John de Compton Wyndate	Thomas le Messeger of Ilmyndon
Walter de Dumbelton	Nicholas de Todeham
Henry de Stonwa	William Wymunde of Cyrencester to the title of patrimony. He made oath.
John de Gryme hull	John de Bladynton to the title of the Bishop of Llandaff
Robert de Preston next Cyr' to the title of the chapel of the parish of Cyrene' [Cirencester?]	Richard de Wyrmynton
Henry Sely of Suthcermye to the title of patrimony. He made oath	John de Trosbur to the title of patrimony. He made oath.
Walter de Parva Rysyndon to the title of patrimony	Robert de Bartone in Henneimers
Robert le Tanner of Lecchelade to the title of the parish of Lecchelad	Thomas de Ilmyndone
William de Boreford to the title of patrimony	Henry Lessi of Quentone
John de Wynton' Brystoll to the title of patrimony	Walter de Coldastone
William de Mukeltone to the title of patrimony	Henry de Malgarsbur'
Adam Sporum of Persora to the title of patrimony	John de Doddeleya
Philip de Twemmyge to the title of patrimony	Nicholas Torald of Hamtone Meysy
Gilbert de Lockesleya to the title of patrimony	Robert de Stonwa to the title of patrimony
	Robert de Sancto Johanne
	John de Bretfortone
	John de Kynggeswode
	John de Stuwa
	William de Dagelyngworthe to the title of patrimony
	Roger de Doddeleya
	Richard de Grymeleya
	John de Thisho

Walter de Befford or Defford (<i>sic</i>)	Philip de Alvestane
William de Merton to the title of patrimony	John Passe of Brystoll
William de Rowell	Segrid (Sths) de Tywe to letters dimissory of the Bishop of Lincoln with
John de Rysyndone Magna	John de Colchurste
Richard le Palmare	Robert But of Rodeboruwe
Walter de Wynneferchynd rector of the church of Magna Melton in the diocese of Norwich by letters dimissory of the Bishop of Lincoln	Gilbert de Morte Brut
Brother Henry de Fckerham a monk of Worcester	Alan de Sloustre
	Walter de Thormertone
	John de Leya
	Richard (?) Wenrich
	Nicholas de Ameneya
	William Rogge

DEACONS.

Brother Simon le Botyler monk of Worcester	John de Lenche
Walter de Sancto Germano	William de Cherlyntone
Walter Crote of Stonwa	Robert Page of Sloustre
John Wendont of Ambresl'	William de Baclona
Segrid (Sths) de Quentone	John de Aston Somervyle
John de Bertheston	Walter Hatherop
Walter de Campedene	John de Dorne
John Withs of Cyrencestr'	Geoffrey de Weston sub Egge
Robert de Blockeleya	William le Freman of Hampton
John Mey	Peter de Beckeford
John Spenser of Ambresl'	John de Southewode of Bremes- grave
Walter de Berewode	Robert de Lyndewourthe
Geoffrey de Wellesbury	Simon Palet
Richard de la Hurne of Comp- tone Magna	Richard Spelly of Cleynes
John Crompe of Ambresl'	Henry de Teukesbur'
Geoffrey de Welneforde	John de Burtone
William de Bertone	John de Sancto Petro in Wont- louchland (<i>sic</i>) diocese
Henry de Henleya of Stretford	John de Dagelyngwourthe
John de Quentone	Robert de Parva Camptone
Robert de la True of Auste	Thomas de Rysyndone Magna
Richard de Brome	William de Mortone Folet
Ralph de Budyford	John de Malvernia
	Richard Rolf of Bremesgrave

Robert Michel	Ralph de Syde
John de Schepistone	Nicholas de Sevenhaintone
John de Alvyntone of Lantonya	Robert de Athelmyntone
Richard Abraham of Bremesgrave	William de Schireburne
Walter Nollel of Stouwa	Ralph de Nortone
Ralph Giffard of Sloutre	Robert de Maysmore
Robert Large of the same place	William de Wylaseye
William de Waresleye	Edmund de Dayllesford
Adam de Awe	Malcolm de Thornertone
John de Wythyndone	Thomas le Fremon
John de Merstone Meysy	Geoffrey le Marescal of Kynemers
	Richard de Fywyk
	John Elyoun
	Nicholas le Rom (<i>sic</i>) of Crancombe
	Richard de Mukelton
	Henry de Colne Saint Alwyny
	James de Westone
	William de Pydele
	Robert de Dorsmeston
	Robert Benegworth
	Roger de Durhust
	Nicholas Colle of Cyrencester (Cyrec')
	John de Horsleye
	John de Boggeworth
	Nicholas Alewy of Knyemasford
	John de Bredon
	Adam de Bradeweje
	Henry de Belne has letters
	John le Hopere of Spehechesleye
	Walter de Longeberwe
	John Maudut of Feckham
	Henry Maudut
	John de Froncestr
	John de Becheford
	William le Saltere
	Robert de Fladebur'
	John Anketel of Doddel'
PRIESTS.	
John of the House of St. Wulfstan	
William called Man de Merstone	
Richard son of Walter de Wynchecumbe	
William de Lockesleya	
Henry le Mason of Hamton Meysey	
Walter de Bermyntone	
Thomas Blancweyn of Wychford	
John de Ocyngdon	
Richard Peleyn of Great Malvern	
John de Coneleya	
John de Bradewell	
Robert de Longedone	
Nicholas de Solbury	
Adam de Haselore	
Henry de Mune of the parish of Quenton	
Nicholas Burnel of Hinton Meysy	
Odo de Dumbeltone	
Richard de Colesbourne	
John de Wyneby	
John de Warnberge	
John Pelye	
William de Bradewelle	

Simon de Langeton rector of the church " <i>de la Mor per diminum Herfordiensem suffic' et constat de ordinibus præcedentibus</i> "	Simon de Shiltenham
William de Combrinton	Thomas de Etindon
Simon de Athereston	William le Yonge of Morton
Roger de Stanedichs	John de Cold Aston
Thomas de Ekinton	John de Risindon
Walter called Short of Malgeresbur'	Simon de Salle
Walter le Brun de Asseford	Master Roger le Poher by the Lord Hereford
Nicholas de Evesham	Simon de Tresagn rector of Mihzelstowe
Ralph de Deyvill	Walter de Stratton
	John de Wykes Rasindon
	Peter Rector of Maddesfeld

Certificate by the Prior of Worcester of the ordination of N-de T. [Nicholas de Todenham] to the order of sub-deacon. Dated 10th of the Kalends of October, 1302.

Like certificate of the ordination of Henry de Belne to the order of priest. No date.

Fol. 11*b*. Licence by J. de Wykes, Prior of Worcester, to Robert de Worthon, rector of the parish Church of Alinton¹, to absent himself for three years to study canon law and theology and in the meantime to let to farm his said church to any honest and literate man. No date.

Writ of *venire facias* for Simon de Prens, parson of the church of Tettebur', clerk, to appear to answer John de Syon of a plea of debt. Dated 19 July, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Writ of *venire facias* for Ralph de Hulmere, clerk, executor of the will of Ela de Lungespeye, to answer John de Wanetingg', warden of the house of Scholars of Merton, Oxford, of a plea that he, together with William de Wodeston, Master Richard de la Batayle, Master Henry de Fodringheye, William de la Bache, and Master John de Wanetingge, other executors of the same will,

¹ Alinc'.

should render to the same John 20 marks unjustly detained. Dated 12 July 30 Edward I. (1302).

Institution by the Prior of Worcester of Master Wulfstan de Wigornia, clerk, into the parish church of Daylesford¹. Dated at Clyna, the 15th of the Kalends of November, 1302.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Blockley to induct the said Wulfstan to the church of Daylesford. Dated 15 of the Kalends November, 1302.

Licence to Geoffrey de Northwyco, rector of the Church of Overbury, to absent himself from his church and the lights of the Blessed Peter and Paul, to visit the Roman Court. Dated at Worcester the 7th of the Ides of October, 1302.

Letter from the Dean of the Blessed Mary le Bow (*de Arcubus*) commissary general of the Court of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester remitting the purgation (*examen*) in the suit in the Court of Canterbury between John de Hargmede and Walter de Blida concerning the chapel of Stratton super Fosse. Dated at London the 14th of the Kalends of November, 1302.

Writ from Edward I. to the keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester to inquire whether the church of Newenton Juxta Guting' in the County of Gloucester is vacant or not, the Prior of Little Malvern having arraigned an assize of *ultimæ præsentationis* against John de Feckenham keeper of the butchery of Worcester, and the said John says the same church is not vacant². Dated at York 18 October, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Henry de Hacton. Whereas at the Prior's visitation and elsewhere there appeared the vicar of Alveston and exhibited the title of his vicarage and his letters of orders which the rector of Hampton, he said, had called in question and as institutions and destitutions belong to the same Prior and in no wise to the same rector, the said Prior requests the said Henry

¹ See *ante*, p. 14.

² See *ante*, p. 13; *post*, pp. 28 and 30.

to go to the same rector and ask him to leave the same vicar in peace.

Fol. 12. Reply of the Prior of Worcester to the writ of Edward I. concerning the church of Newenton juxta Guting', stating that the said church is occupied by the aforesaid John, keeper of the butchery of Worcester, by no presentation, and it has been so occupied from a time as is contained in a letter of the Bishop of Worcester, to wit from the 5th of the Ides of December, 1287. Dated at Worcester the 7th of the Kalends of October, 1302.

Licence to Drogo, rector of the church of Pyrton, to extend his time for three years to absent himself for purposes of Study. Dated at Worcester Sunday next following the feast of St. Matthew, 1302.

Letter from the Abbot of Persore to the Prior of Worcester asking that licence may be given to Andrew de Lega, rector of the church of the Blessed Peter the Great in Worcester, to absent himself for purposes of Study. No date.

Forms of letters of excuse, supplication, &c.

Letter from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Official of Worcester, stating that at his late visitation in his metropolitan right he objected to Thomas de Stok incumbent of the church of Kemeseye because having the care of the church of Duntisburn and afterwards the vicarage of the parish church of Stanesdich at length obtained the church of Canmue (?), and was subsequently admitted to the church of Kemeseye contrary to many canons, upon which the archbishop commenced proceedings, whereupon the same Thomas renounced the said church of Kemesey. Afterwards the king, hearing of the vacancy, presented Peter de Colingburn to the same church notwithstanding that proceedings were pending. The archbishop requires the Prior to look into the matter and do what he considers best. Dated at Limminge the 10th of the Kalends of October, 1302.

Exemplification by Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, of the resignation by Master Thomas de Stok of the church of Kemeseye.

Date of resignation Wednesday after the feast of St. Bartholomew, 1302. Date of exemplification the 10th of the Kalends of October, 1302.

Fol. 12*b*. Grant by John de Wykes, Prior of Worcester, and the Convent of the same place to Richard de Tonedebur', clerk, and John, son of Richard de Boreford, his nephew, of a messuage and land which William le Freman formerly held in Boraston, saving the rents, &c., of the lands which Robert de Boraston and Edith de la Barre hold. Witnesses:—Robert Estormy, Walter de Clifford, William de la Hull, Adam de la Hull, Robert de Lodewirth, and others. Dated at Worcester Saturday the morrow of All Souls, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Bond by Richard de Tomedebur', clerk, to pay to the Prior of Worcester 8 marks. Witnesses:—John de Sancto Brevell', Gilbert de Maddel', Adam de Cyrencestre, John de Bromesgrave, monks of Worcester, John Aubyn, clerk, John de Cerneye, and Nicholas de Bradewas, notaries public. Dated at Worcester the 3rd of the Nones of November, 1302.

Writ from Edward I. to the Prior of Worcester to sequester the goods of Master John de Ebroyeis, parson of the Church of Tredynton, clerk, for a debt owing to Thomas de Sutham and Ralph de Leycestr'. Dated 13 October, 30 Edward I.

Appointment of Master Thomas de Teffont, proctor of the Prior of Worcester, in the suit in the Court of Canterbury between the Abbots of the Monasteries of St. Peter of Gloucester and St. Mary of Tewkesbury, on the one part, and the Prior of Worcester on the other, on account of visitation. Dated at Worcester the 6th of the Kalends of November, 1302.

Appointment of brother G. de M., monk of Worcester, and Master F. de Brad, clerk, proctors of the Prior of Worcester to borrow 100*li*. from certain merchants. Dated at Worcester the Kalends of July, 1302.

Memorandum that William, son of Guy de Crophthorn, was manumitted by Simon de Bello Campo on the 3rd of the Ides of November, 1302.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Deans of the Christianities of Warwick and of Tredington that Henry called de Hambur' of Warwick, Thomas called de Leion (?) of Warwick, Gilbert le Senter of Tredington, and Robert Bouche of Tredington, having assaulted Hugh de Esebury, clerk, thereby incurring the penalty of the greater excommunication, being unwilling to punish them excessively, the said Prior commands the said Deans to cite the said persons to appear at the next consistory to show cause why the said sentence should not be pronounced against them. Dated at Worcester, the 4th of the Ides of November, 1302.

Fol. 13. Return to a writ of the King that the church of Newenton super Waldam is not vacant but is filled by John de Feckenham, master of the Butchery of Worcester, by collation of Godfrey, late Bishop of Worcester, then patron. Dated at Worcester 13th of the Kalends of December, 1302.

Citation addressed to the Office of the Archdeacon of Worcester for the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to appear and show cause wherefore the presentation to the Church of Doderhull does not belong to the Archbishop, the said Prior and Chapter having presented thereto upon the neglect of the patron to do so. Dated at Lambeth the 15th of the Kalends of December, 1302.

Protest by the Prior and Convent of Worcester setting out that they are possessed of the Church of Duderhill and protesting against the archbishop's claims to the same.

Letter from Walter¹, Bishop of Bath and Wells, to J., Prior of Worcester, as to the absence from his benefice of Bartholomew de Devyses. Dated at Dogemersfeld the 13th of the Kalends of December, 1302.

Writ of *feri facias de bonis ecclesiasticis* addressed to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the Bishopric of Worcester to raise 6 marks, 6s. 8d., from the goods of Master Simon de Wymenham, parson of the church of Drymerston, which the said Simon owed to Richard ate Grene of Rugham (?). No date.

¹ Walter Haselshaw, elected 7 Aug. 1302—11 Dec. 1308.

A like Writ of *feri facias* addressed as above to raise 8 marks from the goods of Walter, parson of the Church of Wilwardinton, clerk, which the same Walter³ owes to William de Stodleye. Dated 28 November, 31 Edward I.

Letter from W.¹, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, to the Prior of Worcester, asking him to show favour and cease distraining the lady Margaret de Parcheford. Dated at York 30 October.

Note that Nicholas, son of Richard le Wyte of Tedyngton, was manumitted by the hands of John de Hely; and Robert, son of Henry le Freynces of Schepiston by the hand of W. de Stok in the month of February.

Fol. 13^b. Letter from J. de Chaundes, Prior of Llanthony next Gloucester, to the Prior of Worcester to ask for his well beloved kinsman John Foun of Tuttelbur (?), before the justices for gaol delivery at Gloucester that he may be delivered to the Prior's prison. No date.

Licence to Gilbert de Foxleya, rector of the church of Little Compton in the diocese of Worcester, to absent himself from his church for two years for purposes of Study. No date.

Writ of *venire facias* for Elias de Brisragges, clerk, to appear and answer Ralph de Hengham of a plea of debt. Dated 28 November, 31 Edward I. (1302).

Letter from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester to inquire as to the fitness of Robert de Elmham, presented to the church of North Pydele by Sir Henry de Segrave, Knight. Dated the 4th of the Nones of December, 1302. Note that the Prior did not make certificate, because Edmund de Grafton said that Henry de Segrave would bring the presentation before the Prior in a short time.

Letter from brother Richard de Bromwykes to John de Wykes, Prior of Worcester, sending a copy of a letter received by Laurence

³ Walter de Langton, 1295—1321.

de Gloucestria, doctor of sacred theology, and William de Camme, Prior of Oxford, students at Oxford, from brother Adam de Hemingston, monk of Ely, who accompanied the Elect of Ely in his journey to Rome, stating that on the arrival of the Elect of Ely with his household in France, his household was dispersed, his horses seized, and his goods lost, but at length it pleased the Most High after many dangers to bring them together, with the exception of one of the household, without money, but well in body. On the 3rd of the Ides of October they, together with the Elect of Worcester and his household, entered Rome. After saluting the Pope and the Cardinals, the business of the Ely Election, on the Wednesday next following, to wit, the translation of the Blessed Etheldreda the Virgin, was propounded before the said Pope and the Cardinals. On which day the Elect of Worcester relinquished his right. On Saturday next following the matter was again discussed, and on the Monday it was committed to three Cardinals, Matthew Rubens, Leonardus Alanes', and brother Gentili. The Pope publicly sitting in the consistory after his sermon (*prædicatio*) made brothers William de Gaynesbur' bishop and pastor of the church of Worcester, and the Elect of Ely bishop and pastor of the church of Ely. The said Adam after the Consecration of the Elect of Ely hopes to return shortly. Dated at Rome the 9th of the Kalends of November, 1302.

Appointment by John Brevel, proctor of the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, of T. de W. as his substitute. Dated at London, 9 Kal. Nov. 1302.

Order from the Prior of Worcester to the Deans of Worcester and Poywick to pronounce sentence of the greater excommunication on Sundays and feast days against all those who defamed A. de B., and to enquire who those persons were, and, if found, to cite them to appear before the Prior or his Commissary. Dated at Worcester the 10th of the Kalends of November, 1302.

Writ of prohibition from Edward I. prohibiting the Prior of Worcester from admitting any person to the church of Budebrok, as to the right to the advowson of which there is a dispute between Ralph de Hengham, Canon of the church of the Blessed Mary

of Warwick, and Master William de Apperle, Dean of the same church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick. Dated at Westminster 5 November, 30 Edward I. (1302).

Fol. 14. Portions of Peter's pence (*denar' Beati Petri*) of the Bishopric of Worcester which the Bishop of the same place received yearly

In the Deanery of Worcester	40s.
In the Deanery of Poywyk	29s. 6½d.
In the Deanery of Wych'	24s. 10d.
In the Deanery of Kydermestr'	26s.
In the Deanery of Persor	24s. 4½d.
In the Deanery of Warwyk	7li. 10s. 5½d.

Sum 14li. 15s. 8½d.

Exemptions of the same Archdeanery.

In the Deanery of Blockel'	6s.
In the Deanery of Tredinton	6s.
In the Deanery of Hamton	3s.
In the Deanery of Stratford	6s.
In the Deanery of Alnechyrch	3s.
In the Deanery of Hertlebur'	2s.
In the Deanery of Flodebur'	3s.
In the Deanery of Aston Episcopi	7d.

Sum of Exemptions of the Archdeanery of Worcester.

Sum 39s. 7d.

Deanery of the Blessed Peter of the Archdeanery of Gloucester.

In the Deanery of Gloucester	35s.
In the Deanery of Stonhyng'	39s.
In the Deanery of Wynchecombe	54s.
In the Deanery of Campedem	37s.
In the Deanery of Stonwa	36s. 11d.
In the Deanery of Fayreford	33s. 6d.
In the Deanery of Cyrencestr'	31s.
In the Deanery of Darsl'	47s. 2d.

whereof 40s. is paid by the hands of Lord T. de Werkes'

In the Deanery of Hanekes'	33s. 6½d.
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In the Deanery of Bucton'	17s. 11d.
In the Deanery of Bristoll	10s. 2d.
and 1d. is uncertain on account of the borough	
Sum 17 <i>li.</i> 15s. 3d.	

Exemptions of the same Archdeanery.

In the Deanery of Westbur'	3s.
In the Deanery of Wythyndon	3s.
In the Deanery of Bebur'	6s.
In the Deanery of Clyve	2s.
Sum of exemptions of the Archdeanery of Gloucester	14s.

Sum of the sums total of Peter's Pence in the Bishopric of Worcester 34*li.* 2s. 7½*d.* Whereof the Bishop of Worcester pays to the court of Rome by the year 10*li.* 5s., and so there accrues to the same Bishop of Worcester every year from the same Peter's pence of his diocese 24*li.* 7s. 7½*d.*

Writ of *feri facias* to distrain Walter de Berton, John de Stane-weye, Master John de Redboruwe, executors of the Will of Godfrey, late Bishop of Worcester, to answer William de Persora, chamberlain of the Exchequer, of 10 marks which they owe of the debts of the deceased. Dated at York 14 December 31 Edward I. (1302).

Licence to Master Wulstan [de Wigornia], rector of the church of Dalesford, to be absent from his church for seven years for study. Dated at Worcester the 11th of the Kalends of January, 1302.

Grant to Adam de Pyrye, citizen of Worcester, and Gunhilda Peet, his wife, and the survivor of them of a corrody, from the cellarer of the Priory of Worcester, one loaf of the monks and two flagons of the better ale, and from the kitchen, as well on meat days as fish days, one dish of the monks. Dated the Kalends of January, 1302.

Grant of a corrody to Robert de Humelton, citizen of Worcester, and Agnes, his wife or the survivor of them, as the buyer (*eptor*) of the monastery of Worcester was accustomed to receive. Dated at Worcester the Kalends of January, 1302[-3].

Memorandum that Hugh Teverey did homage to John de Wykes, Prior of Worcester, at Wodehall, on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Hilary, 31 Edward I. for his lands in Shepiston. Dated at Wodehall.

Declaration that the executors of the late Bishop intend to hold a solemn anniversary.

Letter from the Abbot of Malmesbury to the Prior of Worcester asking him to hasten the business of Walter de Malmesbury, clerk¹.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Master Peter de Pyriton asking for his advice concerning the appropriation of the church of Doderhull². No date.

Fol. 14^b. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, asking him to confirm to the monastery of Worcester the appropriation of the church of Doderhull, which Godfrey Giffard, late Bishop of Worcester, gave to them. No date.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Master Robert de Gloucester, chancellor of the church of Hereford, requesting him to urge the archbishop to grant the above. Dated at Worcester the 13th of the Kalends of February, 1302[-3].

Letter from the Abbots of Westminster and Malmesbury, presiding in the General Chapter of the Benedictine order of the Province of Canterbury, to the Abbots of Wynchecomb and Persor³, commanding them to warn the Prior and Convent of Worcester to re-admit brother John de Dumbelton⁴, as a monk of their church, and to a stall in the choir and a place in the chapter and in the dormitory, refectory, and forbidding the Prior, sub-prior, cellarer, sacristan, chamberlain, precentor and kitchiner, under pain of the greater excommunication, to neglect this order. Dated at Deneham the morrow of St. Thomas the Apostle, 1302.

¹ See *ante*, p. 6.

² See *ante*, p. 29, and *post*, p. 49.

³ Pershore.

⁴ See *ante*, p. 2.

Memorandum that in the octaves of Holy Innocents, 1302, brother John de Dumbelton was admitted monk in the Chapter of Worcester.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Worcester enjoining him to excommunicate all those persons who persued a certain Richard called Kaye, a clerk, seeking the immunity of an ecclesiastical liberty, into the crypt of the Cathedral church, and to enquire who the delinquents were and cite them to appear before the Prior or his commissary to receive canonical punishment for their ill-doings. Dated at Worcester the Kalends of February, 1302[-3].

Fol. 15. Memorandum that Richard Cay, Clerk, of Worcester, on the day (*post prandium de Magna Ecclesia*) went to drink at the house of the Goldsmith in the cemetery. Immediately it was perceived by his keepers there, they fortified the gate towards the cemetery, so that egress was denied him. In the mean time, by advice of the bailiffs and others of the vill, they ill-treated him, and put him in irons. At length, as agreed between them, he abjured the realm. Note—the bailiffs of Worcester were then Richard de Colys and Adam de Pyrye.

Licence to Master Richard de Stanewya, rector of the church of Waston upon Avon, to absent himself from his church for study for 5 years. Dated at Worcester the 6th of the Kalends of February 1302[3].

Writ from Edward I. to the keeper of the Spiritualities of the Bishopric of Worcester that whereas the Abbot of St. Augustine of Bristol holds the church of Berkele from which there is a pension of five marks payable to the Bishop, and although the said Abbot had paid the same pension to Humphrey de Walden, Keeper of the Bishopric, yet the same keeper of the Spiritualities impleads the said Abbot in the Court Christian for the same pension. It is therefore commanded that the said keeper of the Spiritualities supersede his said plea. Dated at Odiham, 31 Edward I.

Letter from the Abbot of Westminster to the Prior of Worcester asking that whereas the collation of the chapel of Daylesford by

lapse of time belongs to the same Prior that he will confer it upon William de Evenolode, chaplain ¹.

Bond by Nicholas de Warwick, lord of Folebrok, in all his lands and possessions to indemnify the Prior of Worcester from all damage and expense if the same Prior will proceed with his cause in the Consistory Court of Worcester against John de Hercy of Pillardington for defamation, notwithstanding that the King has forbidden the same cause to proceed. Dated at Warwick the 18th of the Kalends of February, 1302[-3].

Memorandum that on Monday the vigil of St. Agatha the Virgin and Martyr, 1302[-3], Henry Fuke, Roger de Stynyntone, Simon de Solers, David de Presthemede, made profession before John de Wyke, then Prior of Worcester, in the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin. Form of profession follows.

Certificate that Robert de Forhampton, clerk in holy orders, is of good fame and honest conversation. Dated at Worcester the 6th of the Ides of February, 1302[-3].

Letter on behalf of Robert de Bluntesdon presented to the church of Neuwenton upon Codeswolde by the King.

Memorandum that Roger, son of Alice Molendinarius of Bradwas was manumitted by Master J. de Bradwas.

Fol. 15^b. Letter from W. de Geynesboruwe Bishop of Worcester, to the Prior of Worcester that he has been delayed by many causes from coming to them. Praying that when his commissary shall come to them for the disposition of the spiritualities and temporalities the prior will assist him. Dated at Wyndeshore 5 February in the first year of the said Bishop's consecration. This letter was received on Wednesday after the feast of the Purification by the hands of Gilbert de Maddeleya, then sacristan of Worcester. The Bishop came to London on Tuesday before the Purification for the first time and performed mass for the King at Wyndelishore on the day of the Purification.

¹ See *ante*, p. 14.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to William, Bishop of Worcester. He rejoices in the arrival of the Bishop in England and to London, and desires him come to his manor of Wythyndon upon Wald. States that they are indebted to Henry, the almoner of the King of England, in a sum of money whereof 60*li.* is due within fifteen days and they are unable to pay it. The Prior sends 20*li.* to the Bishop for his expenses by Walter de Wikes, brother of the Prior, who will tell the Bishop verbally of their undoubted fidelity.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Henry de Bluntesdon almoner of the King of England, that he and his convent will transmit the 60*li.* owing, as soon as they are able.

Memorandum of the manumission of Henry, son of Walter Ch's (*sic*), of Clyua Prioris by the hand of J. de Dumbelton on the 12th of the Kalends of April, 1300.

Letter from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the official of Worcester, stating that whereas W., Bishop of Worcester, has made canonical profession to the Archbishop, it is commanded that the same Prior do deliver up the spiritualities and temporalities of the said see to the Bishop, saving to the Archbishop the decision of all matters in the diocese commenced before the date hereof. Dated at Lambeth the 7th of the Ides of February 1302[-3]¹.

Commission from W., Bishop of Worcester, to Master John de Rodboruwe and Master Robert de Sutton, clerks of the rectors of Hertelbur' and Durseleya to exercise full power in all matters in the diocese touching canonical obedience. Dated at London 6th of the Ides of February in the first year of the Bishop's consecration.

These two letters were received on 2nd of the Ides of February in the Prior's chamber. Present, Master J. de Rodboruwe, Master J. de Buterleya, Master H. de la Lee, Master R. de Suttone and Master J. de Bremesgraue, A. de Cyrencestr', then chaplain, and Nicholas de Bradwas, notary public.

¹ Printed in Thomas, p. 84.

Here ends the jurisdiction of brother John de Wyke, Prior of Worcester, during the vacancy of the see.

Fol. 16. Letter from Edward I. to the Prior and Convent of Worcester asking them to give a corrody to his servant John [of Bromsgrove¹] le Traior, the bearer, who has well and faithfully served him. Dated at Windsor 4th February, 31 Edward I. .

Letter to the same effect from J. de Drokenefford. Dated at Windsor 6th February.

Notification from the Prior of Worcester to the Archbishop of the appointment of John de Bradwas, the Prior's clerk, as his proctor, to account to the Archbishop, or his commissaries, for the account of the Archdeacons and their officials and the other expenses of the diocese during the vacancy of the see according to the composition between Boniface late Archbishop and the Prior and Chapter of Worcester. Dated at Worcester 7th of the Kalends of March, 1302.

Account of brother J. de Wike, Prior of Worcester, of the receipts of spiritualities in the bishopric during the vacancy of the see from the day of the Purification, 1301, to Tuesday after the octaves of the Purification, 1302.

Received from the deaneries of Warwick and Kynton—of the summer account 8*li.* 3*s.* 4*d.*—of the winter account 4*li.* 17*s.* 4*d.*

From the deanery of Powyk—of the summer account 5*li.* 4*d.*—of the winter account 49*s.*

From the deanery of Kyderminstr'—of the summer account 67*s.* 4*d.*—of the winter account 39*s.*

From the deanery of Wych—of the summer account 74*s.* 8*d.*—of the winter account 37*s.* 4*d.*

From the deanery of Persore—of the summer account 72*s.* 10*d.*—of the winter account 43*s.* 4*d.*

From the deanery of Worcester—of the summer account 38*s.* 8*d.*—of the winter account 15*s.* 10*d.*

Sum 37*li.* 10*s.*

¹ See *post*, p. 43.

From the deanery of Dersley—of the summer account 50*s.* 10*d.*—
of the winter account 33*s.* 8*d.*

From the deanery of Camped'—of the summer account 77*s.* 2*d.*—
of the winter account 51*s.*

From the deanery of Wynchecumb'—of the summer account
78*s.* 8*d.*—of the winter account 34*s.*

From the deanery of Cyrecestr'—of the summer account 58*s.*—
of the winter account 34*s.*

From the deanery of Stonhouse—of the summer account 56*s.* 4*d.*—
of the winter account 42*s.*

From the deanery of Stouwe—of the summer account 51*s.*—of the
winter account 47*s.* 8*d.*

From the deanery of Hauckesbur' and Bictton—of the summer
account 56*s.* 8*d.*—of the winter account 48*s.* 4*d.*

From the deanery of Bristol—of the summer account 39*s.* 4*d.*—
of the winter account 39*s.* 8*d.*

From the deanery of Feyreford—of the summer account 39*s.* 6*d.*—
of the winter account 26*s.* 6*d.*

From the deanery of Gloucester—of the summer account 44*s.* 4*d.*
—of the winter account 19*s.* 6*d.*

Sum 46*li.* 8*s.* 10*d.*

And from the church of Douameneye in part of four marks—40*s.*
The remainder (5*s.* 4*d.*) is paid as the tenth of these four marks
granted as a subsidy to the Church of Rome.

From the church of Bebur' 48*s.* in part of four marks—The
remainder as tenth aforesaid.

From corrections and profits in the Sum 4*li.* 16*s.* visitation—
12*li.* 5*s.* 8*d.*

From various emoluments and profits—13*li.* 7*s.* 5*d.*

Sum 25*li.* 13*s.* 1*d.*

Letter from W., Bishop of Worcester, to J., Prior of the same
place. He thanks him again for the help which he sent because he
was very unworthy of it, as do all those going back from the Court
in which flourishes the best medicine for their closed purses. Accepts
his excuse touching the money of Sir Henry Raiam (?). He is hasten-
ing to free himself from the merchants of London, and proposes
to direct his steps towards the bishopric some day in the first week

of Lent. It is certainly a great hardship for him to be in London on account of expenses and other reasons which he will mention in their next conversation. Will let him know where and when they can meet. Dated at London on Quinquagesima Saturday. De officio die Cynerum pro penitentibus v¹ eas committo."

Fol. 16*b*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Richard², bishop of Hereford, asking him to ordain the bearer, Walter de Sancto Germano, deacon, their clerk, on this present Saturday "quatuor temporum." He is of good and honest conversation. No date.

Letter from Geoffrey called de Northwyc at Rome to J., Prior, and Convent of Worcester. I do not write to you again of the confirmation of the appropriation of the church of Duderhull, because your petition had been handed over to the Archdeacon of Worcester³, who promised to promote it. He has done nothing yet, although he has been many times urged to it, and he must now be urged not by words, but by presents, as is usual. I hope that, except in this, money will not have to be spent. I do not press this, and your other affairs, less than my own and Master Ralf your proctor presses it on with all diligence. Robert de Doucbrigg, lately your proctor in this Court, did nothing himself in the audience but put in his place Master Adam de Kyrkeby, now proctor of the bishop of Worcester, who now demands from them good pay according to the custom of the Court. Because he has been proctor for two years, and his salary remained unpaid, he hindered from being signed certain letters to be sent to you. I promised Kyrkeby that on his return he should be satisfied. I have had difficulty in getting passed to the seal the letter which I will send concerning the power of absolving monks and converts excommunicated for violent laying on of hands. I will procure the other letter when I have an opportunity and will send or bring them to you. A constitution has been lately published on the affair of the Bishop of Durham and his prior and chapter quite opposed to the Prior of Worcester and his composition, where it provides that the bishop shall only enter for spiritualities, as if condemning such compositions and customs. I am well and doing my business earnestly. I hope with the help of the Cardinal and Penitentiary to obtain what is wanted. The Cardinal wrote to the Archbishop to say that he

¹ Torn.

² Richard Swinfield, 1283—1316.

³ Cardinal F. Neopolitano.

would not interfere with me whilst doing my business. I ask you (the Prior) to look after my affairs in my absence, and to receive the oath of my brother John who has been created notary. He may be of service to the Pope. The Archdeacon will not lessen the amount of the farm, saying that he could get more for it from others, which I do not believe. I have had no answer yet touching the instruments which Thomas de Seggesboruwe left there (*sic*) what the Prior mentioned touching the appropriation of the Archdeaconry, is not to be thought of without great expense, for such a man as the Archdeacon would not dare to promote an affair of this kind. I will press the matter more when I have an opportunity. Written at Rome on the Feast S. Hilary, 1302.

After this letter was written, the bull as to the power of absolving was released from the contradiction of Master Adam de Kyrkebi. A certain Latin, Thomas de Trinio, rose in place of Master John de Butterleg' and shewed a transcript of his proxy. He asked for his salary and contradicted the said letters so that they could not be sealed ("ac dictæ litteræ contradixit ita quod bullari non potuit") and therefore I do not now send it ("eam") to you, and now we are at litigation concerning the salary, before the *auditor contradictorum*, to whom I have sent a large present, and hope that the bull will be freed from the exaction of that salary. The said Thomas wishes it taxed at sixty golden florins, but I am certain that, if it be taxed, the auditor will tax it at twenty-four florins at the least, and then no letters from you will during his life reach the audience until he is fully satisfied according to the taxation. The confirmation of the ordination of the vicarage and of the church is favourable and is to be read before the Pope.

This letter was received on the feast of S. Oswald in February, 1302.

Letter from G. called de Nortwyc to J., Prior of Worcester. I arrived in Rome on Saturday before the feast of S. Thomas the Apostle. The Bishop of Worcester, and a Bishop elect¹, had left the city, but I did not see them as they travelled by different roads. I have learnt that the Pope is indignant with the Bishop of Wor-

¹ Ely, see *ante*, p. 30.

cester. [A sentence has been erased, ending "*inirabiliter oblocuntur.*"] Your petition touching the confirmation of the church of Doderhull has been put into the hands of your Archdeacon who has promised to promote it. The Archdeacon is hard to deal with touching the farm and I believe that Master Ralf will tell you the same. The Court is very holy nowadays. On the Saturday aforesaid, the Pope created two cardinals, viz. Sir Peter, a Spaniard, who has been his referendary, and the *minister general* is of the Friars Minors, and on the Tuesday following, another cardinal suddenly dropped down dead before the Pope, in his chamber. There is no more news, but if you do not pay the money which you owe me without delay, I shall be unable to proceed in my other affairs. Thanks concerning my boy and my horse. Sir John Lemoygne, cardinal, has been sent to France to restore peace between the King, the Flemish, and the Roman church. Written at Rome on the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle (1302).

Grant by the Prior and Convent of Worcester, at the request of Edward I., of a corrody of one loaf of a monk's, and one draught of good ale, daily, to John de Bremesgraue, called le Treour. Dated in the Chapter of Worcester the Kalends of March 1302.

Acknowledgement by John de Bremesgraue, called le Trayour, that the aforesaid corrody had been granted him. Same date.

Writ from Edward I. to the Sheriff of Worcester to admit John Louet to one messuage and one virgate and a half of land in Stocton and La Louwe; he having recovered seizin thereof from Philip de la Louwe before the King's justices at York. Witness, R. de Hengham. Dated at York, 7 February, 31 Edward I.

Fol. 17. Register a°, 1303. A. de Cyrencestr, chaplain.'

Letter from W., Bishop of Worcester, to J., Prior of Worcester. Proposes, if he can leave London, to set out for the bishopric on the second Sunday in Lent, travelling by Reading and Oxford, which he will leave on his right, and so proceed towards Horton [qy. Chipping Norton]. Does not know at present exactly what places he must go through. Hopes to meet him if possible, in which

case, he asks him to bring the register of his predecessor in the bishopric. Dated at Eltham, 3rd of the Kalends of March.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Sir Rogger de Hauckesbur', Rector of Morton Bagot, asks him to come to Worcester, about Primes, on Thursday next, without fail, to treat of important matters touching the monastery. No date.

Memorandum that brother J. de Dumbelton had been admitted to all grades in the monastery, viz. in the choir, chapter and elsewhere, on the 6th of the Ides of March, 1302; and that his admission was certified to the executors, viz. the Abbots of Wynchicumbe and Persore on the Nones of March. Sealed with the Prior's seal. Dated at Worcester on the Nones of March, in the year abovesaid.

Memorandum that on the vigil of S. Gregory, in March, 1302, Emma, wife of the late Robert de Bella Aqua, received as her dower in her manor of Prior's Clyve, 50s. yearly. No date.

Letter from Robert de Gloucester, chancellor of Herford, to the Prior and Convent of Worcester. Having heard from his clerk, Master Adam de Orleton¹, that they have promised a yearly pension to Adam's brother, Master Thomas, thanks them and asks them to give him letters for a pension suitable to his position. Dated at Stebbhuth, on Saturday, the Feast of S. Thomas.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury. Reminding him of his promise to help the monastery which at his visitation he found so oppressed by debt that they had scarcely enough food; and asking for a confirmation of the appropriation made by Godfrey, their late bishop, of their church of Doderhull. Dated the Vigil of the Annunciation in March, 1302.

Writ from Edward I. to the Sheriff of Worcester to summon the Prior of Worcester before the barons of the Exchequer at York in the quinzaine of Easter to answer to William de Wodeston for 100*li.* for which William had put himself in pledge to the King for Ralf de Bulmere late parson of Tuneworth, executor of Ela de

¹ Afterwards the celebrated Bishop of Hereford.

Lungesper deceased, of the debt of Ela: Ralf's goods having come into the Prior's hands as diocesan upon Ralf's death intestate. Witness, J. de Insula at York, 25 February, 31 Edward I.

Bond of the Prior of Worcester to John de Wytechurch in 10*li*. sterling payable in the quinzaine of Michaelmas next, Dated at Worcester, on the day of the Annunciation, 1303.

Bond of Maurice Babe of Wych to John de Wyke, Prior of Worcester, in 10*li*. sterling payable as above. Same date.

(At foot of page). Et fuerunt iste obligaciones fç¹
Bachecotf.

Fol. 17*b*. Letter from W., Bishop of Worcester, to the Prior. Cannot come to a decision as to his inthronization without the counsel of the Prior and Convent and asks them to give credence to the bearers his clerks. Dated at Kyngwod 6th of the Kalends of April anno consecr. 1.

Letter from William, Bishop of Worcester, to John, Prior, and the Convent, asking them for help in a case which the bearer will explain. Dated as above.

These letters were received on the eve of Palm Sunday, 3rd of the Kalends of April, 1303. They were brought by Master Richard de Leycestria, Master John de Rodboruwe, Master John de Stane-weye, brother John de Begymham and brother Nicholas de Welleford, then warden of the Friars Minors of Worcester, and others.

Letter from the Prior and Convent of Worcester to William, Bishop of Worcester. His letters brought the day before by the above named bearers (Nicholas de Welleford is not mentioned here) and by Symon called Ranel, and G. de Hambur', have been read and discussed in chapter. The bearer, Stephen de Wytton, sub-prior, for whom they desire credence, will answer them by word of mouth. Dated in the chapter of Worcester 4th of the Nones of April, 1303.

¹ torn.

Letter from W., Bishop of Worcester, to J., the Prior, complaining of their answers to his requests for help for his inthronization, as they do not mention a distinct sum, and asking them to tell him by the bearers exactly what help they will give as the time draws near, and much time has already been spent in fruitless deliberation. They have not always given this help, but he is more closely connected with them than were former bishops, and they need have no fear of creating a precedent because what is done from kindness cannot be so construed. Dated at Bristol, Good Friday, 1303, anno consecr. 1. Answered on the part of the Prior by Master J. de Bradwas without letters.

Certificate from J., Prior of Worcester, to Simon, Bishop of Salisbury¹, that John de Donchett, clerk, presented by him to the bishop is suitable for the benefice of Compton juxta Wytehors in the diocese of Salisbury, he having known the said John from his boyhood; he is a free man and of lawful birth, and has lived in the diocese of Worcester from a tender age. He is without defect in person or in learning, and being approved by the ordinary, was canonically admitted to the church of Lench, in that diocese, more than a year ago. Dated at Worcester the Ides of April, 1303.

Letter from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester. The Prior and Convent of Kenelworth having shewn him that Master Robert de Sutton, appointed by Godfrey, late Bishop of Worcester, collector of the tithe for the repulsion of the Scots, has received 8*li*. of this tithe due from them, as appears by his acquittances, which 8*li*. has been repeatedly demanded from him, the Prior of Worcester is to compel him to pay it, if necessary, by ecclesiastical censure. Dated at Orsecte, the Nones of April, anno consecr. 9.

Letter from W., Bishop of Worcester, to the Prior and Convent asking them to be present at his inthronization in the cathedral on Sunday the octaves of Holy Trinity. Dated at Wotton 10th of the Kalends of May, anno consecr. 1².

Writ from Walter, Bishop of Worcester, to the official of the Archdeacon to summon rectors, vicars, and others in the Arch-

¹ Simon de Gaunt, 1297—1314.

² This entry is "bound up."

deaconry of Worcester not admitted to orders, to Worcester Cathedral on Saturday "*quatuor temporum*" after Ash Wednesday, when he intends to confer orders. Dated at London 16th of the Kalends of March, 1312, anno consecr. 5.

Fol. 18. Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to Sir Peter de Leycestria, baron of the Exchequer, asking him to allow the ministers of the church to administer the goods being small, of Ralph Bolmer, rector of Toneworth, which had fallen into his hands, as ordinary, on the sudden death of the rector intestate during the vacancy of the see, Sir Peter having hitherto hindered the administration. No date.

Letter from the Prior and Convent of Worcester to the King. Wishing him success in his campaign against the enemies of the country. He cannot fail, having the help of St. Wulfstan, their patron saint. They intend to admit three monks as soon as the king keeps his promise to them. No date.

Memorandum that on Friday after the feast of S. Mark in April, 1302, Sunday letter F, the Prior appeared before the Archbishop of Canterbury, who on the Saturday following declared the church of Duderhull to be vacant, notwithstanding the appeal, as appears by the letter from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the same Prior and Convent. Although by the process heard before the said Archbishop, touching the church of Duderhull, it is by right in his gift, he allows the said Prior and Convent in this instance to present it to the brother of Gilbert de Middeltone, their clerk, whose name Gilbert will tell them. Dated at Sathwelde 2nd of the Kalends of May, 1303, anno consecr. 9. Received on the day of the Invention of the Holy Cross the same year.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Master G. de Myddelton. They have considered his letters and wish to provide for his brother, but by a certain provision their power in making presentations is limited so that his brother's position will not be secure. Asks him to give credence to the bearer and to discuss with him what is best to be done. No date.

Advice for G. de Myddelton, by G. de Northwyc and J. de Buterleg, clerks. Because, by a provision touching the presentation of benefices belonging to the Prior and Convent, the executor has lately made prohibitions and reserved collations to benefices of this kind for himself, and afterwards issued monitions, protestations, interpositions of decree and sentences of excommunication, therefore if your brother had the church by presentation you would be involved in such sentences, and neither your state nor that of your brother would be safe, because then it could not be denied that it belongs to their presentation, and so the provision with reservations and decrees will hold its place. And therefore it seems safer that the Archbishop should confer the benefice on him, and we will allow your brother peaceful possession of the said church, saving a pension of 100s. which the Prior and Convent have been accustomed to receive from of old. You should act so that the Archbishop remits the fruits of the church during the vacancy. No date.

Letter from J., Prior of Worcester, to R., Archbishop of Canterbury. Has received his letters touching the presentation of the church of Duderhull, and considers that the affair effectually and finally concerns Master G. de Middelton, to whom they are sending one of their brothers for information, which he will report to the Archbishop.

Nicholaus de Coderugge, cook, carried this letter to the Archbishop, the day of S. John before the Latin Gate, the year abovesaid.

Letter from the Abbot of Eueshammye¹, sent by Master R. de Gloucestr' to [the Archbishop of Canterbury] writes on behalf of the Prior of Worcester, touching the case of the church of Dodurhull which will come into his court. No date.

Fol. 18^b. Letter from G. de Middelton, clerk, to the Prior of Worcester, asking credence for the bearer, Master Roger de Sancto Johanne, who will give information touching certain things about which brother N. de Coderugge has spoken to the writer on behalf of the Prior. No date.

¹ Evesham.

Letter from G. de Middelton, to the Prior of Worcester. His Lord is troubled and suspects that the Prior means one thing and says another in his letters of credence. He has feared this himself knowing that fallacies often underlie such letters. To the three articles proposed to the writer by brother Nicholas, his lord answers—that he will never consent to the appropriation, as it did not please the Prior to present, although he had treated him considerably in this matter, he wished to confer it on him himself and has done so by his right. As to the fruits received, he will put this off until he sees how the Prior behaves to him in these and in other things. The writer has appointed the Prior executor, to admit his brother to the church, and in doing this, and in other things touching the position of his said brother, the Prior should take advice and help. The letter of a yearly pension which he had received from the Prior he returns by the bearer, Master Roger de Sancto Johanne, who carries also letters of credence. No date.

Writ from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester, to induct John de Middelton, acolite, into the church of Doderhulle, the collation of which belongs to the Archbishop, in the presence of four neighbouring rectors. Dated at Pycerwell, 5th of the Ides of May, 1303, anno consecr. 9.

Memorandum that on the eve of S. Dunstan's, 1303, Sunday letter, F, 31 Edward I., Master Henry de la Lee inducted, on behalf of the Archbishop, John Middilton, by his proctor, Master Roger de Sancto Johanne, into the church of Dodurhull, and so it (the church) departed from the use of the convent, viz. on the 15th of the Kalends of June.

Letter from W., Bishop of Worcester, to the Prior and Convent. He has heard with surprise that the Archbishop of Canterbury has revoked the appropriation of the church of Duderhull given to them, as it is said, by the writer's predecessor, and wonders that they have so long concealed the matter from him and have not asked for his advice or help. The collation falls into the writer's hands by lapse of time, if the sentence hold good, and in order to prevent worse evils, which might follow if the church were provided for by another, he has conferred it on a certain man belonging to the Convent who

will restore it at their will and his order. He asks them to accept the collation and to allow their clerk to take peaceable possession. Dated at Lyncoll', the feast of the Ascension, anno consecr. 1.

Letter from the Prior and Convent of Worcester to the Bishop. Reminding him that they have not concealed from him the Archbishop's conduct touching their church of Duderhulle, appropriated to them by Godfrey, the last bishop, but asked his advice and help in the matter when he was with them at Horton. The Archbishop has declared the collation of the church to have fallen into his hands by lapse of time, from which sentence, as unjust, they have appealed to Rome, and have fixed a time for the trial. Notwithstanding this the Archbishop has conferred it on a certain John de Myddelton, clerk, who was inducted and has been in possession for some days. They intend to prosecute their appeal, and would prefer one of the bishop's clerks to hold the church. Dated at Worcester, octaves of the Ascension, 1303.

Fol. 19. The Dean of Arches, official of the Court of Canterbury and Commissary General to the Prior of Worcester, appointed official in the city and diocese of Worcester during the vacancy. Remitting to the Prior liberty to do his duty in a cause concerning an excommunication between the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter's, Gloucester, complainants, and the Prior of Worcester, defendant, notwithstanding the inhibition made in the Court of Canterbury in the said case. Dated at London 6th of the Kalends of April, 1303.

The Dean of Arches, &c., to the Prior of Worcester. Similar letter relating to a like cause between the Abbot and Convent of Tewkesbury, complainants, and the Prior of Worcester, defendant. Same date.

The marginal heading against these two letters is as follows. "Letters of the Dean of London by which it appears that the "Abbots of Gloucestr' and Tewkesbury are excommunicated because they did not admit the Prior in his visitation."

Memorandum that on Sunday, the octaves of the Ascension, viz. on S. Dunstan's day, John de Dreycote, clerk, was beheaded between Dreycote and Kemeseya in the highway by the reeve (*prepositus*)

of Kemeseya and his villeins of Kemeseya and Dreycote by order of Geoffrey de Hembur, then the Bishop's bailiff. They placed the head before the Bishop's gate there by day and night, not taking it to the castle according to custom. At length they saw that they had done wrong, took the head to the body and raised hue and cry. Inquisition having been made by the coroner, the head was buried with the body in the cemetery of Kemeseya. And so the sheriff and coroner indicted all of the manor except six, and the steward, A.D. 1303.

Memorandum that in the octaves of the Ascension, 10th of the Kalends of June, in Worcester cathedral, between vespers, an appeal was made by brother J. de Bremesgraue as to the collation and induction into the church of Duderhulle, and the next day he appealed concerning the collation of W., Bishop of Worcester. An appeal was made against the Archbishop. In the same way the sentence against the Abbots of Gloucester and Tewkesbury was published in the octaves of the Ascension aforesaid.

Writ from J. de Rodboruwe, clerk, commissary general of W., Bishop of Worcester, to the Dean of Worcester. He has received the following letter from R., Archbishop of Canterbury to the official of Worcester. Ordering him to summon the Prior of Worcester, who was the Archbishop's official in the city and diocese of Worcester during the vacancy of the See for a year and more, to appear before the Archbishop four days after the feast of Holy Trinity to account for the revenues during the vacancy. Dated at Pritewelle 3rd of the Ides of May, 1303, anno consecr. 9. He asks that letters patent may be given to the bearer certifying the execution of this order. Dated at Hembur' 11th of the Kalends of June the year abovesaid.

Confirmation by John, Prior, and the Convent of Worcester of a quitclaim by Godfrey, Bishop of Worcester, to Master Henry de Hampton upon Avon, physician, for his life of all the suits which he has been accustomed to do at the Bishop's Court of Hampton, and Hundred of Pathclouwe for one virgate of land which he held of the bishop in the said town of Hampton by service of 4s. yearly. Dated at Alnynech on the feast of St. Nicholas, 1301, and confirmed in the chapter on St. Hilary's day in the same year.

Present confirmation dated in the chapter 5th of the Kalends of June, 1303.

Notification from J., Prior of Worcester, to Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, that he has appointed brother John de Bremesgraue, monk, and John de Bradewas, clerk, as his proctors to account to the Archbishop or his deputies for the revenues of the diocese during the vacancy of the See, according to the agreement between Boniface, late Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Prior and Convent of Worcester. Dated at Worcester 3rd of the Kalends of June, 1303.

Letter from Henry de Bluntesdon, Archdeacon of Dorset and Almoner to the King, to J., Prior, and Convent of Worcester. He has lent to the Bishop of Worcester 100*li.* towards the expenses of his enthronization, begs the Prior to pay the Bishop the money as soon as possible, so that the Bishop may repay it before the feast of St. Peter ad vincula, if they do not he shall have to take other means.

*Account of the Enthronization of W. de Geynesboruwe*¹.

On the Vigil of the translation of St. Edmund VI Ides June, Bishop W. de Geynesboruwe slept at Kempsey, and Brother John de Wyke, Prior of Worcester, dined with him there on that day. The Bishop told the Prior he would not continue his journey to Worcester on the morrow for his enthroning unless the Prior came to Kempsey. The Prior of his special favour came, although it was contrary to custom for him to go further than one mile from Worcester. The Bishop was enthroned in the year 1303, 31 year of Edward, son of King Henry. Littera Dominicalis F. Luna XI. on the day of the translation of St. Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the holy martyrs, Firmin and Filicianus, on the second June, in the following order. The Prior came in the morning to Kempsey with the Sacristan, Chaplain and other Monks and his servants, and told the Bishop it was time to go. The Bishop assented and stated that he desired to be enthroned if it could be done before the third hour, on account of the heat of the day and the crowd of people. Forthwith he was met by the Abbots of Evesham, Pershore, and

¹ Printed in Thomas, p. 87, in part.

Tewkesbury, and other officials, and by the Bishops of Hereford and Llandaff and various Archdeacons, and by Sir Thomas de Berkeley and Sir Hugo de Veyr. Sir Thomas acted as seneschal for the occasion, and it was estimated that more than 70 horsemen met the Bishop. The first procession met the Bishop at Red Hill. The second procession of the Friars Minors met the Bishop at the hospital of St. Wlstan (the Commandery). Then the Bishop got down and took off his shoes. Master Regg. de Bondone was there ready on behalf of the Archdeacon of Canterbury, and took from the Bishop his palfrey and saddle; he also took his *capam et capellum pyleum botas caligas pedules*. He also claimed besides the cup x marcs for his expenses, and he was not satisfied. But the Bishop enquired if his predecessor had done more than this, or if such was the custom. Standing with bare feet the Bishop entered the cemetery at the steps outside the Prior's gate, and went into the Convent and put on his robes according to the usual custom. The Bishops and other officials also robed and followed as soon as they could from the press of people, and begun the chant *sint lumbi*. The Bishops with the Monks went into the Cathedral believing the Bishop would come with them, but he did not. For, in accordance with the old custom, the Bishop went to the Church of St. Michael, put on his vestments, and so entered robed through the choir and went to the altar and knelt (*super sedile*). Having prayed he got up, went to the altar, kissed it, and offered there three pieces of gold cloth, and from thence gave his first benediction; he then turned to his stall, without the choir, where he should be enthroned, the Prior following him with the Bishops and other officials. Then Master Regg. de Bondone read his commission from the Archdeacon of Canterbury in these words, the Bishop and the others meanwhile standing: "J., Archdeacon of Canterbury, to our well-beloved in Christ, Master Regg. de Bondone, greeting. By the tenor of these presents we empower you on our behalf to enthrone or install the venerable father in God, W., by the grace of God Bishop of Worcester, by the authority of the Court of Canterbury for us in our name in the aforesaid church of Worcester, and to do on our behalf all and singular what should be done by us upon the enthronization or installation as if we were present, and also to demand and receive in our name in respect of such enthronization and installation whatever belongs to us by law and custom. In testimony whereof

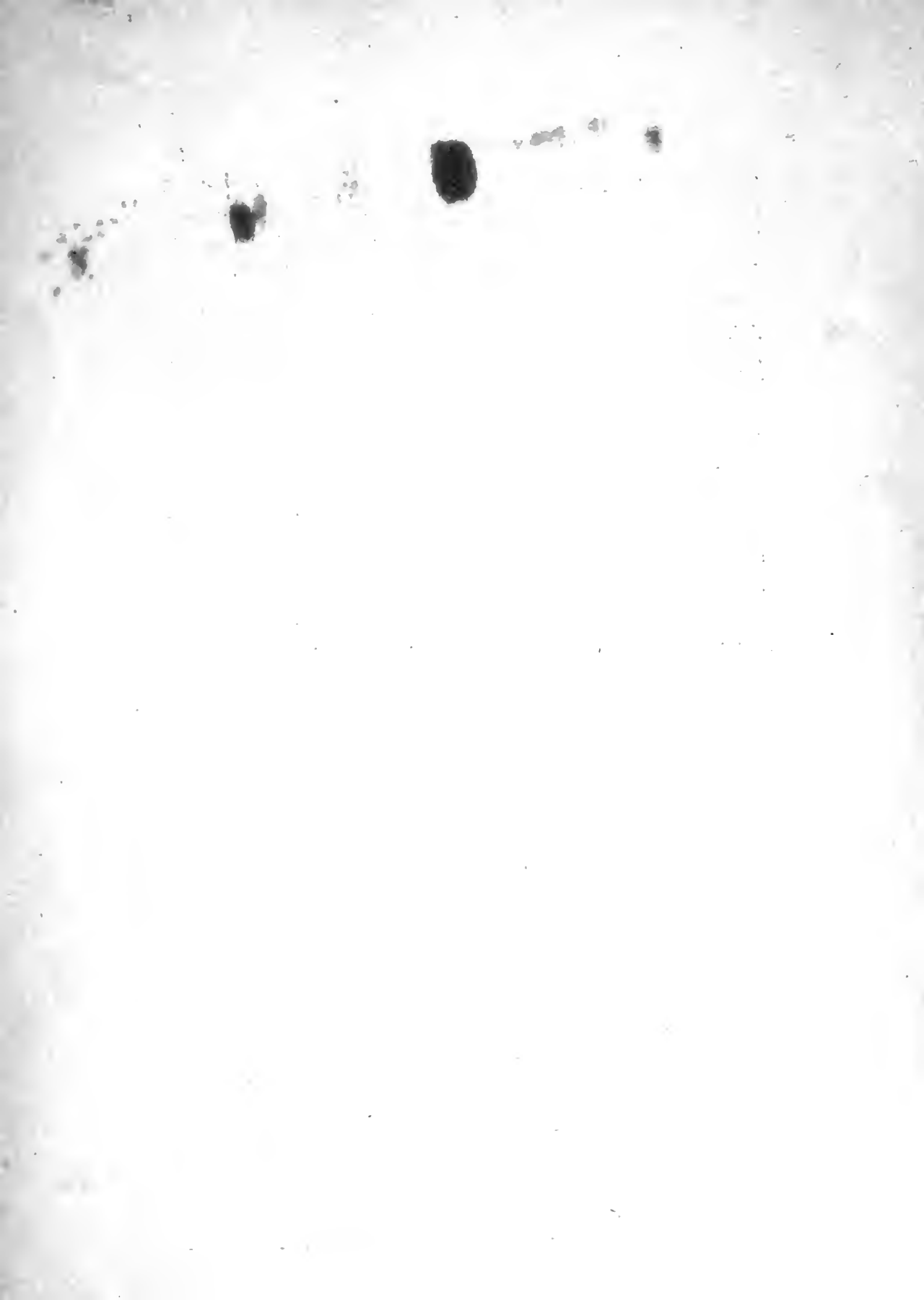
we have caused our seal to be affixed. Given at Hathefeld 4 Kal. Junii anno Domini 1303." As soon as the commission was read, the said Regg. using these words said, "By virtue of the commission given to me I enthrone thee," and then made the Bishop sit down for the first time in the Cathedral. Thereupon the Bishop of Hereford began to chant with the Monks "Te Deum Laudamus," and then followed the usual prayers. Then for the second time the Bishop gave the Blessing, this time from his throne; afterwards he went into the vestry, washed his feet, put on his sandals and celebrated the Mass of St. Wlstan. Having finished the Mass he granted to all who heard it a six days' indulgence, and then entered the Bishop's Palace for a meal. All this took place in the octave of the Holy Trinity the v of the Ides of June.

On the next day matters of the order having been discussed in chapter, he [the bishop] entered with a clerk and the people, the Prior forewarning him when he ought to enter. First he preached on the text, "We are one body in Christ," and after the sermon told the people and the Friars Minors to leave. All having gone out except his clerks and the clerks of the Convent, he spoke of temporalities and principally of the church of Duderhull, which was appropriated to the Convent shortly before, as appears by a process on a previous folio, how the Archbishop injured the convent. The Prior asked him in the presence of his clerks and of the convent, to confirm the appropriation anew, and he answered that he would consider it. These and other things having been treated of, he ordered the clerks to go out as is always done when matters of the spiritualities or of the order are to be considered. He then discussed the election by the convent, how the Elect resigned his right into the hands of the Pope, and how the Pope conferred the bishopric on him. After this he went to the Bishop's palace where the Prior lodged with him for two days. He fed the convent in the refectory and misericorde on the first day, and nonetheless those who eat with the Prior these two days. The Bishop went to Kemesey after breakfast (*prandium*) on Monday and afterwards confirmed boys at the Friars Minors. In the chapter he talked in like manner of the Archdeacon of Worcester, how the collation (of Dodderhill) could be referred to the Court of Rome, and how the convent ought to be bound by their seal in court. Having finished the discussion of all matters in the Chapter he kissed all the convent in the chapter in

turn, as is the custom, and so the bishop with his clerks left the chapter with his esquires who attended him, and led him to his own palace, and so the process of his enthronization was finally ended. Day and hour abovesaid, and in the octaves of Holy Trinity.

Letter from the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to W., bishop. Asking that William de Grymel, their precentor, may make proclamation of those to be ordained at the ordination to be held at Kyderminisster on the eve of Holy Trinity, it having been the custom in the diocese of Worcester, time out of mind, that the precentor should have this office. Dated at Worcester, 3rd of the Kalends of June, 1303.

Letter from the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to Sir Henry Bluntesdon, Archdeacon of Dorset and Almoner to the King. He is not to be troubled because they have not paid him in full. They have a treaty with the bishop as to the money given towards his enthronization, to pay 50*li.* before the feast of S. Peter ad Vincula, and the remaining 50*li.* before Christmas. No date.



THE REGISTER OF THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

DURING THE VACANCY OF THE SEE,

USUALLY CALLED

“REGISTRUM SEDE VACANTE.”

EDITED FOR

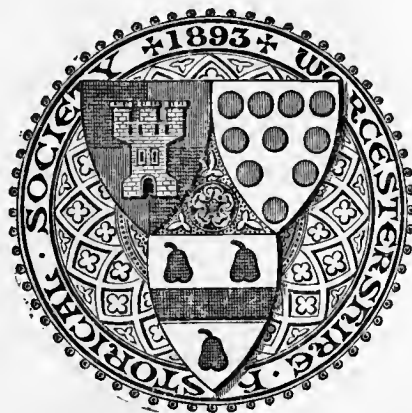
THE WORCESTERSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY

J. W. WILLIS BUND.

PART II.

*From the Death of Bishop Ginsborough, September, 1307, to the
Confirmation of Bishop Walter Reynolds, December, 1308.*



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1894.

INTRODUCTION.

THE present part of the *Sede Vacante* Register extends from the Enthronization of Bishop Ginsborough in 1303 to the election of Bishop Walter Reynolds in 1308. It contains matter of even greater general interest than that which appeared in Part I., and also entries the importance of which, so far as relates to the Diocese, cannot be overrated. As was stated in the first part, the entries are not arranged in order of date, so that there is a good deal in this part that relates to, and should, in chronological order, have been comprised in the former, and the entries up to page 35¹ of the original register, although included in this, really belong to the first part,—for instance, the letter from John de la Wyke, informing Edward I. of Bishop Giffard's death, and asking for leave to elect a new Bishop, the copy of the King's Licence to elect, the notice that the 25 March was fixed for the election, the order for the recall of absent Brothers, should all have come in on pages 1 and 2, instead of where they now are on page 71.

Following the same arrangement as in the introduction to the last part, the subjects will be divided into (1) matters of general interest; (2) local; and (3) miscellaneous matters. The chief matters of general interest in the present part are—

I. The entries as to the dispute between the Archbishop of Canterbury and Theobald de Baroducis, Treasurer of York, touching the church at Pageham, in the Diocese of Chichester². Rodolph de Mallinges appears to have been instituted to the Rectory of Pageham. Theobald de Baroducis, Treasurer of York, claimed the right to the church as having been presented to it by way of provision by the Abbot of S. Michael's, in the Diocese of Verdun. As the Archbishop instituted his own man, de Mallinges, the Abbot excommunicated and suspended both of them³. It does not appear under what power or authority a French Abbot excommunicated and suspended an English Archbishop; an Appeal followed to the

¹ p. 80.

² p. 60.

³ p. 61.

Pope. The Pope directed the Bishops of Salisbury, Lincoln, and London to grant an inhibition when and as they deemed expedient, and appointed Onerorius de Thebiis, dean of Melden, his chaplain, auditor, with power to absolve the Archbishop and de Mallinges from the excommunication. De Thebiis, having heard the evidence, granted absolution, and ordered the Bishops publicly to proclaim it¹. This they did. The Archbishop wrote to the official of Worcester, sending him copies of the documents, and informing him the sentence of excommunication had been revoked. The proceeding is curious; by what right the Abbot of a foreign monastery could excommunicate and suspend an English Archbishop it is difficult to see.

A summons by the Bishop of London, by direction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, ordering all deans, precentors, chancellors, treasurers, archdeacons, priors of cathedral churches, in all dioceses in the Province of Canterbury, to appear to consult on divers matters, at the New Temple, London, on the morrow of the Ascension, by two Proctors for each chapter, except Welsh chapters, which were only to send one², is interesting, as shewing that the Welsh dioceses seem to have been regarded as to some extent inferior to the others in the Province of Canterbury. This form of summons, originally devised by Archbishop Peckham in 1283, was to an assembly which became the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury³.

The question of Taxation comes prominently forward in the entries in this part. They begin with a letter from the Abbot of Evesham to the Prior of Worcester, calling attention to the fact that Edward I. had issued an edict to tax the goods of temporal and ecclesiastical persons, which tax it was not lawful to pay, on account of apostolic prohibition⁴; the Bishops forbidding payment, and excommunicating those paying, the Abbot thereupon asks for the Prior's advice. The Prior's reply is ingenious; as the higher prelates and other religious persons of the Province of Canterbury had refused to pay the fifteenth, he had hitherto abstained from paying it, and intended to do so until he found it expedient to do otherwise⁵, that is, until compelled by the King.

On the accession of Edward II. a parliament was held at North-

¹ p. 61.

² p. 74.

³ Stubbs, Const. Hist. II. 198.

⁴ p. 75.

⁵ p. 76.

ampton in October, 1307. The Clergy granted the King a fifteenth, and in order to raise it, in December the King issued a writ to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester¹ reciting the grant, directed the Keeper to elect certain persons to collect the fifteenth in the Diocese of Worcester, and to order the collectors to pay one moiety of it into the Exchequer before Lady-day, and the other before Midsummer day². In the beginning of January, 1307, the Prior appointed John de St. Brivaels and John Stratford, monks of Worcester, to be collectors of the fifteenth³, and issued an order to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester, directing him to warn all Abbots, Priors, Masters, and Preceptors, of whatever order they were, and whether exempt or not, and all Rectors, Vicars, portioners, and others of the Clergy, to pay one moiety of the fifteenth before the 24 February, the feast of the Blessed Matthias⁴. The fifteenth was to be calculated on the taxation of the tithe then current in the Cathedral Church of Worcester. This taxation was in all probability the taxation begun for the Province of Canterbury in 1288 and finished in 1291, in accordance with the King's writ on the occasion of Pope Nicholas IV. granting to Edward I. the tenth of all ecclesiastical benefices for six years to assist in paying for an expedition to the Holy Land. This taxation, usually called Pope Nicholas' Valor, formed the basis upon which all taxes on the Clergy were calculated, from its date until the 26 Henry VIII., 1535. The taxation for the Diocese of Worcester by it was £736 6s. 6³/₄d.⁵, which was supposed to represent one-tenth of both spiritualities and temporalities. It does not appear to have been so easy a thing to get paid £500 or £600 in those days. The Prior prepared forms of receipt⁶, but they do not seem to have been much needed, for when St. Matthias' day came very little had been paid up. The Prior issued an order requiring those who had not paid, to pay before the 12 March, the feast of St. Gregory, on pain of the greater excommunication⁷. On the 16 March the King issued a writ to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the See of Worcester, on account of the Scotch war and other matters the collection of the fifteenth was to be carried out effectually; if necessary, to be collected by ecclesiastical censure, so that the moiety might be paid by the 26 March without delay or difficulty⁸. The Prior made

¹ p. 129.² *Ib.*³ p. 130.⁴ p. 129.⁵ Record edition, p. 239.⁶ p. 130.⁷ *Ib.*⁸ *Ib.*

a return to the writ that the collectors had been already warned to do this under pain of excommunication¹. Notwithstanding, some did not pay, for in April the Prior ordered the Archdeacon to excommunicate and place under an interdict the Churches of those Abbots, Priors, and others who had not paid². This is all we find relating to the first moiety. In June the new Bishop, the elect of Worcester, wrote to the Prior, granting him power to compel the payment of the fifteenth under ecclesiastical censure³. The Prior thereupon, as collector, wrote to the sub-collectors, giving them power to collect, levy, and take charge of the money of the fifteenth, and appointing them his Proctors and Attorneys⁴. On the 25 August the Prior wrote to the Official of the Archdeacon, directing him to give notice that the second moiety of the fifteenth must be paid under pain of ecclesiastical censure⁵. On the 9 November the Prior ordered the Official to publish the excommunication of, and to lay under an interdict, the Churches of those who had not paid⁶. This does not seem to have produced the money, so on the 9 December the Bishop wrote to the Official, John de Rodeberwe, giving him, in order that it might be executed, a writ dated 30 November, whereby the King ordered that, having commanded the Keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester, the See being vacant, to appoint certain persons to collect in the Diocese the fifteenth granted to the King at Northampton, and pay over the same at times then past, and a large part of the fifteenth being still in arrear, the collectors should be distrained by their benefices, and compelled to pay the same arrears⁷. On the 13 February the Prior, as collector of the fifteenth, by the Bishop's authority, ordered the Archdeacon's Official to publish the excommunication, with due solemnity, of those who had not paid the fifteenth⁸. The Prior also gave a commission to one of the sub-collectors, John de Stratford, to absolve those who had been excommunicated for not paying the fifteenth. There still seems to have been great difficulty in getting in the arrears, for in June, 1311, it was not all paid, and in that month a writ was sent to the Sheriff, ordering him to distrain the Prior and Convent of Worcester, the collectors within the Bishopric of Worcester of the fifteenth lately granted by the Clergy in the Parliament at Northampton, to appear before the Barons of the Exchequer and render an account of the

¹ p. 130.² Ib.³ Ib.⁴ Ib.⁵ p. 131.⁶ Ib.⁷ Ib.⁸ Ib.

fifteenth¹. At last on the 21 July, 1312, the morrow of St. Margaret the Virgin, John de Stratford rendered an account of the fifteenth for the Bishopric of Worcester to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer, and the same is inserted in the Great Roll of the Exchequer. The total sum for which he accounted was £490 12s. 2d., and he was allowed £10 for costs of collection². It would therefore appear that it took nearly five years to collect just under £500 from the clergy of the Diocese.

On the 30th October, 1307, Edward II. wrote to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the See of Worcester, requiring him to cause funeral services, with the chaunting of Masses and other "ecclesiastical suffrages," to be celebrated for the soul of his father, by all religious persons and other clergy of the Diocese, that by their prayers Edward I. might be able the quicker to enter the celestial kingdom and eternal blessedness³. On the death of Edward I. the Prior ordered the Archdeacon to enjoin all abbots, priors, and other religious persons, deans, rectors, vicars, chaplains, and others within the ambit of the Archdeaconry of Worcester to solemnly celebrate in their churches the service of the dead with the singing of Masses for the soul of Edward I⁴. Notwithstanding the royal letter, no similar order appears for the Archdeaconry of Gloucester. Whether the entry of the order has been omitted, or whether it was not made, is not clear; but as Edward had been a particular benefactor to Worcester, it might well be that the Masses for his soul were confined to that archdeaconry, although ordered to be read throughout the Diocese. But it is curious why, if it is so, there should be a special, not a general order for prayers for the soul of the King throughout the Diocese.

A writ dated the 28 Oct., 1307, to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the See of Worcester, requires prayers to be offered up by the religious and others of the clergy of the Diocese for the preservation of the kingdom and other lands subject to the King in prosperity and peace, that the King may, under God, rule and defend them by the command of God to the honour, profit, and quiet of himself and of the same kingdom and lands⁵. Following on this the Prior on the 17 November, 1307, ordered the Archdeacon of Worcester to enjoin the execution of this writ on all religious persons, rectors, vicars, and chaplains of parishes and all others

¹ p. 132.² *Ib.*³ p. 127.⁴ *Ib.*⁵ *Ib.*

within the Archdeaconry of Worcester in the churches every day, especially on Sundays and festivals¹.

The most important matter of general interest during the vacancy of the See of Worcester is the statement of the reasons by Edward II. why the Convent should at once proceed to the election of a Bishop. It is not, as a rule, to Edward II. that we look for the statement of constitutional principles, but here he lays down clearly the ground on which the existence of the independence of the Anglican Church is based. In its present form these reasons do not appear to have been previously published. The circumstances that led to the statement are as follows. William de Gynesborough had been sent on a mission to France by Edward I., and died at Beauvais on his return to England². As soon as his death was known, the Prior sent two monks to the King to ask for leave to elect a new Bishop³. On the 17 October, 1307, Edward II. granted the licence to elect⁴, and on the same day sent by Sir Hugh le Despenser a letter to the Prior, recommending Walter Reynolds, the King's former tutor, who was the Lord High Treasurer of England, for election⁵. Soon after the King's licence was received, the Convent heard a rumour that the Pope intended to reserve to himself the See of Worcester, and shortly after the Convent received from the Pope, Clement V., a letter reserving to himself the ordination and provision of a fit person for the See of Worcester⁶. On Edward hearing of this, fearing the reservation might in the future prejudice his rights in the English Church, he directed a writ to the Prior to hasten the election before they received any official notification of the reservation⁷. On the 30 October the King wrote to the Prior, stating that having granted the leave to elect, and hearing that they delayed the election whereby great loss might occur to them and their church, he ordered them without further delay to proceed to the election of their future Bishop⁸. On the 6 November the King wrote again to the Prior on Reynolds' behalf, and also sent a statement of reasons why the election should be hastened⁹. These reasons state that ever since there were Bishoprics in England the Kings of England have conferred them as freely as they now give prebends in their free chapels. Although John granted and Pope Innocent confirmed free election to cathe-

¹ p. 127.² p. 103.³ Ib.⁴ p. 104.⁵ Ib.⁶ Ib.⁷ Ib.⁸ Ib.⁹ Ib.

drals, John reserved to himself and his successors the succession, and retained the patronage of the Bishoprics and the gift of all things during the vacancies. The King has to be asked for a *congé d'elire* before any election can be made, and has the absolute right of rejecting the person elected, for such person may be a traitor and enemy of the King, or of the realm, or a foreigner. The King has never given up anything that concerns his temporality and the right of his crown. So the Pope cannot confer Bishoprics in England, nor make reservation of them, as the matter concerns lay patronage, nor can he give a single church of lay patronage, and this has been the custom for time whereof the memory of man runs not to the contrary¹. This statement defines exactly the position the English kings took up. A bishop was a Baron, and as such one of the King's councillors. Neither the Pope nor any one else had a right to force on the King or the kingdom a Lord of Parliament, a Councillor of the King without his assent. The King, and the King alone, had the right of saying who should or who should not sit in the House of Lords. He could not admit the right of any one to put upon him an alien or a traitor against his will.

Whether this document has ever been published before is not certain. It is not mentioned in Rymer, nor can it be traced in any of the contemporary writers. It is of considerable importance, as stating the view of the Plantagenet Kings with regard to their position as to the election of Bishops. It fully admits the right of the Pope in spiritual matters, but it denies his right to interfere in matters of property or government in the realm of England.

The result of the King's letter was to hasten on the election. On the 15 November the election was held in the Chapter House "by way of compromise²." The Chapter obviously not liking to incur the reproach of electing a stranger, delegated all the power to the Prior, thereby throwing on him the odium of electing an outsider, or of refusing to obey the King's orders. The Prior, "after due devotion and deliberation with thoughtful spirit," at last selected Walter Reynolds, the King's nominee³. This election was unanimously approved by the Chapter, and duly published. The Sub-Prior was at once sent off to London to acquaint Reynolds with his election, and to pray his consent to the same⁴. The Sub-Prior left Worcester

¹ p. 106.² p. 107.³ p. 108.⁴ *Ib.*

on the Tuesday, and making all haste reached London on the Sunday¹. Something under 40 miles a day was then considered good travelling. On going to Reynolds' house he found he was out of London, and would not return till the Wednesday². On that day the Sub-Prior went again, finding Reynolds had returned, at an interview with him asked his consent to the election. Reynolds replied, "he dare not answer so arduous a matter over hastily, but would do so as soon as he was able³." The Sub-Prior left him until the next day, when Reynolds received him with "an astonished countenance," and said he had not yet deliberated on it. The Sub-Prior came again on the next day Friday, urging the necessities that a church void of a Bishop suffered, and tried to get Reynolds' assent⁴. But the elect told him that he had by right time allowed to deliberate and answer, and ordered the Sub-Prior to go home, and after deliberation he would send for him when he was ready to return an answer. The Sub-Prior went home, and took counsel with Reynolds' servants, waited a fortnight, and then came again, and was told that Reynolds would accept the See⁵. The elect had obviously been trying to serve God and Mammon; he wanted the Bishopric, and did not want to offend the Pope, and in the form of his acceptance of the See he expressed this with an astuteness that did him credit. He begins by saying he will obey and observe the Apostolic commands, and if he should do or consent to anything to the contrary it was to be taken for no deed and no consent. Although men of light opinion had said the Pope intended to provide a Pastor to the Cathedral Church of Worcester without the election of the Prior and Chapter, he did not believe it, and it had never come formally to his or the Prior's notice⁶. So he consented to take the See. The Prior at once wrote to the King, informing him of Reynolds' election, asking his consent to it, and also to direct the administrators of the Archbishopric of Canterbury to consecrate Reynolds⁷. (Archbishop Winchelsey had not returned from exile, and the See was sequestrated.) The King at once wrote to the administrators of the Archbishop, and the Prior appointed the Sub-Prior, Proctor, to present Reynolds to them and to proceed with the matter, and wrote to them, sending all the formal documents to prove the validity of Reynolds' election⁸. Reynolds now

¹ p. 108.² Ib.³ p. 109.⁴ Ib.⁵ Ib.⁶ Ib.⁷ p. 110.⁸ Ib.

seems to have been afraid to go on with the matter, or rather desirous to arrange a compromise. For fear of the reservation and inhibition, a note on the register says that the election was not further proceeded with¹. The King wrote to the Pope on behalf of Reynolds², and also to the Cardinals, recommending Reynolds as a fitting Bishop for the vacant See of Worcester³. On this the Pope acted, and, by a Bull dated February, 1307, stated that although he had been led to reserve the Bishopric, intending to provide a fit person, yet as Reynolds had refused his consent, expecting to be certified of the reservation, and as the King had written on Reynolds' behalf, and as he appeared to be a fit person, the Pope made him Bishop of Worcester⁴. Another Bull in February to the Prior and Convent informed them of this, and ordered them to be attendant and obedient to Reynolds⁵. In April the two Bulls were published in the Cathedral at Worcester⁶. The publication of the Bulls could not have raised the opinion of the Prior and Chapter as to the truthfulness of their new Bishop, whatever it may have done as to his astuteness. The documents shew that he first formally consented to the election, and then declares to the Pope that he refused to be elected. Unless this is an instance of the care of the Papal authorities to make all the documents prove their case, whatever the facts might be, Reynolds was playing one game to the Pope and one to the King. His subsequent conduct shewed that this was a part he was by no means incapable of playing.

The election is, however, instructive, as it brings out another instance of the way the Papal Court kept up its authority. In Ginsborough's case the Pope set aside the duly elected candidate and put a creature of his own into the See. Here he had to accept the elected candidate, but while he does so he is careful to make it appear that he is master of the situation, that he does it at the King's request, and that it was in his power either to do it or not, as he thought best. Read in the light of the Papal documents, both the elections of Ginsborough and Reynolds go to prove the Pope's rights—it may be almost said his admitted rights—to confirm or reject any candidate for an English See, or to nominate whoever he liked to the place. It is only when

¹ p. III.² Rymer's Fœd., Rolls Ed. ii. 15.³ *Ib.*⁴ p. III.⁵ *Ib.*⁶ *Ib.*

all the entries as to the election are examined that it is seen that at least this election of Reynolds was a compromise, and that neither party could really rely upon it as an instance of the assertion of their rights, as neither the Pope wished to quarrel with the King—the great question of the Knights' Templars being then a burning one—nor the King with the Pope, as he wanted the Papal support in his dealings with the Barons. Each was glad of a compromise.

The register contains some mention of the quarrel between Edward I. and Archbishop Winchelsey, and of the Archbishop's exile. Edward I. died in 1307; the Archbishop was then in exile. The Pope proposed that some Cardinal should crown Edward II. The King, however, requested him to appoint the Archbishop of York and the Bishops of London and Durham to do it. Edward had already applied on the 16 Dec., 1307, for the Archbishop's restoration. In the Register is the entry of a letter from the Pope to the Archbishop stating that he inclined to his petition, and being unwilling to impede him in his office, at the King's coronation revoked all letters which he (the Pope) had directed to any one touching the matter¹. On the same day the Pope wrote to the Archdeacon of Arenns and Peter Almamui, who were then representing him in England, that having suspended the Archbishop of Canterbury from administering the spiritualities and temporalities of the Church of Canterbury he had now restored the Archbishop to the administration of the same², and the Pope issued a formal Bull to that effect³. The Archbishop being restored to power and not able to attend the Coronation, appointed the Bishops of Winchester, Salisbury, and Chichester to represent him at it. While still at Poitiers in 1307, the Archbishop appointed the Prior of Canterbury Vicar-General of the Province of Canterbury⁴, and the Prior of Canterbury, as such Vicar-General, appointed the Prior of Worcester to be his official in the City and Diocese of Worcester during the vacancy of the See⁵, thus giving official sanction to the acts of the Prior. The appointment is dated on the 16 February, but the Prior had been acting from the month of October. The election of Bishop having taken place, and the Prior having applied to the administrators of the See of Canterbury to proceed with the election, it does not seem that this question of authority was raised as an objection to the Prior's acting during the vacancy.

¹ p. 96.² p. 97.³ *Ib.*⁴ *Ib.*⁵ *Ib.*

II. The chief matters relating to the Diocese are the efforts made by the Worcester House to enforce its right to visit the other Houses in the Diocese during the vacancy of the See ; the election to the Headship of the House of Cirencester and the Nunnery of Whiston ; the institutions to the various benefices in the Diocese.

As to Visitation, Tewkesbury was the first place on which the Prior made the experiment. On the morrow of St. Gregory, 1302, the Worcester Prior visited Tewkesbury and had resistance there¹. Against this visitation the Abbot and Convent appealed². On this the Prior of Worcester excommunicated the Abbot, Prior, sub-prior, sacristan, precentor, cellarer, kitchener, chamberlain, hostilar and infirmarer³. Against this excommunication the Abbot and Convent of Tewkesbury appealed⁴. The Prior wrote to the Archbishop praying him to preserve the lawful jurisdiction, and to the Dean of Winchcombe stating that as the Abbot and others of Tewkesbury had by their disobedience incurred the sentence of greater excommunication, the Dean was ordered to cite them to appear in the Church of the Holy Trinity, Bristol, the Wednesday before 25th March⁵. Against this sentence of excommunication the Tewkesbury House appealed⁶. The official of the Archbishop of Canterbury then inhibited the Prior of Worcester proceeding with the excommunication of the Abbot and Convent of Tewkesbury, and cited the Prior to appear in the Church of St. Mary of Bow⁷.

Similar proceedings took place in the case of the Abbey of St. Peter's, Gloucester. On the 3rd day after the feast of St. Gregory the Prior visited Gloucester and had a second repulse⁸. A protest was read at the abbey gates⁹. The Prior issued a monition to them to permit him to visit them in the chapter¹⁰. On their failing to do so he excommunicated them. The Abbot and Convent thereupon appealed to the Archbishop¹¹. The Dean of Cirencester promulgated the sentence, and the Prior cited the Abbot to appear before him in the parish church at Winchcombe, and to answer certain interrogatories¹². The Abbot did not appear, so the Prior declared him to be contumacious¹³, but was prevented going further by the inhibition of the official of the Archbishop, who cited the Prior to appear in the Church of St. Mary le Bow, London¹⁴. The two great

¹ p. 62. ² Ib. ³ Ib. ⁴ p. 63. ⁵ Ib. ⁶ Ib. ⁷ p. 69.
⁸ p. 62. ⁹ p. 63. ¹⁰ Ib. ¹¹ Ib. ¹² p. 64. ¹³ Ib. ¹⁴ p. 69.

Benedictine Houses of Tewkesbury and Gloucester seem always to have resented the claim of the Worcester House to visit them, but with others the Prior was more fortunate. Winchcombe agreed to admit the Worcester Prior to visit them. The Canons at Llanthony admitted the Worcester Prior, who entered the Chapter and fed there. Cirencester objected, admitting the Prior's right to visit but alleging the inexpediency of any visitation at the time, as within two years they had been visited by the Bishop of Worcester, and within one by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and twice a year was too often for a visitation.

While the Worcester Prior was so fond of visiting others he had also to submit to a visitation. The Abbots of Westminster and Malmesbury, the presidents of the General Chapter of the Order of St. Benedict for the province of Canterbury, appointed the Prior of Shrewsbury and the Sub-Prior of Bath visitors for the Diocese of Worcester¹, and the visitors notified the Prior of Worcester of their intention to visit his home on the 30 April. But a short notice was given, for the letter was dated 19 April. The Prior himself began a visitation in June, 1307. He first visited the Worcester House. He then sent his deputy to visit the Abbey of St. Augustine, Bristol, but they were refused admission, as the Prior ought to have come personally. The proceedings are detailed at great length. The Abbot appealed to the Courts of Canterbury and Rome and was successful, but the Prior of Worcester, the Register says, made an error in the presentment, so the Abbot, by the multitude of his witnesses, succeeded in his defence, but litigation went on in the Court of Canterbury on the principal issue². Not daunted by the want of success at the great Bristol House the Prior's deputies went on with the visitation in Bristol. The Brothers of St. Mark admitted the Prior's deputies and paid the fees³. The Brothers of St. Bartholomew admitted the deputies, but on account of their poverty were not called on to pay⁴. The Priory of St. James admitted them, paid the fees, and gave them food and drink⁵. The House of St. Mary Magdalene admitted them but paid nothing on account of poverty⁶. The Prior of Horseley refused admittance. The Worcester Prior excommunicated him. An appeal was brought from the excommunication to the Court of Canterbury, but the Horseley House abandoned the appeal, admitted the Prior's right to visit them,

¹ p. 78.² p. 120.³ Ib.⁴ Ib.⁵ Ib.⁶ Ib.

received his deputies, and gave them meat and drink¹. The Abbey of Cirencester refused admission². The Worcester Prior went personally to the priory of Stodleye and was admitted, receiving meat and drink³. The Worcester Prior's proctors then went to Tewkesbury and were admitted, the fees paid, part of them were remitted to be given in charity⁴. The priory at Beckford was personally visited by the Worcester Prior, who was admitted, and the fees were paid⁵. The Priory of Deerhurst, which was a cell to the Abbey of St. Denis, was passed over on account of an immunity, the Prior alleged⁶. Little Malvern was visited by the deputies of the Prior, and they were admitted⁷. The Prior personally went to Winchcombe and was admitted, and received meat and drink⁸. On going to Gloucester the Prior was refused admittance on the ground of shortness of notice, inability to get the attendance of all the brothers at the visitation, and the unsuitableness of the time, the vigil of Palm Sunday, when the monks were occupied with Divine service⁹. In spite of these reasons the Prior warned the Gloucester monks to admit him, and as they would not, excommunicated them¹⁰. This sentence of excommunication was given to the Dean of Gloucester with orders to publish it in every church, collegiate and parish, throughout the town of Gloucester and neighbourhood on Palm Sunday and the two following Sundays¹¹. The Gloucester House at once appealed to the Court of Canterbury, and got an order inhibiting the Prior from proceeding with his excommunication, (1) because they had a special privilege only to be visited by a Papal Legate, the Archbishop or Bishop of the Diocese; (2) because two years had not elapsed since the late Bishop of Worcester visited the House; and (3) because the Prior's right had ceased on Reynolds having been made by apostolic authority Bishop, the See was full and the Prior had no authority¹². On receipt of the inhibition the Prior sent to the Dean of Gloucester revoking the order he had given as to the sentence of excommunication and its publication¹³. The Prior denied the allegation of the Gloucester House, and relied on the agreement with the Archbishop Boniface¹⁴. The Archbishop wrote to the Prior proposing the whole matter should be left to him. The Prior consented and submitted to the decision of the Archbishop, who having formally cited the Prior gave sentence that the

¹ p. 120. ² p. 121. ³ Ib. ⁴ Ib. ⁵ Ib. ⁶ Ib. ⁷ Ib. ⁸ Ib.
⁹ p. 122. ¹⁰ p. 123. ¹¹ Ib. ¹² Ib. ¹³ p. 124. ¹⁴ Ib.

Worcester Prior during the vacancy of the See has had and ought to have the right to visit the monastery of St. Peter, Gloucester¹.

So the Worcester Prior triumphed and established his right, but beyond doing this he does not seem to have done much more, for in 1313 the Abbot of Gloucester again, in spite of the sentence refused the Prior admission, and excommunication against him and his house was again pronounced². At the visitation at Stodleye the Prior found out matters requiring amendment. The Prior of Stodleye in the correction of the brothers and rebuking their excesses, was told to have more care than he was wont to do, for some of the Brothers sent out the remains of the food to the detriment of alms; that the time of religious service should also be more properly observed by more strictly keeping silence according to the rule of St. Augustine³. Cirencester still claimed to be free of the Prior's visitation, and on being cited to appear in the Cathedral at Worcester and shew their privileges, failed to appear. The Prior determined to proceed against the Cirencester House, and do what canonical sanction dictated⁴.

Such was the visitation contest the Prior of Worcester kept up, both to maintain the dignity of his house and to increase his revenue. It must be said that on the whole he carried on this contest successfully. It is somewhat curious why all the energies of the Prior were directed to the religious houses in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester. Little Malvern seems the only exception among those mentioned. It may well be that the great Worcestershire Houses, like Pershore and Evesham, had special exemptions from visitation, and that Great Malvern also escaped as a cell to St. Peter of Westminster. Bordesley and Hayles were Cistercian Houses, and were therefore not liable to visitation, and it is probable that the other Houses in the Worcester Archdeaconry had for some reasons freedom from visitation, otherwise the Worcester Prior was so exacting in asserting his rights they would hardly have escaped. The religious Houses must have hated visitations from any one; besides the cost, which was large, it could not have been pleasant to have to entertain persons who were determined to find fault, and it is not to be wondered at that Houses of equal rank and size to Worcester, like Gloucester and Tewkesbury, should resist it. The account of Stodleye given

¹ p. 125.

² p. 126.

³ Ib.

⁴ Ib.

here shew how determined the Prior was to find a reason for his visit. The whole narrative of the contest gives a very striking picture of the times and the struggles of the different Houses for power and independence.

If the Worcester House could not maintain her claim to visit the Monastery of the Canons at Cirencester, she obtained her opportunity on the death of the Abbot of that House to assert her supremacy, the supremacy of the Benedictines over the Canons. The Abbot of Cirencester having died in the autumn of 1307, on the second Sunday in November, the monks assembled in the Chapter House to elect his successor. The feast of St. Brice was fixed for the election. On that day the monks being assembled in the Chapter House, and all "who ought, would, and could being present," notice was given for all excommunicated, interdicted, or suspended, to retire¹. The Prior then asked the monks which of the three forms of election they would adopt—compromise, when the right to election was delegated to a committee or an individual; scrutiny, when voting took place for each candidate in the regular way; and inspiration, when the electors, as if inspired, at once unanimously agreed upon some individual. The monks chose scrutiny, and scrutineers were duly appointed. William de Cornwell the Almoner was appointed to make comparison of the votes, or in modern language, to be the returning officer. The scrutineers withdrew to one corner of the Chapter House, and secretly asked the monks one by one for whom they voted². The result was that Adam de Brokenberg, the Chamberlain, was found to have a majority of votes. The Almoner then published his election. The elect gave his consent, "being unwilling to resist the divine will³." There were 40 Canons in the Convent; 20 voted at first for the Chamberlain; then 3 who had voted against him changed their minds, came over and voted for him: Adam being elected the King's assent was signified. The Abbot elect appeared in Worcester Cathedral for confirmation. The Abbot produced the decree of his election, and other documents relating to it. The confirmation was proposed; then witnesses were called to prove what had taken place, and all the documents relating to the business were produced. The correctness of the proceedings was sworn to, and all was found to be in order⁴. The notice that any one who

¹ p. 98.

² p. 100.

³ *Ib.*

⁴ p. 101.

desired to oppose could attend at Worcester and do so was read, and it was proved no one came forward to oppose. The formal renunciation of the rival candidate was read. The Worcester Prior then proceeded to give sentence. He stated "that the power of making an Abbot for Cirencester belonged to him, and that the election was invalid and void, but as Adam de Brokenberg was a discreet man, esteemed for learning, of virtuous habits and actions, of lawful age, a priest born of lawful wedlock, professed in the order of the rule of St. Augustine, in the Cirencester Monastery, circumspect in spiritual and temporal matters, the Prior made and provided him as Abbot of the said Monastery¹." This was obviously an attempt by the Worcester House to shew its power over Cirencester. Although the election seems to have been perfectly valid and lawful, yet the Worcester House wanted to shew its power; as the Cirencester House would not be visited, it should at least in this case admit its inferiority to Worcester. Worcester, a Benedictine House, had the right, the sole right, as it here asserted, of electing, making, and providing an Abbot for the Augustine House. As the Pope claimed the right of appointing a Bishop for the See of Worcester, and to set aside any legal election for that purpose, so the Worcester Prior claimed precisely the same right in regard to the election to the headship of the religious Houses in the Diocese, if the election happened during a vacancy of the See. But it was one thing for a Bishop to have the right of control over any religious House; it was a totally different thing for a rival Monastery to assert it, and, as here, to maintain it.

The Prior at once wrote to the King praying him to shew to the new Abbot the same favour as he had done to his predecessor². He also wrote to the Abbot³, committing to him the administration of the spiritualities of the Abbey, and issued to him a license to receive benediction from any Bishop of the Province of Canterbury⁴. The Abbot then made his profession of obedience to the Worcester House, and the form of it shews how although the Worcester Prior was master of the situation, yet the Abbot reserved to himself, if he thought it necessary, the means to evade his obligations. It states that "he will be faithful to the Church of Worcester, to the Bishop of Worcester for the time being, and if no Bishop, to the Prior and his successors and their officials

¹ p. 102.

² *Ib.*

³ *Ib.*

⁴ p. 103.

in all canonical commands. That he will not in deed or design be privy to anything to the prejudice of the Worcester House, but will disclose it, and will be a supporter of it saving the rights of his order¹." These last words, *salvo ordine meo*, words which led to the contest between Henry II. and Beckett, practically reduced the profession to a nullity; for instance, the right of visitation the Abbot would be bound, in spite of this profession, to resist, as it was in prejudice of the rights of the Augustine Canons. Having obtained the profession of the new Abbot, the Prior issued an order to the Archdeacon of Gloucester to install Adam de Brokenberg, whom the Prior had made Abbot of Cirencester on the death of the last Abbot, and to enjoin the Prior and Convent of Cirencester to admit the said Adam with due reverence and be obedient unto him². It is impossible on reading over this account of the election to avoid feeling how much the monks of the different religious Houses must have dreaded an election of any of their Abbots during the vacancy of the See. If thus it befell Cirencester it is not hard to imagine the fate of Gloucester or Tewkesbury if fortune only gave the Worcester Prior the opportunity.

One other election took place during the vacancy, that of a Prioress to the Nunnery of Whiston near Worcester. Agnes de Bromwych, the Prioress, died in June, 1308. The Sub-Prioress, Lucy de Solers, wrote to the Bishop, Walter Reynolds, that considering the smallness of their possessions, which compelled the nuns to beg to the scandal of womanhood and the discredit of religion, the Bishop would for the honour of religion and the frailness of the female sex, grant them license by their proctor to elect a new Prioress and would confirm the election³. The Prior of Worcester also wrote to W. de Burston begging him to promote the business of the Whiston nuns⁴, and also to the Rector of Hartlebury begging him to testify to Reynolds of the extreme poverty of the Whiston nuns, and that they might have leave to elect a new Prioress, and that the examination and confirmation of the same might be given to any of the neighbouring Bishops, so that the necessity of the order might be relieved and their honor served⁵. The Bishop on this wrote giving to the Prior and the rector of Hartlebury, his commissary-general, power to

¹ p. 103.² Ib.³ p. 113.⁴ Ib.⁵ Ib.

receive and examine the election of a Prioress of Whiston, to confirm the same according to canonical institutions, give her the gift of benediction, and cause her to be installed by whoever ought to instal her¹. Reynolds also wrote to the Sub-Prioress, Lucy de Solers, giving the House leave to elect a Prioress. As the Patronage belonged to him he granted the license without prejudice to the rights of the Church of Worcester, and without making it a custom². Having got leave, the nuns proceeded to the election. They first fixed the date the Monday after the feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, 1308, when the nuns assembled in the Chapter House, and the Sub-Prioress ordered all who ought not to be present to retire. The Word of God was then expounded, and the grace of the Holy Spirit invoked, and the nuns proceeded to the election *via inspirationis*, and with one consent and will, as if by inspiration, they chose Alice de la Flagge, a sister of the House whom the Sub-Prioress had named as their head³; the said Alice being a woman of discreet life and morals, of lawful age, professed in the House, born in lawful wedlock, prudent in spiritual and temporal matters. At first Alice declined the honour, but after being very often asked, ultimately after deliberation determined not to resist the divine will, and consented to be elected. The election being approved by all, the nuns went from the Chapter House to the Church singing the *Te Deum Laudamus*, carrying the new Prioress, in spite of her weeping, resisting as much as she could, and expostulating in a loud voice (as is customary on those occasions)⁴. Arrived in the church, Brother William de Grimley, a monk of Worcester, proclaimed the election. On the Wednesday Alice gave her considered consent, and the Sub-Prioress then made a formal declaration of the election of Alice de la Flagge as Prioress, and sent it to the Bishop begging him to confirm the election⁵. In order to proceed with the confirmation of the election the convent appointed Richard de Bereburne, their chaplain, as Proctor to present the new Prioress to the Bishop or his commissary, and two of the nuns Alice le Seculer and Isabella de Aston, proctors, to instruct and do all that was necessary as to the instruction of the election⁶. The Prior and the Rector of Hartlebury then summoned the parties before them. The Chaplain read the documents, Richard de Stanford asked for the election to be confirmed, the

¹ p. 113.² p. 112.³ *Ib.*⁴ p. 114.⁵ *Ib.*⁶ p. 113.

nuns and the Sub-Prioress joined in the request, and they were sworn and examined as to the proceedings of the election. The Commissaries ordered notice to be given for any one to come in and oppose the election, on the following Monday; as no one appeared the election was proceeded with, and the Commissaries confirmed Alice de la Flagge as Prioress of Whiston¹. The Prior, in the absence of the Rector of Hartlebury, completed the business as to the benediction and installation of the Prioress, and enjoined the nuns to obedience². On this the Commissaries sent the certificate to Reynolds that the election was completed³.

These proceedings are instructive. Whatever may be said about fees being one of the great motives for the monks' actions, it was not so here; all the steps of the election seem to have been followed out in just the same way as if, instead of being a poor nunnery, it had been a wealthy monastery. It shews us that it was more from jealousy for the rights of their Order, *esprit de corps* as we should call it, that made the Worcester monks stand so strongly on their rights than any mere desire for fees. It is also curious that the Prior seems to have been able to have performed the benediction ceremony in the case of a Prioress, while only a Bishop could do so in the case of a Prior or Abbot. What was the reason for this distinction does not seem obvious.

From the register it would seem that it was not unusual for nunneries to allege great poverty. Here we have the White Ladies in Worcester asserting this. In another place the nuns of Westwode are relieved from paying a contribution, as they are said to be so poor⁴.

With reference to the nunneries, a somewhat singular form of profession for a nun is given in the Register. It is clearly intended to serve as a common form in like cases. By it the intending nun, Helen de Ryons, declares that she promised adhesion to the rule of St. Benedict, but that she should not be bound to abstain from eating meat⁵. This Lady Helen de Ryons was the daughter of William de Ryons of Gloucester, who was one of the Bailiffs of that city in 1309⁶. Margaret, daughter of Sir Hugh le Fizeir, also made profession in the same form⁷.

There is in the Register a rather interesting letter to the Prior of

¹ p. 115.

² *Ib.*

³ *Ib.*

⁴ p. 62.

⁵ p. 96.

⁶ See Gloucester Charters, p. 300.

⁷ p. 96.

Worcester from a monk of Hayles¹. As Hayles was a Cistercian House, it was wholly exempt from the Prior and all his works, so that it could assume a tone to the Worcester House that none of the others would dare to take. John of Gloucester, the Hayles monk who wrote to the Prior, states he has heard that the Prior's character was likely to be defamed hereafter, if what certain men said is true, which God forbid. "He is told that a clerk, John de Honginaston, had been duly presented to the church of Stratton upon Foss by the real patron, but that he was impeded and the church interdicted, so that the parishioners died without confession, the eucharist, and baptism, whereby they were much grieved²." This complaint must have delighted the Cistercians. While professedly doing a kindness, in fact they were really pointing out how the Order of St. Benedict had fallen from its high estate, and was neglecting its duties. The reply of the Worcester Prior shews that he quite appreciated Cistercian kindness: he says each patron wanted to present, and that the matter requiring deliberation, and the Prior wishing to act with the same deliberation as the Cistercians would do, left the matter to be decided by the Court of Arches³. As the Prior could not do anything to the Cistercians, it seemed, and doubtless was, an occasion on which the Cistercians might point out how terrible the sufferings of the poor parishioners must be from the mismanagement of the Benedictines. The Prior's reply must have, or rather ought to have, silenced the Cistercians.

The number of manumissions of serfs is striking. It is usually said that it was not until after the Black Death, A.D. 1349, that manumissions were anything but the exception. Yet here some 14 are recorded, not from any one place, but from over the whole diocese. If the other owners of serfs manumitted them in anything like the same proportion as the Priory did, the number of free labourers must have been very considerable. A form of manumission is given⁴, and it differs from the usual precedent. The Prior frees from the yoke of slavery absolutely and freely Peter de Humultone, with all his family and goods, on his swearing to disclose whatever of loss or injury he may learn of to the church of Worcester, to the monastery or their property, and that he will not permit anything of the kind to be done by himself or by any others. And if he do any such thing, and thereof is convicted, the present

¹ p. 69.² p. 70.³ Ib.⁴ p. 75.

grant of manumission shall lose all force and virtue, and he shall forfeit his liberty and return into slavery. Whether such a grant would be good in law may be doubtful. It was not an absolute grant, as was usually the case, but conditional on the grantee's good conduct. It places in the power of the Church at any time to reduce the grantee to slavery again; for it is to be observed the grantee was not to be convicted of any offence known to the law, but only of not revealing anything he might hear tending to the prejudice of the Worcester House. That monk would have been a disgrace to his order who could not have found, if it became necessary, something to bring back into slavery almost any of the Worcester serfs manumitted under these terms. If this was ever done, some very nice questions as to the status of the children of the person lapsing into serfdom would arise.

The Register contains various entries as to the Church patronage of those days, and gives some idea as to the proportion that was in lay hands and that in the hands of the monasteries. The following list shews to some extent the state of things in the beginning of the fourteenth century:—

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>
Kempsey	The King
Rokynton	Abbot of Reading
Dontesburn Militis	John le Rous
St. Martin of Estlegh	Prior of Little Malvern
St. Mary before the Abbey Gate, Gloucester	Abbot of Gloucester
Folebrok	Nicholas de Warwyk
Adreston	Abbot of Tewkesbury
Hanley Castle	Executors of William Beau- champ, Earl of Warwick
St. Augustine, Bristol	Abbot of St. Augustine
Pelbemore	
Preston next Henley	Executors of William, Earl of Warwick
Musardere	Hugh le Despenser
Bysseley	
Wytechurche	Alice de Montfort
Stretton on Foss	Walter Pikerel

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>
Daylesford	Miles de Hastings
Flavel	Alexander Besford
Harenhull	Robert de Harenhull
Oselwurthe	Abbot of Gloucester
Sutton	Abbot of Westminster
Wytton next Wych	Prior of Stodley
Morton Abbas	Malcolm Musard, Lord of Morton
North Pidele	Sir Henry de Segrave
Preston Bagot	Executors of William, Earl of Warwick
Neuwinton on Coldeswold	Prior of Little Malvern
Eckington	Abbot of Pershore
Cudburleye	The King as guardian of Giles de Berkeley
Salewarp	Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick
Cold Aston	Prior of Bath
Witleye	Walter de Kokeseye
Doynton	Prior of Llanthony
Frethorn	Geoffrey de Frethorn
Stowelle	Adam Martel
Campden, Chapel of St. Katherine	Sir William de Clare, Earl of Gloucester
Toneworth	Prior of Kenilworth
Estleech	Abbot of Tewkesbury
Bradewell	Abbot of Evesham
Gunelode	Richard Deivyle
Pillardinton	John de Hercy
Welneford	Prior of Decrhurst
Claverdon	Archdeacon of Worcester
Clyve Episcopi	The King

This list also furnishes some evidence of what patronage the different monasteries held. It would seem most of them had some. When it is remembered that it is only a list of the institutions during the vacancy of the See, it seems so large that it is difficult to account for it. Out of the 42 livings mentioned 17 were in

monastic or ecclesiastical hands and 25 in lay hands. The extent of the monastic influence over the parochial clergy was not, however, limited by the amount of patronage they held. They also received from out of some of the parishes portions, or fixed annual payments. In the register are mention of writs to raise portions for—

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>
Abbot of Gloucester	Dodderhill, 56 <i>s.</i> Ulleberwe [Oldberrow], 28 <i>s.</i> Tredington, 53 <i>s.</i> 4 <i>d.</i>
Abbot of Brucra	Schefnecote } 16 <i>d.</i> Condecote }
Abbot of Margam	Olveston, 6 <i>d.</i>
Abbot of Flaxley	Brimeffeld, 2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>

III. As in the previous part, the miscellaneous entries shew the extraordinary number and variety of the Prior's duties. Testimonials to Foreign Houses of the behaviour of the head of their cells in the Diocese, for instance to St. Taurinus of Evereux, as to the conduct of the Prior of Astley¹. Bond to deliver to a Worcester clothier 21 sacks of good white wool². Request for an allowance for a sick lady out of the Almonry of the Worcester House³, for a benefice for a relation⁴, for repayment of a debt⁵, to explain to the Abbot of Evesham why a MS. commentary on St. Luke had not been sent back as promised⁶. To find out who had laid hands on certain clerks⁷. From the Prior of Bath, asking for the confirmation of three pensions⁸. For non-residence⁹. Examining the Abbot of Reading to the deeds as to the Church of Rokinton¹⁰, such were some of his duties. It appears, from the institutions to the different churches, if a person who was only in minor orders was admitted he got, as a rule, letters giving him leave to absent himself to study so as to obtain full orders. If such letters were not given a note is made of the fact. Persons in minor orders do not appear, as a rule, to have been instituted, and sworn either to canonical obedience or to residence. An exception occurs in the case of William Dalebi, an acolyte, who was admitted and sworn to canonical obedience¹¹. But another acolyte, Nicholas de Suthynton,

¹ p. 57. ² p. 58. ³ p. 59. ⁴ *Ib.* ⁵ *Ib.* ⁶ *Ib.* ⁷ p. 62. ⁸ *Ib.*
⁹ *Ib.* ¹⁰ p. 65. ¹¹ *Ib.*

was not so sworn¹. It also seems that entering the order of Friars, although it did not of itself vacate a benefice, yet caused the person so entering to resign. The vicar of Northpidele, Walter de Milton, entered the order of Friars Preachers and wore the habit; and although he had not resigned, the Patron presented a fresh priest to the living². It also seems that a person in minor orders who was presented to a living had to be ordained Priest within a certain time. There is a certificate that the rector of Northfield was, within a year from the time the rule of the Church was given him, ordained a priest³. When a rector got leave of absence for purposes of study, it appears he had to provide for the duty, but he could do this by letting the Church to farm⁴. At this time it seems various ecclesiastical offices were so let out—for instance, the Archdeaconry of Worcester⁵—a fixed sum was agreed to be paid, and the Archdeacon made the best he could of the office by the fees. There is a letter to Cardinal Neapolis, the Archdeacon, asking for this rent⁶. Various entries occur of letters dimissory, authorising the persons named in them to receive ordination from any Bishop of the Province of Canterbury⁷. These letters seem to be granted in two cases—(1) When the persons were professed Monks in the Diocese of Worcester⁸, and (2) when they were born in the Diocese of Worcester⁹; in other cases a Licence is given when the person is the holder of some benefice in the Diocese, but it seems rather uncertain if there is any real distinction between the two forms.

The religious Houses seem to have not been over punctual in their payments. The Prior of Worcester had to write to the Abbot of Pershore, asking him to send by bearer 2 marks for procuration dues¹⁰, and also to the Dean of Warwick to obtain the procuration for the Abbot of Alcester and the Prior of Stodley¹¹.

One of the common tricks for making money in Edward I.'s reign was clipping the coin. It seems that the creditors of the Monastery did not consider the Worcester monks incapable of paying their debts in clipped money, for we find one of them, Richard de la Lynde, stipulating that his debt was to be paid in "good round lawful money¹²."

While acting during the vacancy of the See, the Prior had a

¹ p. 66.² p. 68.³ p. 69.⁴ p. 70.⁵ p. 76.⁶ Ib.⁷ p. 77.⁸ p. 88.⁹ p. 77.¹⁰ p. 78.¹¹ Ib.¹² Ib.

proper official title, which is given as "Prior of the Cathedral Church of Worcester, by authority of the Court of Canterbury, Official and Administrator of the Spiritualities in the City and Diocese of Worcester, the See being vacant¹," and on each vacancy he had to appoint his own officers. In this part of the register there are the appointments of Penitentiary, Sequestrators, Apparitors, and Commissioners, to hear causes in the County Courts, to control proceedings, and to correct errors and defaults. There is also the appointment of a Notary². He was to be invested with the office by the delivery of pen, inkhorn and charters, which the person investing held in his hand and gave to the new Notary. The Prior seems to have been very jealous as to any interference with his officers. The Archdeacon of Gloucester removed an apparitor at Bristol without the Prior's knowledge³, and appointed some one else, to the scandal and contempt of the Prior's jurisdiction. The Prior at once suspended the new man and restored the old.

The Prior does not seem to have been slack in using his power. Certain persons defamed one William Plumtree—who they were was not known—but this did not prevent the Prior ordering the Dean of Gloucester to pronounce in every church in his Deanery the sentence of the greater excommunication according to the Canon of the Holy Fathers against them and then to find out who they were⁴. On the other hand he was equally free with his pardon. Two Welsh priests of the Diocese of St. David's, sons of David de Brecon, fought "when in a temper" at Gloucester. Letters of absolution were granted to them from any canonical sentence if they have incurred anything of the kind⁵.

There are several cases of absolution by the Prior of the clergymen who either clandestinely solemnized marriage, or who solemnized marriage without having had the banns read⁶.

There are also various dispensations allowing illegitimate persons to take order and have the cure of souls. In these cases the facts seem to have been fully inquired into. The Papal Nuncio, the Bishop of Sabina, wrote to the Prior asking that Henry de Warwyk, who was illegitimate, might have a dispensation to be promoted to all orders, and hold an ecclesiastical benefice if the Prior thought it expedient⁷. The Prior wrote to the official of the Archdeacon to inquire into the

¹ p. 134.² *Ib.*³ p. 81.⁴ p. 89.⁵ p. 90.⁶ pp. 90, 91.⁷ p. 91.

matter, and he propounded ten interrogatories for the parties, two of which are peculiar. "Was this Henry an imitator of his paternal incontinency, modest and quiet? Whether they gave the answer being instructed, led by entreaty or corrupted by a price?" The official found that the said Henry during his youth had borne himself well and chastely, was docile and of honest conversation, and by no means an imitator of his paternal incontinence¹. A modern lawyer would have required a fuller and better answer to this interrogatory, for it carefully confines itself to the youth of Henry, not to his present habits. But the authority of the Nuncio was sufficient. The dispensation was granted².

The Prior ordered the Dean of Worcester and Gloucester to enquire after, receive, and take into safe custody all clerks charged before the Justices of gaol delivery for the Counties of Worcester and Gloucester, and wrote to the Justices informing them what he had done³.

Richard Blac, of Wych, was charged with theft and sentenced to death by the King's judges. He was handed over to the prison of the Bishop. The Prior did not believe him to be guilty and ordered him to be purged. The Archdeacon thereupon proclaimed the purgation, and give notice to any to come and oppose it. No one did so. So the compurgators declared him innocent. The compurgators were the Rectors of six Worcester churches, All Saints', St. Peter the Great, St. Peter the Little, St. Andrew, St. Alban and St. Michael, and also the incumbents of Pupplinton (Peopleton), and Tyberton, the Vicar of Dodderhull and Croule, eight laymen, one of whom was Thomas Blac, and William de Exonia, chaplain⁴.

Similar proceedings took place in the case of John de Cromhale of Hwitenhurst, who was charged with theft, and purged himself in the church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester⁵, and in the case of John le Botiler, of Fekenhampton, clerk, charged with theft, homicide, burning of houses, and other things⁶. At first the Commissioners appointed by the Prior to go into the matter were not satisfied that the proclamation had been properly made, and adjourned the matter; but on the second occasion, it being proved that the proclamation was made in the church, at the door of the church, and at the steps of the cemetery, they held it sufficient, and as no one appeared to oppose, the accused was admitted to purgation. The case of Henry

¹ p. 92.² p. 91.³ p. 93.⁴ Ib.⁵ p. 94.⁶ Ib

Waldyeue did not go so smoothly¹. He was indicted for homicide, robbery, &c., and ordered to appear in the Cathedral at Worcester before the Prior. On it being found that the proclamation had been made, a man appeared and objected to the purgation, because it was notorious that the accused had committed the crime of homicide. The objection, it is said, was examined into and rejected, not because it was untrue, but because the objector could not bring sufficient proof of the notoriety of the crime. And as no one else appeared the accused was admitted to purgation². These instances are good illustrations of the abuse that grew up in the case of guilty clerks. In the one case the verdict of a jury and the sentence of the Court were set aside because the Prior chose to think the accused innocent, and a jury largely composed of clerks took the Prior's view. In the other case the question of guilt or innocence was not raised. All that was gone into was the notoriety of the crime, and it was on this, not on proof of the guilt, the evidence failed and the accused got off.

There are several instances of the growing importance of the ecclesiastical jurisdiction over wills; among others, Letters the Prior wrote to the Dean of Warwick, in a case where a man leaving much movable property died, to enquire if the deceased had left a will, if there were executors, and if so to cite them to appear before the Prior³. The Prior seems not to have pressed the jurisdiction in all cases, as there is a discharge given to the widow of Nicholas le Hopare, citizen of Worcester, who died intestate, from rendering an account of her husband's estate on account of his poverty⁴. The receipts from the Probate of Wills during the vacancy only mention four cases, and the fees are respectively 18*d.*, 23*d.*, 17*d.*, and 18*d.*⁵ But this does not seem to include all, as there is a general item including Probate of Wills, corrections in visitations, and other emoluments, and perquisites of all the jurisdiction £27 4*s.* 3*d.*⁶; a large sum, as the receipts of the Archdeaconry of Worcester were only £16 9*s.* 10*d.*, and of Gloucester £15 13*s.* 5*d.*⁷

A letter from the Prior on the subject of Tithes shews that even then difficulties were not unknown. In the Parish of O⁸ it was alleged that a custom existed for the Parishioners not merely to let the Parson take the Tithes and sheaves, but to carry them for him and leave them at the door of the tithe-barn, and not

¹ p. 95.² *Ib.*³ *Ib.*⁴ p. 96.⁵ p. 134.⁶ *Ib.*⁷ p. 133.⁸ p. 131.

in the fields. John de W. seems to have acted the part of the village Hampden, and withstood the little tyrant of the fields, for in the autumn of 1308 he left the tithe-sheaves in the fields and declined to remove them. This conduct was in the opinion of the Prior "to the prejudice of ecclesiastical liberty, the grave peril of the parishioner's soul, and of pernicious example to others." John and his servants were therefore canonically warned to comply with the custom within 8 days. It does not appear how the matter ended, but it goes to shew that there were even in the fourteenth century such persons as anti-tithers.

Many other matters might be mentioned that are included in this part, enough has, however, been said to shew the place the ecclesiastical system held in those days in the social life and habits of the country. Very trivial and very unimportant as these details may seem, they yet set before us the life of the fourteenth century; they bring us in contact with the usages of the time; they disclose to us what was done and what was thought right to be done in a way we can only get by some such chronicle as that of the daily details of the life of the Worcestershire Monks. J. W. B.

WICK EPISCOPI,
October 24, 1894.

SEDE VACANTE REGISTER.

Fol. 20. LETTER of credence from W.¹, Bishop of Worcester, to the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, for Master J. de Eodboruwa. Dated at Fladebury, 6th of the Nones of July, anno consecrationis 1.

Writ from the council of the clerks of the Bishop of Worcester to the Prior of Worcester, to send all their instruments touching the appropriation of the church of Duderhull², which the Archbishop gave to John de Middelton of right when he had no right.

Certificate by J.³, Prior of Worcester, of the good fame and honest conversation of Robert de Bruera, clerk in the monastery of Worcester, who was enfeoffed by his father of a carucate of land in the manor of Severnstoke next Worcester. Dated at Worcester the Nones of July, 1303.

Letter testimonial⁴ from the Prior of Worcester to the Abbot of St. Taurinus⁵ for Ralph de Portes.

Like letter testimonial (to make the matter more clear) from the same Prior to the same Abbot, for Ralph de Portes, Prior of Astley, in the diocese of Worcester, a cell of the abbey of St. Taurinus.

Letter from W., Bishop of Worcester, to the Prior and Chapter of Worcester. Whereas the Bishop's predecessor Godfrey⁶, in his lifetime, conveyed divers lands of the church of Worcester to certain persons for term of life or in perpetuity, the Bishop warns and

¹ William de Ginsborough.

² As to Dodderhill, see *ante*, pp. 30, 35, 44, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 54, and *post*, 58.

John de la Wyke.

⁴ See *post*, p. 59, for the letter to which this was a reply.

⁵ St. Taurinus was a Benedictine Abbey of Evreux.

⁶ Godfrey Giffard.

exhorts the Prior not to confirm such conveyances to his prejudice. Dated at Aluynch, 7th of the Kalends of August, anno consecrationis 1.

Order from Robert¹, Archbishop of Canterbury, to his officer, the Archdeacon of Worcester, to cite the Prior and Convent of Worcester to appear at Canterbury on the next law day after the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross [14 September] to answer concerning their wrongful pretensions to the appropriation of the church of Duderhull². Dated at Straford (?), 2nd of the Kalends of August.

Fol. 20*b*. Bond by John, Prior, and the Convent of Worcester to Richard le Mercer, citizen of Worcester, for the delivery of twenty-one sacks of good white wool. Dated Tuesday before the Feast of St. Lawrence [10 August], 1303.

A like bond. Dated Wednesday before the Feast of St. Lawrence, 1303.

Letter from J., Prior of Worcester, to W., Bishop of Worcester on behalf of John de Ely, to whom had been granted by the Bishop's predecessor a piece of land in the manor of Wyke, the grant for which had not been confirmed by the chapter nor by the Bishop.

J., Prior of Worcester, to R., Archbishop of Canterbury, assuring him that neither he nor Geoffrey de Norwyk were present at the collation and induction of the Rector of Duderhull.

Appointment by J., Prior, and the Convent of Worcester of their monk, Nicholas de Coderugg³, as their proctor in their appeal to the Roman Court touching the Archbishop of Canterbury's claim to the church of St. Augustine of Duderhull next Wycham.

Renunciation by Nicholas de Coderugg', monk and proctor of the Prior and Convent of Worcester, of the appeal (*appellatio*) by the Archbishop of Canterbury touching the church of Duderhull, read at a full chapter on the day of the Assumption [15 August], 1303, before Nicholas de Bradewas, notary public.

¹ Robert Wynchesley, 1294—1308.

² See *ante*, p. 57.

³ Nicholas de Cotheridge was the cook, see *ante*, p. 48.

Letter from Richard, monk of St. Taurinus, to the Prior of Worcester, inquiring as to the behaviour of Ralph de Portes, a monk of St. Taurinus. Dated Monday after the Feast of St. Lawrence, 1303¹.

Fol. 21. Letter from J. de Stoneweve [to the Prior of Worcester], at the instance of his parents, that Petronilla his sister, a sick person (*valetudinaria*), may have a livery from their almonry, as Randulph le Gernier, deceased, had.

Letter from Hugh de Musele to the Prior of Worcester, asking for a benefice for his nephew. Dated at Aldyngton, the Vigil of St. Nicholas [5th December].

Letter from Robert le Blund, clerk, to the Prior of Worcester, asking for the repayment of a debt. No date.

Manumission of Symon, son of John Molindinarius of Grimeleg, 17th of the Kalends of December, 1306.

Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to the Abbot of Evesham, explaining that the book upon Luke the Evangelist lent by the abbot had been retained beyond the time stipulated on account of the illness of the scribe.

Writ from L. de Trykyngham to the Prior of Worcester, giving him power to receive the attorney or attorneys of Agnes, the wife of Robert le Messager, in a suit between the said Robert and Agnes, and Alexander de Fryvyle, of a plea of trespass in the county of Worcester.

Manner of accepting attorneys:—Adam de Stynnyngton puts in his place John Tyreyl [or] Walter Herbert of a pleas of detention of chattels.

Manumission of John Grymel by the hands of W. Colemor, Ash Wednesday, 1303.

Manumission of Roger Hayle, of Alsyston, by the hands of W., vicar of Beckeford, 2nd of the Nones of August, 1304.

¹ See *ante*, p. 57, for reply.

Manumission of Nicholas Beneyt, of Fepsynton, by the hands of A. de Stynnton, 5th of the Ides of July, 1305.

Manumission of William Wynrat, of Blacwell, by the hands of J. de Dumbelton¹, 9th of the Kalends of November, 1305.

Manumission of Robert, son of J. Daniel, of Stokes, by N. de Styninton. 2nd of the Kalends of December, 1305.

Manumission of John Sweteman of Herferton by W. de Wyke, 4th of the Ides of December, 1305.

Manumission of Nicholas (?) Almer, son of Elias Alymer of Herferton, 9th of the Kalends of July, 1306.

Manumission of Richard, son of John ate Sale, by Richard de Shelve, 8th of the Ides of July, 1306.

Fol. 21*b*. Copy of a Bull from Pope Boniface to the Bishops of Salisbury, Lincoln, and London, as to the appeal between the Archbishops of Canterbury and Master Ralph de Mallyngg', clerk, of the diocese of Canterbury, on the one part, and Teobald de Baroducis, clerk, on the other part, concerning the church of Pageham in the diocese of Chichester; and commanding the same bishops to publish an inhibition touching the same matter when and where they may deem expedient. Dated at the Lateran, 5th of the Ides of February, 8 Pont.

Notarial certificate of Hugh de Musele, clerk, of the diocese of Lincoln, notary public, is attached.

Copy of the Bull of Pope Boniface referred to in the foregoing—reciting that in the cause between the Archbishop of Canterbury and Master Rodulph de Mallinges, who calls himself Rector of the Church of Pageham in the diocese of Chichester, on the one part, and Theobald de Barroducis, treasurer of York, on the other, in which the said Theobald claims to have been provided to the same church by apostolic authority, and of certain processes by the Abbot of St. Michael in the diocese of Verdun,' who asserted that

¹ John de Dumbleton had been made Prior of Great Malvern; see *ante*, p. 2, and p. 35.

he was executor of the same Theobald against the Archbishop and Rodulph, the Pope appointed Master Onerorius de Thebiis, dean of Melden, his chaplain and auditor of the causes of his palace, auditor to the said parties with power to absolve the Archbishop and Rodulph from the sentences of excommunication and suspension which had been issued against them by the same Abbot; and that the said auditor having heard the evidence laid before him, absolved the said Archbishop and Rodulph from the said sentences, commanding the said bishops publicly to proclaim the said absolutions. Dated at the Lateran the 5th of the Ides of February, 8 Pont.

Fol. 22. Letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the official of Worcester acquainting him with the absolution mentioned above, and sending him copies of the same documents. Dated at Harewe, 8th of April, 1302.

Letter from the official of Worcester to Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, touching the presentation by the King of Sir Peter de Collingburne, clerk, to the church of Kemesey in the diocese of Worcester¹, and the proposed exchange between Master Thomas de Stokes and the said Peter for a certain church which the same Peter possessed, the name whereof the said official does not know. Gilbert de Middelton has exhibited to him the Archbishop's letters of credence and counsel touching the visitation of the Monasteries of Gloucester and Teukesbury.

Declaration by W., Abbot of Wynchecumb, and the Convent that they will admit the Prior of Worcester or the Sub-Prior if the Prior be dead or absent, to visit their monastery when and so often as the See of Worcester is vacant.

Fol. 22*b*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Christianity of Worcester, that whereas the same Prior proposes to visit the church of St. Nicholas and St. Ellen of Worcester on Monday after the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary, and the parish church of Kemesey on Wednesday following, that the said Dean do cite all rectors, vicars, and priests serving in the

¹ See *ante*, pp. 4, 28; *post*, 66.

same or their chapels, and from each church and chapel four laymen. Dated at Worcester, 2nd of the Kalends of February, 1301.

Form of letter to the Dean of Tredynton to inquire as to persons who had laid violent hands on certain clerks.

Letter from the Prior and Convent of Bath to the Prior and Convent of Worcester, asking for a confirmation of three pensions received from the churches of Olveston, Ayston, and Hauekesbur' in the diocese of Worcester.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to G. de Northwic' his commissary, desiring to spare the poverty of the Prioress and Convent of Westwode; he was not to take any tithes or other things which may be due to the Prior from them or their churches.

Licence to John le Archer, deacon, rector of the church of Preston upon Stur, to be absent from his church for purposes of study, so long as the See of Worcester should be vacant. Dated, at Worcester, 2nd of the Kalends of April, 1302.

Fol. 23. Note that on the morrow of St. Gregory, the Pope, we visited Teukesbury and had resistance there.

Appeal of the Abbot and Convent of the Blessed Mary of Tuekesbury against the visitation of the Prior of Worcester, read at the gate of the Abbey of Tuekesbury by Master W. de Benham.

A good form of beseeching (an unfinished entry so headed).

Fol. 23^b. Note that on the third day after the Feast of St. Gregory we visited Gloucester and had there a second repulse¹.

Excommunication by the Prior of Worcester of the Abbot, prior, sub-prior, sacristan, precentor, cellarer, kitchiner, chamberlain, hostilar and infirmarer of Teukesbury¹ for not admitting the same Prior of Worcester to visit their abbey during the vacancy of the See of Worcester.

¹ See *ante*, p. 11.

Appeal made by the proctor of the Abbot and Convent of Teukesbury from the sentence of the greater excommunication.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Archbishop of Canterbury, that according to the form of the composition made between Boniface, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Prior of Worcester, the Prior visited the Monasteries of the diocese where he was refused admittance. Prays the Archbishop to preserve his lawful jurisdiction. Dated at Overbur', the morrow of the Blessed Gregory, 1301.

The Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Wynchcomb, that the Abbot, Prior, and others of Teukesbury by their disobedience have incurred the sentence of greater excommunication, wherefore it is commanded the same Dean to cite them to appear in the church of the Holy Trinity of Bristol, on Wednesday next before the Feast of the Annunciation.

Fol. 24*b*. Memorandum that pridie Idus of March we visited the parish church of Durhurste [*Deerhurst*] and had procuration.

Provocation read at the gate of the Abbey of St. Peter of Gloucester by Master Walter de Stratone on the Ides of March.

Fol. 25. Memorandum that on 17th of the Kalends of April the Prior visited at Lant' [*Llanthony*] next Gloucester, and entered the chapter and fed there.

Monition to the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter's of Gloucester to permit the Prior of Worcester to visit them in their chapter.

Appeal by the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter's of Gloucester against the Prior of Worcester because he pronounced the sentence of the greater excommunication against them for not admitting him to visit them.

A like appeal by the Abbot and Convent of Teukesbury.

Fol. 26. Certificate by the Dean of [blank] of having promulgated the sentence against the Abbot of [blank].

A like certificate by the Dean of Cirencester, 14th of the Kalends of April.

A like certificate by the Dean of Gloucester, 12th of the Kalends of April.

Memorandum that on the 21st of the Kalends of April at Wychindone, the Prior received a presentation to the church of Neuwenton by the Prior of Malvern Minor¹.

Interrogatories to be made to the Abbot of St. Peter of Gloucester, called before the Prior for contempt and disobedience, on the Feast of St. Benedict the Abbot in March, in the parish church at Wynchecumbe, 1301.

First, he shall be asked if his monastery is subject to the Bishop of Worcester and others exercising jurisdiction there?

Item, if it be held to obedience (to the Bishop) or any acting in his place.

Item, if it be under the jurisdiction of the Prior of Worcester, the see being vacant.

Item, if he swore canonical obedience to the same Prior and if he swore it by himself or by another.

Item, if a visitation is included under canonical obedience.

Item, if he had been lawfully forewarned by the Prior that at a certain time he would make his visitation.

Item, if he admitted the Bishop to visit.

Item, if he renounced or commanded that he be admitted, or confirmed the same renunciation.

Item, if he so renounced in contempt of the aforesaid Prior.

Item, if he had acted against the obedience which he swore.

Declaration by the Prior of Worcester of the contumaciousness of the Abbot of St. Peter of Gloucester for not answering the interrogatories put to him.

Memorandum, that William de Daleby was instituted into the Church of Preston Bagot on the 17th of the Kalends of April at Gloucester, and had dispensation for study from the Annunciation, 1302, to Christmas, 1304.

¹ See *ante*, p. 12, *post*, p. 73.

Memorandum, that on the 8th of the Kalends of April the Abbot of Reading appeared by his proctor and exhibited his muniments concerning the appropriation of the church of Rokynton, signed by the Archdeacon of Berks¹.

Memorandum, that Roger le Rous in minor orders was admitted to the Church of Dontesburn Militis at the presentation of John le Rous on the 4th of the Kalends of April, and did not have letters of studying.

Memorandum, that master Adam de Breconia, sub-deacon, on the 4th of the Nones of April, 1302, was admitted and instituted into the church of St. Martin of Estlegh, and did not have letters of studying.

Fol. 26^b. Memorandum, that William, called le Chamberleyn, was admitted to the church of St. Mary before the gate of the Abbey of St. Peter of Gloucester on the 6th of the Ides of May, 1302, and swore [to keep] residence.

Memorandum, that on the 18th of the Kalends of April, 1302, at the presentation of Nicholas de Warwyk, by writ of the King that a fit person be admitted, William de Ayssein, priest, was admitted to the parish church of Folebrok, was instituted into the same, and swore canonical obedience.

Memorandum, that William Dalebi, acolyte, on the 12th of the Kalends of July, 1302, was admitted to the church of Adreston at the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Teukesbury, was instituted into the same, and swore canonical obedience.

On the same day Henry de Burmyngham, chaplain, was admitted and instituted to the church of Henleya, by Roger, chaplain of the same, his proctor, at the presentation of Roger Barbastre, Paul de Hayles, William de Clyva, executors of the will of William de Beauchamp, late Earl of Warwick², and swore canonical obedience.

¹ See *post*, p. 72, the Abbot admits the right, but asks for production to be waived.

² William de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, d. 1298; see *post*, p. 72.

On the 3rd of the Kalends of July, 1302, at the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of St. Augustine, of Bristol, Walter, called Bataylle, was admitted and instituted to the vicarage of the little church of St. Augustine, of Bristol, and swore canonical obedience and residence.

On the 10th of the Kalends of August, 1302, William de Grennylle was inducted into the possession of the church of Pelbemore, being ordained under age and to minor orders, and he has for a curate Master Robert le Blake, and he has not institution, and was inducted by proxy, and swore obedience.

On the 4th of the Nones of August, 1302, Thomas, called Tankard, deacon, was inducted at the presentation of Roger Barbastre, Paul de Hayles, executors of the will of William, Earl of Warwick¹, to the church of Preston next Henl', and was instituted into the same, and swore canonical obedience.

On the 4th of the Kalends of September, 1302, Nicholas de Suthynton, acolyte, was inducted to the church of Musardere, at the presentation of Hugh le Despenser, by his proxy, Ralph de Syde, and was personally instituted to the same, and did not swear canonical obedience.

On the Nones of September, 1302, William Calf, of Campedon was inducted and instituted to the vicarage of the church of Bysseley, and swore canonical obedience and residence.

On the 17th of the Kalends of October, 1302, Benedict de Beeseby² was admitted to the church of Wytechurche at the presentation of Alice de Montfort, and was instituted and inducted by his proxy, Master Walter de Wermygton.

On the Feast of St. Michael, 1302, Peter de Colyngbourne was admitted to the church of Kemeseye³ at the presentation of King

¹ See *ante*, p. 65.

² *Ibid.*, p. 20, the Abbot of Peterborough writes to recommend him.

³ *Ibid.*, pp. 28, 61.

Edward, and was instituted to the same and inducted by his proxy, Adam de Conenholte, and swore obedience; the Prior inducted him personally.

On the 6th of the Ides of October, 1302, Walter de Bletha was admitted to the church of Stretton upon Foss¹, at the presentation of Walter Pikerel, and was inducted to the same, and swore canonical obedience.

Master Wulstan de Wigornia was instituted and inducted into the church of Dallifford² [*Dalesford*]. The Prior conferred it by right devolved on him, as appears on folio xiiij following.

On the 11th of the Kalends of December, 1302, Alexander de Besford, ordained in minor orders, was admitted and instituted to the church of Flavel, at the presentation of Alexander Besford, and swore canonical obedience.

On the 2nd of the Ides of December, 1302, Alexander de Bluntesden, chaplain, was admitted to the church of Harenhull, at the presentation of Robert de Harenhull, and was instituted and swore canonical obedience.

On the 17th of the Kalends of January, 1302[-3] John de Brokes, clerk, ordained in minor orders, was admitted to the church of Oselwurthe at the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter of Gloucester, and was instituted to the same, and swore canonical obedience.

On the same day Peter de Stanes, clerk, ordained in minor orders, was admitted to the church of Sutton at the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Westminster, and was instituted to the same, and swore canonical obedience.

On the 17th of the Kalends of February, 1302[-3], William Sparkes of Heule, priest, was admitted to the vicarage of the Blessed Peter of Wytton next Wych, at the presentation of the Prior and Convent of Stodley, and was instituted to the same, and swore residence and canonical obedience.

¹ See *ante*, pp. 8, 17, 61.

² See *ante*, pp. 14, 27, 34. Wulstan was a Worcester Monk. See *ante*, p. 2.

On the Kalends of February, 1302[3], Geoffrey de Seynesbur', chaplain, was admitted to the church of Morton Abbas, at the presentation of Malcolm Musard, lord of Morton, and was instituted to the same, and swore canonical obedience.

On the 4th of the Nones of February, 1302[-3], Robert de Elmham was inducted to the church of North pidele at the presentation of Sir Henry de Segrave¹; he did not have institution nor swore canonical obedience, because Walter de Melton, last ministering in the same, has entered the orders of the Friars Preachers and wears their habit, but has not yet resigned.

Fol. 27. Appointment by the Abbot and Convent of Cirencester of William de Rouwelle, clerk, their proctor, touching all matters concerning them or their monastery. Dated at Cirencester, 15th of the Kalends of April, 1301.

Exception by the Abbot and Convent of Cirencester to the visitation of the Prior of Worcester during the vacancy of the See of Worcester, and giving reasons for the inexpediency of such visitation. Stating that they ought not now to be visited because within two years they were visited by the commissioners deputed by Geoffrey², Bishop of Worcester, and within a year by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and they ought not of right to be visited twice in the same year; and he who has a general administration in spiritual matters committed to him by any superior, cannot visit monasteries or any religious place unless it is specially committed to him, and although the Prior may do this of right, which at present is wholly denied, yet he cannot do so for some time as many things have to be provided which, on account of the shortness of the time, cannot be done, and because in a visitation the office of consecration may be required which, without the presence of a bishop, cannot be performed.

Provocation of the same Abbot and Convent as to the same matter.

¹ See *ante*, p. 31.

² Godfrey?

Fol. 27*b*. Inhibition by the Official of Canterbury to the Prior of Worcester as to the Prior's excommunication of the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester, and citing the same prior to appear in the church of the Blessed Mary le Bow, London, on the fourth law day after the Feast of the Apostles Philip and James [1st May]. Dated at London, the 3rd of the Nones of April, 1302.

The same inhibition touching the Abbot and Convent of Teukesbury.

Acknowledgment of the receipt of the same inhibitions by the Prior of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 6th of the Kalends of May, 1302.

Fol. 28. Certificate by the Prior of Worcester that John Chastylun, rector of the church of Northfeld, was within a year from the time the rule of the church was committed to him, ordained into the priesthood.

Appointment, by the Prior of Worcester, of Master Thomas de Ceshonte, his proctor. Dated at Worcester, the 6th of the Nones of May, 1302.

Fol. 28*b*. Writ of *Venire facias* to the Keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester for Thomas de Neuwent, parson of the church of St. Andrew of Wych, to appear and answer William de Beauchamp of a plea of debt. Dated at York, 16th of May, 30 Edward I.

A like writ for Henry le Eyr of Hampton, clerk, to appear and answer Robert le Blund of Snytenesfeld of a plea of debt. Dated at York, 20th of May, 30 Edward I.

Letter from J. de Gloucestria, monk of Hayles, to the Prior of Worcester. Has heard from certain men that the Prior's character was likely to be defamed hereafter, if what they said was true (which God forbid). They related that a certain John de Honginaston was presented to the chapel or church of Stratton upon

Foss¹ by the true patron, but he was impeded and the church interdicted, so that the parishioners die without confession and the Eucharist, and without baptism, whereby they are much grieved.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Prior of Hayles, thanking him for the above letter, and stating that there being two persons, to wit, Walter de Blytha and John de Hongydeaston, presented by divers patrons, the same Prior wishing to treat the matter with deliberation as the same John, having sought an inhibition, pleaded the same at the [Court of] Arches.

Writ of *venire facias* to the Keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester for Geoffrey de Pullam, clerk, to appear before the Justices at York, and answer William Astymer and Lucy, his wife, together with Henry Abbot of Cirencester, brothers William de Cornwell, Adam de Brokenebrowe, canons of the same abbot, and Walter the clerk for having with force and arms taken, imprisoned, and ill-treated the same Lucy, and other enormities done to her to the damage of the same William and Lucy and against the peace. Dated at York, 3rd of June, 30 Edward I.

Letters from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Block' [*Blockley*], to release the suspension upon the church of Stratton upon Fosse².

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the sub-prior of Cirencester and the Dean of Christianities revoking the commission to Thomas de Southampt', clerk, and certain of his fellows. Dated at Worcester, the 13th of the Kalends of October, 1302.

Licence to Master Adam de Wenlok, rector of the church of Codeham, to absent himself from his church for purposes of study, and to let to farm his said church.

Writ of *pone* to the Keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester to have the body of William, vicar of the church of Almundesbur',

¹ See *ante*, pp. 27 and 67.

² *Ibid.*, pp. 27, 67.

executor of the will of Thomas Godman, before the Justices at York, that he, together with John de Wytenon and Henry de Bampton (?) his co-executors, may answer Joan, widow of the same Thomas, of a plea of debt. Dated at York, 10th of July, 30 Edward I.

Fol. 29. Letter from J., Prior of Worcester, to King Edward I., acquainting him with the death of Godfrey, formerly Bishop of Worcester, and asking for licence to elect a new Bishop. Dated at Worcester, the Nones of February, 1301[-2]¹.

Licence from Edward I. in accordance with above. Dated at Walloure, 20th of February, 30 Edward I.²

Proclamation by J., Prior, and the chapter of Worcester to all abbots, priors, and their colleges in the Archdeaconry of Worcester, stating that they have chosen the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin for the election of a new bishop. Dated at Worcester the 4th of the Ides of March³.

Fol. 29*b*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to brother Nicholas de Norton, chaplain, to recall all absent brothers for the election of the bishop⁴. Dated at Gloucester, the Ides of March, 1301[-2].

Writ of *fieri facias* to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester to raise from the goods of Walter de Berton, rector of the church of Bredon, 3*6*li., which Alina, daughter of William le Poer, recovered as damages for a disseizin of the manor of Ekynton Porr. Dated at York, 5 March, 30 Edward I⁵.

Like writ to distrain the goods of the Prior of Worton for many debts. Dated at York, 20th of February, 30 Edward I.

Writ of *Pone* to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester to have the body of Henry le Her, of Hampt', clerk, before the Justices at York to answer Robert le Blunt, of Snyrefield, of a plea of debt. Dated at Warwick, 13th of October, 30 Edward I.

¹ See *ante*, p. 2. ² *Ibid.*, p. 2. ³ *Ibid.*, p. 1. ⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 2. ⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

Fol. 30. Writ to —, to cite all those detaining goods and debts due to the executors of Godfrey, late Bishop of Worcester, to appear at a certain day and place, under pain of the greater excommunication, and to make satisfaction. Dated at Otteford, on the 6th of the Ides of March, 1301¹.

Letter from the Abbot of Reading to the Prior of Worcester. Their servant Alan de la Knolle, keeper of the manor of Rokinton, has signified to them that you have summoned us to show the deeds and muniments by which we hold the appropriation of the Church of Rokinton², with certain pensions, which deeds and muniments we lately caused to be read before the Archbishop in his Visitation, and which he accepted as sufficient. They acknowledge the Prior's right to see the same deeds and muniments, but beg to be excused from showing them.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Abbot of Reading. Notwithstanding the request in the above letter, the Prior asks that a copy of the same deeds may be sent.

Fol. 30*b*. Resignation by Peter de Leyc' of the church of Preston Bagot in favour of William de Dalby, his clerk. Dated at la Dale 4th of March, 1301.

Institution of William de Dalby, clerk, to the church of Preston Bagot at the presentation of Roger Barebastre, rector of the church of Kylbeworth, William de Clyve, rector of the church of Bere, wedon, and Paul de Brayles, rector of the church of Spelesbur', executors of the will of Sir William de Beauchamp, late Earl of Warwick³, to which executors the collation belongs by reason of the custody of John, son and heir of John de Monteforte, deceased. Dated at Gloucester, 15th of the Kalends of April, 1301.

Letter from J., Prior, to the Chapter of Worcester to all abbots, priors, precentors, wardens, and prelates, and all colleges in the archdeaconry of Worcester, requiring them to pray that the same Prior and Chapter may be inspired with grace to elect a fitting pastor in the place of the late Bishop Godfrey on the Feast of the

¹ See *ante*, p. 34.

² *Ibid.*, p. 65.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 65.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, in whose honour the cathedral church of Worcester is constructed. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Ides of March, 1301¹.

Presentation by brother William, Prior of Little Malvern, of Master Henry de Neuwynton, clerk, to the church of Neuwynton upon Coldeswold². Dated at Malvern, the 5th of the Ides of March, 1301.

Writ of *venire facias* to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester for the appearance of William, vicar of the church of Preston, executor of the will of Nicholas, formerly vicar of Sudyngton, before the Justices at York, to answer J. Brut, of Grikelade, of a plea of debt. Dated at York, 12th of February, 30 Edward I.

Fol. 31. Resignation of his church by John, called Nonel of Wauberge, rector of the church of Wykerisindon. Dated the 4th of the Nones of March, 1301.

Presentation by the Prior and Convent of Little Malvern of Master Adam Aubre, clerk, to the church of St. Martin, of Estlech. Dated at Malvern on the Feast of the holy martyrs Perpetua and Felicitas, 1301.

Dispensation to Master Reginald, rector of the church of Hambur' juxta Wichium, to be absent from his church for purposes of study. Dated at Worcester, the 7th of the Ides of March, 1301.

Faculty to the same Reginald de Heytona, rector of the church of Hambur' juxta Wichium, for promotion to deacon's and priest's orders by any Bishop of the province of Canterbury, notwithstanding he was beneficed in the Diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, 1301.

A request for a loan of 40*li*.

¹ On p. 2, *ante*, is a letter from the Precentor to the Prior, stating he has executed the order and summoned all absent brethren to the election of Bishop.

² See *ante*, pp. 12, 27, 28; *post*, p. 85.

Fol. 31*d*. Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to the Bishop of Salisbury, sent by Masters W. de Fodringheye and Peter de Pyrtton, the Bishop's clerks, asking for the Bishop's prayers on the occasion of the election of the Bishop of Worcester¹.

Faculty to John de Spechesleye, sub-deacon, to be promoted to deacon's orders by any Bishop of the province of Canterbury, notwithstanding he was born in the Diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 6th of the Ides of March, 1301.

Presentation by William, Abbot of Persore, of John de Persore, chaplain, to the church of Ekinton, vacant by the death of John the late rector. Dated in the Chapter of Persore, the 6th of the Ides of March, 1301.

Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to Guy, Earl of Warwick². The cellarer of Bordeseya having lately come to the Prior of Worcester with letters of credence desiring that the appropriation of the church of Wykewane may be confirmed to him and his monastery of Bordeseya, the Prior refers the matter to the Earl.

Fol. 32. Letter from Richard, Bishop of London, to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester, reciting a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the said Bishop, dated at Mortelake the 3rd of the Ides of April, 1302, commanding him to summon all deans, precentors, chancellors, treasurers, archdeacons, priors of cathedral churches in all dioceses in the province of Canterbury, and other clerics to appear by two proctors for every chapter (Welsh chapters by one), at the New Temple, London, on the morrow of the Ascension, to consult upon divers matters. Dated at Wytham, the 17th of the Kalends of May, 1302.

In like manner the Prior of Worcester commanded the Archdeacons of Gloucester and Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 6th of the Kalends of May, 1302.

Institution of William called le Chamberleyn, priest, to the vicarage of the Blessed Mary before the gate of the Abbey of

¹ See *post*, p. 79 for answer.

² Guy Beauchamp, second Earl of Warwick from 1298—1315.

St. Peter of Gloucester, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester. Dated at Worcester, the 6th of the Ides of May, 1302.

Order for the induction of the same William to the same church by the archdeacon of Gloucester. Dated as above.

Letter from W. de Persora, clerk to J., Prior of Worcester, on behalf of Ralph de Manton, his friend, lately presented by the King to the church of Clyve Episcopi. Dated at York, 10th of March.

Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to John de Daneshurst, asking him to come to Worcester that the Prior may consult with him on certain matters.

Fol. 32*d*. Manumission of Peter de Humultone in the following form, viz :—

Universis Christi fidelibus ad quos præsens scriptum pervenerit Frater J. humilis Prior Wygorniensis Salutem in Domino sempiternam Noverit universitas vestra nos pro nobis et successoribus nostris per magistrum J. de Bradwas manumisisse et ab omni jugo servitutis ad nos vel successores nostros pertinentis absolutum et liberum dimisisse Petrum de Humultone cum tota sequela sua et catallis suis imperpetuum et idem præstito corporali sacramento juravit quod tamquam dampnum vel gravamen ecclesiæ Wygorniensi nobis vel nostris inferet nec inferri permittet pro viribus per se vel per alios quoscumque. Quod si fecerit et super hoc convictus fuerit præsens scriptum omnem virtutem manumissionis amittat Et idem Petrus omni modo careat libertate et in præstinam eo (?) ipso redeat servitutem. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum nostrum apponi fecimus huic scripto Datum Wigorniam vj Idus Aprilis Anno Domini MCCC. secundo.

Letter from Thomas, Abbot of Evesham¹, to the Prior of Worcester. Whereas the King had issued an edict for taxing the goods of temporal and ecclesiastical persons which it is not lawful to pay

¹ John de Brokenhampton, 1282—1316. Gloucester died, to Thomas Newbold, the last Abbot but one, elected in 1491. There was no person named Thomas, Abbot of Evesham from 1255, when Thomas of

on account of the apostolic prohibition, the ordinaries forbidding it and excommunicating those paying, the Abbot asks the Prior for advice on the matter.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Abbot of Eyvesham. The higher prelates and other religious persons of the province of Canterbury having refused to pay the fifteenth to the King, we have hitherto abstained from paying, and intend to abstain until it seems expedient to do otherwise.

Bond by the Prior and Convent of Worcester to N. de Wigornia, clerk, for 20*li*.

The Prior and Convent of Worcester to Francis Neapolion, cardinal of the most holy Roman church and Archdeacon of Worcester, asking for the farm for the Archdeaconry of Worcester, according to the agreement made between the Cardinal and the late brother Thomas. Dated at Worcester, the 4th of the Kalends of May, 1302¹.

Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to master John de Ros, dwelling at the Roman Court. Requesting him to take charge of the affairs of the priory at the Roman Court, Robert de Dounebrugge the proctor of the priory having returned to England. Dated at Worcester, 4th of the Ides of May, 1302².

Manumission of John, son of John le Haute of Doramstone, by W. de Wyk. Dated the 6th of the Nones of March, 1302.

Manumission of William, son of Hereward de Overbur', by Master G. de Northwyke. Dated the Kalends of February, 1303.

Manumission of John, son of William ate Hokes of Grymeley by Alexander de Hodynton. Dated the Nones of January, 1304.

Manumission of Simon de Grymeleya by Master Richard de Alicestr'. Dated the 15th of the Kalends of January, 1304.

¹ See *ante*, pp. 18, 42.

² See *ante*, p. 41.

Manumission of Richard de Monecwode by J. de Dernewell. Dated the 2nd of the Kalends of November, 1305.

Manumission of Simon, son of John Partrich, by W. de Abyndon. Dated the 12th of the Kalends of November, 1306.

Fol. 33. Portion of a writ of *venire facias*.

Writ of *venire facias* to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester for the appearance, before the justices at York, of William, vicar of the church of Almundesbur', executor of the will of Thomas Godman, clerk, to answer Joan, widow of Thomas Godman together with John Wythinon and Henry de Compton, co-executors with the same William, to surrender goods unjustly detained. Dated at York, 12th of February, 30 Edward I.

Writ of *venire facias* to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester for the appearance before the Justices at York, of Simon de Prens, parson of the Church of Tettebiry, clerk, to answer John de Exonia of a plea of debt. Dated at York, 25 January, 30 Edward I.

Licence to Master Adam de Orleton¹, sub-deacon, rector of the church of Wooton next Wyngeswode, to be promoted to deacon's orders by any Bishop of the province of Canterbury, notwithstanding he was beneficed in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 6th of the Kalends of April, 1302.

Grant by the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to Master Gilbert de Middelton, clerk, of a pension of 5 marks to be received until he shall be provided with a benefice. Dated in the chapter of Worcester, the 5th of the Ides of April, 1302.

Licence to Nicholas Colle, acolyte, to be promoted to sub-deacon's orders by any Bishop of the province of Canterbury, notwithstanding he was born in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Kalends of April, 1302.

¹ Probably that "pestilent Ahitophel" who was afterwards Bishop of Hereford and subsequently of Worcester.

Bond by John, Prior, and the Convent of Worcester to Richard de la Lynde, clerk, in *40li.* "of good round and lawful money." Dated in the Chapter House at Worcester, the 2nd of the Kalends of April, 30 Edward I.

Fol. 33*d.* Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Prior of St. Mary of Cirencester, requesting him to exercise the office of penitentiary during the vacancy of the See. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Kalends of April, 1302.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Abbot of Persore, asking the same abbot to send 2 marks by the bearer in the name of a procuracy due (*nomine procuracionis debitæ*). Dated at Grymeleya, the 2nd of the Nones of April, 1302.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Warwick, commanding the same dean to warn the Abbot and Convent of Alcestr' and the Prior and Convent of Stodleya to send their procurations by reason of the visitation either before Sunday on which is sung the office *Quasi modo geniti* or by the bearer, to wit 20*s.* from each of them. Dated at Worcester, the 15th of the Kalends of May, 1302.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Bishop of Hereford¹. The see being vacant and having no bishop, the said Prior prays that the Bishop of Hereford will make and consecrate chrism and oil, and send the same to the said Prior. Dated at Worcester, the 15th of the Kalends of May, 1302.

Letters from Brothers J. de Wyre, Prior of Shrewsbury, Hugh Godmer, sub-prior of Bath, appointed by the Abbots of Westminster and Malmesbury, presidents in the general chapter of the order of St. Benedict in the province of Canterbury², visitors in the diocese of Worcester, to the Prior of Worcester to acquaint him of their intention to visit the Monastery of Worcester on Pridie Kalendas Maii. Dated at Shrewsbury, the 13th of the Kalends of May, 1302.

Certificate of the receipt of the above letter.

¹ Richard Swinfield, 1283—1316.

² See *ante*, p. 35.

Fol. 34. Writ of *venire facias* for the appearance of the Prior of Brimfeld in respect of debts due to the Exchequer. Dated at York, the 20th of February, 30 Edward I.

Letter from S., Bishop of Salisbury¹, to J., Prior of Worcester, granting the Prior's request to have Master Peter de Pyreton, the Bishop's clerk, as counsel at the election of the Bishop of Worcester, but as to Master William de Foderynggeye, another of the Bishop's clerks, he had left before the Prior's letters arrived and was not returned. Dated at Remnesbur', the 4th of the Ides of March².

Letter from J., Prior of Worcester, to J., Bishop of Llandaff. Asking the Bishop to celebrate ordinations at Worcester on Saturday, on which is sung *Scientes*³.

Letter from John, Bishop of Llandaff, to the Prior of Worcester, replying that he will do what they ask, as he promised by word of mouth, if it can be done without prejudice to any one; but the schedule showing the Prior's authority to invite Bishops, which the writer has seen, is not signed, and the Bishop thinks it may be interfering with the rights of the bishop to be elected. Dated the 13th of the Kalends of April (faded).

Letters of credence from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester for Master Gilbert de Midelton.

Appointment of Master Wlstane de Wigornia⁴ sequestrator of the diocese of Worcester during the vacancy. Dated at Widindon, the 13th of the Kalends of April, 1301.

34*d*. [At the head of this page is—Incipit Registrum anno Domini MCCC. secundo incipiente tempore Adæ de Cyrencestria.]

Inspeximus by John, Prior, and the Convent of Worcester of a confirmation dated at Alnechirche, on the 18th of the Kalends of February, 1301, by Godfrey, Bishop of Worcester, of the appropriation by Guy de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, of the church

¹ Simon of Ghent, 1297—1315.

² See *ante*, p. 74.

³ For previous correspondence, see *ante*, pp. 15, 16, 18.

⁴ A Monk of Worcester House, now vicar of Daylesford, p. 27.

of Wykewane with the chapel of Morcote adjoining to the Abbot and monks of Bordesley. Dated at Worcester, the 7th of the Kalends of April, 1302.

Writ of *feri facias de bonis ecclesiasticis* to raise 6 marks from the goods of John de Ebroicis¹, parson of the church of Tredinton, clerk, and render the same to Masters Ralph de Leycestr' and Thomas de Southam for their damages by reason of the unjust detention of their beasts. Dated at York, 8th of February, 30 Edward I.

Similar writ to raise 40*li.* on the same goods and render the same as above.

VACANCY ON DEATH OF WILLIAM GINSBOROUGH, 1307, TO
DEATH OF WALTER REYNOLDS, 1308.

Fol. 35. A portion of a deed of appointment [by the Archbishop of Canterbury] of the Prior of Worcester as his official in the city and diocese of Worcester during the vacancy of the see by the death of William de Geynesburgh², according to the composition made between Boniface, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Prior and Chapter of Worcester. Dated at London, the 7th of the Ides of October, 1307.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Gloucester, his official, that by virtue of the composition made between Boniface, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Chapter of the same Church, on the one part, and the Prior and Chapter of Worcester on the other (the see of Worcester being vacant by the death of William de Geynesburgh), to cite all abbots, priors, deans, provosts, preceptors, portioners, masters of monasteries, collegiate churches, and hospitals of the said archdeaconry, and also all rectors of churches, vicars, chaplains of parishes and other rural chaplains whomsoever, celebrating in the archdeaconry of Gloucester, as well exempt from archidiaconal jurisdiction as not exempt, that is to say, every abbot, prior, and the others of the

¹ See *ante*, pp. 15, 80.

² William Gainsborough died at Neauvais, 13 Cal. Oct., 1307.

deaneries of Bristol, Button, and Haukesbur', to appear before the Prior or his deputy in the conventual church of St. Augustine of Bristol on Tuesday next before the Feast of the Apostles St. Simon and St. Jude; those of the deaneries of Cyrencestr', Stenhus, and Fayreford in the conventual church of Cyrencestr', on Thursday before the same feast; those of the deaneries of Compeden, Stowe, and Wynhecumbe in the conventual church of Winchcumb, on Friday before the said feast; and also those of the deaneries of Gloucester and Duresleye in the church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester on Monday after the said feast, to give to the Prior of Worcester canonical obedience, and hear, answer, and fulfil the Prior's canonical commands; and to cite the executors of wills, not yet proved, to appear at the next consistory court of Gloucester and Bristol to prove the wills of the deceased. Also to enjoin all rectors, vicars, and other priests of the aforesaid archdeaconry to say masses of the dead for the late Bishop. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Ides of October, 1307.

Commission by the Prior of Worcester to brother J. de Sancto Briavell, monk of Worcester, Master Robert de Sutton, clerk, to hear causes in the consistory courts and without, and to correct crimes and defaults. Dated at Worcester, the 17th of the Kalends of November, 1307.

Fol. 35*d*. Commission by the Prior of Worcester to Master Robert de Sutton to perform the office of sequestrator in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 4th of the Nones of October.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Warwick and Kynnton, and all rectors and vicars in the same deaneries. Having appointed William de Northpidele, the bearer, apparitor in the said deaneries, he enjoins them to give the said William assistance when he comes to them. Dated at Worcester.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Bristol. Whereas the same Prior has learnt that the archdeacon of Gloucester has removed John, late apparitor of Bristol, without his knowledge

or order, and made Roger de Somerford, apparitor of the said deanery, in contempt and scandal of the Prior's jurisdiction, wherefore the said Prior has suspended the said Roger from the office of apparitor in the same deanery, and restored the same John to that office. Dated at Worcester, the 5th of the Ides of January, 1307.

Appointment by Thomas¹, abbot of Theukesbur', of Master William de Bonham and Henry de la Cone, his proctors. Dated at Tenkesbury, the 4th of the Ides of December, 1307.

Fol. 36. Order from the administrators of the archbishopric of Canterbury to the official of the late Bishop of Worcester to seize the goods of the said Bishop until it appears if the said Bishop has left a will. Dated at London, the Feast of St. Michael in September, 1307.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Blockeleye to sequester the goods of the late Bishop of Worcester for dilapidations and other debts due to the Church, as the Executor of the will of the same Bishop lives in parts remote from the Diocese of Worcester. Dated at Grimeleye, the 4th of the Kalends of November, 1307.

Writ from Edward I. to the Prior of Worcester. Whereas the executors of the will of W., late Bishop of Worcester, have given security for the debts of the said Bishop owing to the Crown, free administration of the goods of the said Bishop has been given to the executors. And whereas the King, understanding that the Prior has unjustly sequestered the goods of the same Bishop, commands the said Prior to release the same sequestration. Dated 15 November, 1 Edward II.

Order by William Testa, archdeacon of Arenns, and Peter Almanini, canon of Bordeaux, chaplains and nuncii of the Pope, and administrators of the Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester, to release the sequestration of the goods of the late Bishop of Worcester under pain of excommunication. Dated at London, Wednesday after the Feast of St. Martin in winter, 1307.

¹ Thomas de Kempsey, 1282—1328.

Fol. 36*d*. Order by the Prior of Worcester to [blank] to permit the executors of the will of W., late Bishop of Worcester, to administer the goods of the said Bishop released from sequestration.

Letter from [the Prior of Worcester?] to [blank], asking advice whether, notwithstanding that the sequestration of the goods of W., late Bishop of Worcester, was to be released by order of the King and the keeper of the spiritualities of the archbishopric of Canterbury; there was not sufficient cause to impose sequestration.

Order by William Testa, archdeacon of Arenns, chaplain of the Pope in the church of Comminges, to the Prior of Worcester, to warn all ecclesiastical, religious, and secular persons and chapters, colleges and convents exempt and not exempt in the city and diocese of Worcester, under pain of interdict and excommunication, to pay the proxies due to the same William, as papal nuncio, before the Feast of St. Andrew. Dated at London, the 6th of the Ides of October, 1307.

Fol. 37. Certificate by the Prior of Worcester of the receipt of the above order. Dated at Worcester, the 16th of the Kalends of December, 1307.

The institutions of clerks commenced [here] for the said time.

Presentation by the King, by reason of the wardship of the heir of Giles de Berkeleye, of Henry de Ingelby to the church of Cudburley, vacant by the idiotcy of John Walraund. Dated at Nottingham, 3 October, 1 Edward II.

Letter of inquisition from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Gloucester, to inquire of the condition, conversation, order, birth, and age of the person presented, as above. Dated at Worcester, the 4th of the Ides of October, 1307.

Fol. 37*d*. Letters of inquisition to the same, as to Adam de Cortlyngham, clerk, presented to the church of Bradewell by the Abbot and Convent of Evesham.

Letters of inquisition to the same, as to Sir Simon de Cadinton, priest, presented to the church of Salewarp by G. de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick.

Prohibition by the King to the Prior of Worcester against admitting any one to the church of Cudburleye, the right to the advowson whereof is in dispute between the Crown and Alice widow of Walter de Helion. Dated at Nottingham, 6 October, 1 Edward II.

Letter from the Bishop of Chichester¹ to the Prior of Worcester, asking as a favour that he will admit by proxy Henry de Ingelby, clerk, presented by the king to the church of Cudburleye, the presentation to the same church having been adjudged to belong to the Crown for this time. Dated at London, 5 December, 1307.

Institution of Henry de Ingelby, rector of the church of Cudburleye, by William de Mukelfeld, his proctor. Dated at Worcester the 3rd of the Ides of December, 1307.

Form of letter of institution.

Writ by the Prior of Worcester to the archdeacon of Gloucester to induct Henry de Ingelby into the church of Cudburleye. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Ides of December, 1307.

Fol. 38. Memorandum, that on the 5th of the Kalends of November, 1307, William de Coldecote, clerk, was admitted to the church of Coldaston, vacant by the death of Master Nicholas de Berwyk, the last minister, at the presentation of the Prior and convent of Bath, and was canonically instituted.

Memorandum, that on the Ides of November, 1307, William Foukes, priest, was admitted to the church of Witleye, vacant by the death of Hugh de Caldewall, at the presentation of Walter de Kokeseye, the true patron, and was instituted and had letters of institution and induction.

¹ John of Langton, 1305—1337.

Memorandum, that on the Ides of November, 1307, Nicholas Fraunceys was admitted to the church of Doynton, vacant by the resignation of master John Somery, the last rector, at the presentation of the Prior and convent of Lanthony next Gloucester, and was instituted, &c.

Memorandum, that on the 9th of the Kalends of December, 1307, John de Bourton, clerk and sub-deacon, was admitted to the church of Newinton upon Coteswold, by proxy, at the presentation of King Edward, by reason of the vacancy of the Bishopric of Worcester, and had institution, &c.

Letters of institution by John, Prior of Worcester, to John de Bourton, sub-deacon, as rector of the church of Newynton upon Coteswold¹, in the Diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 9th of the Kalends of December, 1307.

Memorandum, that on the 4th of the Kalends of December, 1307, Robert de Fauwelor, priest, was admitted to the church of Frethorn, vacant by the death of William de Pesye, the last rector, at the presentation of Geoffrey de Frethorn, the patron, and was instituted, &c.

Memorandum, that on the 2nd of the Kalends of December, 1307, William de Witteleye, clerk, was admitted to the chapel of Stowelle, vacant by the death of Walter de Leth, the last rector, at the presentation of Adam Martel (?), and was instituted, &c.

Memorandum, that on the 2nd of the Ides of December, 1307, John de Wycumbe, clerk, was admitted to the chapel of the Blessed Katherine in Campeden, vacant by the death of Robert le Walcar', the last minister, at the presentation of Sir William de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, and was instituted, &c.

Memorandum, that on the 10th of the Kalends of January, 1307[-8], Simon de Cadinton, priest, was admitted to the church of Salewarp, vacant by the resignation of John de Dunclent, the last rector, at the presentation of the Earl of Warwick, and was instituted, &c.

¹ See *ante*, pp. 12, 27, 28, 73.

Memorandum, that on the 15th of the Kalends of February, 1307, Thomas Talebot, clerk, was admitted to the church of Tonerworth, vacant by the death of Nicholas le Botiler, the last rector, at the presentation of the Prior and Convent of Kenilleworth, the true patrons, according to the form of a composition between the ancestors of Sir Guy de Bello Campo and the same religious men, and was instituted, &c.

Memorandum, that on the 2nd of the Ides of February, 1307, Master William de Bonham, clerk, was admitted to the church of Estlecch, vacant by the death of Master Henry de Craneburn, the last rector, at the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Theukesbur', and was instituted, &c.

Fol. 38*d*. Resignation of the church of Pillardinton by Henry de Hampton, the rector. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Nones of October, 1307.

Memorandum, that on the 10th of the Kalends of March, 1307[-8], Adam de Cortlingstok, clerk, was admitted to the church of Bradewell, vacant by the death of Adam de Blockel', the last rector, at the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Evesham, and was instituted, &c.

Memorandum, that on the 3rd of the Ides of March, 1307[-8], Thomas Deivyle¹, clerk, was admitted to the church of Gunelode, judicially decreed vacant, at the presentation of Richard Deivyle, his father, and was instituted, &c.

Memorandum, that on the 8th of the Ides of March, 1307[-8], James de Warr', clerk, was admitted to the church of Pillardinton, vacant by the resignation of Master Henry de Hampton, the last rector, at the presentation of John de Hercy, the patron, by his proctor, Master Richard le Bachiler, and was instituted, &c.

Memorandum, that on the 16th of the Kalends of April, in the same year, Master Walter le Stokes, clerk, was admitted to the church of Welneford, vacant by the death of Master J. de Norton, the last rector, at the presentation of the Prior of Durhurst, and was instituted, &c.

¹ See *post*, p. 96.

Memorandum, that on the 11th of the Kalends of April, in the same year, the Prior of Worcester gave to Robert de Binynton, chaplain, the vicarage of the church of Claverdon, vacant by the death of Sir Richard de Stokes, the last vicar, by reason of the farm of the archdeaconry being in the hands of the Prior, and he had letters of institution.

Form of licence of absence for study.

Licence to Raymond de Mora, sub-deacon, rector of the church of Seynesbur', to be absent from his church for 5 years for study, and to let to farm his church during that time, the term of absence granted him by the late Bishop of Worcester having expired.

Another form of licence of absence for study.

Licence to Reginald le Porter, deacon, rector of the church of Bourton, to receive ordination as a priest from any Bishop of the Province of Canterbury, notwithstanding he was born and beneficed in the Diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 12th of the Kalends of January, 1307[-8].

Fol. 39. Licence to Eadmund, called Somori, of Bishampton, deacon, to receive ordination as a priest from any Bishop of the Province of Canterbury, notwithstanding he was born in the Diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 13th of the Kalends of January, 1307[-8].

Form of licence for ordination by any Bishop, notwithstanding the holding of a benefice in the Diocese of Worcester.

Licence to Master J. de Walcote, clerk, of the Diocese of Worcester, to receive ordination as a priest from any Bishop of the Apostolic Sec, notwithstanding he was born in the Diocese of Worcester.

Letters testimonial for Robert de Saundeby, who had obtained deacon's orders under letters dimissory of W., Archbishop of York.

Letters testimonial that Master J. de Walcote, clerk, of the Diocese of Worcester, is a free, lawful, and obedient man, of good, honest, and laudable conversation.

Letters testimonial for Wlstan de Brauncefford, clerk¹, son of John de Brauncefford, formerly citizen of Worcester.

Letters testimonial for W. de B., chaplain.

Form of letters dimissory for G. de Maddel', sub-prior of Worcester, and A., B., C., D., monks of Worcester.

Letters dimissory, addressed to the Abbot of Pershore, for brothers William le Porter, Henry de Besford, Henry de Staunton, and Andrew de Leg, sub-deacons and monks of Worcester, to receive ordination as deacons from any Bishop of the Province of Canterbury, notwithstanding they are professed in the monastery of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Ides of December, 1307

Letters dimissory, addressed to the abbot of Kyngeswode, for brothers Ralph de Tettebur', Richard de Lamicton, to receive priest's orders, Walter de Dounton, to receive deacon's orders, and Stephen de Abindon, to receive sub-deacon's orders (all monks of Worcester) from any Bishop of the Province of Canterbury. Dated at Worcester, the 6th of the Kalends of March, 1307[-8].

Commission for the Abbot of Kyng' to receive benediction from any Bishop of the Province of Canterbury, notwithstanding his monastery is in the Diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 6th of the Kalends of March, 1307[-8].

Letters dimissory for John de Arleya, deacon, to receive priest's orders from any Bishop of the Province of Canterbury, notwithstanding he was born in the Diocese of Worcester.

Letters dimissory for Adam de Radenore, acolyte, to receive sub-deacon's orders from any Bishop of the Province of Canterbury,

¹ Afterwards Prior of Worcester.

notwithstanding he was domiciled in the Diocese of Worcester, as asserted.

Form of licence of absence for one setting out for Rome.

Another form of letters testimonial.

Letters testimonial for Nicholas, son of Robert de Frankeleye, citizen of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Kalends of December, 1308.

Letter from J., Prior of Worcester, to Master Benedict de Paston, agent of Walter¹, Bishop of Worcester, presenting to him Nicholas atte Zales of Humelton, acolyte, to the title of a corrody of King John, the collation whereof belongs to the Prior's office, and praying that the same Nicholas may be promoted to sub-deacon's orders. Dated at Worcester, the 14th of the Kalends of June, 1309.

Fol. 40. Letters testimonial for Richard de Bruton, clerk, son and heir of Reginald de Bruton, citizen of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 9th of the Kalends of March, 1308.

Certificate that William de Stour of Kyderminstr', a priest of the diocese of Worcester, was in 1292 ordained to the order of sub-deacon in the cathedral of Worcester by Godfrey, late Bishop of Worcester, and in 1301 ordained deacon at Cheddeworth, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, as appears in the Register of the lord Godfrey. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Ides of April, 1308.

Order to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to pronounce in every parish church of the Diocese of Worcester the sentence of the greater excommunication against certain sons of iniquity who laid violent hands on certain clerks in the High Street of Worcester, and afterwards discredited the sentence of the greater excommunication, and also against all those consenting to the same, and to inquire as to their names.

Order to the Dean of Christianity of Gloucester to pronounce in every church of his deanery sentence of the greater excommunication, according to the canon of the Holy Fathers, against those

¹ Walter Reynolds.

who defamed William de Plumtre, the names of whom he is ignorant, and to inquire of the names of the delinquents. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Ides of December, 1307.

Letters of absolution granted by brother John de Aston, monk and pœnitentiary in the Church of Worcester, to Thomas and David, sons of David de Brechenok, clerks of the Diocese of St. David's, from the canonical sentence, if they have incurred it, by fighting when in a temper at Gloucester. The said brother John enjoins salutary punishment.

Fol. 40*d*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to W., Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, his vicar, official or commissary general. In a matrimonial cause, moved in the consistory at Worcester, between Margaret de Twychene, complainant, and Richard, son of John Allot of Wych, a day was given to the parties to hear definitive sentence, at which time the said Richard proposed an exception in the form of right, in which it appeared that the said Margaret, long before all contract of marriage, if any there was, between her and the said Richard, was contracted *per verba de præsentis* with a certain Simon, called le Cok of Hornsworth, dwelling in parts of Lichfield; by pretext of which exception the commissary would not proceed to sentence. Wherefore the Prior prays that the same Simon may be cited to appear before him or his commissary in the church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick on the first law-day after the first Sunday in Lent. Dated at Worcester, the 13th of the Kalends of March, 1307.

Letters of absolution by the Prior of Worcester to John, rector of the church of St. James of Warwick, for having clandestinely solemnized marriage, without calling banns, between Roger Thorald, of the parish of St. Peter of Warwick, and Margaret Bisset, of the parish of St. Laurence, of the same vill.

Letters of absolution by the Prior of Worcester to John, chaplain of the parish church of Maderesfeld, for clandestinely solemnizing matrimony between Richard de Clifheye and Joan de Eldresfeld.

Fol. 41. Letter from Peter, Bishop of Sabina, to the Prior of Worcester. Whereas Henry de Warwyk, clerk, of the Diocese of Worcester, besought the said Bishop that notwithstanding his defect of birth, not being born in wedlock, he may be promoted to all orders, and obtain an ecclesiastical benefice, and have cure of souls. The Bishop commits the matter to the Prior to grant dispensation, if he sees it expedient. Dated at London, the Nones of July, in the 2nd year of the Pontificate of Pope Clement.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to inquire as to the fitness of the said Henry de Warwyk to receive dispensation. Dated at Worcester, the 16th of the Kalends of August, 1307.

Interrogatories upon which persons are to be examined :—

If they have known Henry de Warr', clerk?

If they have known the father and mother of the same?

From what time they have known them?

What are the names of the father and mother?

Whether they are within any degree of consanguinity or affinity?

Whether the same father and mother were unmarried at the time of the begetting of the same?

From what time they had known the same Henry?

Whether he is of good life and honest conversation, an imitator of his paternal incontinence, modest and quiet, and also if otherwise, he well merits the grace of dispensation?

How they knew the premises?

Whether they deposed to the premises being instructed or led by entreaty or corrupted by a price?

Certificate from the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester that he has made inquisition in accordance with the Prior's letter. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Kalends of August.

Letters of dispensation on account of defect of birth by the Prior of Worcester for Henry de Warwyk, clerk. The Prior upon diligent inquiry found that the aforesaid Henry de Warr', clerk, was the child of Robert de Warr', an unmarried man, and Margaret de Wappingbur', an unmarried woman, and that during his youth he

bore himself well and chastly, and was docile, of honest conversation, and by no means an imitator of his paternal incontinence. Dated the 5th of the Kalends of July, 1307.

Fol. 41*d*. Memorandum, that on the 10th of the Kalends of April, 1307, the Prior of Worcester, by authority of letters from P., Bishop of Sabina, granted dispensation on account of defect of birth to John de Honynton, clerk.

Memorandum, that on the Kalends of February, in the same year, the Prior of Worcester, by like authority, granted dispensation, on account of defect of birth, to Adam de Newynton, acolyte.

Memorandum, that later in the same year the Prior of Worcester, by authority of letters from Peter, Bishop of Sabina, papal nuncio, dated at London the Nones of July, in the 5th year of the Pontificate of Pope Clement the Fifth, granted dispensation on account of defect of birth to brother Adam de Honnburne, canon, Prior of Stodley, the child of a deacon and an unmarried woman, who before his entry into religious life caused himself to be promoted to all orders and ministered in the same.

Examination of Witnesses as to the lawful age of Thomas Deyvile¹, presented to the church of Gunelod, made in the cathedral church of Worcester the 3rd of the Ides of March, 1307. Richard Gunelode, 40 years and more, deposed that the said Thomas was 25 years of age on the feast of St. Martin last past, and he so deposed because he was present at the baptism of the said Thomas. Robert, called de Cerl, of Gunelod, 40 years of age, deposed that he heard from many that the said Thomas was 25 years of age and more, and particularly from Richard le Cerl, of Gunelod, who had a son John, by name, of the same age.

Fol. 42. Commission to the Deans of Worcester and Gloucester to inquire after, receive, and detain in safe custody all clerks charged before the justices of gaol delivery in the counties of Worcester and Gloucester².

¹ See *ante*, p. 86.

² *Ibid.*, p. 6.

Letter from J., Prior of Worcester, to the Justices for gaol delivery in the counties of Worcester and Gloucester, acquainting them with the above appointment¹.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester. Whereas Richard Blac of Wych, chaplain, being charged with the crime of theft and other crimes, before the Justices of the King, and by a lay judgment was condemned to death, and at length delivered to the prison of the Bishop of Worcester, the Prior, believing, by the testimony of many, the innocence of the said Richard, ordered that the said Richard be purged, and required the same Archdeacon publicly to proclaim that if any opposed the purgation of the same Richard that he be cited to appear before the Prior or his deputy in the church of Worcester on Tuesday after the feast of St. Nicholas the Archbishop. Dated at Worcester, the 4th of the Nones of November, 1307.

Act of purgation for Richard Blac of Wych, chaplain, proclamation having been made and no one opposing the same purgation. Dated the 3rd of the Ides of December, 1307.

Names of the compurgators. The rectors of the churches of All Saints, St. Peter the Great, St. Andrew, St. Alban, St. Michael, St. Peter the Little, of Pupplinton, and Tyberton, the vicars of Duderhull, Croule; and John Wale, Simon de Timberdene, John Mose, Thomas Blac, Hugh de Coderugg, Richard Tyrol, John Harre, Richard de Sancto Johanne, William de Exonia, chaplain.

Fol. 42d. The sentence of purgation for Richard, called Blac, of Wych.

Another form of the same.

Memorandum, that on the 4th of the Nones of November, letters of proclamation were issued throughout the Archdeaconries of Worcester and Gloucester for those who opposed the purgation of John de Cromhale of Hwitenhurst, imprisoned for the crime of theft, to appear at a certain day and place.

¹ See a like letter on p. 6.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to the Prior of St. Peter of Gloucester, the precentor of the church of Worcester, and Master Robert de Sutton, clerk, to receive the purgation of John de Cromhale, of Hwitenhurst, clerk. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Ides of December, 1307.

Memorandum, that on Thursday after the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Mary the Virgin the said John purged himself in the church of the Blessed Nicholas of Gloucester.

Memorandum, that on the 4th of the Kalends of February, letters of proclamation were issued throughout the archdeaconries of Worcester and Gloucester for those who opposed the purgation of John le Botiler of Fikenhampton, clerk, imprisoned for the crime of theft, homicide, burning of houses, and other things, to appear on Tuesday after the feast of the Deposition of St. Oswald before the Prior or his commissary in the cathedral church of Worcester.

Commission by the Prior of Worcester to brother Gilbert de Madd', sub-prior of Worcester, and John de Stratford, monk of Worcester, and Masters Simon de Wonecote and Reginald de Heyton, clerks, to receive the purgation of John le Botiler. Dated at Worcester, the 5th of the Nones of March, 1307.

Acts before brothers G. de Madd' and the other commissaries, about the matter of the purgation of John le Botiler. On Tuesday after the feast of SS. Perpetua and Felicitas, 1307, the said commissaries were not certified to the full of the proclamation, therefore Wednesday after the feast of St. Gregory was appointed to the said John to obtain full certificate of the proclamation and to make purgation. On which day the commissaries—being certified to the full as to proclamation having been solemnly made in the church, and at the doors of the church, and at the steps of the cemetery, that if any wished to oppose the purgation they were to appear before the said commissaries, and no one appearing, admitted the same John to purgation.

Sentence of purgation for John le Botiler of Fikenhampton.

Fol. 43*d*. Memorandum, that on the 4th of the Nones of November proclamations were issued through the archdeaonrics of Worcester and Gloucester that if any one wished to propose anything against the purgation of Henry Waldyeue, clerk, indicted by secular and lay persons of homicide, robbery, &c., to appear on Tuesday after the feast of St. Nicholas the archbishop in the cathedral church of Worcester before the prior. On which day, certificate of the proclamation having been made, there appeared a certain man who took exception to the purgation of the said Henry because it was notorious that the said Henry had committed the crime of homicide, which exception being examined and the proposer thereof being deficient in proof of the notoriety of the said crime, and also proclamation being made if there were any others who had any objection, the said clerk was purged in form of right.

Form of citation of the executors of a will to appear and render an account of their administration.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Christianity of Warwick. Whereas the Prior has heard that Henry, called le Warner, of the parish of Thoneworth, lately died leaving much movable property, which came to the hands of divers persons who have not disposed of the same according to the will of the deceased, the same Prior commands the said Dean to inquire if there are any Executors, and as to those who have administered the same goods, and cite them to appear before the Prior or his commissary in the cathedral church of Worcester to make answer upon certain articles at the promotion of Emma le Warner, Sister German of the said deceased. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Kalends of December, 1307.

Fol. 44. Appointment by Amice de Hacche, widow of Sir Eustace de Hacche, knight, deceased, executor of the will of the said Eustace, of Thomas de la Forde, her co-executor, as her proctor, to make an inventory of the goods of her late husband in the Dioceses of Lincoln and Worcester. The will of the said Eustace was proved before the Archdeacon of London, the testator having died in London. Dated at London, Sunday the feast of St. Silvester, 1307.

Articles issued by Henry de la Lee and Richard de Alyncestr', commissaries of the Prior of Worcester, against John de Feckenham, John Lony, Richard Shep, and Alina, widow of John le Carecter, Executors of the will of the same John le Carecter, that they refuse to execute the said Will, and detain the goods of the deceased.

Form of letters of acquittance from the administration of a will.

Fol. 44*d*. Letters of acquittance granted on account of poverty by the Prior of Worcester to Emma, widow of Nicholas le Hopare, citizen of Worcester, from rendering an account of the goods of her late husband who died intestate.

Memorandum, that on Sunday before the feast of the Annunciation of our Lady, 1307, Helen, daughter of William de Ryons of Gloucester, made profession in this manner. *Ego, soror Helena, promitto stabilitatem et conversionem morum meorum et obedientiam, secundum regulam Sancti Benedicti, coram Deo et Sanctis ejus et domina Agnete, priorissa in hoc monasterio, quod constructum est in honore Beatæ Mariæ Magdalenæ; in præsentia domini Johannis, Prioris ecclesiæ cathedralis Wigorniensis, auctoritate curiæ Cantuariensis officialis et administratoris spiritualium in civitate et diocese Wygornienne, Sede vacante, ita quod per hoc non sim arcata ab esu carniū abstinere.* Having said which, she subscribed the schedule containing the aforesaid profession so * *

Memorandum, that on the 5th of the Kalends of November in the same year, Margaret, daughter of Sir Hugh le Fizeir, made profession in the same monastery and professed and subscribed as above.

Letter from Pope Clement to R., Archbishop of Canterbury. That inclining to the petition of the Archbishop and being unwilling to impede him in his office at the King's coronation, the Pope revoked all letters which he (the Pope) may have directed to any one touching the same matter. Dated at Poitiers (*Pictavis*), the 11th of the Kalends of February, 3 Pont.

Letter from Pope Clement to W. Testa, archdeacon of Arenns, chaplain in the church of Comminges, and Peter Almamui, canon, chaplain of the church of Bordeaux. Whereas the pope for certain causes suspended Robert¹, Archbishop of Canterbury, from administering the spiritualities and temporalities of the church of Canterbury, he has now restored the same archbishop to the administration of the same. Dated at Poitiers, the 11th of the Kalends of February, 3 Pont.

Bull of Pope Clement to Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, restoring to him the administration of the spiritualities and temporalities of the Church of Canterbury.

Appointment by Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, of H., Prior of Canterbury, as vicar general in the Diocese and Province of Canterbury. Dated at Poitiers, the 5th of the Kalends of February, 1307. Certificate of the Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, attached thereto. Dated at London, the 14th of the Kalends of March, 1307.

Appointment by Henry², Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, vicar general of the Archbishop of Canterbury, of the Prior of Worcester as his official in the city and Diocese of Worcester, during the vacancy of the see, according to the composition made between Boniface, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, and the prior and chapter of Worcester. Dated at London, the 15th of the Kalends of March, 1307.

Form of letter deputing a priest to undertake the cure of a parish, the rector whereof (who gives his consent) being so weak in body and suffering from an incurable complaint, that he cannot undertake the cure of the said church; with an injunction to take an inventory of all the goods of the said rector.

Form of letter by the Prior of Worcester to the Sequestrator to inquire as to the condition of a rector who is reputed to have neglected his cure, and converted the goods of his church to voluptuous uses.

¹ Robert Winchelsey, 1294—1308.

² Henry de Estria, 1285—1331.

Fol. 45*d*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the King asking that he will cause to be removed from the parish church of W. certain laymen who have entered it with force and arms, whereby the spiritual offices of the church cannot be exercised.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the King, praying that he will stretch forth his right hand of majesty to restrain the malice of W. de B., who, on account of contumacy, has incurred sentence of the greater excommunication.

Form of appointment of a steward of the manors in the hundred of Oswaldeslowe.

Form of appointment of a bailiff of lands of the Bishopric.

Form of appointment of a messenger to carry letters.

Fol. 46. Proceedings upon the Election of Brother Adam de Brockenebarewe, elected abbot of Cirencestr' by the Prior and Convent of the same place, Anno Domini 1307, and confirmed by the Prior of Worcester, the see being vacant.

Proclamation by the Prior and Convent of the monastery of St. Mary of Cyrencestr', in the Diocese of Worcester, that Henry, then late abbot, being dead and his body buried, that being assembled in their chapter-house on Sunday after the feast of All Souls, 1307, to treat of a day of election of a future abbot, it was agreed by all to meet on the day of St. Brice the bishop and confessor to treat of the election aforesaid.

Declaration by the Prior and Convent of St. Mary of Cyrencester, that upon the day of St. Brice the bishop and confessor, 1307, all being assembled in their chapter who ought, would, and could be present to treat of the election of an abbot, and warning having been given for any who were excommunicated, suspended, or interdicted to retire, the Prior asked by what form they would proceed to elect an abbot, whereupon they all chose the form of scrutiny, and elected as scrutators, William de Cokham, sub-prior, Nicholas de Duncastre, precentor, and Thomas de Clere, infirmarer.

Power given by the Prior and Convent of Cyrencester to Sir William de Cornwell, almoner, to make comparison of the votes.

Declaration by the Prior and Convent of Cyrencestr', that on the day of St. Brice, 1307, it appeared after the comparison of the votes made by Sir William de Cornwell, almoner, that the greater and wiser part of the chapter had given their votes for Sir Adam de Brokenebarwe, chamberlain of the monastery; and the Prior gave special power to the said William de Cornwell to publish the election aforesaid.

Fol. 46*d*. Declaration by the Prior and Convent of Cyrencester of the election and publication of the same, as above.

Consent of the said Adam de Brokenbarewe to his election as abbot of Cyrencester, as above.

Royal assent to the same election. Dated at Langele, 24 Nov., 1 Edw. II.

Letter from the Prior and Convent of Cyrencester to the Prior of Worcester, acquainting him that they have appointed William de Cornwell and Richard de Cherlthon their proctors, to present Adam de Brokenbarwe, chamberlain of their house, whom they have chosen as their abbot and pastor, and to pray for and obtain confirmation of their election and licence to obtain a blessing from any Catholic bishop. Dated at Cyrencester, the 4th of the Kalends of December.

Fol. 47. Decree by Robert, Prior, and the Convent of St. Mary of Cyrencester, addressed to the Prior of Worcester, reciting that whereas Henry, late abbot of Cyrencestr', died on the Feast of All Souls, 1307, and his body having been buried with due reverence, the Prior and Convent assembled in their chapter and appointed a day on which to treat about the election of a new abbot; and upon the day appointed, Mass being completed, they came together in their chapter, and the Prior warned all suspended and interdicted persons and others who ought not to be present to retire, whereupon the business of the election was proceeded with.

And William de Cokham, sub-prior, Nicholas de Denecastre', precentor, and Thomas de Clere, were unanimously selected to inquire the votes of all and reduce them to writing. And they withdrawing themselves to a corner of the chapter-house secretly and one by one inquired the votes of each, whereupon it appeared that Adam de Brokenberg', chamberlain of the monastery, had been chosen, and the election was published by William de Cornwelle, almoner. And afterwards the said elect gave his consent, being unwilling to resist the divine will. The Prior of Cyrencestr' therefore now prays the Prior of Worcester to confirm to the election, and grant a faculty for the same elect to receive the gift of benediction from any Catholic bishop. The document is subscribed by Robert Mendecourt, Prior and Priest of the monastery of St. Mary of Cyrencestr', William de Cokham, sub-prior and priest and one of the scrutators, Nicholas de Doncastre', priest and precentor, one of the scrutators, Thomas de Clere, priest and infirmarer, one of the scrutators, William de Cornwelle, priest and almoner, Robert, priest and sacristan, William de Teynton, priest, Richard de Upton, priest, Roger de Wigornia, priest and hospitaller, John de Brokenberg, priest, Richard de Cherleton, priest and refectorer, Adam de Whiteleye, priest, John de Preston, Andoenus de Abindon, priest, Henry de Lokenham, priest, William Savage, priest, William Alwold, priest, John de Evesham, priest, Henry de Cherleton, canon, Richard de Cheleworth, canon. The scrutiny having been published, Hugh de Chaleford immediately said publicly, I, Hugh de Chaleford, seeing the greater and wiser part of this chapter have agreed to Sir Adam de Brokenberg', do withdraw from the nomination of him to whom I before agreed, and do consent and elect the said Sir Adam. In like manner said Adam de Avenynge, priest and canon, and William Trosbur', priest and canon. Dated in the chapter-house of Cyrencester, on the day of St. Brice, the bishop and confessor.

Fol. 48. On 3rd of the Kalends of December, 1307, there appeared before the Prior of Worcester in the cathedral church of Worcester the abbot-elect of Cyrencestr' and the chapter of Cyrencestr', by brother William de Cornwell, and the said abbot-elect was presented and prayed to be confirmed in that office in form of right, and showed forth the decree of the same election, and other.



instruments touching the same business. The election aforesaid having been proposed by Master Walter de Stratton, as is the custom, and the three witnesses or instructors, to wit, Adam de Whiteleye, William Alwold, and William Savage, brothers of Cyrencester, being admitted, and a commission having been given to Masters Symon de Wynecote and William de Chedesye, clerks of Worcester, to examine the same, Friday after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle was fixed to view the attestations of the said witnesses or instructors. On which day the attestation of the witnesses or instructors being viewed, and publication of the premises being made, Saturday, the morrow, was fixed for a further attendance. On which day, after reciting the business of the preceding day and reading the certificate of the dean of Cyrencestr' of the proclamation of the said elect, as is the custom, in the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Cyrencestr' and in the church of St. John, of the same place, proclamation was made at the doors of the church of Worcester, that if any one wished to oppose or to say anything against the said elect or the form of election, that he do, without delay, appear. And no one appearing, the Prior of Worcester proceeded to make a decree in the said business.

The examination of the witnesses or instructors in the matter of the election of Sir Adam de Brokeneberg' as abbot-elect of Cyrencestr', made in the greater church (*in majori ecclesia*) of Worcester on the Vigil of the Blessed Andrew the Apostle, 1307. Brother Adam de Whiteleye, sworn and examined, deposed for the most part as is set out in the previous documents, but said further that Sir Henry, late Abbot of Cyrencestr', died on All Souls' day, in the evening, and was buried on the Monday following. He describes the election as before recited, and says that after the said election they carried away the elect to the high altar, singing an English hymn, and that there were 40 canons in the convent, of whom 20 of the wiser consented to the election of the said Adam, and afterwards three of the convent who had voted for others directed that their votes be changed for the said elect. Brother William Savage and brother William Alwold, sworn and examined, deposed as the said Adam.

Fol. 49. Certificate by the dean of Christianity of Cyrencestr' that he had received an order from the Prior of Worcester to

make proclamation in the conventual church of Cyrencester, and afterwards in the church of St. John of Cyrencestr', before the clergy and people, that all who wished to oppose the said election were to appear before the Prior or his commissary in the church of Worcester on Saturday next, after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, before the hour of nine of the day. Which order he diligently executed, and he found none to oppose the said election. Dated at Cyrencestr', the Kalends of December.

Renunciation by Richard de Byseleye, canon and cellarer of Cyrencester, one of those named for election as abbot of Cyrencester, of all right he may have to the abbacy, in favour of Adam de Brokenberg'. Read by Master W. de Stratton before the Prior of Worcester on St. Andrew's day, 1307. Masters G. de Rodeberwe, S. de Wynecote, and W. de Chadesleye, clerks, being present.

Acceptation by the Prior of Worcester of the said renunciation.

Sentence of the Prior of Worcester upon the foregoing business. That whereas the power of electing, making, or providing an abbot to the monastery of Cyrencester belongs to him, he declares the aforesaid election to be invalid and void, but after considering the matter with certain prudent men, and understanding that the said Adam de Brokenberg' is a discreet man, esteemed for his learning and virtuous habits and actions, of lawful age, a priest, and born of lawful marriage, professed on the order of the rule of St. Augustine in the said monastery of Cyrencester, and circumspect in spiritual and temporal matters, the said Prior makes and provides him abbot of the said Monastery.

Fol. 50. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the King, praying that the King will show such favour to Adam de Brokenberwe, lately made abbot of Cyrencester, as has been accustomed to be shown to his predecessors. Dated at Worcester, 3 Dec., 1307.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Adam de Brockenberg, abbot of Cirencester, committing to him the administration of the spiritualities of the abbey. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Nones of December, 1307.

1 Licence from John, Prior of Worcester, to Adam de Brok', abbot of Cyreicester, to receive benediction from any bishop of the province of Canterbury.

Form of the profession of the same abbot. *Ego, frater Adam de Brok', abbas monasterii Beatæ Mariæ Cyreicester', ab hac hora in antea fidelis ero ecclesiæ cathedrali Wigorniensis, domino episcopo Wigorniensis, qui pro tempore fuerit, necnon domino priori loci ejusdem, sede vacante, eorumque successoribus canonice in prædictam ecclesiam cathedralem intrantibus, eorumque officialibus, in mandatis canonicis obediam et intendam. Nec ero in consilio vel in facto ut capiantur mala captione, et quod mihi per nuncium vel per litteras manifestabunt ad eorum dampnum nulli pandam jura et consuetudines dictæ ecclesiæ cathedralis, adjutor ero ad defendendum et retinendum, ordine meo, salvo, sic Deus me adjuvet et Sancti sui et Evaungelia sancta Dei.* Attested by the Prior of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Nones of December, 1307.

Injunction by the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Gloucester to install Adam de Brokenberg', whom the said Prior had made Abbot of Cyreicester on the death of Henry Clerbaud, the last abbot, and to enjoin the Prior and Convent of Cyreicester to admit the same Adam with due reverence, and be obedient to him. Dated at Worcester, the 5th of the Ides of December, 1307.

Fol. 50d. Proceedings upon the election of Walter Reginald [Reynolds], the elect, as bishop of the Church of Worcester, on the day of St. Brice, 1307, by the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, and confirmed by Pope Clement the Fifth, the see of the same church being then vacant by the death of Brother William de Geynesburgh, on the day of St. Lambert the Martyr, in the month of September, at Beauvais (*Belvac'*) in Picardy.

Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to the King, that he has sent brothers Gilbert de Madd' and William de London to pray for license to elect a new bishop. Dated at Worcester, Pridie Idus of October, 1307.

License from Edward II. to the Prior and Convent of Worcester to elect a bishop. Dated 17 Oct., 1 Edward II.

Letters of credence from the King to the Prior of Worcester by Sir Hugh le Despenser on behalf of Walter Reynaud, the King's treasurer. Dated at Northampton, 17 Oct., 1 Edward II.

Fol. 51. Memorandum, that a little after the license from the King to elect there came persons to say the Pope had reserved to himself the provision to the See.

Letter from Pope Clement reserving to himself the ordination and provision of a fit person to the See of Worcester. Dated at Cressy (*Crassayum*) in the Diocese of Poretou, the 3rd of the Nones of October, 2 Pont.

Upon hearing which the King, fearing this reservation and inhibition might be made in the future to the prejudice of his right in the English Church, directed his writ to the aforesaid Prior and Convent to hasten the election before the notification of the original reservation, if any there was.

Letter from the King to the Prior and Convent of Worcester. Having granted them license to elect a bishop and hearing that they delay proceeding to an election, whereby grave loss may occur to them and their church, he commands them that without further delay they proceed to the election of their future bishop. Dated at Westminster, 30 Oct., 1 Edward II.

Further letters of credence from the King to the Prior and Convent of Worcester on behalf of Wauter Renaud. Dated at Westminster, 6 Nov., 1 Edward II.

Reasons why the King ordered that the election be hastened.

Fet a remembrer ge avaut le temps le Roys Johan touz ser auncestres, Roys Dengleterre, puy ge la Crestienete fut establie en Engleterre et les Eveschees ordinees donerent, fraunchement les Eveschees saunz nul countredit auxi fraunchement comme les Roys donnent les provendes en lour fraunches chapeles en le temps ge ore

est. Le Roy Johan en son temps dona as les Eglises cathedrales, qe ore sount, fraunche electioun le quel graunt fu conferme par la pape Innocent, mes celuy Roys sauva touz jours a ly et a ses sucessours, Roys Dengleterre, les vacatiouns et retint auxi dever luy et dever eux les patronages des Eveschees et les douns des totes choses en celes vacatiouns, qe pert bien de ceo qil donne les provendes et les Eglises en temps de vacatioun si come fount les eveskes quant le see est plein. Dautre part quant un evesk se lest morir si demaunde le chapitre du Roy cunge de eslyre et quant le electioun si est fete si devient il presente la persone elue au Roy et en ly est syl la voylle accepter ou reteinere ou noun, qar atant de dreit ad le Roy en cel acceptatioun quant a sa persone come ad soun prelat en le processe del electioun confermer ou quasser car puet estre qil seit treitre ou enemy du Roy on du reaume, on qil seit dautre natioun qil ne sachemie entendre la launge et par autres resouns assez le Roy demurt totes voys patroun et tut eiril assigne de sa bone volunte as autres gentz poer de eslire sicome desus est dit, il nadmie hoste de luy chose qe touche sa temporaute et le dreit de sa coronne, dount il semble qe lapostoile ne puet doner les eveschees en Engleterre ne fere reservatioun de si come la chose est de lay patronage si come desus est dit, ne nepuet il doner une simple eglise qe seit de lay patronage mesqe ele voydast en la court et ceo adeste use du temps qe memorie ne court, qar ataunt de dreit il ad en le meindre come en le greindre. Esi lapostoile feist reservatioun des Eveschees ceo serreit endesheritaunce les Roys et en prejudice de sa coronne et en countre le fet le Roy graunt et conferme de fraunche electioun fere. La bulle de la reservatioun qe home dit qe deit estre donee sur leveschee de Wyrecestr ne fust unques notefie ne le originale mustre as moignes de Wyrecestr par nule disturbaunce ne deit estre al election fere. A ceo qil pert estre ceo la bulle qe contient cele reservatioun si contient faus qar la on ele dist qe Guill' nadgueres eveske de Wyrecestre morust a Amyens il morust a Beavoys par qui mort lapostoyle fet cele reservatioun si nule isoit. Esi lapostoile puyse aver son purpos en ce cas jammes electioun ne se fra en nule eglise cathedral en Engleterre et dautre part puyse qela fraunche electioun si est conferme par apostoille autre ne le purramie deffere sil ne face especiale mentioun qe nouncountresteaut le graunt son predecessour et la chose qil vent ordiner se face.

Translation of the above.

Be it remembered that before the time of King John, all his ancestors, kings of England—since the time that Christianity was established in England and the bishoprics ordained—freely conferred bishoprics without any contradiction, as freely as kings give prebends in their free chapels at the present time. King John in his time gave to the cathedral churches which now are, free election, which grant was confirmed by Pope Innocent, but that king always saved to himself and his successors, kings of England, the vacancies, and retained also to him and them the patronages of the bishoprics and the gift of all things during those vacancies, which appears clear, because he gives the prebends and the churches in the time of the vacancy, like the bishops, when the see is filled. On the other hand, when a bishop dies, the chapter asks the king for a *congé d'elire*, and when the election is made then they ought to present the person chosen to the king, and with him it lies to accept or retain him or not, for the king in his own person, dealing with his own prelate, has such right in this acceptance to confirm or quash in the process of election, for he (the elect) may be a traitor or an enemy of the king or of the realm, or he may be of another nation, so that he does not understand the language, and for other sufficient reasons the king always remains patron, and may grant all at his pleasure to other men to elect, as is above said. [But] he has never relinquished anything which concerns his temporality and the right of his crown, wherefore it seems that the pope cannot confer bishoprics in England nor make reservation of them, as the matter concerns lay patronage, as is above said, nor can he give a single church which is of lay patronage, unless it is void, in the court (*en la court*), and this has been the custom from a time to which memory runneth not, for so much right has he in the lesser as in the greater. And if the pope makes reservation of the bishoprics, he will do it to the disinherison of the king and prejudice of his crown, and contrarywise the king grants and confirms [the right] to make free election. The bull of reservation, which is said to be duly given upon the bishopric of Worcester, was never notified, nor the original shown to the monks of Worcester, so it ought to be no hindrance to making the election. Whereas it appears that the bull which contains this reservation must be false, for it says that William, formerly Bishop of Worcester, died at Amiens, [whereas] he died at Beauvais, by

whose death the pope makes this reservation, if there be any. And if the pope have his design in this matter, an election will never be made in any cathedral church in England, and on the other hand, since free election is confirmed by the pope, another [election] can never be made if special mention be not made that, notwithstanding the grant of his predecessors, and¹ the matter which he wishes to ordain may be done.

Fol. 51*d*. Proclamation that the Cathedral Church of Worcester being vacant by the death of brother William de Geynesburch, who died on the 15th of the Kalends of October, 1307, and on the morrow was buried, and the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, on Sunday after the feast of St. Martin in winter, having obtained the royal licence to elect, assembled in the chapter-house of the said Cathedral Church to treat of a day for the election of the future bishop. And by the consent of all present, Monday then next following was thereupon fixed, and letters, dated the 11th of the Ides of November, 1307, were directed to J. de Sancto Briavello, precentor of the said church (as was customary), to cite all those who ought to be called to the election. And on the Ides of November, the said precentor certified that he had executed the above order. On the said Monday, to wit, the Ides of November, the said Prior and Chapter, having celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit, as was accustomed, came together into their chapter in the presence of a notary public and of certain witnesses, and having expounded the Word of God and read the Constitution *Quia propter* and the letters certificatory of the citation, the Prior, for himself and all and singular the Chapter, publicly warned in writing any who was excommunicated, suspended, or interdicted, or who ought not to be present, to retire from the Chapter, permitting the others freely to elect. After which brother Symon de Besford, monk of the same monastery, asserted publicly in the Chapter that he was unwilling to be present at such election, but renounced all right he might have in the same, and immediately retired from the Chapter. Whereupon all agreed to proceed by way of compromise, and to consent to the award of John de Wykes, Prior of the same church, and conferred upon him full power to provide by election from the body of the church or out of that body, a fit religious or secular

¹ sic ? for *that*.

person to the said church, whom they would receive as bishop and pastor. And the Prior, having accepted such power, went to the upper part of the chapter-house, the rest of the Chapter withdrawing towards the door, and with due devotion and thoughtful spirit he deliberated, as by his acts appeared, and as he afterwards intimated to the said notary and others. And at length he chose the Rev. Walter Reginald, canon of St. Paul's, London, and in his own name and the name of the whole Chapter, solemnly elected him bishop and pastor of the Church of Worcester, and published the same election in writing. Of which election all approved, and they departed from the chapter-house to the choir singing "the English hymn" *Te Deum laudamus*, the precentor commencing. And forthwith they caused the same election to be published. Notarial certificate to above, by John de Bradewas, who was present at the same proceedings.

Fol. 53*d*. Appointment of Gilbert de Madd', sub-prior, as proctor of the Prior and Convent of Worcester to acquaint Walter Reginald, canon of St. Paul's, London, with his election to the See of Worcester, and to pray his consent to the same. Dated at Worcester, the 16th of the Kalends of December, 1307.

Form of appointment of a substitute for the above proctor.

Letter from J., Prior, and the Chapter of Worcester to Walter Reginald, canon of St. Paul's, London, intimating that they have elected him bishop, and praying he will consent to the same election.

On Monday, 13 November, 1307, Sir Walter Reginald, canon of St. Paul's, London, was elected bishop of Worcester, at which time the said elect was said to be in London or in parts of the country distant from Worcester a hundred miles or thereabouts. Immediately after, to wit, on the Tuesday and Wednesday following, the Prior and Chapter appointed Gilbert de Madd', sub-prior of their house, their proctor to ask the consent of the said elect, and likewise appointed brothers Richard de Bromwych and John de Sancto Bevell, monks, their instructors, who prepared for the journey. And the same proctor started on his journey on the Thursday following, and making all haste he arrived in London on the Sunday. On

inquiring at the house of the elect he learnt that the said elect was in remote parts with the King, whose treasurer he was, and that he would return on the morrow or within two days, as was believed. On the Wednesday morning following, the said elect having arrived in London the previous night, the same proctor presented the same election and other things touching the same business, humbly praying that the elect would give his consent thereto. The elect replied that he dared not make answer to so arduous a matter over hastily, but immediately he was able he would do so. The next day the proctor returned and asked the aforesaid elect if he would consent, who, with astonished countenance, answered that he had not yet deliberated, but immediately he was able he would answer. On Friday, the morrow, in the morning, the said proctor returned and pointing out the necessities which a church void of a prelate suffered, endeavoured to induce the same elect to consent, who immediately answered that he as yet had not fully deliberated upon a matter so urgent, but that he had time allowed him by right to deliberate and answer, and that the same proctor should return home and in the mean time the elect would deliberate and signify to the same proctor when and where he should return to receive a fit answer. Notarial certificate to the above by John de Bradewas.

Having heard which answer the said proctor returned home, and within fifteen days after, having taken counsel with certain of the household of the elect, came again to ask the assent of the elect, who at length at the instance of the aforesaid proctor consented with devotion.

Fol. 54. Form of consent of the aforementioned elect that he will obey and observe the apostolic commands, and if he should do or consent to the doing of anything to the contrary, he wills that as well the deed as the consent may be had for no deed and no consent; and although it should be said by men of light opinions that Pope Clement the Fifth intended to provide and ordain a pastor to the cathedral church of Worcester, without the election of the Prior and Chapter, yet if there was any reservation by the Pope which the said elect does not believe, it never came to his notice nor that of the said Prior and Chapter either by letters or the report of any trustworthy person. Therefore after mature deliberation and prayer he consents to his election as Bishop to the honour of the

most High and Undivided Trinity and the Blessed and Glorious Virgin Mary, in whose name the church of Worcester is consecrated. Witnesses, Sir Walter de Bedewynde, treasurer of York, Master W. de Cnapton, archdeacon of Norwich, Walter de London, Thomas de Teffont', Sir Walter de Cancia, priest, J. de Bradewas, and J. de Slymdon, notary public.

Fol. 54*d*. Letter from J., Prior, and the Chapter of Worcester to King Edward II., acquainting the King with the election of the said Walter Reginald, whom they present to the King by G. de Madd', their sub-prior, and praying the King to consent to such election, and to direct his letters to the administrators of the Archbishopric of Canterbury thereupon. Dated at Worcester, the 16th of the Kalends of December, 1307.

Letter from the King to the administrators of the Archbishopric of Canterbury, signifying his consent to the election aforesaid.

Letter from the Prior and Convent of Worcester to the Administrators of the Province of Canterbury, acquainting them with the appointment of Gilbert de Madd', sub-prior of Worcester, as their proctor and special messenger to present the elect to them and do whatever else is necessary in the matter of the election. Dated at Worcester, the 16th of the Kalends of December, 1307.

Fol. 55. A like letter acquainting the same administrators with the appointment of J. de Sancto Briavello, precentor of Worcester, and Richard de Bromwych, monk of Worcester, as proctors and special messengers touching the "instruction" of the election. Dated at Worcester, the 16th of the Kalends of December.

Decree of John, Prior, and the Chapter of Worcester, addressed to the Administrators of Christ Church, Canterbury, or either of them, upon the election, setting out all the proceedings in the election as are recited in the previous documents. Certified by J. Wykes, the Prior and priest of Worcester, G. de Madd', priest and sub-prior, Henry de Antioch, priest and monk. Dated at Worcester, the 15th of the Kalends of December.

Note :—That having sought the consent of the said elect, for fear of the reservation and inhibition aforesaid the business of the election was not further proceeded with. The King, however, wrote to the Apostolic See on behalf of the said elect, at whose instance the said elect was made Bishop of Worcester by the Pope.

Papal bull from Pope Clement, addressed to Walter, elect of Worcester, reciting that although the Pope was led to reserve the bishopric of Worcester, intending to provide thereto a fit person, yet as the said elect had refused his consent, expecting to be certified concerning the said reservation, and as the King had written on his behalf and the said elect appearing to be a fit person, the Pope makes him bishop and pastor of the church of Worcester. Dated at Poitiers, Pridie Idus of February, 3 Pont.

Fol. 56*d*. Bull from Pope Clement to the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, setting out that, notwithstanding the reservation, he has made Walter Raynold Bishop of Worcester, and commanding the same Prior and Chapter to be attendant and obedient, and to exhibit due reverence to the same Walter. Dated at Poitiers, the 2nd of the Ides of February, Pont. 3.

Memorandum, that these two bulls were published in the cathedral church of Worcester about the third hour of the day on the 17th of the Kalends of May, 1308.

Fol. 57. Form of letter from J., Prior, and the Chapter of Worcester, to all abbots, priors, preceptors, wardens, and prelates, and to all colleges throughout the archdeaconry of Worcester, reciting that whereas B. (*sic*), late Bishop of Worcester, paying the debt of nature, has left the see vacant, and therefore the said Prior and Chapter have appointed the feast of the Blessed Mary, in whose honour their church is dedicated, to elect a future bishop, and request the said abbots and the others to pray that they may elect a fit person.

57*d*. Proceedings upon the election of the lady Alice de la Flage, as Prioress of Whiston next Worcester, by the sub-prioress and convent of the same place, 1308.

Licence by Walter, elect of Worcester, to the lady Lucy de Solers, sub-prioress of the church of the Blessed Mary Magdalene of Whiston next Worcester, and the convent of the same, to elect a Prioress in the place of the lady Agnes de Bromwych, deceased, which licence had been asked by Richard de Bickerton, their messenger. As the patronage of the said Priory belongs to the Bishop, the licence is granted without prejudice to the church of Worcester, and without making it a custom. Dated at London, the 9th of the Kalends of July, 1308.

Appointment by the sub-prioress and nuns of Whiston of Monday after the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, 1308, for the election of a Prioress.

Fol. 58. Warning by Lucy de Solers, sub-prioress of Whiston, for all who ought not to be present at the election to retire from the Chapter-house. Dated in the Chapter-house of Whiston, on Monday after the feast of the Apostles SS. Peter and Paul, 1308.

Notification by the sub-prioress and convent of Whiston that on Monday after the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, 1308, the nuns assembling in their chapter-house for the election of a future prioress, having expounded the Word of God and devoutly invoked the Grace of the Holy Spirit, with one consent and will, as if by inspiration, they chose the lady Alice de la Flagge, a sister of the house, whom the sub-prioress had first named, which election all approving, they, singing the *Te Deum laudamus*, carried the same Elect weeping to the church, as was the custom, and immediately afterwards brother William de Grimeleye, a monk of Worcester, proclaimed the same election.

Declaration by the sub-prioress and convent of Whiston next Worcester of the election of Alice de la Flagge, as prioress, and of the assent of the same Alice to such election. Dated at Whiston, the 5th of the Nones of July.

Letter from the sub-prioress and convent of Whiston to W., elect of Worcester. Considering the smallness of the possessions of the nuns of Whiston, in his patronage, which compelled the same nuns

formerly to beg, to the scandal of womanhood and discredit of religion, and for the honour of religion and the frailness of the female sex, they pray that he will grant them, by their proctor, licence to elect a new prioress, and will confirm the same election.

Fol. 58*d*. Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to master W. de Burston, praying him to promote the business of the nuns of Whiston, about which the same prior has written fully to the elect.

Letter from J., Prior of Worcester, to J. de Rodberwe, rector of Hertlebur', praying that he will testify to the extreme poverty of the nuns of Whiston to the elect of Worcester, that he may incline to the prayer of their proctor for licence to elect a new prioress, and to commit the examination and confirmation of the same to any of the neighbouring prelates, that so he may relieve the necessity and serve the honour of their order.

Letter from Walter, elect of Worcester, to John, Prior of Worcester, and master John de Rodberwe, commissary-general, committing to them power to receive and examine the election of the prioress of Whiston, to confirm the same according to the canonical institutes, to grant the gift of benediction to the same, and cause her to be installed by who ever ought to install her. Dated at London, the 16th of the Kalends of August, 1308.

Appointment by sister Lucy de Solers, sub-prioress, and the convent of Whiston, of Richard de Bereburn, chaplain, their proctor, to present the elect of Whiston to the elect of Worcester or his commissary. Dated at the chapter-house at Whiston, the 3rd of the Kalends of August, 1308.

Fol. 59. Appointment by the sub-prioress and convent of Whiston of the the lady Alice le Seculer and the lady Isabella de Aston, sisters of the priory, as proctors, to instruct and do all things about the business of the instruction of the election. Dated as above.

Decree touching the election by sister Lucy de Solers, sub-prioress, and the convent of Whiston, addressed to the elect of

Worcester. Reciting that on Monday before the feast of St. Barnabas, 1308, the lady Agnes de Bromwych died, and on the morrow of the same feast her body was buried, and having sought and obtained licence from the lord W., elect of Worcester, their patron, to provide a prioress by election, on the vigil of the Apostles SS. Peter and Paul they assembled in their chapter-house, and appointed Monday then following to treat of the election. On which day, Mass being over, all those who would or could be at the election being present, they unanimously, as if inspired by the Holy Spirit, chose the lady Alice de la Flegge, a woman of discreet life and morals, of lawful age, professed in the nunnery, born in lawful matrimony, prudent in spiritual and temporal matters. Of whose election they all approved, and afterwards, solemnly singing *Te Deum laudamus*, they carried the said elect weeping, resisting as much as she could, and expostulating (*reclamantem*) in a high voice, to the church, as is the custom; and immediately afterwards brother William de Grimeley, monk of Worcester, proclaimed the election. The said elect, after being very often asked (at length, after due deliberation, being unwilling to resist the divine will), on Wednesday after the said feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, consented. The same prioress and nuns therefore pray that the elect of Worcester will confirm their election.

Fol. 59*d*. Acts before the Prior of Worcester and J. de Rodberwe, clerk, commissaries of Walter, bishop elect of Worcester, touching the matter of the election of the lady Alice de la Flegge as prioress of Whiston. That on Wednesday before the Feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, 1308, the nuns of Whiston appeared by Sir Richard de Bereburne, chaplain, their proctor, after reading the appointments of the same commissaries and proctor and also the licence to elect, the same proctor presented the same elect and the election of the same, and exhibited the election propounded by Master Richard de Stanford, clerk, the decree of election and other instruments touching the same business, and humbly prayed that the same elect be confirmed in form of right; and being joined by the two instructrices, to wit, the ladies Alice le Seculer and Isabella de Aston, and also the lady Lucy de Solers, sub-prioress, and having sworn and examined them, the same commissaries decreed that, on the Sunday following, proclamation be made that

if any one wished to oppose the same election they were to appear before the same commissaries on the Monday following about the ninth hour. On which Monday, having read the certificate of the proclamation by the Dean of Worcester, and no one having appeared to oppose the same election, the same commissaries proceeded with the business. [The entry breaks off abruptly.]

Fol. 60. Certificate by the Dean of the Christianity of Worcester of having made proclamation touching the election of the prioress of Whiston, as above. Dated at Hyndelep, the 2nd of the Nones of August.

Fol. 60*d*. Confirmation by John, Prior of Worcester, and J. de Rodberewe, clerk, commissaries of the elect of Worcester, of the election of the Lady Alice de la Flegge, as prioress of Whiston.

Declaration by the same commissaries of the aforesaid confirmation and, in the absence of the said Master J., the Prior completes the business about the benediction and installation and enjoins obedience upon the nuns. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Ides of August, 1308.

Certificate to Walter, bishop elect of Worcester, by the said commissaries, that they have completed the business touching the election of the prioress of Whiston.

Fol. 61. Proceedings upon the Visitation, the see of Worcester being vacant, from the 15th of the Kalends of September, 1307, to the 17th of the Kalends of May following.

On the 19th of the Kalends of January, 1307, the Prior of Worcester sent a letter of warning of his intention to visit the monastery of Worcester, to the sub-prior or president in the chapter, by one of the brothers, in the presence of a notary public and of masters Reginald de Heyton, Simon de Wonecot, and Richard de Alincestr', clerks, and cited the brothers and those who ought to be present at the visitation.

Notice by the Prior of Worcester to the sub-prior and chapter of Worcester, or whomsoever may be president of the same chapter,

of his intention to visit the monastery on Monday after the Feast of Epiphany at the church and chapter-house, and order that they shall admit him with due reverence and honour, and that they recall the absent brothers, if there be any. Dated at Hallowe, on the Feast of St. Lucy the Virgin, 1307.

On which Monday the brothers came together in the chapter-house about the first hour as the Prior required, and one of the brothers preached the Word of God, and the sermon being finished, a certain monk, who presided, showed forth a certificate of the aforesaid order, which being publicly read, the seculars who were present retired, as was the custom (except those whom the Prior associated with himself). Then the Prior, in the presence of the notary public and the others, in due manner made visitation upon the brothers. Which being done, on the same day he caused the clergy and people of the city and deanery of Worcester to be visited by their clergy and commissaries in the cathedral church of Worcester. Notarial certificate by Thomas de Stokes, clerk, of Exeter, who was present at such visitations.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Christianity of Worcester to cite all abbots, priors, preceptors, portioners, pensioners, holding churches to their own use and portions, pensions, and many benefices against the common right, deans, vicars, as well exempt as not exempt from archidiaconal jurisdiction, chaplains of parishes and others within his deanery, and also from every parish church four parishioners, and from every chapel three parishioners, not those whom the rectors and vicars would name, but those whom he shall elect by virtue of an oath to be taken, who should better know the truth of those things to be corrected and reformed in their neighbourhood. And that they appear before the prior or his deputy on Monday after the feast of Epiphany in the church of Worcester in the morning when the Prior intends to hold a visitation and to inquire as to excesses and crimes committed, and to correct and reform errors. Dated at Worcester, the 19th of the Kalends of January, 1307.

Fol. 61*d*. And the Chapter of Worcester and the clergy and people of the City and Deanery of Worcester, as is aforesaid, having

been visited, and citation being directed to divers persons for divers days and places throughout every Deanery of the Archdeaconry of Gloucester, the Prior, on the 17th of the Kalends of February, visited, by his commissaries, the deanery of Bristol. And on the same day the said commissaries wishing to visit the Abbey of St. Augustine there met with resistance, because the said Prior did not come personally, nor did the monks know of his jurisdiction, and on account of certain other things as they alleged.

Account of the proceedings touching the visitation of the Abbey of St. Augustine, Bristol. On the 13th of the Kalends [of January?], 1307, the Prior of Worcester caused letters of citation for his visitation to be made and sealed, and sent his messenger to warn the same Abbot and Convent, among others, of the same diocese. Which notice, dated the Vigil of St. Thomas the Apostle, 1307, stated that the Prior or his deputies intended on Tuesday after the feast of St. Hilary to visit the Monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol, and enjoined the Abbot and Convent to admit them to such visitation with due reverence and honour, and to recall the absent brothers. Of which notice the Abbot acknowledged the receipt by a document sealed with green wax, and dated Wednesday before the feast of St. Hilary. On which Tuesday the Prior, on account of the various and arduous matters touching his church, was unable personally to attend to the office of visitation, but appointed and sent brothers Ranulph de Catthorp and John de Stratford, his commissaries, together with certain clerks. Which commissaries, coming to Bristol, and in a full consistory in the lesser church of St. Augustine of Bristol, on Monday before the feast of St. Hilary, caused to be read and published the composition made between Boniface, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, and confirmed by the Chapter of Christi Church, Canterbury, by which composition it is lawful for the said Prior to visit. After which, on the same day, before the third hour, the same commissaries sent Adam de Stivinton, marshal assigned by them, to provide necessaries and take lodgings during their said visitation, to the Abbot and Prior of St. Augustine, or to the president of the Chapter, if they could not be found, together with a notary public, John de Deresl', then apparitor of Bristol, and William de Malmesbur', one of the household of Master Robert de Sutton,

clerks, to warn the same abbot and chapter that such visitors, on the said Tuesday, would come to the same abbey, and there make visitation. When the same Adam came to the said abbey, he asked the porter at the gate where the Abbot or Prior of the said house was, or where they could be found. And the porter asserted that they were not at home. And after a little there appeared the Rev. Walter, called Probus, almoner, one of the elder and more discreet of the canons, to whom the same Adam spoke regarding the visitation, but as to admission or refusal he could get no reply, and so the same Adam left without a final and certain answer. Afterwards, on the same day, after the ninth hour of the day, he went again with a notary public and witnesses, by order of the said visitors and commissaries, to warn the said abbot as before, and could have no certain answer; yet it was asserted by the porter and others of the household of the said house being at the gate, that the Abbot and Prior were at that time in the said abbey. Subsequently on the same day, before the hour of Vespers, the Rev. John Rogan, canon of the said house of St. Augustine, together with the clerks of the same abbot, were sent by the same abbot, as they confessed, to treat of the visitation with the commissaries and visitors, then dwelling in a certain inn in the parish of the Blessed Mary in the market of Bristol, there being present Masters Robert de Sutton, Richard de Alincestr', Reginald de Heyton, William de Chadesheye, Robert de Hasele, Adam de Stinton, William de Malmesbur', Hugh Pope, and John Appar', clerks, and Adam de Piryton, Thomas Andrew, Thomas Bate of Grimel, Thomas de Rouleye, Thomas le Synegar', and Simon de Halling, lay witness specially invited.

Upon the Tuesday, the day mentioned in the citation, at about the first hour of the day, the same commissaries came to the gate of the abbey and found the same closed against them, but the porter and the proctor of the abbey, by name William de Bethene, were outside the gate. And the commissaries asked to enter and visit there, but they were not suffered to do so. Thereupon their commission to visit, the composition aforesaid, and the other instruments touching the visitation were read by brother John de Stratford at the gate of the abbey, and a copy given to the said proctor, there being present R. de Heyton, R. de Sutton, R. de Alinc', W. de Chadesheye, Adam de Stinton, William de Malmesbur', John

Appar', and Thomas Andrew, the Rev. Richard, dean of Bristol, and William de Welda, witnesses and others, a great multitude. And afterward a public warning was given in writing by brother John de Stratford to the abbot, prior, sub-prior, sacristan, precentor, cellarer, cook, almoner, and all the chapter of the same abbey in the presence of William de Bethene, the aforesaid proctor, and the Rev. John Rogan and William de Rading, canons of the same house. Whereupon entrance being wholly denied to the same commissaries, the same John de Stratford publicly excommunicated the said abbot, prior, and the others, and the commissaries wrote to the dean of Christianity of Bristol to cite the same abbot and convent to appear before the commissaries in the church of St. Augustine, next the gate of their abbey, on Thursday then next following. Upon which day the same commissaries, about the first hour of the day, came to the same church and summoned the said abbot or his proctor in the presence of the notary public, Adam de Styninton, John de Deres', apparitor of Bristol, clerks, Thomas Andreu, Thomas Bate of Grimel', Thomas de Rouleye, Thomas de Sinegare, Adam de Gloucester, clerk, Adam de Piryton, and John de Hallowe, witnesses, and upon the abbot not appearing, the said commissaries went to the said abbey, where they found the porter and many others of the household of the abbey, and offered and were prepared, as they assert, to revoke the *gravamen*, if any there was, against the said Abbot and Convent, and to grant a remedy to them; and they asked for a copy of the provocation and appeal of the same abbot, if there was any appeal. And the same commissaries offered the same porter and assistants of the household of the abbey a copy of the composition and of their commission and the other instruments touching the same visitation, and wished to leave such copy at the gate, but those of the abbey who were there refused to permit it with scornful words. Afterwards, on Thursday following, the said commissaries sent another letter, dated the 15th of the Kalends of February, 1307, to the dean of Bristol, reciting the foregoing proceedings, and desiring the said dean to go personally to the aforesaid abbey and denounce the same abbot and convent, exhorting them to let the same commissaries have a copy of their appeal, if any there was, as the same commissaries were willing to revoke all damages, if any were done to the same abbot and convent, and further that he cite them to appear in the church

of Tettebur' on Tuesday after the feast of St. Vincent. The receipt of which letter the said dean acknowledged, and stated that after he had fully exposed and published the commissaries' order before the porter and others of the said abbey, he was unable to find the abbot, or was he permitted to see any of the convent, nor to have any speech with them, but he cited them to appear, as directed, and otherwise fully executed the commissaries' orders. Upon the said Tuesday after the feast of St. Vincent, the same commissaries came to the parish church of Tettebur', and waited there, in the presence of the notary public, Adam de Stininton, William, rector of the church of Rokampton, John de Couleye, till night, but the abbot made no appearance, nor presented any copy of his appeal, if any there was. Notarial certificate subjoined of Thomas de Stokes.

Fol. 64. Memorandum, that the provocation and appeal thereof, on account of the various difficulties [were sent] to the courts of Rome and Canterbury, and then because the prior of Worcester made an error in the prescribed form, the abbot of St. Augustine by the multitude of his witnesses succeeded in his defence; and litigation is still pending in the Court of Canterbury on the principal issue.

On Tuesday the 16th of the Kalends of February the brothers of St. Mark of Bristol were visited by the commissaries, who received one mark for proxies. And the same commissaries on the same day visited the brothers of St. Bartholomew, and they did not pay proxies, on account of the poverty of the same brothers.

On the Wednesday following the same commissaries visited the Priory of St. James where proxies were paid in food and drink, and on the same day they visited the house of St. Mary Magdalene, where proxies were not paid on account of poverty.

On the Thursday following, they visited the deaneries of Haukesbur' and Button in the church of Market Solbur'.

On Monday after the feast of St. Vincent, they visited the deaneries of Stonhus and Duresleye in the parish church of Tettebur'.

On the Tuesday following, wishing to visit the church of Horseley and the priory there, they were resisted, whereupon they excommunicated the prior and the elders of the same, and afterwards the said prior having appealed to the court of Canterbury, renounced his appeal and acknowledged the right of the Prior of

Worcester to visit his priory, whereupon brother J. de Sancto Briavelo and master John de Bradewas, commissaries of the Prior of Worcester, visited him and his priory and received proxies in meat and drink.

Fol. 64*d*. On Thursday after the Conversion of St. Paul, the same commissaries visited the deaneries of Cyrenc' and Fayreford in the church of Cyrenc', and on the same day, wishing to visit the abbey there, they met with resistance.

On the 15th of the Kalends of April, the Prior of Worcester personally visited the priory of Stodleye and received proxies in meat and drink.

On the 6th of the Kalends of April, brothers J. de Grimeleye, J. de Sancto Briavelo, and master Simon de Wonecot, commissaries of the same prior, were admitted to visit the abbey of Theukesbur' by brother Henry de Staneweye, monk of the same, acting in the place of the abbot. And they received 4 marks for proxies, whereof the prior of Worcester released 2 marks for pittances to the Convent there.

On the 5th of the Kalends of April, the church of Wykewane was visited by the commissaries, and they received 4 marks for proxies according to the ordinance of W. de Geynesburgh, formerly bishop of Worcester.

On the 6th of the Kalends of April, the prior personally visited the priory of Beckeford, and had 1 mark for proxies.

On the 5th of the Kalends of April, the church of Durhurst was visited by the commissaries, and they there received 4 marks for proxies, whereof the prior pardoned two, and the visitation of the priory there was passed over on account of an immunity which the prior alleged.

On the 3rd of the Nones of April, brothers John de Harleye and John de Sancto Briavelo, commissaries of the prior, visited the priory of Little Malvern at the instance of all the convent.

On the 2nd of the Nones of April, the said prior personally visited the abbey of Wynch', and received proxies in meat and drink.

On the 4th of the Kalends of April, the same prior personally visited the church of Audibrok', and there received 4 marks by the hands of the vicar for proxies.

On the 8th of the Ides of April, the Vigil of Palm Sunday,

the same prior wishing to visit the abbey of Gloucester was resisted.

Letter from John, abbot of the monastery of S. Peter of Gloucester, to the Prior of Worcester, acknowledging the receipt of the prior's letter warning the said abbot of his intention to visit the abbey of Gloucester, and ordering him to recall the absent brothers who ought to be present at the visitation, but on account of the shortness of the time and the long absence of some of the brothers on necessary business and being occupied in divine service on the said Vigil of Palm Sunday and other lawful causes, the said abbot is unable to admit the prior to such act of visitation.

An account of the proceedings at the resistance made by the abbot of St. Peter of Gloucester to the visitation of the Prior of Worcester.

On Wednesday after the Annunciation, 1308, the Prior of Worcester visited the abbey of Theukesbur' by brothers William de Grimeleye and John de Sancto Briavelo, his monks and commissaries, and on the Friday afterwards visited the abbey of Wynchecumb, having first visited the chapter of Worcester and the other monasteries and religious houses in the same diocese, some by himself and some by his commissaries. The same prior continuing his visitation to the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester, having warned them of his intention to visit their house on Saturday the Vigil of Palm Sunday, by letter dated the 12th of the Kalends of April, 1307; and again on the 2nd of the Nones of April, 1308, the prior again wrote that notwithstanding their excuses he intended to visit the abbey. On the day fixed for the visitation the prior, after the first hour of the day, came to the gates of the abbey of St. Peter of Gloucester, which he found closed against him, and outside the gates were certain monks of the house and masters Walter de Holebergh and John de Schryvenham, clerks, proctors of the said abbot and convent. The prior immediately sought to be admitted to lawfully exercise his office of visitation, which was not permitted, whereupon the prior issued a monition, warning the abbot, prior, sub-prior, cellarer, precentor, hospitaller, kitchener, infirmarer, and almoner to admit him to visit their house, and because the same abbot and convent would not attend to such

warnings, the said prior excommunicated them. Copies of which sentence of excommunication and the other instruments touching the visitation were given to the said proctors, then being at the gate aforesaid, there being present Masters Simon de Winecot, Reginald de Heyton, Richard de Alinestr', clerks, Walter de Wykes, Alexander de Hodinton, William de Marteleye, Adam de Stinington, John de Ely, Thomas le Ferrur, and William apparitor of Warwick. Notarial certificate attached of Thomas de Stok, clerk, of the diocese of Exeter.

Fol. 66. Acknowledgment by the Dean of Gloucester of the receipt and execution of the order from the prior of Worcester to him, dated at Gloucester on Saturday the Vigil of Palm Sunday, to publicly announce in every church as well collegiate as parish throughout the town of Gloucester and neighbourhood on that instant, Palm Sunday and the two Sundays following, that the said abbot, prior, sub-prior, precentor, cellarer, hospitaller, chamberlain, kitchener, and others of the abbey of St. Peter of Gloucester have been and are excommunicated. Dated at Gloucester, the 8th of the Kalends of May, 1308.

Fol. 66*a*. Inhibition of the official of the Court of Canterbury, addressed to the Prior of Worcester, on behalf of the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter of Gloucester—who claim immunity from visitation by any, saving the legate of the Apostolic See, of the Metropolitan of Canterbury, and of the diocesan of the place—that the same prior do nothing further pending the appeal of the said abbot and convent. It was further contended that the said prior ought not of right to have visited the chapter of the cathedral church of Worcester or other religious houses, as it is not yet two years since William de Geynesburgh visited the greater part of the diocese of Worcester, and it is notorious that the see of the bishopric is filled by Walter Reginald, by apostolic authority made bishop of Worcester. Dated at London, the 2nd of the Ides of April, 1308.

Fol. 67. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Court of Canterbury, acknowledging the receipt of the above order. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Kalends of May.

Letter from the Dean of Gloucester to the Prior of Worcester, acknowledging the receipt of an order from the Prior that he supersede the orders lately issued against the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester. Dated at Gloucester, the 8th of the Kalends of May.

Fol. 67*d*. Answer by the proctor of the Prior of Worcester to the suggestion contained in the inhibition, issued by the official of the Court of Canterbury on behalf of the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter of Gloucester. The Prior relies, as to his right to visit, upon the composition made between the priory and Boniface, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, and denies the allegations in the suggestion.

Fol. 68. Letter from Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester, proposing that the matters, touching the visitation, between the Prior and the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester be submitted to him. Dated at Maydestan, the 3rd of the Ides of July, 1308.

Fol. 68*d*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, consenting to the above proposal.

Letter from J., Prior of Worcester, to Michael de Berham, Chancellor of the Archbishop of Canterbury, confiding their case touching the visitation of the Abbey of Gloucester to his experience.

Fol. 69. Form of submission by the Prior of Worcester to the decision of the Archbishop of Canterbury, touching their case as to the visitation of the Abbey of Gloucester. Dated at Worcester, the 16th of the Kalends of September, 1308.

Order from the Archbishop of Canterbury to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester, to cite or cause to be cited the Prior of Worcester to appear before the same Archbishop on the third law-day after the feast of Circumcision, wherever he may be in his province. Dated at Otteford, the 18th of the Kalends of January, 1308.

Fol. 69*d*. Order by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the official of Worcester to publish the proceedings and definitive sentence of the same Archbishop touching the above matter. Reciting the submission of the Prior of Worcester, dated at Worcester the 5th of the Ides of January, 1308 [in a slightly different form to that given above]; the form of submission of the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester, dated the 3rd of the Ides of January, 1308; the ratification by the sub-prior and convent of Worcester of the Prior's submission, dated the 3rd of the Ides of January, 1308; and that brother John de Sancto Briavelo, monk and proctor of the Prior of Worcester, offered to brother Henry de Lethe, monk and proctor of the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester, the libel of the said Prior, in which the Prior claimed the right, during the vacancy of the See of Worcester, to visit the abbey of Gloucester, whereupon the proctor of the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester set forth his contestation, by which the same abbot and convent assert that they are free and have immunity from the visitation of the same prior. The same archbishop having heard and seen the instructions exhibited by the proctor, and having heard and understood the merits of the case, declared in writing by his definitive sentence that the said prior and administrator of the spiritualities of the bishopric of Worcester, the See being vacant, by authority of the church of Canterbury, and the priors of the same church of Worcester, for the time being, by the same authority, at future vacancies, have had, and ought to have (the See aforesaid being vacant), the right of visiting the monastery of St. Peter of Gloucester. The forms of appointment of the two proctors as above follow. Which said sentence was read at Magefeld on the 15th of the Kalends of February, 1308, by Master Michael de Berham, the archbishop's chancellor, in the presence of Masters Reginald de Sancto Albano, archdeacon of London, Nicholas de Knovyle, rector of the church of Maydesbane, John de Wynchelse, canon of Salisbury, and Philip de Turvyle, canon of St. David's, Henry de Derby, rector of Cheyham in the diocese of Winchester, William, rector of Swainton in the diocese of Norwich. Dated by the Archbishop at Cherring on the 5th of the Ides of August, 1309. Notarial certificate attached by Geoffrey de Bramton.

Fol. 72*d*. Warning by the Prior of Worcester to the Prior and Convent of Stodley of his intention to visit the church and chapter

of Stodleye on Monday before the feast of the Annunciation. Dated at Worcester, the Nones of March, 1307.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Prior and Convent of Stodleye of the order of St. Augustine, that when visiting the monastery of Stodleye he found certain matters requiring correction. First, that the Prior in the correction of the brothers and rebuking the excesses of the same should take care to have more discretion than he was wont, lest the lukewarmness of the discipline should in the future increase the ground for dissolution (*dissolutionis materiam amplificet infuturum*); also that none of the brothers in the fraternity distribute or send out of the monastery anything of the remains of their food to any one, without the knowledge of the president, to the prejudice of alms, nor do anything to the detriment of alms; also that the time of religious service be more properly observed by more strictly keeping silence than is wont, according to the rule of St. Augustine, and to the approved custom of the place; also the same Prior of Worcester at his visitation absolved brother Thomas de Wateleye, who for his disobedience and other excesses had for a long time been kept in prison, he having shown signs of contrition. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Kalends of April, 1308.

Fol. 73. Sentence of excommunication against the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester, promulgated at the gates of the abbey, for refusing to admit the Prior of Worcester to their monastery for purposes of visitation. Dated on Saturday after the feast of St. Lucy the Virgin, 1313.

Declaration by the Prior of Worcester at the gates of the abbey of Cirencester on Monday after the feast of St. Lucy, 1313, that whereas the Abbot and Convent of Cirencester claimed to be free of the visitation of the same Prior, and being cited by John Deysi, proctor of the said Prior, to appear in the cathedral church of Worcester to exhibit their privilege, after various proclamations the said Abbot and Convent did not appear. The said Prior has therefore determined to proceed in the business of the visitation, and do what the canonical sanctions dictate.

Fol. 74. Letter from King Edward II. to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the Bishopric of Worcester, requiring him to cause funeral services, with the chanting of masses and other ecclesiastical suffrages, to be celebrated for the soul of his father by all religious persons and other clergy of the diocese, that by their prayers he might be able the quicker to enter the celestial kingdom and eternal blessedness. Dated at Westminster, 30 October, 1 Edward II.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester, to enjoin all abbots, priors, and other religious persons, deans, rectors, vicars, chaplains, and others, within the ambit of the archdeaconry of Worcester, to solemnly celebrate in their churches the service of the dead with the singing of masses for the soul of King Edward I. Dated at Worcester, the 15th of the Kalends of December, 1307.

Writ from King Edward II. to the keeper of the spiritualities of the bishopric of Worcester, requiring that prayers be offered by the religious and others of the clergy of the bishopric of Worcester for the preservation of the kingdom and other lands subject to the king, in prosperity and peace, and that the king may, under God, rule and defend them by the commands of God to the honour, profit, and quiet of himself and of the same kingdom and lands. Dated at Westminster, the 28 October, 1 Edward II.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the archdeacon of Worcester, commanding him to enjoin the execution of the same writ upon all religious persons, rectors, vicars, and chaplains of parishes, and others, within the archdeaconry of Worcester, in their churches, every day, and especially on Sundays and festivals. Dated at Worcester, the 15th of the Kalends of December, 1307.

Writ from the king to the keeper of the spiritualities of the bishopric of Worcester, to raise certain debts due to the abbot and convent of Gloucester from the goods and ecclesiastical benefices of the following clerks, not having lay fees, before the morrow of St. Hilary, viz. :—the parson of Doderhulle, 56*s.* ; the parson of the church of Ulleberwe, 28*s.* ; the parson of the church of Tredinton, 53*s.* 4*d.* ; the abbot of Brueria, for his portions of Schefnecote and Condecote, 16*d.* ; the parson of Lutleton, 10*s.* 8*d.* ; the abbot of

Morgan, for his portion in the church of Olveston, 6*d.*; the parson of Thornbur', 63*s.* 4*d.*; the abbot of Flaxleye, for his portion in the church of Brimeffeld, 2*s.* 6*d.*; the parson of the church of Bourton, 13*s.* 4*d.*; the dean of Hereford, for his portion in the churches of Prestbur' and Sevenhampton, 20*s.*; the precentor of Hereford, for his portion in the same, 6*s.* 8*d.*; the parson of the church of Morton, with the chapel, 6*s.* Dated at Westminster, the 24th November, Edward II.

Order by the Prior to [the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester?] to execute the same writ. Dated at Bradewas, the 2nd of the Kalends of January, 1307. And a like order sent to the official of the archdeacon of Gloucester.

Certificate to the Barons of the Exchequer that the foregoing writ came to the Prior at Bradewas on the 29th January, so late that the Prior was unable to do anything thereon.

Further writ to collect the same debts before the morrow of the close of Easter. Dated at Westminster, the 3rd February, 1 Edward II.

Fol. 75. Certificate upon the same writ that the spiritualities of the bishopric were no longer in the Prior's hands, the elect of the bishopric having been confirmed, and having the custody of the temporalities and spiritualities.

Writ of *venire facias* for Simon de Dunes, clerk, to answer Adam de Fulham of a plea of debt. Dated at Westminster, the 12th of February, 1 Edward II.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester to execute the same writ. Dated at Worcester, the 12th of the Kalends of April, 1307.

Certificate upon the same writ that Simon de Dunes, clerk, was not found in the diocese.

Writ of *venire facias* for Simon Prewes, clerk, to answer Roger de Bellafaga of a plea of debt. Dated at Westminster, the 15th February, 1 Edward II.

Order to the Archdeacon of Gloucester to execute the same writ.

Return to the writ, that the said Simon de Prewes was enjoined to appear.

Writ of *feri facias* upon the goods of Simon de Prewes to be rendered to Walter de Nevill. Dated at Westminster, the 24th January, 1 Edward II.

Order to the Archdeacon of Gloucester to execute the same writ.

Two forms of return to a writ of *feri facias*.

Fol. 75*d*. Other similar forms.

Forms of return to a writ of *venire facias*.

Writ from Edward II. to the keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester. Whereas the prelates and clergy have granted a fifteenth of their goods, the King prays the same keeper to elect certain persons to collect the same in the diocese of Worcester, so that the same collectors may pay one moiety into the Exchequer on the morrow of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary, and the other moiety on the morrow of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Dated at Reding, the 4th December, 1 Edward II.

Order from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester, to warn all abbots, priors, masters, and preceptors, as well exempt as not exempt, of whatsoever order they may be, and all rectors, vicars, portioners, and others of the clergy to pay a moiety of the fifteenth granted to the King according to the taxation of the tithe now current in the cathedral church of Worcester, this side the feast of the Blessed Mathias. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Nones of January, 1307.

Fol. 76. Appointment by the Prior of Worcester of John de Sancto Briavelo and John de Stratford, monks of Worcester, as collectors of the same fifteenth. Dated at Worcester, the Nones of January, 1307.

Form of acquittance for payment of the said fifteenth.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the official [of the Archdeacon of Worcester or Gloucester] to warn all those who had neglected to pay the moiety of the fifteenth, granted to the King, to pay the same before Sunday after the feast of St. Gregory, under pain of the greater excommunication. Dated at Worcester the 5th of the Kalends of March, 1307.

Fol. 76*d*. Writ from Edward II. to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester. That on account of the war with Scotland and other matters the collectors of the said fifteenth may be warned to effectually collect the same, if necessary by ecclesiastical censure, so that one moiety may be paid by the morrow of the Annunciation, without delay or difficulty. Dated at Westminster, 16 March, 1 Edward II. Return to the writ that the same collectors had been warned to do as required in the writ under pain of excommunication.

Order from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester to excommunicate and to lay under interdict the churches of those abbots, priors, and others who had not paid the said fifteenth. Dated at Worcester the 11th of the Kalends of April, 1307.

Fol. 77. Letter from Walter, elect of Worcester, to John, Prior of Worcester, committing to him the power to compel the payment of the said fifteenth under ecclesiastical censure. Dated at London, the 16th of the Kalends of July, 1308.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester, collector of the fifteenth, to John de Sancto Briavelo and John de Stratford, sub-collectors, committing to them the power to collect, levy, and take charge of the money of the same fifteenth, and appointing them his proctors and attorneys.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to give warning that the second moiety of the same fifteenth be paid under pain of ecclesiastical censure. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Kalends of August, 1308.

Order from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to publish the excommunication of and to lay under interdict the churches of those who had not paid the said fifteenth. Dated at Worcester, the 5th of the Ides of November, 1308.

Fol. 78. Letter from Walter, Bishop of Worcester, to Master John de Rodeberwe, his official, committing to him for execution a writ from Edward II., dated at Westminster the 30th November, 2 Edward II., reciting that having commanded the keepers of the spiritualities, the See of Worcester being then vacant, to depute certain persons to collect in the diocese of Worcester the fifteenth granted to the King, by the prelates and clergy at the Parliament at Northampton, and pay the same at certain terms now past, and a large sum of the said fifteenth being as yet in arrear, the King commands that the same collectors be distrained by their benefices to pay the same arrears. Dated at London, the 5th of the Ides of December, 1308.

Further order by the Prior of Worcester, as collector of the said fifteenth by authority of W., Bishop of Worcester, to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester, to publish the excommunication with due solemnity of those who had not paid the same fifteenth. Dated at Worcester, the Ides of February, 1308.

Fol. 78*d*. Commission by the Prior of Worcester to John de Stratford to absolve in form of right those who had been excommunicated for not paying the said fifteenth.

Form of letter of absolution.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of P. Hearing that in the parish of O., according to the laudable custom introduced by the pious devotion of the parishioners, it has been accustomed from a time whereof memory is not, that the parishioners are bound

to carry the tithe sheaves to the vill and leave them at the door of the barn and not in the fields, but John de W., a parishioner, has dared to infringe this laudable custom, and has this autumn refused to take the tithe sheaves from his lands, to the prejudice of ecclesiastical liberty, the grave peril of his soul, and pernicious example to others, the Prior therefore commands the same dean to canonically warn the same John de W. and his servants to comply with the said custom within eight days.

Writ from Edward II. to the sheriff of Worcester to distrain the Prior and Convent of Worcester, collectors in the bishopric of Worcester, of the fifteenth lately granted by the clergy in the Parliament at Northampton, to appear before the Barons of the Exchequer and render an account of the same fifteenth. Dated at Westminster, the 17th June, 4 Edward II.

Memorandum, that on the morrow of St. Margaret the Virgin, 5 Edward II., brother John de Stratford, monk of the cathedral church of the Blessed Mary of Worcester, rendered an account of the fifteenth granted by the clergy before the treasurer and barons of the Exchequer, for the bishopric of Worcester, which is inserted in the Great Roll of the Exchequer. Sum total of the account 490*li.* 12*s.* 2*d.*, of which he has allowance of 10*li.* for expenses in collecting.

Fol. 79. Account of J. de Wyk', Prior of Worcester, of the receipts of all synodals and perquisites of the bishopric of Worcester, during the vacancy of the See by the death of William de Geynesburgh, the late bishop, from the feast of St. Faith the Virgin, 1307, to the feasts of Tyburtius and Valerian, 1308.

Citation by Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, of the Prior of Worcester to appear and render an account of his administration of the Spiritualities of the See. Dated at Leuesham, the 2nd of the Nones of December, 1308.

Appointment of John de Sancto Briavelo, monk of Worcester, as the prior's proctor to render the account as above required.

Account of brother J. de Wyk'

Receipts of the archdeaconry of Worcester.

Perquisites by the hands of the dean of Warwick, *5*li.* 14*s.* 4*d.**
 Synodals by the dean of Poywyk, *6*s.**
 Perquisites by the same, *33*s.* 4*d.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Wych, *49*s.* 6*d.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Kidderminster, *36*s.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Worcester, *32*s.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Persor, *58*s.* 8*d.**
 Sum, *16*li.* 9*s.* 10*d.**

Receipts of the Archdeaconry of Gloucester.

Perquisites by the dean of Durseleye, *7*s.* 8*d.**
 Synodals by the same, *20*s.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Haukesbur', *10*s.* 8*d.**
 Synodals by the same, *10*s.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Burton, *10*s.* 8*d.**
 Synodals by the same, *4*s.* 8*d.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Campeden, *28*s.**
 Synodals by the same, *17*s.* 4*d.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Bristoll, *19*s.* 4*d.**
 Synodals by the same, *9*s.* 4*d.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Stowe, *24*s.**
 Synodals by the same, *13*s.* 4*d.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Stonhous, *18*s.**
 Synodals by the same, *13*s.* 8*d.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Winchecumbe, *15*s.* 4*d.**
 Synodals by the same, *7*s.* 4*d.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Fayreford, *12*s.**
 Synodals by the same, *7*s.* 4*d.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Cyrencestr', *16*s.**
 Synodals by the same, *13*s.* 4*d.**
 Perquisites by the dean of Gloucester, *21*d.**
 Synodals by the same, *12*s.* 8*d.**
 Sum, *15*li.* 13*s.* 5*d.**

Fol. 79*d.* Receipts from the probate of Wills¹.

By the probate of the will of the wife of Richard de Haggeleye, 18*d.*

Of the will of Edith de Oseleye, 23*d.*

Of the will of W. de Bininton (?), 12*d.*

Of the will of Master Henry Wag, 18*d.*

The same renders account of the probate of wills, corrections in visitations and other emoluments, and perquisites of all the jurisdiction for the aforesaid time, 27*li.* 4*s.* 3*d.*

Form of petition by the prior of one place to the prior of another to admit an illiterate clerk (*simplicis literaturæ*) as a monk.

Certificate by the Prior of Worcester that Henry de Wenwynton, was ordained sub-deacon in the cathedral church of Worcester, on Saturday *quatuor temporum* in the first week of Lent, 1313.

Style to be used by the Prior of Worcester during a vacancy, viz. :—"Prior of the cathedral church of Worcester, by authority of the Court of Canterbury, official and administrator of the spiritualities in the City and Diocese of Worcester, the see being vacant."

Form for making John de Maddeleya a notary, and investing him in the same office "by the pen, inkhorn and charter, which I hold in my hand," in accordance with the order of Bassianus de Aliate, citizen of Milan and Count of Palestine (comitis Palestini). Dated at Worcester, the 6th of the Kalends of June, 1315.

Form of appointment of a proctor to present a clerk to a church.

¹ These receipts are all scratched through in the MS.

THE REGISTER OF THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

DURING THE VACANCY OF THE SEE,

USUALLY CALLED

“REGISTRUM SEDE VACANTE.”

EDITED FOR

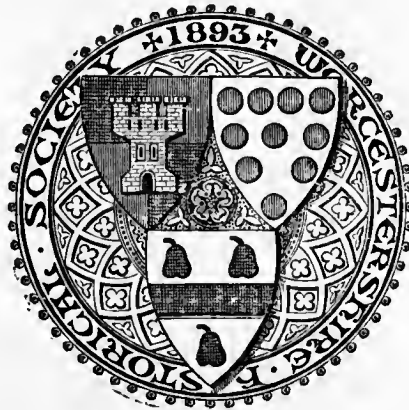
THE WORCESTERSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY

J. W. WILLIS BUND.

PART III.

*From the Translation of Bishop Walter Reynolds to Canterbury, October, 1313,
to the Translation of Bishop Wittelsey from Rochester to Worcester, July, 1364.*



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INTRODUCTION.

THIS third part of the Sede Vacante Register covers some fifty years, from 1313 to 1368. The two previous parts had each dealt with a single vacancy, the first that from the death of Giffard to the enthronization of Ginsborough, the second from the death of Ginsborough to the confirmation of Reynolds, the two together only comprising about twelve years. In the period treated of in this part there were no less than 11 bishops of Worcester.

1. *Walter Reynolds*¹, translated to Canterbury, 1 Oct. 1313.
2. *Walter de Maydeston*, enthroned April, 1314, died abroad, March, 1317.
3. Thomas Cobham, consecrated June, 1317, died 27 Aug. 1327.
4. Adam Orleton, enthroned June, 1328, translated to Winchester, Dec. 1333.
5. Simon de Montacute, consecrated May, 1334, translated to Ely, March, 1337.
6. Thomas Hemenhale, enthroned Aug. 1337, died Dec. 1338.
7. Wolstan de Bransford, enthroned April, 1339, died August, 1349.
8. *John de Thoresby*, Jan. 1349, translated to York, 1352.
9. *Reginald Bryan*, translated from St. David's, April, 1353, died Dec. 1361.
10. *John Barnet*, enthroned July, 1362. Nov. 1363 translated to Bath and Wells.
11. *William Wittelsey*, enthroned April, 1364, translated to Canterbury, Oct. 1368.

The vacancy on Reynolds' translation, the six months from October, 1313, to April, 1314, take up some 40 pages of this part². The vacancy on Maydeston's death deals with 14 pages³. During the vacancy on Cobham's death there is but one entry⁴, a notice by the sub-Prior, the Prior having been elected Bishop by the Worcester

¹ The names in italic are those when the vacancy is recorded in this register.

² 137—177.

³ 177—191.

⁴ p. 190.

Monks, that the sub-Prior intended to visit the churches in the Deanery of Pershore. The Register then passes over without any mention Adam Orleton, and the vacancy between his translation and the election of Simon Montacute, the vacancy between Montacute's translation and the election of Heminghale, that from the death of Heminghale to the election of Wolstan de Bransford, and that on his death to the election of John de Thoresby, the next entry on the Register¹ being that caused by the translation of Thoresby to York in 1352². That is, there is a gap for the 25 years from 1327 to 1352.

The vacancy between Thoresby and Bryan is fully dealt with³, but that on the death of Bryan is not noticed, the next entry after Bryan's election being that on the translation of his successor Barnet to Bath and Wells and the election of Wittelsey⁴. It is not easy to account for these omissions, as there is nothing in the Register to shew that there is any gap in the entries; they run on precisely as if Maydeston had been succeeded by Thoresby and Bryan by Wittelsey.

The account of the six months from Oct. 1313 to April, 1314, is mainly taken up with two subjects, the old question of visitation and the record of an ordination held by the Irish Bishop of Annaghdown. This is very fully dealt with, and gives some very interesting details as to the qualifications for orders in the 14th century.

Dividing the matter in this part into the same three divisions as in the previous parts,—

I. Matters relating to filling up the vacancy of the See and the election of a new Bishop;

II. Matters relating to the general administration of the Diocese by the Prior and the Monastery during the vacancy;

III. Miscellaneous matters;

it will be found that a great number of important entries are given under each head.

I. As to the first division, filling up the vacancy of the See. On previous occasions the See of Canterbury was full, and the Archbishop therefore gave the Prior his commission to act as his officer during the vacancy of the See, the temporalities belonging to the Archbishop⁵. But as the See of Canterbury was now vacant, the Prior

¹ p. 191.

² p. 191—202.

³ p. 202—216.

⁴ p. 216—222.

⁵ See p. 4.

of Christ Church, Canterbury, was entitled to the temporalities during the vacancy; so the Prior of Worcester wrote to the Prior of Christ Church, asking him for a commission to execute Episcopal Jurisdiction during the vacancy of the See¹, and this the Prior granted². It is not the least of the anomalies of the then state of things that the Canterbury Prior whose only right to exercise Episcopal Jurisdiction was because that See was vacant, could yet grant the right to exercise Episcopal Jurisdiction not only while the See of Canterbury was vacant, that is while his power lasted, but until the See of Worcester was filled, which might be long after he had any right to exercise any Episcopal Jurisdiction. Having got the right to exercise jurisdiction, or even before he got it, as the Prior's letter was dated the 8th of the Kalends of December, 1313, and the Commission did not issue until the Feast of St. Katherine, 25 Nov., on the 5th of the Kalends of December, 1313³, the Prior ordered the Archdeacons of Worcester and Gloucester to cite all the clergy and those who had causes in the Consistory Court, that is all over whom the Prior had any jurisdiction, real or imaginary, to appear before him in the Cathedral at Worcester on the Feast of St. Nicholas, Dec. 6, to make canonical obedience and to hear canonical mandates. The Prior then called on the late official of Worcester, Benedict de Paston, to give up the rolls and registers of the Consistory Court and the keys of the Chest. Paston denied he had them, but alleged they were in the custody of the Clerk of the Court. The Prior, however, refused to be put off, and ordered Paston, under pain of canonical censure, to hand them over before the 30th November, the Feast of St. Andrew. The Prior then appointed Richard de Alcester to hear causes in the Consistory Court⁴.

There does not appear on the Register any application for a *congé d'elire* on the translation of Reynolds to Canterbury—in fact there is during the vacancy no allusion to the election of a Bishop. Probably this arises from the circumstance that the Worcester monks had but little to do with it. On the death of the Archbishop of Canterbury (Winchelsey), the monks of Canterbury elected Thomas de Cobham, Canon of York, to the vacant Archbishopric. Edward II. wanted this for Reynolds, and sent agents to the Pope to induce Clement V. to reject the monks' nominee and give the See to Reynolds. Among Edward's agents was one

¹ p. 137.² Ibid.³ p. 138.⁴ p. 139.

Walter de Maydestone. The Pope to oblige Edward set aside the monks' election, the ground being that he had in the time of Robert Winchelsey, the previous Archbishop being desirous to provide for Canterbury, reserved the appointment to himself. This was in pursuance of a right the Popes were then very fond of exercising, of reserving, or alleging they had reserved, to themselves the appointment to some ecclesiastical office on the next vacancy, and as the Papal reservation took precedence of an election by any one else, the Pope was always able to put in his own creatures. By virtue of this reservation, the Pope set aside Cobham's election to Canterbury and translated him to Worcester¹. But to Worcester Cobham refused to go. The Pope had therefore to find some one else, so appointed Maydestone and consecrated him at once. One vice the new Bishop seems to have possessed, that of poverty, and in consequence of it he appears to have been very unpopular with the Worcester monks. He had to borrow the money to pay for his appointment as Bishop. He authorised two agents, one of whom, Adam de Murymuth, had to borrow for him 500 golden florins, and pay the same into the Apostolic Chamber. Having nothing to repay him with, the Bishop granted Murymuth a pension of five marks a year until he was able to give him a sufficient benefice,—a form of pious provision at the expense of the Church that has not been unknown at Worcester even in the present century. The Bishop also paid his lawyers by the grant of yearly pensions. His misfortunes did not stop here; whatever may have then been the custom in lay matters, the Archbishop claimed tenant right; and he made the new Bishop pay £221 6s. 6d. for the stock on the Episcopal Manors. For this Maydestone had to give a Bond. He had also to borrow £650 to satisfy his creditors. A Bishop who was so impecunious could not be popular. Moreover Maydestone was forced on the Worcester monks by the Pope, and they had no voice in the matter of his election. He was some time Bishop before he was enthroned, and that is probably the reason there is no mention of it,—the entries in the *Sede Vacante* having ceased and the Bishops' register having begun.

He died abroad² on the 28th March, 1317, and his death was not known to the Prior until the 7th April, 1317. The Prior at once applied on the 13th day of April for a *congé delivre*,

¹ p. 144.

² p. 180.

and on the 19th it was issued to him¹. Accordingly he directed the Precentor, Richard de Bromwich, to call a general meeting of the monks for Whit Monday, 1317, to elect a Bishop. Edward II., before he issued the *congé d'elire*, had written to the Pope setting forth the virtues of Thomas Cobham, who had previously declined Worcester, and asking for the Bishopric for him. The Pope did not wait the result of the election, but consecrated Cobham Bishop on the 11th of the calends of June, 1317. On his death in 1327, Edward gave the monks a *congé d'elire*, and they elected their Prior Wulstan de Bransford; the King agreed to his election. Bransford did homage, the temporalities were delivered to him, and the Archbishop confirmed the election. The King then heard that the Pope had reserved Worcester, and he thereupon wrote to him from Nottingham on the 6th September, 1327, stating that he had given the Church of Worcester, the See of which was vacant from the death of the late Bishop Thomas, leave to elect a new Bishop; that they had agreed to elect the Prior Wulstan de Bransford, that he had approved of this, and the Archbishop of Canterbury had confirmed it². But that he had heard from certain persons, not without great concern, that the said Election so legally and peacefully held was about to be set aside under pretext of a Reservation which the Holy See is said to have made, by which report some of the peers and others were greatly disturbed. The King then sets out the Prior's virtues, and what a misfortune it would be to have an indiscreet bishop. He prays the Pope to release the Reservation, and to allow the elected of the monks to take possession of the honours to which he was canonically chosen, nor to suffer his goodness to be doubted on account of the affair, and concludes by saying that he hoped the Pope will agree to this, for he feels sure the Church under this Bishop's rule will flourish to the glory of the See and of the kingdom.

The King also wrote to eleven of the Cardinals very nearly in the same terms, setting out the dangers of a bad Bishop, his knowledge how good the present one was, how great an advantage his election would be, and how much he would be obliged if it was maintained.

Although Archbishop Reynolds had confirmed the election, so great was the fear of the Pope, that he refused to consecrate Bransford. On the death of Reynolds the King ordered

¹ p. 179.

² Rymer, iv. 308.

the Prior and monks of Canterbury to summon the suffragans of the Province to do it. They were, however, afraid to do so, and with reason, for the rumour was then current that the Pope had reserved the Bishopric, and had appointed to it his own nominee, who turned out to be that celebrated Bishop of Hereford, Adam de Orleton. A native of the Welsh Border, born under the influence and a tool of the Mortimers, Edward II. had used his utmost efforts to prevent him being made a Bishop. When these efforts failed, and Orleton in 1316 was confirmed in the See of Hereford, Edward found how dangerous a man this Bishop was. The King accused him in Parliament, in 1324, of conspiring against him; and although a committee of laymen reported on examining into the charges against the Bishop that they were well founded, yet Orleton was strong enough to refuse to appear before the King's Court. Edward then sequestered the temporalities of Hereford. On Queen Isabella's return to England in 1326, Orleton joined her, and preached inflammatory sermons against the King before the University of Oxford. He took part in the capture of Edward II. at Neath, in the execution of the elder Despenser at Hereford, and in extorting the abdication from the King at Kenilworth. He is also said to have urged on the murder of Edward, for this conduct he had his reward. Edward was murdered September 21st, 1327. On September 28th the Bull was issued giving the See of Worcester to his murderer. The new Bishop of Worcester, before he was enthroned, was made Lord Treasurer of England. He, however, only retained the office for a few months. In 1333 Orleton, on the See of Winchester falling vacant, persuaded the Pope to translate him to it as he had been translated to Worcester. Edward III. is said to have been made of sterner stuff than Edward II. He took proceedings in the Pope's Court against Orleton as being a man infamous for many crimes, and unworthy of promotion. But even Edward III. had to give way, and Orleton had the honour of being one of the few English Bishops who were twice translated.

Edward had intended Winchester for Simon de Montacute, but the Pope when giving that See to Orleton gave Montacute Worcester. The Pope also provided that Montacute might be consecrated by any Bishop he pleased, and need not take the oath of obedience to the Archbishop of Canterbury but to the Pope direct. He was therefore consecrated at Tame by the Bishops of Lincoln, Bath,

and Salisbury, 8 Ides of May, 1334. In 1337 Pope Benedict XII. translated Montacute to Ely, and sent Thomas Hemenhale to Worcester; he had been elected to Norwich, and was at Avignon seeking to have his election to Norwich confirmed, when the Pope transferred him to Worcester. He died the next year, 1314. At last the Worcester monks got their own choice, the Prior Bransford, as Bishop, and not a mere Papal nominee. On Bransford's death the monks again elected their Prior, John de Evesham, but the Pope put in another nominee, Thoresby, Bishop of St. David's, and afterwards translated him to York, filling up Worcester by translating to it another Bishop of St. David's, Reginald Bryan. The Pope translated Bryan to Ely, and although the Worcester monks got a *cong  d'elire* to elect a successor, they found it superseded by the Pope having appointed John Barnet to Worcester, and the *cong  d'elire* was thereupon revoked¹. Barnet was translated by the Pope to Bath and Wells, and the Pope translated William Wittelsey from Rochester to Worcester.

Nothing can be more instructive than the history of these elections of Bishops of Worcester. In theory the monks of Worcester had the free right to elect who they pleased; then as now the King granted his *cong  d'elire* to the electing body. The only difference being that then he reserved the right to approve or disapprove of the elected, now he recommends the man to be selected; but although nominally free, the Worcester monks and the King had both to submit to a foreign authority, who thought nothing of setting aside the person duly elected and giving the Bishopric to his own nominee. In the first half of the 14th century in only two instances, those of Reynolds and Bransford, were the monks really allowed to choose their own man, and in one of these cases, that of Reynolds, the Bishop was the King's not the monks' choice. So that out of nine Bishops who held the See during the fifty years from 1300 to 1350 only one was freely elected, several were forced into the See against the wish of the King, and all but one against the wish of the monks. No better or more forcible proof could be given that in spite of the protest of Edward II. in his letter to the Prior of Worcester on the rights of English Kings to control the election of English Bishops², the real control lay outside the realm. The Pope in fact appointed English Bishops when and as he thought fit, and that

¹ p. 203.² p. 104.

wholly irrespective of the likes or dislikes of any one. It may be that this setting aside the person properly elected and filling up the See by the nominee of the Pope will account for the imperfect state of this Register during these years, the monks not caring to put on record that their rights were habitually evaded.

II. Of matters connected with the administration of the Diocese the most important is that relating to the question of ordination. The history of the administration of this rite in the mediæval Church is most interesting, but is a matter that has received very little notice. Orders were divided into two great classes, the superior orders, Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, and the minor orders, Sub-Deacons, Acolytes, Exorcists, Lectors, and Door-keepers, all of them coming under the general head of Clergy. Certain fixed rules applied to all these classes ; for instance, the rule as to age, below which a candidate was not admitted to orders ; a candidate had usually to pass through the minor orders before he was admitted to the superior. But in all the orders there was one outward and visible sign, or mark that was affixed when orders were confirmed, the tonsure. No subject caused greater controversy ; it was one of the great points of dispute between the Latin and the Celtic Churches, the Celt adhering to the ancient form of heathen tonsure that they had inherited from the heathen priests, which was the sign of slavery or tribal ownership, the Latin requiring the use of their own form, which was symbolical of Christianity, the shorn crown being supposed to represent the Crown of Thorns. The history of tonsure is a very curious and interesting piece of ecclesiastical history, but this is not the place to discuss it. All that is here necessary is to point out that the ceremonial of the tonsure was a distinct feature in the ordination service.

The proper times for receiving tonsure were the Saturdays in the *Quatuor Tempora*, that is, the Ember weeks, the Saturday before Passion Sunday, and Holy Saturday.

The whole of the ceremonies connected with giving the tonsure are set forth at length in the *Pontificale Romanum*. At the first tonsure the Bishop with a pair of scissors clipped the hair of the candidate in five places, on the front and back of the head, above each ear, and on the middle of the top of the head. (*In fronte, in occipitio, et ad utramque aurem ; deinde*

in medio capitis.) The tonsure was performed immediately after the Introit. No one could receive it who had not been confirmed or who could not read or write (hence benefit of clergy), or was ignorant of the rudiments of the faith. The persons who had received the tonsure were called "*coronati.*" As the tonsure was at first merely a mark of a Christian, it does not appear that the rules as to the persons who might receive it were as strict as the rules as to who might receive orders. Certain persons, such as madmen, idiots, slaves, criminals, could not. Following the rule laid down in the Mosaic code¹, neither persons deformed, mutilated, or defectively made could be ordained. Persons born out of lawful wedlock could not receive orders without a dispensation—if minor orders that of the Bishop, if superior orders that of the Pope or his legate. An instance of this is given in this Register in the case of Henry de Warwyk², who petitions the Bishop of Sabina, the Papal Nuncio, to grant him a dispensation for orders, and to hold a benefice, although illegitimate. The Bishop wrote to the Prior, the Prior wrote to the official of the Archdeacon, who issued 11 interrogatories on the subject. On receiving the answers to them the official certified the Prior, who reported to the Bishop, and the dispensation issued.

The ordination held by the Irish Bishop of Annaghdown in Lent, 1313, seems at first sight remarkable for the number of persons ordained, no less than 371; the minor orders amounting to 131, and the superior to 240. Large as this number appears now, it was by no means exceptionally so at that time, as will be seen from the following table of persons ordained at ordinations in the Worcester diocese about that date.

	1302.	1315.	1319.	1322.	1329.	1331.	1335.	1337.	1338.
Acolytes .	—	105	—	120	218	221	251	391	204
Subdeacons .	102	140	43	102	47	100	115	180	141
Deacons .	68	133	96	50	79	47	133	154	117
Priests .	79	85	91	60	62	51	22	124	149
	249	463	230	332	406	419	521	849	611

The title to orders is given in many cases. It was a matter of importance, for if the Bishop ordained a man without a title he was, if not bound to keep him, at least bound to provide him a title or rather a sufficiency to live upon. The accounts of the ordinations give the titles of the different candidates for orders, and from this

¹ Deut. xxiii. 1.

² p. 91.

it would appear that the minimum title recognised as a sufficient sum was six marks. The titles are of several distinct kinds. (1) By Patrimony. This appears to be that the candidate had of his own, either by descent or otherwise, sufficient means to maintain himself. So that no question might hereafter arise, there seems to have been an admission extracted from the candidate that his patrimony was enough to keep him, or rather that he was content to rely upon it for his support, either for his whole life when the entry ran "*de quo reputat se contentum,*" his admission of the sufficiency being all that was required, or for a definite term, one, two, or three years, *stet per biennium*. To avoid any claims being made against the Bishop, the officials were not content to take the candidate's word, but he was sworn to the truth of his statement, or else it was certified by some responsible person, as in the case of the first on this list, Thomas of Kyderminster, whose patrimony was certified in writing by the Archdeacon of Shrewsbury. In some cases the value of the patrimony is inserted. (2) Another title of the same kind was an annual rent or an annual provision; this was also mentioned to ensure that the person ordained had sufficient means. 30s. seems to have been accepted as a sufficient annual sum to keep the man. (3) If any person or body presented the candidate for orders, as for instance a religious House, they had to support him (it must be borne in mind that it was illegal for a person in orders to trade), so those who presented him became legally liable to maintain him; such an entry then runs, On the presentation of the house of — e.g. at the instance of the Prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. (4) Letters dimissory. The Bishop who ordained was then only the hand by which the person received orders, the whole liability to support, and other incidents, belonging to the Bishop who signed the letters. (5) Some definite benefice such as the rectory or vicarage of some parish or some other ecclesiastical preferment. Here the fact of the candidate having the preferment was sufficient to release the Bishop from all liability. (6) In some cases the title is not disclosed, it is merely stated to be "a sufficient title," and usually it is added that the candidate admits he is content with it. It will be seen what care is taken to prevent the Bishop incurring any liability. Members of religious orders were ordained without any further title, as those houses to which they belonged were bound to support them. At this ordination three

Benedictines, a Cistercian, three Canons and two Friars were ordained.

There are one or two curious entries at the ordination. Under the Deacons Henry Ketelbern was ordained to the title of patrimony, the value of which appeared from his letter of orders : was this mere laziness or an intentional concealment ? William le Marchel is a difficult case to understand. He was ordained Deacon ; to the title of his patrimony there follows, "*sed non apparet de ulterioribus ordinibus.*" Whether the meaning is that the value of his patrimony was enough for a Deacon but it did not warrant his receiving any higher order, or what is the meaning is not easy to say. It can hardly be that a man's poverty was an absolute bar to his attaining higher rank in the Church than that of Deacon. John, son of John le Barton, was ordained on no title but by reason of exhibiting his letters of orders, which he promised to do afterwards. John de la Flagge was ordained on letters from the Roman Court, which would in reality be the same as letters dimissory. In the case of one candidate for Priest's orders, the last on the list, Adam Zemon, no title of any kind is given, and no title seems to have been required from the Acolytes.

The lists deserve careful study, as they bring out various matters connected with the mediæval clergy that it would be difficult to learn in another way. Thus no one reading this list can fail to be struck with the fact that the Clergy must have been mainly drawn from the class of the smaller gentry, and the small freeholders. The yeomen which afterwards supplied so many of the Clergy had not yet arisen, and the men who possessed lands of the value of 40s. or more a year were men of the class from which the leaders of the soldiers were drawn. Tenants of the great lords cultivating their own land, yielding military service, these persons must have formed the bulk of the men who, according to this list, took orders. It would be interesting to see if in other dioceses the Clergy were drawn from the same class of persons. In the Register of Durham published in the Rolls series¹, this would seem to be the case in that Diocese also, but the Northern Clergy appear, if the value of their patrimony is to be taken as a guide, to have been poorer than those of Worcester. In Durham it is true there is an entry of the ordination of two noblemen, Peter de Mauley and John de Menylle, but their ordination is made the subject of a special entry, so it would

¹ Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense. Rolls Series, Vol. III.

seem it was a matter of rare and special occurrence. The requisite value of a title in Durham seems to have been five marks, while in Worcester 30s. appears to have been the lowest and 40s. is more usual.

If reliance is to be placed on a case in the Year Book of the 40th Edward III., as giving an idea of the general value of livings, 6 marks was enough for a person to live on. There the value of the benefice was said to be 6 marks. This may have been one of very small value, and it is difficult to reason from a single instance, but if there were benefices of 6 marks, then the sum required both in Worcester and even in Durham would be sufficient to support the man. On the other hand, it appears from the Durham register that one Roger de Northlegh had a pension of 5 marks until the Bishop provided him with a sufficient benefice, so that it would rather seem that 5 marks was starvation pay, the minimum that was considered enough. In the Durham register there is another case of a man, Henry de Luceby, who had an annual pension of five marks¹, until provided with an ecclesiastical benefice he would be willing to accept. This rather leads to the inference that some benefices were below five marks, and that it was possible a pension of that sum was better than a small living. The care that was taken by the Bishop in seeing the Clergy had a competent maintenance was in consequence of a decree of the Lateran Council in 1179, which provides that "*Episcopus si aliquem sine certo titulo de quo necessaria vitæ percipiat in Diaconum vel Presbyterum ordinaverit tamdiu necessaria ei subministret donec in aliqua ei ecclesia convenientia stipendia militiæ clericalis assignet nisi forte talis qui ordinatur extiterit qui de sua vel paterna hæreditate subsidium vitæ possit habere.*" The result of this was that a Bishop would be very loth to ordain any one who came for orders unless he was satisfied the candidate had for his own patrimony *de sua vel paterna hæreditate* a competent maintenance. Whether any Bishop did refuse on this ground does not appear on the register. Nor is it clear if a Bishop was got in to ordain as here if the liability attached to him or to the Bishop of the Diocese. Nor if in cases when the provision was to be held sufficient for a time, whether on the expiration of that time the one or two years the Bishop's liability arose. It may, however, be assumed that the reason the qualifications of the candidates are gone into so fully in the Sede Vacante Register is to preserve evidence to free the Bishop who

¹ Registrum Palatinum Dunelmense. Vol. III., p. lxxxviii.

ordained and also the subsequent Bishop of the Diocese from all possible claim in the future if any arose.

This part of the Register contains a good deal of information as to the ecclesiastical patronage in the Diocese. The following list (1) of benefices and their Patrons, including those given in the previous parts, (2) of Patrons and their benefices, will, it is hoped, be a help to local writers.

(1) List of benefices and Patrons from 1301 up to 1368 in the Sede Vacante Register :—

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>
Adreston.	Abbey of Tewkesbury.
Abbelench.	Simon le Brune.
Atheston.	Abbey of Tewkesbury.
Bristol.	
St. Nicholas.	Abbey of St. Augustine, Bristol.
St. Philip and St. James.	Abbey of Tewkesbury.
St. John.	”
St. Michael.	”
St. Andrew.	”
Broadwas.	Monastery of Worcester.
Brimsfield.	Prior of Brimsfield.
Belne Brocton.	Alienora, Lady of Sudeleye.
Belmbrokton.	The King.
Brayles.	Prior of Kenilworth.
Billesleye.	Sir William Trossell.
Byshampton.	Prioress of Cokhull.
Bodebrook.	Rector of Bodebrok.
Beaudesert.	Peter de Montfort.
Bredon.	Disputed.
Budebrok.	Disputed.
Bysseley.	
Bradewell.	Abbey of Evesham.
Begworth.	Prioress of Usk.
Cudberley.	Giles de Berkeley, The King as his guardian.
Cold Aston.	Prior of Bath.
Campden, Chapel of St. Catherine.	Earl of Gloucester.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>
Claverdon.	Archdeacon of Worcester.
Clyve Episcopi.	The King.
Cleeve Prior.	Monastery of Worcester.
Crowle.	Hospital of St. Wolstan, Worcester.
Cromb Symond.	Earl of Warwick.
Clynelod.	John de Berkeley.
Condicote.	William de Stonore.
Compton.	Maurice de Berkeley.
Cotes.	John de Luci.
Compton, Great.	Abbey of Walden.
Cambrugge.	Maurice de Berkeley.
Combe Baskervyle.	Richard Baskervyle.
Churchull.	Sir John Wysham.
	Eduard de Dunlent.
Dontesbun Militis.	John le Rous.
Daylesforde.	Miles de Hastings.
Derham.	The King.
	Eleanor Bussell.
Doynton.	Sir William Traci, Prior of Llanthony.
Dodynton.	Abbey of Gloucester.
Doderhill.	Disputed.
Estleigh (St. Martin).	Prior of Little Malvern.
Eckington.	Abbey of Pershore.
Estlecch.	Abbey of Teukesbury.
Elmley Castle.	
Erlyingham.	Abbot of Gloucester.
Eldersfield.	Prior of Little Malvern.
Elmelode.	Richard le Porter.
Evenlode.	Peter de Evenlode.
Eggesworth.	Thomas Raleigh.
Folebrook.	Nicholas de Warwick.
Flavel.	Alexander Besford.
Freethern.	Geoffrey de Freethorn.
Fulton.	John de Fulton.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>
Gloucester, St. Mary before the Gate.	Abbot of Gloucester.
Gunelode.	Richard Deivyle.
Hanley Castle.	Earl of Warwick.
Harenhull.	Robert de Harenhull.
Herforton.	Monastery of Worcester.
Holt.	" "
Hales or Halesowen.	Abbey of Halesowen.
Haggley.	Edmund de Haggley.
Hembury Saltmarsh.	The King.
Haseleye.	Prior of St. Sepulchre, Warwick.
Inkberrow.	Bishop of Hereford.
Kempsey.	The King.
K. Church of.	"
Kekyngwych.	John Kekyngwych.
Kenemarton.	John de Ferariis.
Lench Roculf.	Earl of Warwick.
Lapworth.	Merton College.
Littelton.	Abbey of Malmesbury.
Langebrugg next Berkely, War- den of Hospital of.	Bishop of Worcester.
Musardere.	Hugh le Despenser.
Morton Alba.	Malcolm Mussard, Lord of Morton.
Marsfield.	Abbey of Tewksbury.
Malvern Great.	Abbey of Malvern.
Morton.	Abbot of Evesham.
Morton Bagot.	Sir William Trussell.
Morton Brut.	Richard Ruyhal.
Mattesden.	Abbey of Gloucester.
North Pidele.	Sir Henry de Segrave.
Neunynton on Coldewsold.	Prior of Little Malvern.
Nafford.	Roger Golafre.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>
Oselworthe.	Abbot of Gloucester.
Oldberrow.	Abbot of Evesham.
Otyndon.	Preceptor of Cathedral of York.
Pilbemon.	
Preston next Hanley.	William Earl of Warwick.
Preston Bagot.	" "
Pillardington.	John de Hercy.
Pinnocschire.	The King.
Presteleye.	"
Pohynton.	Rector of Olverton.
Pokelelchurch.	Bishop of Bath and Wells.
Pynnuchyr.	Abbey of Hayles.
Pokyngton.	Thomas and Joan Tokey.
Rokynton.	Abbot of Reading.
Rowdecombe.	Earl of Stafford.
Rowell.	Abbot of Wynchcomb.
Stretton on Foss.	Walter Pickerel.
Sutton.	Abbot of Westminster.
Salewarp.	Earl of Warwick.
Stowelle.	Adam Martel.
Schenindon.	Abbot of Tewkesbury.
Stone.	Abbey of Evesham.
Shipton.	Robert de Solers.
Schelne (Hanbury).	Lucy Bartram, Lady of Schelne.
Southrop.	Prior of Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.
Sutton.	Abbey of Westminster.
Toneworth.	Prior of Kenilworth.
Tyberton.	Prior of Worcester.
Tokynton.	Thomas and Joan Tokey.
Wytechurch.	Alice de Montfort.
Wytton next Wych.	Prior of Stodley, Ingram de Frene.
Witleye.	Walter de Kokeseye.
Weleneford.	Prior of Deerhurst.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Patron.</i>
Weston Brut.	Margaret, widow of John Gifford.
Woodchester.	John Maltravers.
Wolvardeleye.	Prior of Worcester.
Wormynton, Little.	Walter Bodenham.
Worcester, St. Oswald's Hospital.	The King, the Bishopric being vacant. The Sacristan.
St. Wolstan's " Warwick.	The King.
St. Michael's Hospital.	Earl of Warwick.
Welneford.	Prior of Deerhurst.
Wyllesbourne.	Prior of Kynlworth.

This list of the patronage of 129 benefices gives a fair idea as to how the ecclesiastical patronage of the diocese was held in the 14th century. The following list of ecclesiastic and lay patrons will also help to shew it :—

<i>Patron.</i>	<i>Benefice.</i>
Abbot of Glouccster.	St. Mary before the Gate, Gloucester.
” ”	Oselworthe.
” ”	Erlyngham.
” ”	Mattesden.
” ”	Dodynton.
” ”	Osleworthe.
Abbot of Bristol.	St. Augustine, Bristol.
” ”	St. Nicholas, ”
Abbey of Evesham.	Bradewell.
” ”	Stone.
” ”	Oldberrow.
” ”	Morton.
Abbey of Halesowen.	Halesowen.
Abbey of Hayles.	Pynnuchyr.
Abbey of Malvern.	Great Malvern.
Abbey of Malmesbury.	Littelton.
Abbey of Pershore.	Eckington.
Abbey of Reading.	Rokynton.
Abbey of Tewkesbury.	Atheston.
” ”	Estleach.

<i>Patron.</i>	<i>Benefice.</i>
Abbey of Tewkesbury.	Marsfield.
” ”	Schenindon.
” ”	SS. Philip and James, Bristol.
” ”	St. Andrew, Bristol.
” ”	St. John, Bristol.
” ”	St. Michael, Bristol.
” ”	Atherston.
Abbey of Westminster.	Sutton.
Abbey of Walden.	Great Compton.
Abbey of Wynchcomb.	Rowell.
Prior of Brimsfield.	Brimsfield.
” Bath.	Cold Aston.
” Deerhurst.	Welneford.
Prior of Kenilworth.	Toneworth.
” ”	Brayles.
” ”	Wyllesbourn.
” Llanthony.	Doynton.
” Little Malvern.	St. Martin of Estleigh.
” ”	Newnynton on Coldeswold.
” ”	Eldersfield.
” Stodley.	Wytton next Wych.
” St. John of Jerusalem.	Southrop.
” St. Sepulchre, Warwick.	Haseleye.
” Worcester.	Herforton.
” ”	Broadwas.
” ”	Cleeve Prior.
” ”	Holt.
” ”	Wolvardeleye.
” ”	Tyberton.
Prioress of Cokull.	Byshampton.
Prioress of Usk.	Bcgworth.
Hospital of St. Wolstan, Worcester.	Croule.
Merton College, Oxford.	Lapworth.
Bishop.	
Bath and Wells.	Pokelelchurch.
Hereford.	Inkberrow.
Archdeacon of Worcester.	Claverdon.

<i>Patron.</i>	<i>Benefice.</i>
Rector of Brodebrok.	Brodebrok.
„ Longdon.	Longdon.
„ Holt.	Holt vicarage.
„ Olreston.	Pokynton.
Sacristan Worcester Cathedral.	St. Oswald's Hospital.
Preceptor of York Cathedral.	Otyndon.

Of the Lay patrons the following list appears :—

The King.	Kempsey.
„	Clyve Episcopi.
„	Pinnocschire.
„	Derham.
„	Church of K.
„	Presteleye.
„	Hembury Saltmarsh.
„	St. Wulstan Hospital, Worcester.
Besford, Alexander.	Flavell.
Berkeley, Giles de.	Cudburleye.
„	Clynelod.
„	Compton.
„	Cambrugge.
Brun, Simon le.	Abbelench.
Bodenham, Walter.	Little Wormynton.
Bartram, Lucy, Lady of Schelne.	Schelne (Hanbury).
Baskervyle, Richard.	Coombe Baskervyle.
Bussell, Eleanor.	Derham.
Deivyle, Richard.	Gunelode.
Dunclent, Edmund de.	Churchill.
Dispenser, Hugh le.	Musardere.
Evenlode, Peter de.	Evenlode.
Ferariis, Hawisie de.	Kencmarton.

<i>Patron.</i>	<i>Benefice.</i>
Frene, Ingram de.	Wytton next Wych.
Fulton, John de.	Fulton.
Freethorn, Geoffrey de.	Freethorn.
Gifford, Margaret.	Weston, Brut.
Golafre, Roger.	Nafford.
Gloucester, Earl of.	Campden, Chapel of St. Katherine.
Hastings, Miles de.	Daylesford.
Harenhull, Robert de.	Harenhull.
Hercy, John de.	Pillardington.
Hagley, Edmund de.	Hagley.
Kokeseye, Walter de.	Witleye.
Kekyngwych, John.	Kekyngwych.
Lucy, John.	Cotes.
Montfort, Alice de.	Whytechurche.
„ Peter de.	Beaudesert.
Musard; Malcolm.	Morton Abbas.
Martel, Adam.	Stowelle.
Maltravers, John.	Woodchester.
Pikerel, Walter.	Stretton on Foss.
Porter, Richard le.	Elemelode.
Rous, John le.	Dontesburn Militis.
Ruyhal, Richard de.	Morton, Burt.
Raleigh, Thomas.	Eggesworth.
Segrave, Sir Henry.	North Pidele.
Solus, Robert de.	Shipton.
Stafford, Earl of.	Roudecombe.
Stonore, William de.	Condicote.
Sudeleye, Alienora, Lady of.	Belne Brocton.

<i>Patron.</i>	<i>Benefice.</i>
Traci, Sir William.	Doynton.
Trossell, Sir William.	Billesleye.
” ”	Morton Bagot.
Toky, Thomas and Joan.	Tokynton.
Warwick, Nicholas de.	Folebrook.
Warwick, Earl of.	Hanley Castle.
” ”	Preston next Henley
” ”	Preston Bagot.
” ”	Salewarp.
” ”	Lench Roculf.
” ”	Cromb Symond.
” ”	Warwick, Hospital of St. St. Michael.
Wysham, Sir John.	Churchill.

In addition to these there are several cases of prebends and chantries. Of prebends these are Goderynghwll in the Church of Westbury¹, and another in the same Church², the prebends of Mordon and Waddon in Hereford Cathedral³, while the chantries were one which John de Southurste of Gloucester by his last will left and assigned for his soul and the souls of all faithful dead⁴, a chantry at Harsecomb which the Rector resigned⁵, and a perpetual chantry commonly called “Spagard” in the Church of St. “Ellen” of Worcester⁶.

There is an instance of an exchange of benefices. John de Severleye, Archdeacon of Worcester, proposed to exchange with John de Harewell, Vicar of Bucstede, in the diocese of Chichester; the consent of the King and the Archbishop of Canterbury had to be obtained in this instance⁷.

As to monasteries, there are one or two interesting entries. The Priory at Astley was a cell to the Benedictine Monastery of St. Taurinus of Evereux. The Abbot of St. Taurinus sent over a monk of the monastery, Robert de Loneris, to be Prior of the cell. Before he could take up the office he had to be approved and admitted by the Prior of Worcester, and formally inducted; this was done 3 December, 1313⁸. In Feb. 1361, William de Atrio,

¹ p. 200.² p. 207.³ p. 217.⁴ p. 183.⁵ p. 212.⁶ p. 218.⁷ p. 200.⁸ p. 139.

a professed Benedictine monk in the monastery of St. Taurinus, was sent over as Prior for Astley. He was presented not by the Abbot, but by a monk, Brother John Bomet, empowered to do so by the Claustal Prior¹.

A difficulty occurred in appointing a Prior in the House of the Augustine Canons at Dodford, near Bromsgrove². William de Aston, the Prior, died on the 9 Feb. 1361. The monks represented to the Prior of Worcester that there was at Dodford no regular way or form of election, so the Worcester Prior cut the knot by appointing as Prior one of the monks, Thomas Doul, who made the representation³.

A vacancy also occurred in the Abbey of Alcester. The Prior of Worcester claimed that the right to elect had devolved on him; the monks at Alcester claimed the right to elect. Fortunately both selected the same man, Maurice de Munstreworth, a Benedictine monk of the Abbey of Gloucester. The Abbot of Gloucester assented to the election, both parties presented him to the King, and he became Abbot of Alcester⁴.

A long account is given of the election of William Cok, Abbot of the House of St. Augustine, Bristol⁵. It was a house of Augustine Canons. The license of the Queen Phillipa, as patron, was first obtained, and the procedure seems to have been nearly, if not quite, the same as that already mentioned in other cases. The evidence of the witnesses as to the election taken before a Commission issued by the Worcester Prior is given at great length, the election was confirmed, and the Prior wrote to Queen Phillipa requesting her to approve of it⁶.

There was also a vacancy at Tewkesbury, and the monks obtained a *congé d'elire* from Sir Edmund le Despenser, the patron, to elect. The patron wrote to the Bishop of Worcester asking his consent to the election. The Prior went into the matter, appointed a commission, who found the election had been *via compromissionis*, and took a good deal of evidence. The election was ultimately confirmed by the Bishop of Worcester⁷.

There are a number of letters dimissory, authorising the holder to be ordained to the particular orders mentioned in the letter by

¹ p. 208.² At p. 7, *ante*, Dodford is called, by mistake, a Benedictine House.³ p. 209.⁴ p. 210.⁵ p. 192.⁶ p. 198.⁷ p. 216.

any Catholic bishop. Among them are two rather out of the common : one those to the Abbot of the Cistercian House of Bordesley, authorising him to be consecrated Abbot in canonical form by any Bishop¹. The other a proclamation by the Prior that the Rector of Toneworth being only in minor orders, and it being necessary he should be in full orders, came to be ordained on the proper day, but by default of the Bishop not ordaining on that day he had to retire unordained².

It should be noticed that during the vacancy of the See, the Prior seems to have got in any Bishop on whom he could lay his hands to confer orders, and this may account for the general term, "any Catholic Bishop," in which the letters dimissory were made out. In this register the Bishops who were employed during a vacancy of the See to ordain, and whose acts are recorded, were a Welsh Bishop (Llandaff), an Irish (Annaghdown), and a French (Sens).

On the great question of visitation, the right of the Worcester Prior during a vacancy of the See to visit the other religious houses liable to visitation in the Diocese, the Prior seems to have been fairly successful. In the vacancy after Reynolds' translation, at Gloucester he was resisted, but although there seems to have been still some grumbling and show of resistance, on the whole the monastic houses submitted to the Prior's right to visit during the vacancy of the See. In 1317 the Prior went still further. The Gloucester Abbot admitted the supremacy of the Worcester Prior during the vacancy of the See by shewing him the title of the Gloucester House to such of their church portions and pensions as were in the Diocese of Worcester³. And their example was followed by the Norman House of Lyra, who also produced their title-deeds to their property in the Worcester Diocese⁴.

III. The miscellaneous matters are not so numerous as in the former parts, but they are of considerable interest, as shewing the condition of the clergy before the Lollard movement. It would be as unfair to judge the state of the clergy from the records of the clerical courts of those days as it would be to draw a picture of the state of society at the present day from the reports of the divorce court, but the entries in this Register bear out the evidence we have from other sources. The great thing that appears is the inadequacy of the penalty for clerical offences.

¹ p. 152.

² Ibid.

³ p. 181.

⁴ Ibid.

In 1313¹ two laymen and two beneficed clergymen were charged with immorality. Both the laymen were discharged on purgation, that is their own denial, and a number of their neighbours swearing they did not believe they did it—an ancient form of evidence to character. The one incumbent received canonical correction, the other a dispensation. The most remarkable instance is the case of William de Staneweve, Rector of Broadwas². He was charged with adultery and incest, and the case deserves notice if for nothing else than to shew in what way the ecclesiastical writers of those days used the term incest. The charge against Staneweve was that he kept certain women in his house as concubines. Margery, wife of Henry Morkoc, his parishioner and spiritual daughter, a Dairymaid, Matilda, and certain other parishioners and spiritual daughters. It will be thus seen of what the charge of incest consists. The women in a parish were regarded by the Church as the daughters of the incumbent, any immorality with them was called incest. To a casual reader a charge of incest against a priest would give ground for some very severe reflections on the clergy generally; as shewn here, it emphasises the necessity of carefully considering the matter before giving an opinion, for incest, as we understand the word, and as the Worcester scribe understood it, are very different things; yet it is quite possible on this record if unexplained to form a terrible picture of the morality of Worcestershire clergy in the 14th century. The proceedings bring out another curious point. Staneweve laid violent hands on, or in other words thrashed, another person in orders, one William Parcy. As Parcy was a clerk Staneweve incurred the penalty of being *ipso facto* excommunicated. It appears he did not mind this, but went on with his duties as a parish priest, among other things saying Mass. For an excommunicated person to perform divine service was a most serious ecclesiastical offence. It does not seem that the fact of assaulting Parcy was regarded as very heinous, but performing service after it was an awful depth of wickedness. Staneweve was found guilty; he appealed to the Court of Arches; they heard the case, affirmed the judgment, deprived Staneweve and made him pay costs.

R. de A. B., Chaplain³, was charged with being guilty of incontinence with Joan de la Pole, and also with being a common

¹ p. 142.

² p. 169.

³ p. 180.

merchant, a common usurer, a common drunkard, a homicide and a common brawler. He was allowed to purge himself.

In considering these cases, another fact must be borne in mind. Although the persons committing these offences are spoken of as the Vicar or Rector of particular parishes, it by no means follows as of course that they were in orders; there are several cases in this very part where the Rector was clearly either in minor orders or a layman. For instance, John de Walcote, Rector of the Church of Herforton, was ordained sub-Deacon¹, shewing that he must have been a layman when appointed to the rectory.

There is a curious entry² as to John de Feckenham, citizen of Worcester. Certain evil disposed persons pretended to him they had long since taken Holy Orders, and they defamed him to the damage of his reputation, the peril of their souls, and the prejudice of the said John. Feckenham desired to free himself of the charges, so appeared before the Prior with six rectors of churches in Worcester and six laymen, who all swore that in their opinion he was innocent of the charges, and the Prior declared him not guilty. An instance of another class of offence, intrusion into the Church, that is, assuming the benefice without legal title, appears. Deerhurst belonged to the French Abbey of St. Dennis. One of the monks of that House, Philip de Cerneye, intruded himself into the Church and the spiritual goods of the same; the official of the Bishop suspended and excommunicated him. After purgation the Prior absolved him³.

One William Eliot, a parishioner of Hawkesbury, did not get on with his wife, and seemed to be incorrigible, but afterwards appeared before the Prior, abjured his sin, received back his wife, and took an oath to treat her with marital affection. The Prior ordered him to receive as penance six beatings in the market-place when the greatest number of people were there, and six about the parish church, and the Vicar of the parish was to see the penance done⁴.

Another matrimonial case was that of John Gode, of Cheltenham. The Consistory Court of Gloucester found he was the husband of Juliana Stout; he refused to live with her and was sent to prison, but returning to a better course of life, he agreed to marry Juliana in church. The Prior ordered him to be let out of prison on his giving security to marry Juliana⁵.

¹ p. 153.² p. 143.³ p. 146.⁴ Ibid.⁵ p. 147.

The Vicar of C. committed perjury as to the non residence in his vicarage. The Prior granted him a dispensation¹.

A question arose as to the legitimacy of the son of John de Feckenham. He was alleged to have been born after the agreement of his parents to marry, but before the actual marriage. It, however, on enquiry appeared he was born after the solemnization of the marriage, and so was clearly legitimate².

In another case of legitimacy the question arose as to whether a man could marry his deceased brother's wife, the question in Henry VIII.'s case, and it was at once held that the second marriage was bad³. Of course in this case there was no papal dispensation.

Two cases are mentioned of the purgation of clerks, one for theft and homicide, one for theft and robbery⁴, both of whom made purgation in the Cathedral; and to further provide for the maintenance of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, the Prior granted his commission to W. de B. to take into his custody any clerks who were indicted before the King's justices of gaol delivery⁵.

There are various traces of the increasing ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the estates of deceased persons such as a grant of administration of the goods of Robert de Bello campo, late an Esquire of the Prior who died intestate⁶. The Rector of the Church of Oldswineford, as executor of the will of John de Simplingford, was cited before the Prior to answer some articles as to the will⁷. The Dean of Wych was ordered to excommunicate certain sons of iniquity who detained very many goods from the executors of the will of R. de B.⁸. After hearing the accounts of the executors of the Rector of Fladbury a discharge was given them⁹.

The Archbishop of Canterbury directed the Prior to cite the executors of the late Bishop Walter de Maydeston to appear before the Archbishop to prove the will, and take up the administration¹⁰. Three of the Bishop's Executors who it appears had dealt with his goods were summoned before the Archbishop and ordered to answer as to the administration of his goods.

The Prior appointed one Richard Zaneworth to admit to the administration of Wills in the deaneries of Cirencester, Fairford, and Stonehouse, in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester¹¹.

¹ p. 148. ² p. 149. ³ p. 190. ⁴ p. 151. ⁵ Ibid. ⁶ p. 147.
⁷ Ibid. ⁸ p. 149. ⁹ Ibid. ¹⁰ p. 187. ¹¹ p. 212.

Other matters that came within the Prior's jurisdiction were delapidations. There is an order appointing a commission to inquire into the defects in the chancel, books, ornaments, houses and manors¹ of Pinnocshire done by the predecessor of the then Vicar. The Prior procured the Bishop of Llandaff to reconcile Holy Trinity Church, Stratford, a clerk in minor orders having been assaulted in it and blood shed².

Some space is taken up with matters relating to the collection of a tithe granted by Pope Clement V. for the support of a crusade for "the recovery of Zyon from the filthy Saracens³." The Bishop of Worcester appointed the Prior and Convent his sub-collectors in the Archdeaconry of Worcester, and the Prior and Convent ordered the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to appear at the Priory concerning the moiety payable in the first half of the year. Part of the collection came to £133 6s. 8d. for the first moiety⁴.

Two rather curious items significant of the time deserve notice. A Cistercian monk from Gerondon in Leicestershire proposed, probably as following the then prevailing fashion, but "as he asserted," on account of the fruit of a better life, to set up as a hermit in the Chapel of St. Brendan, near Bristol. He, however, makes a condition which shews that he still kept an eye on the world, "sufficient maintenance being assigned to him⁵."

The other shews how funds were raised in the 14th century to repair a bridge. The Prior sent a pastoral letter to all his clergy in the Diocese of Worcester recommending to them the *nuncius*—in the modern clerical language "*deputation*" would be the translation—"as to the great Bridge over the Severn at Worcester," when he came to solicit alms. He directs that he was to be kindly entreated, and whatever was collected handed to him⁶.

From this it would seem that even in 1313 the parish clergy did not care to allow their flock to be plundered too much for outside purposes.

It would occupy too much space to notice all the small points of County history or of general interest that are scattered about this part of the register. There is, it is true, great sameness, and much that is in this part has been already noticed in previous introductions. Still there is a good deal of fresh matter, but perhaps more of

¹ p. 150.² p. 186.³ p. 174.⁴ p. 176.⁵ p. 147.⁶ p. 150.

local than general interest. Yet in either point of view it would be difficult to find any record that throws more light on Church matters in the Diocese of Worcester in the 14th century than the Sede Vacante Register.

J. W. B.

Wick Episcopi,

24 Oct. 1895.

SEDE VACANTE REGISTER.

*From the Translation of Walter Reynolds to Canterbury, 1st Oct., 1313,
to the Enthronement of Walter de Maydeston, April, 1314.*

Fol. 80. REGISTER of certain extrajudicial matters, during the vacancy of the See of Worcester by the translation¹ of the lord Walter Reginald, Archbishop of Canterbury, Master Walter de Maydeston succeeding him in the said See in the year of our Lord 1313.

Letter from J., Prior, and the Chapter of Worcester to the Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, asking for a commission to execute episcopal jurisdiction during the vacancy of the See, in accordance with the composition made between Boniface, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, and them, and appointing J. de Sancto Briavello as proctor to receive the same. Dated in the Chapter at Worcester, the 8th of the Kalends of December, 1313.

Commission from the Prior and Chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester, to execute episcopal jurisdiction during the vacancy of the See of Worcester, in accordance with the composition made between them. Dated in the Chapter at Canterbury, on the Feast of St. Katherine the Virgin [25 November], 1313.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester to cite all abbots, priors, deans, provosts, preceptors, portionars, and masters of monasteries, churches, colleges, and hospitals of his Archdeaconry, and also rectors of churches, vicars, parochial chaplains, and other rural chaplains celebrating in his Archdeaconry, as well exempt as not exempt, to appear before the Prior in the Cathedral Church of Worcester on Saturday after the Feast of St. Nicholas next to come, to make canonical obedience and hear the Prior's canonical mandates. And also to cite all those presented

¹ The Bull of Translation was dated 1st Oct., 1313; received in London 21st Oct.; published in St. Paul's June 1st. See *post*, p. 144, for the Bull.

to churches, vicarages, portions, chantries, or other ecclesiastical benefices, or elected to any dignities, and those who have causes in the consistory court, and the executors of wills not yet proved, that they likewise appear. Dated at Worcester, the 5th of the Kalends of December, 1313.

Fol. 80*v*. A like order addressed to the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Letter from J., Prior of Worcester, to Benedict de Paston, rector of the church of Blockeleye, late official of Worcester. Whereas by the composition between the churches of Canterbury and Worcester the episcopal jurisdiction in the diocese of Worcester has devolved upon the same Prior, he orders the said Benedict to transmit to Worcester the rolls and registers of the consistories of Worcester, Gloucester, Warwick, and Bristol, and also the keys of the chests of the said consistories with the books, certificates, instruments, and muniments which remain in the said Benedict's possession, and to tell the same Prior the days and places fixed for holding courts. Dated at Worcester, the 6th of the Kalends of December, 1313.

Letter from B. de Paston, chaplain at Blockley, to the Prior of Worcester, acknowledging the receipt of the above letter. He had not heard that the See was vacant, nor had he heard anything since he left Worcester. If the rolls and other things concerning the consistory court were in his possession, he would gladly send them, but master R., clerk of the consistory court, has them in his possession, and upon an order will deliver them up. He does not know what to do with the seal. Dated at Blockley, 4th of the Kalends of December.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Benedict de Paston, late official of Worcester. Whereas the seal of the office of the official of Worcester, the registers, rolls, and chests of the consistory courts of the diocese, the See being vacant, were accustomed to be delivered to the Prior, the See having been vacant since 21 October, and the Prior having in a friendly manner desired the same Benedict to transmit them, which he has not done, wherefore the same Prior requires the same Benedict under canonical pains that he transmit the same before Sunday after the Feast of St. Andrew.

Fol. 81. Appointment by the Prior of Worcester of Richard de Alyncestr', his clerk, to hear causes in the consistory courts and correct defaults.

Institution of Master Thomas de Bristlamton, clerk, as rector of the church of St. Martin of Estleigh, in the diocese of Worcester, at the presentation of the Prior and Convent of Great Malvern. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Kalends of December, 1313.

Induction of the same Master Thomas de Bristlamton. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Kalends of December, 1313.

Memorandum, that on the day of St. Katherine the Virgin, 1313, Walter de Kelmescote, priest, was admitted to the vicarage of St. Nicholas, of Bristol, vacant by the resignation of Master Walter, the last vicar, at the presentation of the abbot and convent of St. Augustine of Bristol, and was canonically instituted.

Admission of Robert de Loneris, monk of the monastery of St. Taurinus, the diocese of Evreux, as Prior of the Priory of Astleye, in the diocese of Worcester, on the presentation of Robert, abbot of St. Taurinus and the Convent there. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Kalends of December, 1313.

Induction of the same Robert de Loneris. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Kalends of December, 1313.

Fol. 81*d*. Memorandum, that on the 3rd of the Nones of December, 1313, John le Kyng of Tudinton, priest, was admitted to the church of Kenemarton, vacant by the death of Gilbert de St. Clare, the last rector, at the presentation of the lady Hawisia, widow of Sir John de Ferariis, deceased, and was canonically instituted.

Memorandum, that on the 5th of the Ides of December, 1313, Master Robert de Remesbur', chaplain, was admitted to the vicarage of Longedon, vacant by the death of William de Preslond, the last minister, at the presentation of Master William Brown, rector of the church of Longedon, and was canonically instituted.

Memorandum, that Master John de Rees, in minor orders, was instituted on the 3rd of the Ides of December, 1313, into the church of Chareffeld by his proctor, William de Hardewyk, and had letters of induction.

Memorandum, that on the Ides of December, 1313, Master John de Kyngeston had letters of inquisition concerning the vicarage of Marsfeld, to which he was presented by the Abbot and Convent of Theukesbur', and had letters of institution and induction. The 10th of the Kalends of January.

Memorandum, that Thomas de Flore, clerk and acolyte, on the 15th of the Kalends of January, 1313, had letters of inquisition for the church of Northpidelé, to which he was presented by Sir Henry de Segrave, and he had letters of institution and induction. The 7th of the Kalends of January.

Memorandum, that William de Boreford, clerk, was admitted to the church of Pinnocschire, vacant, at the presentation of the King. The 8th of the Ides of January, 1313. And he had letters of institution and induction to the rector of the church of Hallinge and the vicar of Staneweys.

Memorandum, that Master Robert de Bruera, chaplain, was admitted to the vicarage of the parish church of Great Malvern, vacant, at the presentation of the Prior and Convent of Great Malvern, and swore perpetual residence.

Memorandum, that Master Robert de Hasele, chaplain, on the 2nd of the Kalends of January, 1313, had letters of inquisition to the church of Derham, to which he was presented by the King. The 15th of the Kalends of February.

Memorandum, that John Owyn, clerk, on the 2nd of the Kalends of January, 1313, had letters of inquisition to the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester for the church of Schenindon, to which he was presented by the Abbot and Convent of Theukesbur', and had letters of institution and induction. The 15th of the Kalends of February.

Memorandum, that John de Walcote, clerk, on the 8th of the Ides of February, 1313, had letters of inquisition to the church of Herforton, vacant by the death of Master Stephen de Clune, to which he was presented by the Prior and Convent of Worcester, and had letters of institution and induction. The Ides of February.

Memorandum, that Master Richard de Glen, clerk, had his inquisition in the cathedral church of Worcester on the 14th of the Kalends of March, for the church of Bradewas, to which he was presented by the Prior and Convent of Worcester, and had letters of institution and induction.

Memorandum, that Master Richard de Bremesgrave, chaplain, was admitted to the vicarage of Priors Clive on the 6th of the Nones of March, 1313, to which he was presented by the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, and had letters of institution and induction, and swore perpetual residence.

Memorandum, that John Sewale of Trompeton, chaplain, was admitted to the church of Weston Brut on the 6th of the Nones of March, to which he was presented by the lady Margaret, widow of John Gifford of Bremeffeld, and had letters of institution and induction.

Fol. 82. Concerning the making of visitations for the said time.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the sub-Prior and Chapter of Worcester, telling them that he intended to make visitation at their house on Saturday after the Feast of St. Nicholas. Dated at Worcester, on the Vigil of St. Andrew the Apostle, 1313.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Worcester, acquainting him with his intention to hold a visitation in the church of Worcester on Saturday after the feast of the Blessed Nicholas, and commanding him to cite all rectors and vicars of churches and chapels of his deanery, as well exempt from archidiaconal jurisdiction as not exempt, and also parochial and rural chaplains and others celebrating in the same churches and chapels, and clerks and ministers of the same churches and chapels, and from every

of the same parishes six or four laymen, according to the size of the parish. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Kalends of December, 1313.

A like letter directed to the other deans of the Archdeaconry of Worcester.

Appointment by the Prior of Worcester of Richard de Bromwych, S.T.P., monk of Worcester, and Master Richard de Alinc', clerk, to visit in the diocese of Worcester and correct crimes and defaults; and if necessary inquire specially about them, and also proceed against every unfit person, and remove any unworthy occupier of an ecclesiastical benefice. Dated at Worcester, the 9th of the Kalends of February, 1313.

Fol. 82*d*. Certificate that Sir J. de S., accused of committing adultery with M., the wife of W. de S., his brother, appeared before the Prior and asserted that he was innocent of such crime, therefore the first purgation was allowed him, and with a sufficient number of compurgators he purged himself. Done in the Chapter of Worcester, on the vigil of the Blessed Thomas the Apostle, 1313.

Certificate that J. de S., accused of the crimes of adultery and incontinence with Joan, widow of J. de L., and of relapsing (*recidivi*), appeared before the Prior and asserted that he was free from the said crimes since the correction made by William de Geynesburgh, formerly bishop of Worcester.

Certificate that W. de C. appeared on Monday, the feast of St. Paul, 1313, before the Prior, accused of fornication with A. de M., and underwent correction, having taken the oath of continuing from henceforth, as was accustomed, he was dismissed.

Certificate that J. de C., rector of the church of B., accused of the crimes of adultery and incontinence with A. de B., and of relapsing, appeared before the Prior and underwent canonical correction in form of right, whereupon he was dismissed. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Ides of February, 1313.

Certificate that Master John de S., rector of the church of B., came before the Prior and tearfully set forth that wheareas after he had obtained the cure of the same church, he committed the crime of incontinence or adultery with X. de B., A. de G., and F. de L., unmarried women of his parish, and publicly kept them for some time in his house as concubines, for which he is deeply penitent and humbly beseeches a healthful remedy. The Prior compassionating him grants him dispensation from the aforesaid crimes.

Certificate that certain evil disposed persons imposing upon John de Feckenham, citizen of Worcester, that they had been long since promoted to holy orders, although they had not been admitted to any such orders, evilly diffamed him as to this to good and wise persons to whom he had not before been diffamed, whereby the reputation of the same John was damaged to the grievous peril of their souls and prejudice of the same John. Wherefore the same John desiring to be purged and appearing on a certain day with six rectors of churches in Worcester and as many citizens, canonically purged himself, and the Prior solemnly pronounced him to be free from the matters imposed upon him. Dated at Worcester, the 15th of the Kalends of March, 1313.

Fol. 83. Certificate that on a certain day the Prior caused to be called before him Sir W. de B. and A. de S. for the crime of adultery, as it is said, committed between them, and enjoined salutary penance in form of law, and dismissed them so corrected.

Letter from the Prior to the Abbot of Alincester, stating that he intends to visit the same abbey and convent on Tuesday after the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul next to come. Dated at Worcester, the Ides of January, 1313.

Like letters sent to Stodley and other religious houses in the Archdeaconry of Worcester.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Prior and Convent of Stodley, desiring to reform the state of their house on account of certain matters reported to his commissaries in their visitation,

and to avoid scandal in the said house the Prior of Worcester commands, under pain of the greater excommunication, that they remove Adam, called Wyberd, from the office of cellarer and not to restore him to such office within two years, and then not without the consent of all the brothers. And whomsoever may be elected by the council of the brothers as cellarer, be bound to render an account twice in the year of the receipts and expenses of his office. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Ides of February, 1313.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter of Gloucester, stating his intention to visit their monastery on Saturday, after the Feast of St. Lucy the Virgin next to come. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Nones of December, 1313.

Fol. 83*d*. Like letters sent to the Abbot and Convent of Cyrencester. Dated 4th of the Nones of December.

Acknowledgment of the receipt of the above letter by the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter of Gloucester.

Like acknowledgment by the Abbot and Convent of Cyrencester. Dated the 7th of the Ides of December, 1313.

Commission by Walter, Archbishop elect of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester, appointing him his official in the city and diocese of Worcester, according to the force of a composition formerly made between Boniface, late Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Prior and his Chapter, during the vacancy. Dated at Lamhute, the 2nd of the Ides of January, 1313. Received the 7th of the Kalends of February.

Bull from Pope Clement to Walter, formerly elected Archbishop of Canterbury. In the time of Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, the Pope desiring to provide to the same church, when it should be vacant, made reservation thereof. Upon the death of the same Robert the Prior and Chapter of Canterbury, ignoring such reservation, elected Thomas de Cobham Canon of York, which said Thomas

humbly asked to be confirmed, but the Pope, having regard to his reservation, absolved the same Thomas from the chain by which he was bound to Worcester, and translated him to the administration of the church of Canterbury. Dated at the Priory of Gransollum, near Malansana, in the diocese of Gascony¹.

Fol. 84. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Abbot and Convent of the Blessed Peter of Gloucester. Whereas the Chapter of Worcester formerly warned the same Abbot and Convent of their intention to visit, and the Prior having come to their monastery to exercise the office of visitation there, the same Abbot and Convent denied him admission, excluding him by closing the gates and contemptuously refusing his monitions. Wherefore the Prior has now decreed that he intends to execute the office of visitation, either personally or by deputy, on Tuesday, after the Feast of St. Matthew. Dated at Worcester, the Nones of February, 1313. Note, that this was not certified, on account of which and resistance of the said Abbot and Convent sentence was pronounced against them, as appears in another register. And afterwards sentence aggravatory was pronounced against them on account of their obstinacy.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Gloucester—Whereas John Toky, abbot of Gloucester, Ralph de Foresta, prior, John de Touny, sub-prior, John de Wyggemor, sacristan, John de la Forde, cellarer, John le Palmer, precentor, Richard Toky, chamberlain, William de Sudinton, hostiller, Thomas de Ablinton, kitchener, John de Monemue, almoner, and Peter de Harleston, infirmerar, obedientiaries of the same house, on account of their manifest offences in not admitting the Prior of Worcester to the act of visitation in the monastery of the Blessed Peter of Gloucester, and refusing to appear upon warnings and orders canonically made, are and for a long time have been involved in the sentence of the greater excommunication—that the said Dean pronounce, or cause to be pronounced, under pain of the greater excommunication, in every church of his deanery, sentence of the greater excommunication against the same obedientiaries name by name, forbidding all his parishioners and subjects to communicate with them; that he cite

¹ This Bull is to the same effect as a similar Bull sent to Edward II., printed in Rymer, III. 439.

the same obedientiaris to appear before the same Prior or his commissary in the Cathedral Church of Worcester, on the fourth law-day, after the Feast of St. Scholastica the Virgin, to show cause why they should not be excommunicated, and that he sequester all the fruits and ecclesiastical profits of the same religious persons in his deanery, and keep the same until they obtain the benefit of absolution.

Fol. 84*v*. Purgation of brother Philip de Cerneye, monk of the monastery of the Blessed Dennis in France, accused of the crime of intrusion upon the church of Derhurst¹ and the spiritual goods belonging to the same. Dated in the Chapter House at Worcester, the 6th of the Ides of January, 1313.

Absolution granted to the same Philip from the sentence of suspension and excommunication pronounced upon him by the official of the late Bishop of Worcester. Dated as above.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Vicar of H., that whereas William Eliot, a parishioner of the same vicar, who formerly appeared incorrigible, but has now abjured his sins, received back his own wife, and taken an oath to treat her from henceforth with marital affection, the same Prior has enjoined the same William, in the name of penance, six cudgellings (*fastigationes*) through the market-place of B., when the greatest number of people shall be there, and six cudgellings about the parish church of Haukesbur'. Which penances the said vicar is to see carried out.

Letters testimonial for N. de W., clerk of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 7th of the Ides of February, 1313.

Letters of suspension upon T. de B. for contumacy in not coming before the Prior at the instance of W. de J.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Wych, to obtain from the Abbot and Convent of Bordesleye the procuration due at the late visitation of the Prior at the church of Tardebigge, lately acquired by the said Abbot and Convent.

¹ Deerhurst was a cell of the Abbey of St. Denis.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to T., abbot of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Theukesbury, that whereas Walter de Sancta Cruce, monk of Gerondon¹, of the Cistercian Order, in the diocese of Lincoln, having obtained licence from his Abbot, proposes, on account of the fruit of a better life, as he asserts, to lead a solitary life in the chapel of St. Brendun near Bristol, if the canonical sanctions permit, sufficient maintenance being assigned to him. The Prior commits the matter to the decision of the same Abbot.

Fol. 85. Order by the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Kyderminstre to cite John, rector of the church of Old Swineford, executor of the will of John de Simplingford, to appear before the same Prior in the cathedral church of Worcester on Tuesday before the Feast of St. Valentine to answer certain articles touching the said will.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to Sir P. de B. of the administration of the goods of Robert de Bello Campo, late an Esquyre of the same Prior, who died intestate. Dated at Worcester, the 10th of the Kalends of January.

Release of the sequestration upon the goods of Master John de Lilleford, rector of the church of Severnstok, imposed by Walter, late bishop of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the Kalends of December.

Commission by the Prior of Worcester to Master J. de Grava, rector of the church of Colne in the diocese of Worcester, to sequester the profits of the church of Derhurst.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the bailiff of the liberty of Cheltenham. It having been intimated to the same Prior that John Gode of Cheltenham, imprisoned in the prison of Cheltenham, because in the consistory of Gloucester he was adjudged as the husband of Juliana Stout, to which sentence the same John refused to comply, but now desiring to return to a better course of life

¹ Co. Leicester.

and to make satisfaction to God and the Church for his rebellion and manifest offences, and to be reconciled in form of law, and to marry the same Juliana in the face of the Church, the Prior orders that the same John be liberated from prison that he may marry the said Juliana in the face of the Church, security being taken for the performance of the promises. Dated at Worcester, the 4th of the Ides of January, 1313.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester ordering him to inquire as to the vacancy of the vicarage of the church of the Blessed Thomas of Great Malvern, Master Robert de Brueria, chaplain, who was presented to the same by the Prior and Convent of Great Malvern, complaining that the same official by pretext of the vacancy of the See refused to inquire as to the vacancy of the vicarage and upon certain articles touching the same matter.

Fol. 85*d*. Order to the Dean of Pershore and to the rector of the church of Lenchrodulf, to warn William Bertram of Radeforde that within eight days he satisfy John de Staneweye, rector of the church of Fladebury, the 53*s*. 8*d*. in which he is bound to the same in a canonical matter, according to the trust entered into between them as it is said, otherwise to cite the same William to appear before the Prior or his commissary.

Declaration by J., Prior of Worcester, that Master Richard de Alincestr', clerk, was admitted to the deanery of the collegiate church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick at the presentation of Sir Guy de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, and was canonically instituted dean of the same church with all its rights and appurtenances saving the dignity to the bishops and archdeacons for the time being. Dated at Worcester, the 4th of the Nones of February, 1313.

Dispensation to Master Henry de C. B. (sic), vicar of the church of C., for perjury committed by occasion of his non-residence at his vicarage.

Declaration of the legitimacy of Thomas de F. of W., who was not only born after the contract of marriage (*de contractu matrimoniali*) between John de Feckenham and Christina, daughter of John de Astley of Worcester, his father and mother, but after the solemnization of the same marriage contract (*de solemnizatione ejusdem contractus matrimonialis*) and was acknowledged as a legitimate son by the same. Dated at Worcester, the Ides of October, 1313.

Order to the dean of Wych to excommunicate those sons of iniquity who detain very many goods from the executors of the will of R. de B.

Acquittance to the executors of the will of Master N. de Wodeford, rector of the church of Fladebur', after hearing their account of the administration.

Appointment by the Prior of Worcester of the perpetual vicar of Holt as curate to Master Giles de Alnechirch, rector of the church "de la Holte," of the deanery of Worcester, who is broken down by old age so that he cannot take charge of the cure committed to him in his church, therefore the said vicar is enjoined to prudently dispose the goods and fruits of the church and not to neglect the cure of souls.

Fol. 86. Order by the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to inquire of the rectors and vicars of the deanery of Pershore, and to certify the same Prior of the estate of the beneficiary of the parish church of Almeley under the castle of the same place, and of the appointment, removal, and collation of the same; and also what vicar or warden of the chantry of the castle of Almeley or vicar of the parish church aforesaid was accustomed to appoint and remove the said beneficiary; and who, before the appointment of Master William de Hampton, now warden of the said chantry, was accustomed to appoint the said beneficiary. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Nones of January.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester. Whereas the Prior has received a grievous complaint

from William de Boreford, clerk, admitted and instituted to the church of Pinnocshire, that many defects as well in the chancel as in the books, ornaments, houses, and manse remain unamended by default of his predecessor, he orders the same official to inquire as to the same. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Ides of January.

Order to the dean of Wych to cite certain persons, whose names are set out in a schedule¹, to appear before the Prior to answer certain articles touching medicine (*medelam*) for their souls.

Letter from J., Prior of Worcester, to the Abbot of Hales. Whereas the Prior lately visited the parish church of Hales, appropriated to the abbey of Hales, whereby there is due the accustomed procuration, of which the same Prior has to render an account to the Archbishop of Canterbury, he therefore prays that the same may be paid to him, or the sub-prior of Worcester, within three days. He also begs that the cope in which the same abbot was admitted to the gift of benediction (*in qua munus benedictionis admisistis*) may be transmitted to him, as before asked, that discord and litigation may not arise between them.

Order to the Archdeacon of Gloucester to cite all deans to appear with their rolls and muniments in the Cathedral Church of Worcester on Wednesday next, before the Feast of the Blessed Thomas the Apostle, to render an account of the Peter's pence collected in the diocese since the vacancy of the See, that is since 21 October. Dated at Worcester, the 4th of the Kalends of December, 1313.

Fol. 86*d*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to all archdeacons and their officials, deans, rectors, vicars, and chaplains and others ministering in churches and chapels, as well exempt as not exempt, throughout the city and diocese of Worcester. That when R. de B., proctor or envoy (*nuncius*) of the great bridge over the Severn at Worcester, or T. de W., his substitute, should come to beg the alms of the faithful, that they be admitted kindly and without contradiction, and whatever be collected be handed to them, and if any impede the same proctor in collecting the alms of the faithful, that

¹ Schedule not given.

they be restrained by ecclesiastical censures and cited to appear before the Prior or his commissary. Dated at Worcester, the 11th of the Kalends of March, 1313.

Purgation of Thomas de Hanneye, clerk, indicted of theft and homicide with form of purgation. Made in the Cathedral Church of Worcester, on Wednesday, after the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mary the Virgin, 1313.

Purgation of John Neel, clerk, indicted of theft and robbery, with form of purgation. Made in the Cathedral Church of Worcester, on the above date.

Commission to W. de B. to receive and take into custody clerks indicted before the Justices of gaol delivery in the city of Worcester. Dated 12th of the Kalends of January, 1313.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester. Whereas Gilbert, bishop of Annaghdown¹ (*Enachdunensis*), proposes to celebrate ordinations on Saturday, *quatuor temporum*, in the first week of Lent, in the Cathedral Church of Worcester, the same Archdeacon is ordered to cite all those who have not yet received the full the orders which the cure of their benefices requires, either before the last Council of Lyons or after, and others who propose to be promoted to orders. Dated at Worcester, the 15th of the Kalends of March, 1313.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to the bishop of Annaghdown to confirm children (*pueros*), bless altars, dedicate cemeteries and churches, and celebrate orders in the diocese of Worcester until the same commission be revoked. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Nones of December, 1313.

Letters dimissory to Bartholomew de Elmham, rector of the second portion (*secundæ portionis*) of the church of Biseleye, a deacon of the diocese of Worcester, giving him licence to be promoted to priests' orders by any bishop of the Apostolic See, notwithstanding he was beneficed in the said diocese. Dated at Worcester, the 4th of the Nones of December, 1313.

¹ In Ireland.

Fol. 87*d*. Letters dimissory to Roger de Audeleye, son of Sir Hugh de Audeleye, knight, to be promoted to minor orders by any catholic bishop, notwithstanding he was born in the diocese of Worcester.

Like letters dimissory to Richard, son of John de Fladebur', of Bradeweie, for ordination to acolyte's orders. Dated the 13th of the Kalends of January.

Like letter dimissory to Master Thomas de Brithlampton, rector of the church of Estlech St. Martin, for sub-deacon's orders. Dated the 12th of the Kalends of January.

Like letters dimissory to John de Crombe, clerk, for sub-deacon's orders. Dated as above.

Like letters dimissory to Richard de Wootton, rector of the church of Torteworth, for all holy orders, at the instance of N. de Bradefeld. Dated the 3rd of the Kalends of February.

Letters dimissory to the abbot of Bordesleye, of the Cistercian Order, to receive the gift of blessing in canonical form from any bishop. Dated at Worcester, the Nones of February, 1313.

Licence to Giles de Baggesore, rector of the church of Aston Cantelou, deacon, of the diocese of Worcester, to absent himself for purposes of study for two years from his church, provided he depute a fit chaplain for the cure of souls and the services of his church during his absence.

Proclamation by the Prior of Worcester, that Master Thomas Talebot, rector of the church of Toneworth, sub-deacon, of the diocese of Worcester, as it is said, came to the Prior at Worcester on the 12th of the Kalends of January, 1313, prepared to be admitted to the orders which the cure of his benefice required, but by default of the bishop not celebrating orders on the Saturday following he retired unordained, with a public protest, as he was bound. Dated at Worcester on the morrow of the Blessed Thomas the Apostle.

Memorandum that John le Chamberleyn, of the diocese of Worcester, was ordained sub-deacon to a title by patrimony, by J., Bishop of Landaff¹, celebrating orders on Saturday, *quatuor temporum*, after the Feast of St. Lucy the Virgin, 1308, in the church of the Friars Minors of Gloucester, in the place of W., Bishop of Worcester². And the same John was ordained deacon by the venerable father R.³, Bishop of Hereford, in the church of Ledebury, by special commission, for ordaining subjects of the Bishop of Worcester, on Saturday, *quatuor temporum*, the vigil of Holy Trinity, 1310, to a title by patrimony.

Fol. 88. Declaration by the Prior of Worcester in accordance with the above memorandum.

Letters testimonial that Thomas Sweteman, of Gloucester, was ordained deacon by the Bishop of Annaghdown on Saturday, *quatuor temporum*, in the first week of Lent, 1313, in the Cathedral Church of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 6th of the Nones of March.

ORDERS celebrated in the Cathedral Church of Worcester on Saturday, *quatuor temporum*, in the first week of Lent, 1313, by Gilbert, Bishop of Annaghdown, at the request of the Prior of Worcester, the See being vacant.

SUB-DEACONS.

John de Walcote, rector of the church of Herforton.

Richard Sely, of Norton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the Dean of Gloucester, and stated himself satisfied therewith (*de quo docuit sub sigillo decani Glouc. et se contentum reputavit*).

Thomas de Kyderm', on a title by patrimony, of which he gave particulars by letters of the Archdeacon of Shrewsbury, and stated himself satisfied therewith.

John Partrich, of Hallowe, on the presentation of the Prior of Worcester.

Thomas le Scherare, of Gloucester, on a title by patrimony, of which he gave particulars under the seal of the Dean of Gloucester, and stated himself satisfied therewith.

¹ John of Monmouth.

² Walter Reynolds.

³ Richard Swinfield.

William de Humelton, on a title by patrimony, of which he made oath (*de quo jur'*), and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Henry Constantine, of Newynton, on a title by patrimony of 30s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester by the Prior.

Richard Scheremon, of Stretford, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

William, son of Richard de Cotes, of Great Comberton, on a title by patrimony of 30s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of Worcester.

John Bonde, of Chilttenham, on a title by patrimony of 30s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Roger Ede, of Binynton, on a title of an annual rent, of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of Worcester.

Walter Godbenytons, on a title of an annual pension of 40s. from the house of Alecestr', of which he gave particulars by letters of the Abbot and Convent of the same place.

Nicholas de Upton, of Gloucester, on a title of an annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of Worcester, the See being vacant.

John le Dekene, of Alicestr', on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester. Let it stand for two years (*stet per biennium*).

John atte Broke, of Kyngton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Fol. 88*d.* Walter de Howe, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

John, son of Robert Jones, of Utlycote, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester. Let it stand for three years (*stet per triennium*).

Robert, called Broun, of Honynton, on the presentation of the house of Holy Trinity, of Telefford, of which he gave particulars under seal of the same.

Warine de Lench, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester, at the instance of J. Brevel.

John, son of Walter Rondulf, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of Worcester.

Robert, son of Robert de Folchery, on a title of the annual rent of 6 marks, of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of Worcester.

Henry de Risindon Magna, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

William Bilyas, of the Castle, by letters dimissory of his diocesan, to the rector, C. de Copegrave.

John Waller, of Wych, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

Adam Ody, of Wyk, on a title by patrimony, of which he gave particulars and made oath, and stated himself satisfied therewith.

John de Hayle, on the presentation of the Prior and brothers of Kregelade, of which he gave particulars by letters of the same.

Simon, son of John Knyst, of Bradeleye, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

Alexander Fraunceys, of Cochull, on the presentation of brother William de Cochull, Prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

Henry Brid, of Chorleton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Walter, son of Walter de Chircheleye, of Boclone, on a title by patrimony, of which he gave particulars under seal of the Dean of Campeden.

John, son of Richard, the Baker of Bremesgrave, on a title by the annual rent of 30s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

Thomas, son of Thomas Scherreve, of Morton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of Worcester.

Gilbert de Mukelton, on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the Dean of Campeden.

Walter Steorte, of Gloucester, on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars and made oath, and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Vincent de la Felde, of Gloucester, on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

William, son of Richard atte Mulne, of Bremesgrave, on a title of the annual rent of 45s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

John Kent, of Cadelstrop, on a title by patrimony of 30s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the Dean of Gloucester.

John de Solers, on the presentation of the minister and brothers of the house of the Holy Trinity of Telefford, of which he gave particulars by letters of the same.

William de Couele, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

William Osegod, of Aston, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Robert de Pertegreve, of King's Norton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

William Laurenee, of Bervynton Parva, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Robert de Cokeburn, of Marcleye, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Roger Baret, of Bredon, on a title by patrimony of 30s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Henry, son of Nicholas Clerk, of Whitechurch, on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Henry Doke, of Wynterton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

John le Verdun, of Bishampton, on a title of the annual rent of

40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Adam de Ollanton, on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Simon de Wollaynton, on a title of the annual rent of 30s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Nicholas, son of William Fennyng, of Brome, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

William, son of Ranulph le Cok, of Alync', on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Henry le Marchal, of Quenynton, on the presentation of brother William de Tothale, Prior of St. John of Jerusalem.

Walter Tovy, of Bradewas, on the presentation of the Prior of Worcester.

Peter de Wykes, son of Simon de Saxilby, on the presentation of the minister and brothers of the hospital of the Holy Trinity of Telefford. Let it stand for two years.

Robert le Neumon, of Mukelton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Thomas, son of Richard, son of Roger Stirthrop, on a title by patrimony, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Walter Faber, of Budyford, Richard de Whistlakefford, and John Geffrey, of Budyford, on a title by the master of the hospital of Brafton, particulars of which he swore to send (*quem mittere juravit*).

Lucas Cosyn, of Compton Scorefen, on a title by patrimony of 2 marks, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Richard Sparhaukes, of Campeden, on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Henry Gody, of Humelton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith—by the Sub-Prior.

William, son of John Goth, of Haya, in the diocese of St. David's, by letters dimissory of his diocesan.

William Dragun, of Wych, on a title of the annual rent of 40s.,

of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Adam de Abyndon, on a title by patrimony, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Robert, rector of the church of Haselton.

Thomas de Bristlamton, rector of the church of Estlech.

Walter, rector of the church of Bradeweie.

Thomas Lappole, of Hales, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Thomas, son of Richard de Aula, on a title by patrimony, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

John, son of John le Fremon, of Listethurn, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Fol. 89. Richard de Schirrivelench, on a title of an annual rent, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Robert de Hulle, of Besford, on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Henry de Listhern', on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Thomas de Twenyng', on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Thomas Swetemon, of Gloucester, on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

John de Heyford, by the Prior on the representation of Sir Alexander de Brirhulle (*nunciante domino Alexandro de Brirhulle*).

Henry Cogon, by the Prior, for two years (*per biennium*).

John Savage, on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith, for two years.

John de Exford, on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

John de Uphatherye, on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

John le Waleys, on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Roger de Stretford, on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Adam de Fladebur', on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Richard Mustel, on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Richard, son of John de Rothewell, on a sufficient title, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

SUB-DEACONS OF RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

Brother Robert Mose, monk of Worcester.

Brother John de Newynton, monk of Worcester.

Brother John de Kydermenster, monk of Bordesleye.

Brother William de Wykes, monk of Bordesleye.

Brother Richard de Pyryton, canon of Lanthony next Gloucester.

Brother Alan de Codinton, canon of Lanthony next Gloucester.

Brother John de Elemor, canon of Lanthony next Gloucester.

Brother Robert de Befford, of the order of [Friars] Minors.

Brother John de Abindon, of the Carmelite order.

SECULARS.

John, son of Walter Borbast, of Aldewych, on the presentation of the prior and brothers of the hospital of St. John of Lecchelade.

Phillip Bonere, on a title by patrimony of 30s., of which he gave particulars under the seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

John, son of John le Warner, of Bredon, on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

Nicholas de Pillardinton, on a title by patrimony of 40s. of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

William le Taylour, of Cherleton, on a title by patrimony of 30s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Richard, son of Nicholas le Vinour, of Worcester, on a title of the annual rent of 30s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of Worcester. Let it stand for two years (*stet per biennium*).

John de Bampton, of Malgaresbur', on a title by patrimony of

40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

John Hennyng, of Wilmecote, on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

Hugh Ernard, of Persore, on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

William de Ilmedon, on a title by patrimony of 30s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Lawrence, son of Richard Brid, of Eldresfeld, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

Thomas de Aston Somervyle, on a title by patrimony of 20s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

John, the sacristan of Bremesgrave, is admitted without title by the grace of the Prior of Worcester, at the instance of the Vicar of the same place.

Thomas de Iccumbe, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Thomas, called Partrich, of Worcester, on a title of the annual rent of 2 marks, of which he gave particulars under seal of the Prior of Worcester.

William de Bocthop, by grace of the Prior of Worcester, without title.

John, son of Hugh de Troye, of Pupilnton, on a title of the annual rent of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

John de Hamstede, of Market Sobbur', on a title by patrimony, of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Walter de Harsfeld, by grace of the Prior of Worcester.

Thomas le Mercer, of Worcester, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

William, son of Ralph de Cumpton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

John Pedhokes, of Hampton Lovet, on a title of the annual

rent of 30s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

John Golde, of Crombe, on a title of the annual rent of 20s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

David, son of Robert, son of Warine de Comberton Parva, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

William de Welleford, at the presentation of the Prior of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester.

John de Morton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

Peter de Bradeweie, on the representation of brother Henry de Antioch, because the prior admitted the same.

John de Evesham, called Cokes, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Eveshamye.

Richard de Cokebur', on the presentation of the abbot of Winchcumb, Richard de Haukeslowe being witness.

John de Eldresfeld, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Reginald Bonecher, of Goderynton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

Richard Gladewyne, of Hodinton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

John, son of John le Blake, of Upton, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars under seal of the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

John Warner, of Bradeweie, on a title by patrimony of 20s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Robert, son of Henry de Lench' of Bontleye, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Richard Graunt, of Ebuston, on a title by patrimony of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Walter Defford, on a title of 40s., of which he gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Ralph de Biseleye, at the presentation of the Prior and Convent of Lanthony next Gloucester.

John Chivaler, on a title by patrimony, of which he made oath and gave particulars and stated himself satisfied therewith.

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DEACONS.

John Hope, of Bradeweys, on a title by patrimony, of which he made oath and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Hugh Aleyn, of Merston Botiler, on a title of 40s. annual rent.

William de Stategrave, on the presentation of the Prior and Convent of Coldenorton.

Robert de Kerswelle, on a title by patrimony, as is above stated.

Henry de Staunton, on a title by patrimony, as above.

John, called the Chaplain of Seynesbur', on a title by patrimony.

Nicholas Reynald, of Saltford, on a title by patrimony.

William Lambert, of Farcote, on a title by patrimony, as above.

Richard, called Clerk, of Gloucester, on the presentation of the Prior and brothers of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester.

Richard de Bernynton Parva, on a title by patrimony, as above.

John Chiterling, of Wych, on a title by patrimony.

John le Palmere, of Kenemersford, on the presentation of the Prior and Convent of Lecchelade.

Nicholas le Guldare, of Kenemersford, on the presentation of the Prior and brothers of St. John of Cirencester.

Philip de Rysindon, on a title by patrimony, as above.

William de la Ryne, of Kenemersford, on the presentation of the Prior and brothers of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester.

William le Mason, of Merston, on the presentation of the Prior and brothers of the hospital of St. John of Crykelade.

Henry, son of Walter atte Hurne, on the presentation of the Prior and brothers of the hospital of St. John of Crykelade.

John Bevereches, of Combok, on a title by patrimony.

William Fortheye, of Fayreford, on the presentation of the Prior and Convent of Brueria.

Henry, son of William de Lecch', on a title by patrimony.

Philip de Longeleye, on a title by patrimony.

William de Kenemersford, on the presentation of the Prior and brothers of the hospital of St. John of Lecchelade.

William de Aston Somervile, on a title by patrimony.

Richard Dun, of Cheltenham, on a title by patrimony.

William de Hampton Monialium, on a title by patrimony.

Jordan le Botiler, of Claverdon, on a title by patrimony.

William, son of Richard Sileburn, on a title by patrimony.

Hugh Dag, of Persore, on a title by patrimony.

Richard de Chaveringworth, on a title by patrimony.

Henry Ketelbern, on a title by patrimony, it appears from the orders.

William le Marechal, of Haltford, on a title by patrimony, but it does not suffice for the higher orders (*sed non apparet de ulterioribus ordinibus*).

John Hikedon, of Faireford, on a title by patrimony.

John, son of John de Barton, of Morton, on exhibiting letters of orders, he is to be confirmed in his orders hereafter (*sub ca' ex' hndi tras' ord' sui constat de ord' pg*).

Henry Houwe, of Stretford, on a title of 40s. annual rent.

Thomas Botacre, on a title by patrimony. It will suffice for a year (*stabit per annum*).

John de Halford, on a title by patrimony.

William de Halford, on a title by patrimony.

Walter de Atherestrop, on a title by patrimony.

John de Almyndestr', on a title by patrimony.

William Godefrey, of Seynesbur', on a title by patrimony.

Richard, son of Reginald le Parker, on the presentation of the Abbot and Convent of Alyncestr'. It will suffice for a year.

John Mason, of Merston Meysey, on the presentation of the hospital of Crickelade.

John de Schirwold, of Merston Meysey, on the presentation of the same hospital.

Robert Eleaunt, of Iccumbe, on the presentation of the Abbot of Brueria. It will suffice for a year.

Ralph Blount, of Estlecch, on a title of an annual rent.

Henry de Uphampton, on a title of an annual rent.

John Brun, on a title by patrimony. It will suffice for two years.

John Gilbert, of Norton, on a title by patrimony.

John de la Flagge, by letters from the Roman Court.

Richard de Cherleton, on a title by patrimony.

Richard Bouetoun, of Dorne, on a title by patrimony.

Adam Remon, of Evesham, on the presentation of the Abbot of Evesham.

Richard de Flaylesworth, on a title by patrimony. It will suffice for a year.

Peter de Haleford, on a title by patrimony.

Thomas de Wesbur', on a title by patrimony.

Henry Lilie, of Wormynton, on a title by patrimony.

John Giffard, of Preston, on a title by patrimony.

Richard Drake, of Hosintr', on a title of an annual rent.

Thomas Lewyn, of Swyndon, on a title by patrimony.

John Crede, of Swyndon, on a title by patrimony.

William de Caldewalle, on a title by patrimony.

John Newemon, of Rysindon Magna, on a title by patrimony.

John atte Noke, of Shirburn, on a title by patrimony.

Robert de Leyntrenton, on a title by patrimony.

Henry de la Stowe, on a title by patrimony.

John Eustas, of Pillardinton, on a title by patrimony.

John de Pillardinton, on a title by patrimony.

William Sare, of Bratforton, by letters of the Abbot of Evesham.

Walter Gurdon, of Tettebur', on a title by patrimony.

Thomas de Ryndecumbe, on a title by patrimony.

Laurence de Welleford, on a title by patrimony.

Thomas Twich, of Evesham, on a title by patrimony, by letters dimissory of the Abbot of Evesham.

William Baldwyne, of Littleton, on a title by patrimony.

Robert de Walton, on a title of an annual rent.

Walter de Molendino, of Chirinton, on a title by patrimony.

John de Aston Simervile, on a title by patrimony.

Alan Baretous, of Merston Botiler, on a title by patrimony.

John Payn, of Mildecumbe, on the presentation of the Abbot of Evesham, by letters dimissory.

John de Solers, of Wynston, on a title by St. Frideswyde, Oxford.

Walter, son of William le Yonge, of Stonhuse, on a title by patrimony.

¹ rector of the chapel of Tokinton.

Giles, rector of the church of Aston Cantelu.

Thomas Besford, rector of one portion of the church of Leg'.

PRIESTS.

Fol. 90. Thomas de Saldford, on a title by patrimony, which he swore to be true and stated himself satisfied therewith.

Henry de Neubold, on a title of 40s. annual rent, of which he made oath and stated himself satisfied therewith.

John Rondulf, of Stourton, on a title by patrimony, as above.

Simon de Lucwelle, of Haltfordwykes, on a title by patrimony, as above.

Robert Geffrey, of Budyford, on a title by the Prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

Simon de la Hulle, of Seypton, on a title by patrimony, as above.

Robert de Chaddeswelle, on a title by patrimony as above.

Hugh Fraunkeleyn of Pebbeworth, on the presentation of the Abbot and convent of Alyncestr'.

Robert de la Sherde, on a title by patrimony.

William le Rous, of Longeberg', on the presentation of the Abbot and convent of Brueria.

John de Bengeworth, by letters from the Abbot of Evesham.

Reginald Sport, on a title by patrimony, as above.

Robert de Utlycote, on a title by patrimony, as above.

Richard de la Grene, of Dumbelton, on a title by patrimony, as above.

Richard de la Felde, of Kings Norton, on a title by patrimony.

William de Lacksleye, on a title of 50s. annual rent.

Adam atte Welle, of Wyk, on a title by patrimony.

Peter le Wyte, of Worcester, on a title by patrimony.

John de Birlingham, on a title of 30s. annual rent.

William de Edbriston, on a title by patrimony.

John de la Berne, of Tonworth, on a title by patrimony.

Robert le Coupere, of Feckenham, on the request of J. de Bradewa'.

William le Meror, of Haltford, on a title by patrimony.

John de Eldresfeld, on a title by patrimony.

¹ Blank in MS.

Henry Lambert, of Farcote, on a title by patrimony.

Robert de Sotheye, on a title by patrimony.

William Anketel, of Merston Sicca, on the presentation of the Abbot and convent of Wynhecumb.

Simon de Rowynton, on the title of an annual rent.

Henry, son of John Morice, of Seynesbur', on a title by patrimony.

Thomas de Iccumbe, on the presentation of the Abbot and convent of Brueria.

John de Belnebrocton, on a title of 40s. annual rent.

Walter le Barber, on a title by patrimony.

Nicholas de Leobur', on a title by patrimony.

Robert de Lench, on a title by patrimony.

Adam de Hiddeleye, of Hales, on a title of an annual rent.

Hugh de Wycheneford, on a title by patrimony.

Roger Noch, of Norton Regis, on a title of 40s.

Robert de Hynkeleye, on a title by patrimony, in the diocese of Lincoln.

John de Seynesbur', on a title by patrimony.

John Richeman, of Stowe, on a title by patrimony.

Jurdan de Wellesburn, on a title by patrimony.

Thomas de Morton Daubeney, on a title by patrimony.

John Pictor, of Burlingham, on a title by patrimony.

William de Staunton, on a title by patrimony.

Hugh de Salsomarisco, on a title by patrimony.

Robert de Nategrave, on a title by patrimony.

Nicholas de Seynesbur', on a title by patrimony.

John le Marchal, of Campeden, on a title by patrimony.

Walter Bacare, of Oxulue, on a title by patrimony.

William Dur, of Bratforton, on a title by patrimony.

William atte Hulle, of Seynesbur', on a title by patrimony.

Henry de Basinge, rector of the church of Radmerton.

Robert Dod, of Lechlade, on a title by the Prior and brothers of the same place.

Henry de Bredon, on a title by patrimony.

Nicholas Brown, of Wenrich, on a title by patrimony.

Philip de Bebmor, on a title by patrimony.

William Fremon of Malgaresbur', on a title by patrimony.

William de Eyford, on a title by patrimony.

- Robert de Borton, on a title by patrimony.
 Henry atte Drone, of Little Buton, on a title by patrimony.
 Adam de la Deyme, on a title by the Prior of the hospital of
 St. Bartholomew of Gloucester.
 Philip de Boseworth, rector of the church of Lenchroculf.
 Robert de Burlingham, on a title by patrimony.
 Richard de la Felde, of Kydermenstr', on a title by patrimony.
 Thomas Wismon, of Boreford, on a title by patrimony.
 Nicholas Besford, on a title of an annual rent.
 Richard Hope, of Marcleye, on a title by patrimony.
 William Willarsleye, on the grace of the lord prior.
 Thomas le Bakare, of Marcleye, on a title of an annual rent.
 John de Hudycote, on a title by patrimony.
 William Aleyn, of Grafton, on the presentation of the Master
 there.
 William Rayton, by letters dimissory.
 Walter de Grafton, by the Master of Grafton.
 Henry de Grafton, by the same Master.
 Robert de Hylberworth, on the presentation by the Master of the
 hospital of Grafton.
 John de Coteville, of Preston, on a title by patrimony.
 William de Swyneford, on a title by patrimony.
 John de Willarseye, on the title of the hospital of Grafton.
 Adam Zemon.

ACOLYTES.

- Richard de Glen.
 Thomas de Stonl'.
 William Day, of Persore.
 Henry de Raggeleye.
 Nicholas de Berton.
 Henry de Wych.
 Henry Aleyn, of King's Norton.
 Roger Bracun, of Henleye.
 Richard Mile, of Brokehampton
 Henry Mile, of the same place.
 Ralph Tankard, of Warwick.
 Richard de Wrokeshale.
 John Senar, of Hambur'.

John de Benweshale.
 John Spryn, of Alycestr'.
 Adam de Hertlebury.
 Thomas de Pipplinton, of Alicestr'.
 Nicholas de Hales.
 Stephen de Croppethorn.
 Thomas Senol, of Bremesgrave.
 William de Belne.
 John le Deye, of Warwick.
 Thomas, son of Thomas de Hanl'.
 John Trappe, of Aston.
 Walter de Mutton.
 William de Wotton, of Warwick.
 John the Clerk, of Schirburn.
 Henry Colemon, of Inteberwe.
 Fol. 90d. Reginald de Hertlebur'.
 John de Persore, of Alycestr'.
 Robert de Welesburne.
 Robert atte Frithe.
 William de Elmeleye.
 John de Ippesleye.
 Thomas de Pillarton.
 Robert de Croule.
 Philip atte More, of Wolvardinton.
 John de Newent.
 William de Aldermeston.
 Thomas Pal, of Claverdon.
 Adam Giffard, of Preston.
 William de Newenham.
 Henry de Pillarton.
 William de Utlycote.
 William de Horcote.
 Robert le Vox.
 John de Pillarton.
 John Godmon.
 Robert de Pillardinton.
 John de Baldenhale.
 John Bedc', of Malverne.
 Robert Slym, of Wych.

Henry de Hampton Episcopi.
 John de Schraneleye.
 Thomas de Bradewas.
 John Mayel.
 John de Russok.
 Roger de Ombersleye,
 Nicholas de Tedinton.
 Henry de Alne.
 John de Wellesburn.
 John de Hope, of Marcleye.
 Robert atte More, of Hambur'.
 Thomas de Hampton Episcopi.
 Thomas Rouwel, of Warwick.
 Richard Melecot, of Kyderminster.
 Nicholas de Wolaynton.
 Robert de Throkemarton.
 John le Bonde, of Saldford.
 William de Ledinton.
 Simon de Stratford.
 Thomas Pynel.
 Thomas de Bercheston.
 William de Snytenfeld.
 Roger Champion, of Folrich.
 Peter de Incoberwe.
 Henry de Hales.

Fol. 90d. The process against W. de Stanweye, rector of Bradwas, for the crimes of adultery and incest.

Certificate that on 5 February, 1313[-14], in the Cathedral Church of Worcester, before brother Richard de Bromwycho, S.T.P., commissary of the Prior of Worcester, and in the presence of a notary public, there was exhibited and read a certain commission from the Prior of Worcester dated the 9th of the Kalends of February, 1313, directed to the same brother Richard de Bromwycho, monk of Worcester, and Master Simon de Wonecote, clerk, authorizing them to make visitation in the diocese of Worcester, and to correct crimes and faults¹. There was also read a certificate by the Dean

¹ See *ante*, p. 142.

of Worcester of the receipt of a mandate from brother Richard de Bromwycho, commissary of the same Prior, to the said dean, dated at Worcester the 4th of the Kalends of February, 1313, enjoining him to cite Master William de Staneweve, representing himself to be rector of the church of Bradewas, to appear before the said Prior, the said brother Richard, or other commissary, in the Cathedral Church of Worcester on the second law-day after the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin next to come, to make answer upon certain articles to be objected against him, for the correction of his soul, the reformation of his estate and of the church of Bradewas. By authority of which mandate the said dean on the 2nd of the Kalends of February, cited the said Master William de Staneweve at Bradewas aforesaid. Afterwards on the second law-day after the feast of the Purification process was made against the said Master William de Staneweve in the Cathedral Church of Worcester by brother Richard de Bromwycho. On which day the same William appeared and the said articles were shown him, the substance of which articles is as follows, that after the said William de Staneweve had obtained the said church of Bradewas by title of institution and was in holy orders, he publicly kept in his own and other persons' houses certain women, that is to say, Margery, wife of Henry Morkoc, his parishioner and spiritual daughter, and a certain Matilda, who passed for his dairy-maid, as his concubines, contrary to the constitutions of the Lords Otto and Ottobon, legates in England against concubinage, by occasion whereof he was suspended from his office and benefice and the fruits thereof, yet nevertheless meddled with the same as rector. Also that after he had obtained the same church by title of institution he knowingly committed the crimes of adultery and incest with certain other women, his parishioners and spiritual daughters, to wit, with Agnes Batekos¹, wife of John de Sapy, sister in blood of the said Margery, Cristina Peyt, wife of Nicholas Peyt of Bradewas, and Agnes, wife of Adam Upathome. Also that he laid violent hands upon William, called Percy, a clerk, knowing him to be a clerk, and so by the canon—*Siquis suadente dyabolo*—being thereby *ipso facto* excommunicated, he, yet in his priestly office, performed divine service, many times celebrating mass. Upon which it is intended to proceed against him. And the same William having inspected the same articles and having asked for some

¹ In another place spelt Badecok.

delay, it was granted to him till the hour of vespers of the same day to answer the headings in the said article, when the said William appeared, but after being ordered and warned, did not care to answer the same articles. Wherefore Wednesday following was fixed for him to answer them, and to proceed further in the said business. On which day the said William appearing, alleged, as to the charge concerning Margaret Morkoc, that correction was made, before William de Geynesborow, formerly Bishop of Worcester. As to the other charges, to which he had not yet replied, he answered in the negative, admitting nevertheless the report, and asking that canonical purgation might be adjudged to him; as to the charge concerning William Percy, he answered in the affirmative, alleging nevertheless, that he so laid hands upon the same William for a cause permitted by law. Whereupon at his petition, Saturday following was fixed for the same William to show the alleged correction and to purge himself with the eighth hand (*cum octava manu*) of his order and condition upon the articles denied by him, and to prove that he laid hands upon the said William Percy for a cause permitted by law. Upon which day the said William de Staneweze did not appear, and it was decreed that he should be called on the second law-day after the feast of S. Scholastica the Virgin in the parish church of Dydebok to hear final judgment and definitive sentence upon the premises. Upon which day, having read the certificate by the Dean of Worcester of the citation of the said William, the said William appeared personally, and by two advocates, and they having alleged certain frivolous matters, sentence was pronounced, which was that the matter of the correction of the estate of Master William de Staneweze, who represents himself to be rector of the church of Bradewas, and the state of the same church having been heard, it was found by the said commissary that the same William being in holy orders publicly kept in his own and other people's houses, Margery Morcok, wife of Henry Morcok, his parishioner and spiritual daughter, for a month and more, without removing her from him, and also that he meddled in the said ecclesiastical benefice without any condign satisfaction (*absque aliqua condigna satisfactione*), upon this and also for certain other things in the said articles contained, sufficiently proved by his own confession, he may be held to be convicted or as convicted, wherefore he is pronounced to be deprived of the said church of Bradewas, and the same

William is decreed to be removed from the same church. Witnesses to the above proceedings, Thomas de Stoke, John de Lowe, William le Luminour, Walter de Walecote, and William Mayel. Notarial certificates by William Rici of Kunle, called de Wormintone, clerk of the diocese of Worcester, and Thomas de Stokes, clerk of the diocese of Oxford, notaries public.

Fol. 92. Judgment by the Dean of Arches in the same matter, reciting the above proceedings and setting out that appeal was made to the apostolic see by the same William de Staneweve, and upon the case coming before the same dean of the church of the Blessed Mary of the Arches of London, commissary-general of the court of Canterbury, he found that the same brother Richard had rightfully and lawfully proceeded to the delivery of his sentence, and nothing had been proposed or proved by the said Master William de Staneweve to the contrary. And therefore the said dean confirmed the aforesaid sentence and condemned the said William in 40s. costs. Dated at London, the 4th of the Kalends of August, 1314.

Fol. 92*d*. Proceedings in the church of the Blessed Mary of the Arches, London, before Nicholas de Gore, examiner-general of the court of Canterbury, special commissary on this behalf of the official of the same court, on the 2nd of the Nones of November, 1314, in the appeal from the diffinitive sentence of the dean of the church of the Blessed Mary of the Arches, London, commissary-general of the official of the court of Canterbury, in the matter between Master William de Staneweve, appellant, by Master William de Henton, his proctor, and brother Richard de Bromwycho, monk of Worcester, the party appealed, by Master Thomas de Taff, his proctor. Letters certificatory having been read before the same Nicholas de Gore, the 7th of the Ides of November was fixed for further hearing, when the matter was adjourned, and afterwards was from time to time adjourned; at one of which adjournments Master William de Burnaston was substituted for the said Master William de Henton. On the eighth law-day after the feast of St. Valentine, brother Richard, having produced three witnesses, and the aforesaid William two, the names of whom remain in the possession of the clerk, and it having been decreed that fourteen witnesses should be called on behalf of the same William, the cause was again adjourned to

the third law-day after the feast of St. Gregory the Pope, on which day the matter was adjourned to the second law-day after the Sunday on which is sung the office *Misericordia Domini*¹, after which the matter was from time to time adjourned till the 9 May, 1315, when the said Nicholas de Gore found that the same brother Richard and the said dean proceeded to their aforesaid sentences rightly and lawfully, and confirmed them and condemned the same Master William in 40s. costs.

Fol. 93. Commission from the official of the court of Canterbury to Master Nicholas de Gore, examiner-general of the court of Canterbury, to try the above case. Dated at London, the 2nd of the Ides of October, 1314.

Similar commission dated at London, the 3rd of the Nones of May, 1315.

Fol. 93*d*. Judgment as above by the aforesaid Nicholas de Gore, again reciting the whole proceedings. Dated at London, the 8th of the Ides of May, 1315.

Fol. 94. Notarial certificate by Peter Reginald of Wynburn, clerk of the diocese of Salisbury, notary public. Dated 9 May, 1315. Witnesses, William Russel, Geoffrey de Sutton, John de Schepton, John de Wymburn, and others.

Like certificate by John de la Burghe of Schepton Beauchamp, clerk of the diocese of Bath and Wells, notary public.

Mandate from Walter, Bishop of Worcester, to the Dean of Worcester—reciting a mandate, dated at London the 6th of the Ides of May, 1315, from Master Nicholas de Gore to the said bishop to publish the said judgment, and to warn the said William de Staneweys to pay the said 40s. to brother Richard de Bromwycho within fifteen days, and to re-induct Master Richard de Glen², who was instituted rector of the church of Bradewas,—desiring the said dean to publish the said judgment and re-induct the said Richard de Glen, as above. Dated at Marteleye, the 4th of the Kalends of June, 1315.

Fol. 95. Order from Walter, Bishop of Worcester, principal

¹ Second Sunday after Easter.

² See *ante*, p. 141.

collector of the tithe for six years in the diocese of Worcester, to the Prior and Convent of Worcester, sub-collectors in the Arch-deaconry of Worcester, 1313.

Letter from Walter, Bishop of Worcester, to the Prior and Convent of Worcester stating that he had received letters of Pope Clement V. concerning the imposition of a tithe for six years, at the last general Council held at Vienne¹; which letters were directed to the Archbishop of Canterbury and his Suffragans, and at the command of the Reverend H., Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, were sent to the said bishop to be inspected and transcribed.

Papal bull by Pope Clement V., addressed to all abbots, priors, deans, archdeacons, provosts, arch priests (*archipresbiteris*), and other prelates, chapters, colleges, and convents of the Cistercian, Cluniac, Premonstratensian, Benedictine, Augustine, Carthusian, of Grandemount, and other ecclesiastical persons; secular and regular, exempt and not exempt, throughout the city, diocese and province of Canterbury, the priors or preceptors and other persons and places, of St. John of Jerusalem and other knightly orders only excepted. Our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, so dearly loved Syon, that is to say, the Holy Land, that He chose it to Himself, as an inheritance and patrimony, and adorned it with His presence, being clothed in the apparel of our flesh, and consecrated it by the shedding of His most precious blood; but it is to be grievously lamented and bitterly bewailed that so bright an inheritance of our Redeemer has become the property of aliens, and lies confounded by the fury of the Babylonish persecutor, trampled down by the feet of the defiled, and is miserably detained, being polluted and occupied by the most filthy Sarascens, faithless enemies to the name of Christian, and Christian people being inhumanly murdered in it to the great affront of the Creator, and the injury and grief of all Christianity, and there the name of Christ is horribly blasphemed by the abominable filthiness of their enemies. And so by cruel scourges the afflicted country is sad, and, from the intolerable persecution which it suffers increasing the lamentations, it cries out to the vicar of Christ, and the principal Christians; being wounded by reproaches it shows its wounds to those from whom it might expect the aid of a physician; it desires the right-handed vengeance of those for whose salvation the

¹ 1312, 8th year of Clement V.

author of salvation bore the passion of the cross in it. These things and others having touched the heart of the pope and desiring to seek a remedy he caused the matter to be brought forward at the general Council at Vienne, when it was maturely and diligently considered by the brothers of the Holy Roman Church, the cardinals, patriarchs archbishops and others, and also Phillip of France, and Lewis of Navarre, and many others, and at length it was determined to give succour to the same land by a subsidy of a tenth of all ecclesiastical rents and profits throughout the world, except only from the persons and places of hospitals of St. John of Jerusalem and other military orders, for six years from the Kalends of January last past. The pope therefore orders the collection of such tithe under pain of ecclesiastical censure. Dated at Avignon, the Kalends of December 8 Pont.

Fol. 95*d*. Papal Bull from Pope Clement V., enjoining the payment of the said subsidy at certain times of the year, and that defaulters be dealt with under ecclesiastical censure. Dated at Avignon, the Kalends of December, 8 Pont.

By virtue of which letters the said Bishop of Worcester appoints the Prior and Convent of Worcester his sub-collectors in the Archdeaconry of Worcester, commanding them by virtue of their obedience to collect the same tithe. Dated at London, the 6th of the Ides of August, 1313.

Fol. 96*d*. Order by the Prior and Convent of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to cite all ecclesiastical persons, as well exempt as not exempt, except the priors, preceptors, masters and others of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem and other military orders, throughout his archdeaconry, to appear at the Priory of Worcester on the morrow of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, concerning the moiety of the said tithe for the first term of the year. Dated at Worcester, the 15th of the Kalends of September, 1313.

Order by the Prior and Convent of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester. That whereas they had caused all ecclesiastical persons, regular and secular, as well exempt as not exempt, throughout the Archdeaconry of Worcester (except as above

excepted) to pay a moiety of the said tithe for the first term of the year, due on the morrow of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross¹ last past, under pain of the greater excommunication upon their persons and interdiction upon their churches, very many persons at the peril of their souls have neglected to attend to the same, therefore the said official is ordered to denounce the same persons whose names are set out in a schedule annexed to these presents², as having been excommunicated and their church interdicted until they receive the benefit of absolution or be released from the interdict. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Nones of October, 1313.

Receipt by the Prior of Worcester, as sub-collector of the said tithe in the Archdeaconry of Worcester, and appointed receiver of the tithe collected in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester by Walter, Bishop of Worcester, to the Abbot and Convent of Cyrencester, appointed collectors of the same tithe in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester, by the hands of W. de Cornewell, almoner of Cyrencester, of 133*li*. 6*s*. 8*d*., being a part of the same tithe. Dated at Worcester, the 11th of the Kalends of November, 1313.

Letter from the Prior and Convent of Worcester to W., Bishop of Worcester, that in accordance with his instructions to acquaint him of the amount of the said tithe, received within ten days after every term, they now acquaint him that they received at the term last past 100*s*.

Fol. 97. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Bishop of Worcester, calling attention to the fact that in one part of the letters apostolic, all ecclesiastical persons, exempt and not exempt, of whatsoever condition, except the military orders, are to pay the tithe; and elsewhere that it is to be paid according to the accustomed manner. It appears that there are certain persons, having slender means, and taxed at 6 marks and under, who at other times were not wont to pay. The prior requires the bishop's decision on the matter.

Order by the Prior of Worcester to the Abbot and Convent of Cyrencester, sub-collectors of the same tithe in the Archdeaconry

¹ 15 September.

² Schedule not given.

of Gloucester, to pay the tithe aforesaid, collected in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester, before the feast of All Saints next in the Cathedral Church of Worcester.

Order by brother J., Prior of Worcester, to the Abbot of Cyrencester, to deliver the same tithe collected for this and the preceding term with the arrears.

Ordered by the Prior and Convent of Worcester to the official of Worcester. Whereas the same Prior and Convent have collected the greater part of the said tithe for the first year, but certain arrears thereof remain, and the collection of the same tithe for the second year for certain causes was delayed, it is now ordered that the same tithe with arrears be collected at once, and that the same official warn all ecclesiastical persons as before to pay the moiety of the same tithe at the Priory of Worcester on the morrow of St. Hilary next, under pain of the greater excommunication, and that he shall denounce those whose names are given in a schedule as being excommunicated. Dated the Kalends of December, 1314.

Vacancy of the See from the death of Walter de Maydenestan, 28th March, 1317, to the appointment of Thomas Cobham, November, 1317.

Fol. 98. Register of Acts during the vacancy of the See of Worcester after the death of the lord Walter de Maydenestan, Bishop of Worcester. A.D. 1317.

Letter from John¹, Prior, and the Chapter of Worcester, to Walter, Archbishop of Canterbury, acquainting him with the death of the lord Walter, formerly Bishop of Worcester, on the 7th April, and praying that in accordance with the composition to make the same Prior his official and give him a commission in the city and diocese of Worcester, during the time of this vacancy, to take cognizance of causes belonging to a bishop, the institution and deprivation of clerks, election, examination, confirmation, information, and all other things in the said composition contained. And the said Prior and Chapter have appointed their brother J. de Sancto Briavello their proctor. Dated in the Chapter House, Worcester, 8 April, 1317.

¹ John de la Wyke.

Commission by Walter¹, Archbishop of Canterbury, appointing the Prior of Worcester as his official in the city and diocese of Worcester, according to the composition made between the Priory of Worcester and Boniface, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury, during the vacancy of the See of Worcester by the death of W. de Maydenestone, late bishop. Dated at Lamhith, the Ides of April, 1317.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of P., ordering him to cite all abbots, priors, deans, provosts, preceptors, portionaries, masters of monasteries, collegiate churches, and hospitals of his deanery, and also rectors of churches, vicars, chaplains of parishes and rural chaplains, serving in the said deanery, as well exempt as not exempt from archidiaconal jurisdiction, that they appear in the Cathedral Church of Worcester on Saturday next after the Sunday on which is sung the office *Quasimodo geniti*², and make canonical obedience and hear the Prior's canonical mandates. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Ides of April, 1317.

Fol. 98*d*. Commission from the Prior of Worcester to Master W. de Lodelawe, rector of the church of Herfortone in the diocese of Worcester, giving him authority to hear and proceed in causes moved or to be moved in the city and diocese of Worcester, as well by his office as at the instance of parties, in the consistory, and to duly determine the same; and also to inquire as to excesses, crimes and faults in the said city and diocese, and to correct and punish the same, and to receive canonical obedience in the Prior's name. Dated at Worcester.

Appointment by the Prior of Worcester of Master W. de L., rector of the church of H., to the office of sequestrator in the city and diocese of Worcester during the vacancy of the See.

Letter from the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to Master J. de Oseworthe, late official of Worcester, requiring him to deliver the seal of the office of official of Worcester to J. de Sancto Briavello. Dated at Worcester.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Stephen de Northeye,

¹ Walter Reynolds.

² First Sunday after Easter.

rector of the church of Holy Trinity, Bristol, sequestrator of W., the late bishop, requiring him to deliver every register, roll, and muniments whatsoever, which pertain to the exercise of the Prior's jurisdiction, to the same Prior or his deputy at the church of the Blessed Nicholas of Gloucester on the next law-day after the Sunday in which is sung the office *Misericordia Domini*¹. Dated at Worcester.

Fol. 99. Letters from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of the Christianity of Worcester, declaring his intention to make visitation, and requiring the said dean to cite all abbots, abbesses, priors, prioresses, &c., in his Deanery, and also four parishioners from every parish church and three from every chapel, to appear in the Cathedral Church before the Prior or his deputy on a certain day to exhibit their privileges, instruments, muniments, dispensations, and letters whatsoever, if they have any, upon the appropriations of such churches, chapels, benefices, &c. Dated at Worcester, &c.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Poywyk, declaring his intention to make visitation of the deanery of Poywyk on a certain day, at the parish church of Poywyk, and requiring him to cite all Abbots, &c.

Fol. 99*d*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Abbot of St. Peter of Gloucester, declaring his intention to make visitation of the monastery of Gloucester on the third law-day after the feast of the Ascension of our Lord, and requiring him to have all things prepared for such visitation. Dated at Worcester, the 17th of the Kalends of May, 1317.

Letter from John, Prior, and the Chapter of Worcester to King Edward II., stating they have sent their monks, Gilbert de Madeleye and John de Harleye, to pray for a *congé d'élire*. Dated in the Chapter House of Worcester, the 5th of the Ides of April.

Reply to above from King Edward II., granting his *congé d'élire* as requested. Dated at Westminster, the 19th April, 10 Edward II.

Letter from the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to brother

¹ Second Sunday after Easter.

Richard de Bromwych, precentor of Worcester. Whereas the lord Walter de Maydeneston, formerly Bishop of Worcester, died on 28 March last past¹, and his body buried as was becoming, and a *congé d'élire* having been asked for and obtained, they have fixed Monday, the morrow of Pentecost next to come, for the election of the future bishop and to transact all business touching the election, therefore the said precentor, to whose office it pertains according to the custom of the Church of Worcester, is ordered to cite all and singular the absent brothers and monks to appear at the Chapter House on the said Monday to transact the business touching the election.

Order to the Dean of K., to cite all those whose names are in a schedule annexed to appear before the prior or his vicegerent in the Cathedral Church of Worcester, on Saturday, the vigil of Holy Trinity, to answer certain things to be laid before them touching the cure of their souls. Dated at Worcester, the 11th of the Kalends of June, 1317.

Certificate that Master R. de A. B., chaplain, appeared before the prior, and with faithful men purged himself of incontinence with Joan de la Pole, and also that he was not a common merchant, nor an usurer, nor a common drunkard, nor a homicide, nor a common brawler (*pugnator*), nor negligent in the visitation of the sick.

Letter from the Prior to the parish priest of Bredone, that whereas E., the wife of E. le T. of B., being absolved from the sentence of suspension, which she incurred on account of manifest contumacy before the said prior, and an oath being received from her to comply with the orders of the Church, the said priest is commanded to publish the same absolution. And the said priest and all whom it may concern are certified that the same E. has canonically purged herself from the report touching her adultery with W. de B. Dated at Worcester, the 10th of the Kalends of June.

Certificate that Master William de D., priest, purged himself from

¹ See *ante*, p. 177, the date of Bishop Maydistone's death is given as 7 April. Le Neve states that the news of his death reached England in April, so that the 28 March is probably the more correct date. Thomas gives 28th March for the death, and says the news reached the Worcester monks on the 7th April.

the crime of common usury, and of the theft of a certain book found in his chamber, for the theft of which the same W., it is said, had fulminated the sentence of excommunication against the thief when he himself had seized and secretly detained the same, knowingly incurring thereby the same sentence; and of the theft of a silken case for keeping the body of our Lord in the church of Hanburi; and also of the crime of perjury, in not fulfilling an agreement between himself and R. M. about the altarages of the Church of Dederhulle; and of being wanting in faith (*super fidei læsione*) in not fulfilling a contract between himself and W. E. concerning a house of the same W.; and also of incontinence committed with Agnes B. of H. and Christina ate Stile of Wych, as it is said; and further, of a contract of marriage formerly made between him and a certain Sibilla R., of the county of Salop. Dated at Worcester, 1317.

Fol. 100d. Certificate that John, son of Warin, rector of the Church of Upton Warin, who was called before the prior exercising the office of visitation in the diocese of Worcester, to show letters of his orders and institution to the same church, and to answer certain articles objected against him, that he, within a year from the time the rule of the same church was committed to him, had not caused himself to be promoted to priest's orders as he ought. Moreover it appears he did what he could to be so promoted within the said time, but that Walter, then Bishop of Worcester, was lawfully impeded, and so the same John was unable to be so promoted, and therefore ought not to be impeached of the same matter. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd of the Ides of May, 1317.

Certificate that Reginald de E., rector of the Church of H., juxta Wych, has sufficient title to his said church, and after his promotion to the same church to have received deacon's and priest's orders.

Certificate that the Proctor of the Abbot and Convent of Lyra¹ showed by what title the same abbot and convent held their churches, titles, portions, and pensions in the diocese of Worcester.

Certificate that the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter of Gloucester showed their title to their churches, portions, and pensions in the

¹ A Benedictine House in Normandy.

diocese of Worcester. Dated at Cirencester, the 16th of the Kalends of June.

Fol. 101. Like Certificate for the Prior and Convent of Great Malvern. Dated the 14th of the Kalends of June, 1317.

Certificate that Robert Pecokes, rector of the Church of Broctone Haketh, exhibited the letters of his orders, institution, and dispensation for non-residence.

Certificate that Peter de Monte Forti, rector of the Church of Ibedone, received dispensation from Walter de Maydenestone, Bishop of Worcester, for non-residence and for not receiving further orders for three years.

Presentation by Edward II. of Master R. de C.¹ to the church of K., in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Windsor, the 2 May 10 Edward II.

Letters of Inquisition upon the same presentation, addressed to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester.

Letters of Institution of R. de D., presented to the church of H., by E. de H.

Fol. 101*d*. Letters of Institution for W. de M., acolyte, to the church of St. N., of W.

Letters of Induction for Robert de D. to the church of H. Dated at Worcester, the 12th of the Kalends of May.

Letters of Institution for S. de Evesham, clerk, to the church of Stowa, at the presentation of the King by reason of the custody of the Abbey of Evesham².

Memorandum, that on the 12th of the Kalends of May, 1317, at the presentation of Edmund de Haggeleye, Robert de Dunclent, in minor orders, was instituted and inducted to the church of Haggeleye.

¹ Richard de Chaddesleye to Kempsey.

² On the death of the Abbot, John de Brochampton.

Memorandum, that on the 7th of the Kalends of May, at the presentation of Robert de Solers of Schipton Champflour, Master Adam de Aston, chaplain, was instituted and inducted into the church of Schipton aforesaid.

Memorandum, that on the 6th of the Kalends of May, Thomas Ponge of Wythindon, chaplain, was admitted to a chantry which John de Southurste of Gloucester by his last will left and assigned for his soul and the souls of all the faithful dead.

Memorandum, that on the 3rd of the Kalends of May, John de Cymteus, chaplain, at the presentation of brother Thomas Brikebec, Prior of Brimesfeld, was instituted and inducted into the vicarage of Brimesfeld.

Memorandum, that on the 4th of the Nones of May, at the presentation of John Maltravers, John de Dodebrigge, in minor orders, was instituted and inducted into the church of Wodechestre.

Memorandum, that on the 7th of the Ides of May, Master Richard de Chaddesleye, at the presentation of the King, was instituted and inducted into the church of Kemesey.

Memorandum, that on the 5th of the Ides of May, John le Porter, clerk, at the presentation of Richard le Porter was instituted into the church of Elmelode, and had letters of induction for the same to the official of the archdeacon of Worcester.

Memorandum, that on the 14th of the Kalends of June, Sir Giles de Holte, chaplain, at the presentation of Sir William, rector of the church of Holte, was instituted to the vicarage of Holte and had letters of induction to the official of the archdeacon of Worcester.

Memorandum, that on the 14th of the Kalends of June, Richard de Everdon, priest, was instituted to the church of Schenyndone, and had letters of induction for the same.

Memorandum, that on the Ides of May, William Seeward, deacon, at the presentation of Sir William de Straci, Knight, was admitted to the chapel of the church of Doynton, and had letters of induction for the same.

Memorandum, that on the 11th of the Kalends of June, William de Frene, clerk, at the presentation of Ingram de Frene, was instituted into the church of the Blessed Mary of Wytton next Wych, and had letters of induction and institution to the official of the archdeacon of Worcester.

Memorandum, that on the 4th of the Nones of June, Richard le Brun, deacon, at the presentation of the rector of Fladebury, by the nomination of Simon le Brun, at Wythindone, was instituted into the vicarage of Abbelench, and had letters of institution and induction to the official of the archdeacon of Worcester or the dean of Persore.

Letters dimissory for William Lovering of Northlench, deacon, to be ordained to priest's orders by any Catholic bishop, notwithstanding he was born in the diocese of Worcester.

Fol. 102. Like letters dimissory for Richard, called le Brun, of Belne. Dated at Worcester, the 12th of the Kalends of June.

Letters dimissory for Master Nicholas de Gore, dean of the collegiate church of Westbury, in the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to receive ordination from any Catholic bishop, notwithstanding he was beneficed in the diocese of Worcester. Dated the 2nd of the Ides of April.

Like letters dimissory for William de Frene, sub-deacon, for deacon's orders. Dated the 10th of the Kalends of June.

Like letters for John Person of Stratford, deacon, for priest's orders. Dated as above.

Like letters for Master John de Walcote, rector of the church

of Wolvardeleye, deacon, for priest's orders. Dated 10th of the Kalends of June, 1317.

Like letters for brothers John Pipe and Henry de Dudeleg', deacons, for priest's orders, and Robert de Evesham for deacon's orders. Dated the 9th of the Kalends of June.

Like letters for Adam le Sexteyn of St. John of Worcester, clerk, for acolyte's and sub-deacon's orders. Dated the 9th of the Kalends of June, 1317.

Like letters for John de Coventr', canon of the church of St. Sepulchre of Warwick, for all holy orders. Dated as above.

Like letters for Master Simon de Schireford, rector of the church of Kenewarton, for deacon's orders. Dated the 8th of the Kalends of June, 1317.

Like letters for Master Robert de Dunclent, rector of the church of Haggeleye, for acolyte's and sub-deacon's orders. Dated as above.

Like letters for John de Honesworthe, rector of the church of Clent, for sub-deacon's and deacon's orders. Dated as above.

Like letters for Robert de Marsfeld, deacon, for priest's orders. Dated as above.

Like letters for brother J. de C., canon of the church of St. Sepulchre of Warwick, to receive all holy orders from any catholic bishop of the province of Canterbury, notwithstanding he had taken the religious habit in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 9th of the Kalends of June, 1317.

Certificate that Adam de Abyndone of Wycheneford was ordained deacon by bishop Walter Maydenestone, late bishop of Worcester, on Saturday, *quatuor temporum*, on the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, 1314, in the Cathedral Church of Worcester,

and on the same day, 1316, was ordained priest by the same bishop in the church of Terdebigg. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Kalends of June.

Certificate that A. de B. was ordained to all holy orders.

Dispensation to Master William de Mees, rector of the church of Merton Bagod, in the diocese of Worcester, to be absent from his church from the feast of St. Barnabas the Apostle next, to the Nativity of our Lord following, for the purpose of a pilgrimage or other lawful matter; and in the mean time to receive the fruits of the same church, provided the church be properly served. Dated at Worcester, the 4th of the Kalends of June.

Fol. 102*d*. Commission to Hugh de Comptone, warden of the church of Byburi, in the diocese of Worcester, chaplain, to hear the confessions of those of the diocese of Worcester wishing to confess their faults and to absolve them in due form, and enjoin salutary penance, the corruptors of nuns and cases in which pontifical dispensation is necessary only excepted.

Commission to R. de B., rector of the church of S., to seek, demand, and receive from any justices of the lord the king all clerks indicted of felony or suspected of other crimes.

Letters of absolution for John, son of John Denedelyoun of Stratford, clerk, of the diocese of Worcester, excommunicated for having irreverently and by impulse struck a certain clerk in minor orders, and drawn his blood in the church of Holy Trinity of Stratford, whereby the same church was for a long time interdicted, but was reconciled by John, bishop of Llandaff, at the prior's intervention.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the dean of Caumpedene, enjoining him to pronounce sentence of the greater excommunication upon those sons of iniquity who removed and concealed the tithes, oblations, profits, and other goods belonging to the church of Schenindene in the diocese of Worcester, and to inquire the names of such malefactors and cite them to appear before the Prior on

the second law-day after the feast of Holy Trinity in the Cathedral Church of Worcester, there to receive condign punishment for their sins and to answer certain articles touching the health of their souls. Dated at Worcester, the 14th of the Kalends of June, 1317.

Citation of the dean of Stonhouse to appear before the Prior or his commissary on the next law-day after the Ascension of Our Lord, in the church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester, to make answer of those things which he received from the church of Wodechestr' for the time of the vacancy there by reason of sequestration.

Commission to A. de Alincester, rector of the church of St. Clement of Worcester, to proceed and bring to a due end the matter of the divorce between Adam Foliot and Isabella de Underwode. Dated at Worcester, the 5th of the Kalends of May, 1317¹.

Fol. 103. Mandate from Walter², archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester to cite brother Arnald de London, Sir Thomas de Mardeston, Alexander de Bokelond, and Masters Gilbert de Kyrkebi, Richard de Clare, Richard de Chaddesley, John de Collam, and Sir John de Hastings, executors of the will of W., former bishop of Worcester³, who died in parts beyond the sea, to appear before the archbishop on the next law-day after the feast of Holy Trinity to prove the said will and undertake the administration of the goods belonging to it. Dated at Lamehithe, the 4th of the Nones of May, 1317.

Mandate from Walter, archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester to cite Masters Richard de Clare, Richard de Chad-desleye, and John Collam, who by authority of W., late bishop of Worcester, received the goods of the same and have administered them, as it is reported, to appear before the archbishop on the sixth law-day after the feast of Holy Trinity, to give answer touching the administration of such goods. And that the goods of the said deceased may be faithfully preserved for his soul, as is becoming, the same Prior is ordered to sequester all the goods of the said deceased at the time of his departure, and to keep them safely in a chest so that no one may lay hands on them, until the Prior

¹ *Post*, p. 190.

² Walter Reynolds.

³ Walter de Maidstone.

has further commands ; and that he take an inventory of the same goods. Dated at Lamheth, the 13th of the Kalends of June, 1317.

Memorandum that on the 5th of the Ides of May, Thomas de Flore, rector of the church of North Pidele, obtained the order of priesthood.

Memorandum, that on the 4th of the Ides of May, Master John de Stratforde, rector of the church of the same place, obtained letters dimissory for sub-deacon's orders.

Memorandum, that on the 14th of the Kalends of June, Thomas de la Grave, rector of the church of St. Werburg of Bristol, obtained letters dimissory for sub-deacon's orders.

Memorandum, that on the same date, Robert de Borontone, rector of the church of Northcerneye, obtained letters dimissory for deacon's orders.

Memorandum, that there were delivered letters dimissory to the monks of the monastery of St. Peter of Gloucester, to wit, to Adam de Pottleye, Stephen de Asch, Richard de Monemuta, William de Bernewode, Walter de Wortone, and Walter de Chaddeleye, under date the 2nd of the Ides of May, 1317.

Memorandum, that Thomas de Schirebourne, rector of the church of Risindone Magna, had letters dimissory for deacon's and priest's orders, under date the 2nd of the Ides of May.

Memorandum, that on the 2nd of the Ides of May, at Gloucester, letters dimissory were delivered to certain brothers of the Abbey of Kingeswode, to wit, William de Brekeneberg to the order of sub-deacon ; William de Nubbeleye and Walter de Tresham to priest's orders ; Richard de Bradeleye, Richard de Froncestr', and Thomas de Sobburri to deacon's orders ; and Richard de Charefeld to deacon's orders.

Fol. 103*d*. Letters of absolution for Master John de Thoky, abbot of the monastery of St. Peter of Gloucester, who upon visitation was

found to have transgressed certain rules, and especially the injunctions or statutes of Robert¹, formerly Archbishop of Canterbury. Dated at Gloucester, the 2nd of the Ides of Gloucester, 1317.

Fol. 104. Writ of *venire facias* to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester for Walter de Cantilupo and Gilbert Betoun, clerks, to answer Nicholas de Insula for having with force and arms taken the same Nicholas at Snytesfeld, and imprisoned and ill-treated him, his goods and chattels to the value of 10*li*. taken away. Dated at Westminster, the 23rd day of April, 10 Edward II. Answer on the back of the writ that the same Walter and Gilbert were enjoined to appear. Memorandum, that the said writ was received on the 11th of the Kalends of June.

Like writ for the appearance of Simon de Walepol and John Bloyon, clerks, to answer the Prior of Worcester of a plea of debt. Dated at Westminster, the 15th May, 10 Edward II. The said Simon and John enjoined to appear.

Like writ for the appearance of "Byndus" de Bandenell, parson of the church of Haleford, clerk, to answer John Dalbyng, the younger, citizen of London, of a plea of debt. Dated at Westminster, the 16th of May, 10 Edward II. Byndus enjoined to appear.

Like writ for the appearance of Richard de Sancto Albano, parson of the church of Calstekoumbe (*sic*), clerk, to answer Robert de Bardelby, of a plea of debt. Dated at Westminster, the 10th May, 10 Edward II. And it is answered that the said Richard is neither beneficed nor to be found in this diocese.

Writ from the King to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester, to destrain Gilbert, brother of Robert de Kingstone, a clerk, having no lay fee, together with the tenants of the lands and tenements which belonged to the same Robert, to appear before the barons of the Exchequer, to show cause wherefore they should not pay 20 marks, which the same Robert and Gilbert acknowledged themselves in, 21 Edward I., to owe to Peter de Leycestr' and his fellows, executors of the will of Master W. de Montefort, formerly

¹ Robert Kilwardly, 1273—1279.

dean of St. Paul's, and which ought to have been paid at the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, but is not yet paid, as it is stated by John Baldok, one of the executors of the will of the said Master W. Dated at Westminster, the 18th of May, 10 Edward II.

Fol. 104*d*. Writ from the King to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester, that whereas Joan, who was the wife of Robert de Sherteleye, sought in the King's court at Westminster against William de Oudcby and Margery his wife, a third part of a messuage and virgate of land in Artherestone upon Stoure, as her dower, and the same William and Margery pleaded that the same Joan was never joined in lawful matrimony with the aforesaid Robert, that the said keeper inquire touching the same, as it is an ecclesiastical matter. Dated at Westminster, the 12th of May, 10 Edward II.

Memorandum, that the Prior of Worcester visited the church of Dydebok in 1317 and there received 4 marks.

Fol. 105. Certificate by the Dean of Pershore to the sub-Prior of Worcester by authority of the court of Canterbury official and administrator of the spiritualities in the city and diocese of Worcester, the See being vacant, the Prior of the same church being canonically elected into the bishopric, that in accordance with the sub-Prior's command stating that he intended to make visitation in the deanery of Pershore on Monday after the feast of St. Michael in the church of St. Andrew of Pershore, he has cited all abbots, priors, abbesses, prioresses, preceptors, masters, portioners, pensioners, and others. Dated at Pershor, the 5th of the Nones of October, 1327¹.

Fol. 105*d*. Proceedings in the Collegiate Church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick on Friday after the feast of Holy Trinity, 1317,

¹ This should follow the next entry. It is the only entry during the vacancy on the death of Thomas Cobham in 1327, till the see was filled by the election of Adam de Orleton. This vacancy lasted from 27 Aug., 1327, to 29 June, 1328. There is no entry on the register during the vacancies caused by the translation of Orleton to Winchester, 1 Dec., 1333, and the enthronement of

Simon de Montacute in 1334, the vacancy on the translation of Montacute to Ely in 1337, and the enthronement of Thomas Heminghale in the same year, nor on the vacancy on the death of Heminghale, 1328, and the appointment of Wolstan de Bransford in 1329, nor on the vacancy on the death of Bransford in 1349 and the translation of John de Thoresby from St. David's.

before Richard Bachiler of Warwick, clerk, commissary of the Prior, in the matter of the divorce which was before the president of the consistory of Worcester, between Adam Foliot, plaintiff, and Isabella de Underwode, who commonly caused herself to be called Sibilla, who at first appeared personally but afterwards contumaciously retired, defendant. And the defendant being asked if she had anything to say or propose wherefore sentence should not proceed in the same cause, she publicly asserted that she neither knew or wished to say or propose nor to intermeddle in the same cause in any wise. Whereupon, the grace of the Holy Spirit being invoked, the said commissary proceeded to pronounce sentence, that the said Adam Foliot had sufficiently proved his case, and the defendant had offered no defence, and that the marriage between the same parties was only a contract and was void, vain, and of no account. And further it was propounded by the proctor of the same Adam that although the aforesaid Adam and Isabella might have contracted matrimony, yet that matrimony could not nor ought of right to be *de facto* a contract, because William, brother of the said Adam, before any contract of marriage between them, carnally knew the same Isabella, as was notorious.

Fol. 106. REGISTER OF BROTHER JOHN DE EVE-SHAM, Prior of Worcester¹, of those things which were done during the vacancy of the See by the translation of John de Thoresby, late bishop of Worcester, to the Archbishopric of York, 1352.

Commission by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Prior of Worcester to exercise episcopal jurisdiction during the vacancy of the See of Worcester in accordance with the composition between the predecessor of the Archbishop and the Prior and Chapter of Worcester. Dated at Lamheth, the 14th of the Kalends of March, 1352.

Fol. 106*d*. Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to Hugh, rector of the church of Podmor in the diocese of Worcester, to cite Katherine, relict of Philip de Litteleye, deceased, to appear before the Prior or his commissary in the Cathedral Church of Worcester on a certain law-day to be appointed by Robert de Dunclent, rector

¹ Evesham was Prior of Worcester from 1340 to 1370.

of the church of Oldesweneford, to answer touching the matter of a mortuary.

Appointment of Henry Botiler, citizen of Worcester, to the office of apparitor in the deanery of Bristol. Dated at Worcester, 23 January, 1352[-3].

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Gloucester stating his intention to visit the clergy and people of the deanery of Gloucester in the church of St. Nicholas there, on Friday after the feast of St. Valentine; the clergy and people of the deanery of Wynchcomb in the church of Cheltenham, on Saturday then following; the clergy and people of the deanery of Cirencester in the church of Barndesleye, on Tuesday then next following; the clergy and people of the deanery of Fairford, on the Wednesday then next following; the clergy and people of the deanery of Stonhous in the church of Chirynton, on the Thursday then next following; the clergy and people of the deanery of Durseleye in the church of Wotton under Egge, on Saturday after the feast of St. Peter in Cathedra; and the clergy and people of the deanery of Bristol in the church of St. Augustine the Less there, on the Tuesday then next following.

Fol. 107. Process upon the election of Brother William Cok, elected into the abbey of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol, by the Prior and Convent of the same place, and confirmed by the Prior of Worcester, the See being vacant, A.D. 1353.

Letter from Phillippa, Queen of England, Lady of Ireland and Duchess of Aquitaine, to the Prior of Worcester, keeper of the Spiritualities of the Bishopric of Worcester, the See being vacant, giving her consent to the election of brother William Cok as abbot and pastor of St. Augustine's of Bristol, who was presented to her by Simon de Thormenton, canon and the convent of the same house. Dated at Westminster, 20 March, 1352[-3].

Appointment of brother Richard Martyn, canon of St. Augustine of Bristol, proctor of the Prior and Convent of regular canons of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol, touching the matters relating to the election of brother William Cok, abbot of the same

monastery. Dated in the Chapter-house, the 15th of March, 1352[-3].

Appointment of brother Simon de Tormerton, canon, Master Robert de Nettelton, clerk, and John Athelman, of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol, as proctors of the Prior and Convent of the same place, to prosecute the confirmation of the election aforesaid. Dated at Bristol, the 4th of the Kalends of April, 1353.

Decree by Walter de Schaftesbury, prior of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol and the regular canons of the same place, to wit, brothers Thomas de Bykenore, Robert Dunsterre, Simon de Tormerton, Robert Syde, John de Lammer, Richard Martyn, John Badmynton, Walter Cheltenham, Laurence de Cirencestre, John Suyte, John de Launston, Walter Ragun, Adam Horseleye, John Goldeneye, and John Strete. Lest by default of a shepherd the rapacious wolf should invade the flock of the Lord the compilers of the Canons ordained that regular monasteries should not be vacant more than three months; hence it is that on 1 March, 1352[-3], Ralph de Assche, the last abbot of the aforesaid monastery, having entered the way of all flesh, and his body being decently buried, and licence to elect being obtained from Phillippa, Queen of England, their patron, the 15th of March was by the same Prior and Convent assigned for the election of an abbot, in the chapter-house before which day the Mass of the Holy Spirit being celebrated at daylight at the high altar of the said monastery, and thence all those who ought to be at the election coming together in the chapter-house, to wit, Walter de Schaftesbury, the prior, and William, the sub-prior, and the rest of the canons, and the Prior warned all excommunicated, suspended, and interdicted persons, and others who ought not to be present to retire, and the letter of Queen Phillippa was read. Whereupon three faithful persons of the College, to wit, brothers Thomas de Bykenore, Robert Sute, and William de Cheltenham were appointed scrutators to inquire the votes of all secretly and singly, and reduce the same to writing; but first the said Robert and Walter took the vote of the said Thomas, the said Thomas and Walter took the vote of the said Robert, and the said Thomas and Robert the vote of the said Walter. And the same scrutators then withdrawing to a corner

of the chapter-house together with a notary and witnesses inquired the votes of each one. And afterwards they published the said scrutiny, by which it appeared that nine of the monastery had voted for William Cok, and the remaining eight for divers others. At the command of the same Prior, Robert de Syde, precentor of the same monastery, published the said election of William Cok, the sub-prior, as abbot of the aforesaid monastery. Whereupon, all having approved of the election, they raised the said William in their hands from the ground and carried him to the high altar, singing *Te Deum laudamus*, and laid him upon the same altar, as is the custom. And immediately after, the said brother Robert de Syde published the election in English to the clergy and people. On the morrow, to wit, the 16th of the said month, about the third hour the process of the election was presented to the elect by brother Richard Martyn, monk and proctor of St. Augustine, humbly asking his consent to the same election, and the same elect asserted his desire to see the same process, and after the ninth hour of the same day the said proctor again requested the same elect, who thereupon gave his consent. Dated in the Chapter-house of Bristol, the 17 March, 1352.

Fol. 108. Notarial certificate to above by Ralph de Daventre, clerk of the diocese of Lincoln, notary public.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to Master R. de Nettelton to examine witnesses touching the election of brother William Cok, abbot of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Kalends of April, 1353.

Certificate of R. de Nettelton that he has examined many witnesses according to the articles handed to him, which examinations he transmits. Dated at Worcester, the 1st of April.

Examination of witnesses touching the matter of the election made in the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol, in the diocese of Worcester, of brother William Cok, made by Robert de Nettelton, clerk, by authority of the Prior of Worcester, on the third of the Kalends of April, 1353, upon the articles underwritten.

The proctor intends to prove the within written articles concerning the election of William Cok, as abbot of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol.

1. The proctor of the Prior and Convent of St. Augustine of Bristol intends to prove that the same monastery and the Prior and Convent of the same, were, from a time whereof the memory of man runneth not, accustomed to be ruled and governed by an abbot, being a regular canon of their order, as principal prelate of the same monastery.

2. That Ralph de Assche was the last immediate abbot, and was to the first of the present month of March publicly held, reputed, and bore himself as chief of the same monastery.

3. That the said Ralph, abbot of the said monastery, died on the first day of March last past.

4. That his body was buried within two days following.

5. That the lady Phillippa, the Queen, was and is patron of the said monastery and in possession of the priory, and that from her licence to elect an abbot had to be asked.

Fol. 108*d*. 6. That afterwards, Friday after the feast of St. Gregory the Pope, was assigned by the Prior and Convent for the election of a future abbot in the chapter-house.

7. That on the same Friday, to wit, the 15th of March, brother William Cok, a regular canon of the same monastery, was elected abbot.

8. That he alone was then there elected.

9. That the same elect then was and is a free and lawful man, and begotten in lawful matrimony.

10. That the father and mother of the said Elect were publicly held and reputed, at the time of his birth and conception, to be man and wife.

11. That the same brother William was, at the time of his election, of the age of thirty years and more, and for such he was held and reputed.

12. That he then and long before was and as yet is in priest's orders, and also in other lower orders.

13. That he then and long before was and now is professed in the rule of St. Augustine and in the order of regular canons in the said monastery.

14. That he, at the time of his election and long before was and as yet is of good life and honest conversation, not suspected of any crime.

15. That the same elect, on the day following his election, was

by brother Richard Martyn, proctor on behalf of the said Prior and Convent, humbly asked whether he would consent to the election, and was handed the process of the same election.

16. That the said elect received the said process and answered that he was willing to consent.

17. That the same elect on the same day, long after being again asked by the aforesaid proctor, in a certain form gave his consent.

Examination of Witnesses.

1. Brother Walter de Shaftesbury, Prior of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol in the diocese of Worcester, of the age of 60 years and more, sworn and examined. Upon the first article he said that it contained the truth because he saw it so done and observed; and he had known the said monastery for 50 years last past, and heard from his elders it was so before observed, and never otherwise from time immemorial, nor did he see in his time, nor did he see or hear or know any one in his time who saw or heard the contrary.

As to the second, third, and fourth articles they contained the truth. Also as to the fifth article he said that it contained the truth to his own observation and knowledge, by reason of the town of Bristol with the Abbey for a long time pertained to her by grant of the King. As to the sixth, seventh, and eighth articles, he said, that they contained the truth, and this he said he knew to be so, because he was present and saw all things in the said articles done. He also stated that the twelfth, thirteenth, eighteenth, nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first¹ articles were true.

Brother Thomas Bykenore, of the age of 40 years and more, said that he could only depose as to twenty-five years, whereas the Prior deposed as to fifty years.

Brother Robert de Syde deposed that the fifteenth, sixteenth, and seventeenth articles were true, because he was proctor in the matters referred to in the said articles, and that he asked the aforesaid elect under this form of words, in writing. "I, brother Richard Martyn, proctor of the religious men the Prior and Convent of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol, in the diocese of Worcester, require that you, in the place and name of me and of the Prior and Convent will deign to give your consent to the election of you by

¹ Articles eighteen to twenty-one do not appear.

the same Prior and Convent, as Abbot of the said monastery." And the said elect consented, as is expressed in the seventeenth article.

Brother Robert de Dunstare sworn and examined, deposed as brother Robert de Syde.

William Hail, burgess of Bristol, of the age of 40 years and more, deposed that he knew the ninth, tenth, and eleventh articles to be true, because he knew all the time of his discretion that the father and mother of the same elect, at the time of his birth and conception, before and after, bore themselves as man and wife, and for such were reputed in the town of Bristol; and as to this he swore that from his infancy he was the fellow and companion of the said elect at school and elsewhere, and by this he well knew his age.

John atte Heyhorne, of Bristol, sworn and examined, deposed as the said William Hayl, except that he did not depose as to the companionship with the said elect at school, and elsewhere only for eighteen years past.

Sir John de Beuchomp of Bristol, as to the ninth, tenth, and eleventh articles deposed as the aforesaid W. Hayl.

Brother Simon de Sormerton, of the age of 30 years and more, to the second and third articles deposed that he saw and knew the said Ranulph, the last abbot, to have been publicly and notoriously reputed as such to the day in the second article given; and on that day—the first of the month of March—about the ninth hour, he saw him dying, and immediately after wholly dead, and two days after he saw him buried.

Fol. 109. William Capel, sixty years of age and more, as to the first article, deposed like Walter de Shaftbur', except that he only deposed as to 40 years, and as to the second and third articles he agreed with brother Simon, previously examined. He also said that in the said monastery, on the aforesaid day of election and long before and after, and as yet there are only regular canons and they are all professed on the rule and order instituted in the said monastery, and are in holy orders, namely, brothers Walter de Shaftbury, prior, William Cok, then sub-prior, Thomas de Bykenore, Robert de Dunsterr, Simon de Tornereton, John de Lanneer, Robert de Syde, Richard Martyn, chamberlain, John de Badmynton, Walter de Cheltenham, Laurence de Cirencestr', John Suyte, John de Lanston, Walter Ragun, Adam de Horseleye, priests, John de

Goldeneye and John de Strete, sub-deacons, and that the same canonically form the full convent of the said monastery. And to the same and no others belongs the business of the said election. And that Ralph de Daventre was admitted to the said election as a notary, and he was publicly reputed for a notary public by apostolic authority, and that all the seals in the matter of the present election were shown to him.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Bristol to go to the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol, and to cite any co-elect or opposer, if any there be, to the election of William Cok as abbot of the said monastery. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Kalends of April, 1353.

Certificate of the Dean of Bristol that he went to the said monastery, according to the above order, and found there no opposer or co-elect. Dated at Bristol, the 4th of the Kalends of April, 1353.

Petition of the proctor of the Prior and Convent of St. Augustine of Bristol for the confirmation of the election of William Cok, as abbot of the same monastery.

Diffinitive sentence by the Prior of Worcester confirming the same election.

Fol. 109*d*. Commission by the Prior of Worcester to the Prior of St. James of Bristol, to induct the same William Cok into corporal possession of the said monastery, and to install him in the abbot's stall of the said monastery. Dated at Worcester, the 8th April, 1353.

Licence by the Prior of Worcester to John Cok, Elect of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol, to receive the gift of benediction from any catholic bishop of the Apostolic See, notwithstanding the said monastery is in the diocese of Worcester.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Phillippa, the Queen, requesting her to confirm the said election. Dated at Worcester, the 2nd April, 1353.

Letters of confirmation by J. de Evesham, Prior of the Cathedral Church of Worcester, of the election of William Cok, abbot of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol. Dated at Worcester, the 8th April, 1353.

Fol. 110. Institution of clerks, the see of Worcester being vacant, by the translation of the venerable father John de Thoresby to the bishopric of the church of York, 1352.

William de la Grene, chaplain, presented by Alienora, lady of Sudeleye, to the church of Belne Brocton, vacant by the resignation of one, Roger, the last rector, inquisition being before made by the office of the archdeacon of Worcester, by which, etc., and he was admitted to the said church on 14 Feb., 1352, and was canonically instituted as rector, and swore canonical obedience in the form accustomed.

William de Ombresleye, priest, presented by the King to the vicarage of the church of Presteleye, vacant by the resignation of Master Nicholas de Ludelowe, the last vicar, etc., as above, and he was admitted on 7 March, in the aforesaid year, and swore to minister and continually to reside in the same, according to the constitution of the lord Ottobon.

William Ketelbern, priest, presented by the Prior and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Worcester to the vicarage of the church of Wolvardeleye, vacant by the resignation of Roger the last vicar, etc., as above.

Richard de Hyndelep, priest, presented by the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to the vicarage of Tyberton, vacant because one, John, the last instituted into the same, left that vicarage desolate for a year and more, therefore he was lawfully deprived by a competent judge. And the said Richard was admitted to the same on 5 March, in the aforesaid year.

Walter Assch, priest, presented by the Prior and Convent of St. Augustine of Bristol to the vicarage of the church of St. Nicholas of Bristol, vacant by the death of William de Torinton, in-

quisition being first made by office of the archdeacon of Gloucester, by which, etc., and he was admitted to the said vicarage on the 33rd (*sic*) day of March in the aforesaid year.

Master John de Brien, presented by the King to the prebend of Goderynghull, in the collegiate church of Westbury, vacant by the death of Master John, and in the gift of the King, by reason of the bishopric of Worcester being in his hands, inquisition being made by office of the Archdeacon of Gloucester, by which, etc., and he was admitted to the said prebend in the name of John Tirry of Brynton, his proctor, on 4th April, 1353.

Robert de Clipston, clerk, presented by Walter Bodenham of Little Wormynton to the church of Little Wormynton, vacant by the resignation of Gilbert de Compton, the last rector, etc., and he was admitted on 8th April, 1352 (*sic*).

Robert Lonekyn of Adelmynton, priest, presented by Thomas Brok, rector of the church of Brodebrok, to the vicarage of the church of Brodebrok, vacant by the resignation of William de Alyncestr', the last vicar of the same. And he was admitted on 8th February, 1352[-3].

Letter from King Edward III. to the keeper of the Spiritualities of Worcester, that whereas Master John de Severleye, archdeacon of Worcester in the diocese of Worcester, and John de Harewell, parson of the church of Bucstede in the diocese of Chichester, intend to exchange their benefices, the same archdeaconry being vacant and in the king's hands, by reason of the said exchange, the king has determined to confer it upon the same John de Harewell, and therefore commands the said keeper to admit the same John to the same. Dated at Westminster, 20th February, 27 Edward III.

Fol. 110*d*. Commission by Simon¹, archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester, that whereas Master John de Harewell, rector of the church of Bucstede, and John de Severleye, archdeacon of Worcester, as is asserted, intend to exchange their benefices, the archbishop commands the said Prior to examine into the causes of the said exchange, and if they be lawful, to approve

¹ Simon Meopham, 1328—1333.

the resignation of the said rector, and admit the said Master John de Severley to the church of Bokstede, and do whatever else is necessary. He is also to induct the said master John de Severley into the corporal possession of the same church, and to receive his canonical obedience for the dean of the collegiate church of South Mallyng. Dated at Otteford, the 12th of the Kalends of March, 1352.

Certificate that it appears by the testimony of faithful persons and by certain deeds that William Was, of Shraweleye, held in the manor of Shraweleye one virgate and a quarter of arable land, and that he received from the Prior, Prioress, and Canons of Westwode, every week for his life, the moiety of one measure of good, pure, and well winnowed corn.

Letters dimissory for priest's orders for John Wittles, Thomas de Lecbury, Thomas de Mershton, Nicholas de Cherleton, brother Henry de Lawern, and John Petlyng.

Letters dimissory for the order of sub-deacon for John Petlyng.

Letters dimissory for all holy orders for John de Kekyngeswyk and John de Aston.

Letters dimissory for minor orders and sub-deacon's orders for John Reygnald of Seggesbergh, John Hondy, canon of Doddeford, William Whas of Sraweleye, and William Turfray.

Letters dimissory for minor orders for William Prime.

Letters dimissory for deacon's and priest's orders for John Strete, canon of Bristol, Walter Heynes, Richard de Wasseburne and John Petlyng.

Letters dimissory for minor and all holy orders for Gilbert de Wassebourne and Nicholas de Wassebourne.

Fol. III. Visitation made in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester, in the time of the vacancy of the See of Worcester, 1352.

Master Henry de Newebold, clerk, and brother John de Leomenstr', precentor, commissaries of the Prior of Worcester, visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Gloucester in the church of St. John of the same place on Friday after the feast of St. Valentine.

The same commissaries visited the deanery of Wynchcomb, in the church of Cheltenham, on Saturday following.

The same commissaries visited the monastery of Cirencestr' on Monday following.

The same commissaries visited the deanery of Cirencestr' on Tuesday following, in the church of Brandeslye.

The same visited the deanery of Fairford in the church of Fairford, on Wednesday following.

They visited the deanery of Stonhous on Thursday following, in the church of Shiryton.

Saturday, the morrow of St. Peter in cathedra, they visited the deanery of Dersleye, in the church of Wotton under Egge.

On Monday, the morrow of St. Matthew the Apostle, they visited the deaneries of Haukesbury and Button', in the chapel of Market Sobbury.

On Tuesday following, they visited the deanery of Bristol, in the church of the Blessed Augustine the Less of Bristol.

On Wednesday following, they visited the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol.

On Thursday following, they visited the House of St. Mark and the priory of St. James of the same place.

Letter from Simon, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester. Whereas by apostolic letters shown to the same archbishop it appears that Pope Clement VI. had in the plentitude of his power translated Reginald, formerly Bishop of St. David's¹, to the church of Worcester, the same archbishop orders the said prior to deliver up to the same bishop the spiritualities in the city and diocese of Worcester, and to freely permit him to use and exercise them, and to deliver to him the registers, seals, and other things whatsoever belonging to the spiritualities of the said city and diocese. Dated at Lamheth, the 7th of the Ides of April, 1353.

Fol. 111*d*. REGISTER OF THOSE things which were done in the bishopric of Worcester, the See being vacant after the death

¹ Reginald Bryan, Bishop of St. David's, 1350—1353. The second successive Bishop of St. David's translated to Worcester.

of the lord Reginald Bryan, the late bishop, from 10 December, 1361, to 10 March, 1361-2.

Congé d'élire to the Prior and Convent of Worcester. Dated at Westminster, 14 December, 35 Edward III.

Revocation of the said congé d'élire, because it appears by letters from the Apostolic See that the said Reginald had been translated in his lifetime to the bishopric of Ely¹, and Master John de Barnet elected and confirmed by the same Apostolic See to the bishopric of Worcester².

INSTITUTIONS.

Institution of William Houtelowe, priest, presented by the king, the bishopric of Hereford being vacant³, to the prebend of the church of Inteberwe. And he was admitted to the same on 12 December, 1361.

Institution of William Wygot, priest, presented by Sir John Tracy, knight, to the free chapel of Doynton. And he was admitted to the same on 9 December, 1361.

Institution of William Bysschelin, priest, presented to the hospital of St. Oswald of Worcester by the sacristan of the cathedral church of Worcester. And he was admitted to the same on 15 December, 1361.

Institution of John Smult, priest, presented by John Kekylling to the church of Kekylling, the 10th of the Kalends of December.

Institution of Robert Bannebur', priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Evesham to the church of Olleberge. And he was admitted and instituted to the same on 18 December.

Fol. 112. Institution of John Smyth of Eton, priest, presented

¹ Pope Innocent VI. translated Bryan to Ely, but the Bishop died of the Plague at Alvechurch before accepting the new Bishopric. At the time of Bryan's translation

the Pope appointed Barnet Bishop of Worcester, so there was no real vacancy.

² Printed in Thomas' Survey, App. p. 120.

³ By the death of Bishop Trilleck in 1360.

by the Prior and Convent of Great Malvern to the church of Estlech St. Martin. And he was admitted to the same on 16 December, 1361.

John Ward, priest, presented by brother Robert de Dycleston, preceptor of the hospital of St. W[olstan] of Worcester and the convent of the same place, to the vicarage of Croul. And he was admitted to the same on 17 December.

Institution of John Herwykes, priest, presented by Thomas de Kynemarton, rector of the church of Clinel' Castle, to the vicarage of the church of Clinel. And he was admitted to the same on 17 December.

Institution of William de Braddewey, priest, presented by the Prior and Convent of the monastery of Kenylworth to the vicarage of the church of Brayles. And he was admitted to the same on 13 December.

Institution of Thomas Drydson, priest, presented by William de Peyto, general attorney of Ralph, Earl of Stafford, to the church of Roudecombe. And he was admitted to the same on 22 December.

Institution of Thomas Boghes, priest, presented by Hugh de Wrymundeswold, preceptor of the cathedral church of York, to the church of Otyndon, and he was admitted to the same on 20 December.

Institution of Thomas Tchuffeleye, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Oseneve to the vicarage of the church of Torkod'¹. And he was admitted to the same on 18 December.

Institution of Thomas Andrew, priest, presented by Nicholas Iford, rector of the church of Olveston, to the chapel of Tokynton. And he was admitted to the same on 20 December.

Institution of Roger Larke, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of the monastery of St. Peter of Gloucester to the vicarage of Erlyngham. And he was admitted to the same on 22 December.

¹ In margin in late hand is Torkedene.

Institution of Roger atte Church, priest, presented by John Lucy, lord of Cotes, to the church of Cotes. And he was admitted to the same on 20 December, 1361.

Institution of Henry de Kynewarton, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Evesham to the church of Morton. And he was admitted to the same on 5 January.

Institution of Robert Hals, priest, presented by the Prior of Little Malvern to the vicarage of Eldersfeld. And he was admitted to the same on 9 January.

Institution of Robert atte Sloo, priest, presented by Ralph, bishop of Bath and Wells, to the church of Pokelchurch. And he was admitted to the same on 10 January.

Institution of Alan de Vyse, priest, presented by Sir William Trossell of Cubblesdon, knight, to the church of Billesleye. And he was admitted to the same on 15 January.

Institution of John Notte, priest, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo¹, Earl of Warwick, lord of Gower and Marshal of England, to the church of Lench Rooulf. And he was admitted to the same on 8 January.

Fol. 112*d*. Institution of Robert Wattes of Ekynton, priest, presented by the King to the vicarage of the church of Hembury Saltmarsh. And he was admitted to the same on 2 January.

Institution of William le Whyte of Elmel' sub Castro, deacon, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, to the church of Cromb Symond. And he was admitted to the same on 8 January.

Institution of William de Borwthton', priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Theoukesbur' to the church of SS. Philip and James of Bristol. And he was admitted to the same on 3 January.

¹ Thomas Beauchamp, 3rd Earl, d. 1369.

Institution of Robert Bolde, priest, presented by Roger Golafre, lord of Nafford, to the church of Nafford. And he was admitted to the same on 24 January, 1361.

Institution of John Derlyng, priest, presented by the prioress and convent of Cokhull to the vicarage of the church of Byshampton. And he was admitted to the same on 20 January.

Institution of Richard de Evenelod, presented by Peter de Evenelod, his brother, to the church of Evenelod. And he was admitted to the same on 19 January.

Institution of John Lovekok, of Aston upon Car', presented by the abbot and convent of Theukes' to the church of S. John of Bristol. And he was admitted to the same on 20 January.

Institution of Henry Wodeward, priest, presented by John de Berkeley, lord of Clynelod, to the chapel of Clynl'. And he was admitted to the same on 18 January.

Institution of Henry de Copenhal, priest, presented by Sir William Trussel of Cubblesdon', knight, to the church of Morton Bagot. And he was admitted to the same on 15 January.

Institution of Simon de Pylardynton, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Teukesbury to the church of Atheston. And he was admitted to the same on 6 January.

Institution of Reginald Dodd, priest, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, lord of Gower and Marshal of England, to the house of the hospital of St. Michael of Warwick. And he was admitted to the same on 7 January.

Institution of Geoffrey Herberd, priest, presented by Richard de Ruyhal, lord of Morton Brut, to the church of Morton Brut. And he was admitted to the same on 3 January.

Institution of Peter de Bradewey, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Hayles to the rectory of the church of Pynnuchyr. And he was admitted to the same on 25 February.

Institution of Richard Batyn, priest, presented by William de Stonore, lord of Condicote, to the church of Condicote. And he was admitted to the same on 5 February, 1361.

Institution of Philip Reome, priest, presented by John de Fulton, lord of the same place next Bristol, to the parish church of Fulton. And he was admitted to the same on 5 February.

Fol. 113. Institution of Thomas Proud, priest, presented by Thomas Toky and Joan Toky of Kyngton, to the church of Tokyngton. And he was admitted to the same on 6 February,

Institution of Thomas de Montgomery, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter of Gloucester to the chapel of Mattesden. And he was admitted to the same on 2nd of February.

Institution of John Laurens, priest, presented by Lucy Bartram, lady of Schelne, to the chapel of Schelne annexed to the church of Hambury. And he was admitted to the same on 4 February.

Institution of John Swynley, priest, presented by the King to the prebend which Master Richard Somerton had in the collegiate church of Westbury. And he was admitted to the same on 11 February.

Institution of William Harpur, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of St. Peter of Gloucester to the church of Dodyngton. And he was admitted to the same on 4 February.

Institution of Henry Torald, priest, presented by brother John Paveley, prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, to the vicarage of the church of Southrop. And he was admitted to the same on 8 February.

Institution of Master Richard de Elyndon, priest, presented by the warden of the house of scholars of Merton in Oxford and the brothers of the same house to the church of Lapworth. And he was admitted to the same on 6 February.

Institution of Simon de Collewel, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Teukesbury to the church of St. Michael of Bristol. And he was admitted to the same on 15 February, 1361.

Institution of John Wykengeston, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Westminster to the church of Sutton. And he was admitted to the same on 23 February.

Institution of John Kynesham, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Malmesbury to the church of Litelton. And he was admitted to the same on 15 February.

Institution of John Ball, priest, presented by Lord Maurice de Berkel' to the chapel of Compton. And he was admitted to the same on 12 February.

Institution of Stephen Sloughre, priest, presented by Maurice, lord of Berkeley, to the chapel of Cambrugge. And he was admitted to the same on 15 February.

Institution of William in the Lane, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Walden to the vicarage of the church of Great Compton. And he was admitted to the same on 19 February.

Institution of William Marchal, clerk, presented by Richard Baskervyle, son of Richard Baskervyle, to the church of Coumbe Baskervyle. And he was admitted on 26 February.

Admission and institution of brother William de Atrio, monk professed in the monastery of St. Taurinus of Evreux, of the Benedictine order—presented by brother John Bomet, monk of the monastery of St. Taurinus, having power from brother Robert de Masucag', Claustral, prior (*prior claustr'*¹) of the said monastery—to the priory of Asteley². And he was admitted to the same on 3 February.

¹ Claustral prior, the first prior of a monastery: see *Du Cange*.

² Astly was a Worcestershire cell to the Monastery of St. Taurinus: see *ante*, p. 57.

Institution of John Gardener, priest, presented by Thomas Raleigh of Charles, in the county of Devon, to the church of Eggesworth. And he was admitted to the same on 9 March, 1361.

Institution of Philip de Cestr', priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Teukesbury to the church of St. Andrew of Bristol. And he was admitted to the same on 15 February.

Fol. 113*d*. Institution of Nicholas Wynbaud, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester to the church of Osleworth. And he was admitted to the same on 10 February.

Institution of John Goffeld of Askeby, priest, presented to the church of Nymdesfeld. And he was admitted to the same on 15 February.

Institution of William Lodlowe, priest, presented by the Abbot and Convent of Wynchcomb to the church of Rowell. And he was admitted to the same on 6 February.

Institution of William de Sleaford, clerk, presented by the King to the church of Belnebrokton. And he was admitted to the same on 20 February.

Institution of William de Wotton, priest, presented by Sir John Wysham, knight, to the church of Churchull. And he was admitted to the same on 5 March.

Institution of Adam, son of John de Tresul, priest, presented by Edmund de Donclent to the church of Churchull. And he was admitted to the same on 5 March.

Provision by the Prior of Worcester of brother Thomas Doul, as Prior of Dodeford of the order of St. Augustine in the diocese of Worcester, the late prior, brother William de Aston, having died on 9 February, 1361-2, and being buried on 10 February, and it being represented to the Prior of Worcester by brothers T. Doul and J. Hondy, on behalf of the other canons of the same priory, the inconvenience of a long vacation, and there being no way or form of election in the same priory. Dated at Worcester, 13 February.

Letter from John de Bosco, John de Bradewey, and John de Berga, monks of the monastery of Alyncestr' to the King, that brother Robert de Adbriton, formerly Abbot of Alyncestr', having died, and they, having obtained licence to elect a new abbot, and having unanimously elected brother Maurice de Munstreworth, present the same elect to the King, by brother John de Berga, praying for the royal assent to such election. Dated at the chapter-house of Alyncestr', 14 January.

Letter from John, Prior of Worcester, to the King, presenting brother Maurice de Munstreworth, elect of Alyncestre, to the King for the royal assent. Dated at Worcester, 19 January, 1361[-2].

Fol. 114. Confirmation by John, Prior of Worcester—upon whom the right of making the abbot of the monastery of the Blessed Mary and St. John the Baptist of Alyncestr' has lawfully devolved—of brother Maurice de Munstreworth of the order of St. Benedict, professed in the monastery of Gloucester, by the assent of brother Thomas¹, abbot of the monastery of Gloucester, as abbot of the said monastery of Alyncestr'.

Resignation by Robert Wattes, vicar of the parish church of Hembury, of the parish church of Nafford, 10 January, 1361[-2].

Resignation by Roger atte Churche, rector of the parish church of Cotes, of the vicarage of the church of St. Peter de Sodynton, 17 January.

Resignation by Robert de Bannebury, vicar of the parish church of Stodleye, of the vicarage of the church of Stodleye, 19 December.

Resignation by Henry de Kenewarton, rector of the church of Morton Abbas, of the vicarage of the church of Byshampton, 22 January.

Resignation by Simon de Colewell, rector of the church of St. Audeon [Andrew ?] of Bristol, of the same church, 10 February.

¹ Thomas Horton, 1351—1377.

Resignation by Peter de Wodmoncot, rector of the church of St. Michael of Bristol, of the same church, 10 February.

Resignation by Thomas Proud of Staunton, rector of the church of Kynton, of the chapel of Morton upon the Hill, 5 March.

Resignation by W. Bornthon, rector of the church of Eselworth, of the same church, 3 January.

Resignation by Adam de Castel, of the vicarage of Inteberge, 1 March.

Commission by the Prior of Worcester to Robert, Bishop of Sens¹, to celebrate orders and consecrate parish churches and altars in parish churches within the diocese of Worcester, the See being vacant. Dated at Worcester, 27 January.

Mandate to the rectors of the churches of A. B. C. and D. to excommunicate those who impeded and beat Thomas, apparitor of Worcester, when he cited John Roode to appear before the Prior of Worcester.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Abbot and Convent of Teukesbury, declaring his intention to make visitation at their monastery on Monday the feast of St. Valentine. Dated at Worcester, the 4 February, 1361[-2].

Fol. 114*d*. Certificate of the receipt of the foregoing letter.

Like letter to the Abbot and Convent of Gloucester, for Tuesday, the morrow of St. Valentine, and like certificate by the same.

Like letter to the Abbot and Convent of Perschore, for Saturday after the Epiphany, and like certificate by the same.

Like letter to Walter, Abbot, and the Convent of Winchcomb, for Monday after the Epiphany, and like certificate by the same.

Like letter to the Prior and Convent of Lanthon' next Gloucester, for Thursday after the feast of St. Valentine, and like certificate by the same.

¹ Or of Troyes *Presonenensis*.

Like letter to the friars of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, for Wednesday after the feast of St. Valentine, and like certificate by the same.

Fol. 115. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Christianity of Warwick, declaring his intention to make visitations as follows:—at Waweyneswotton, on Thursday then next following, of the church of Waweyneswotton with the chapels and parish churches of Lapworth with their chapels of Toneworth, of Ippeleye, Stodleye, Cotton, Spernore, of Alyncestre, of Arewe, of Kynewarton Beaudesert, of Ollebergh, of Morton, of Preston, of Claverdon, of Wolnardynton, of Aston, of Haselore, of Dillesleye, of Bynnynton, of Grafton, of Ecclesale, of Budeforde, and of Saltford; and on Friday, the morrow, the parish churches of Stretford and Bishops Hampton with their chapels in the said church of Stretford; and on the Monday following, in the church of St. Sepulchre of Warwick, the same church of St. Sepulchre, and the churches of Budebrokes, of Hatton, of Haseleye, of Shirbourne, Fulbrokes, and Snytesfeld, and all parishes in the town of Warwick and also the collegiate church of the Blessed Mary, the hospitals of the Blessed John and Michael, and the clergy, church and people of all the aforesaid churches.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to Master Richard Zaneworth, authorizing him to admit the administration (*insumationes*) of Wills in the deaneries of Cirencestr', Fayreford, and Stonhous, in the archdeaconry of Gloucester, and also to collect and receive all oblations and other profits due or to be due by reason of the vacancy of the See.

Resignation by John Lovecok of Aston upon Carent', warden or rector of the chantry or chapel of Harsecomb with the chapel of Pynchenecomb to the same annexed, 25 February, 1361[-2].

Resignation by John Alewy, priest and master or warden of the hospital of the Blessed Mary next Wych, of the wardenship of the said hospital, 26 February.

Congé d'élire by Guy de Bryene, Robert de Parle, clerk, and

Walter de Parle, attorneys general of Sir Edward le Despencer¹, lord of Glamorgan, Morgannock in England, Wales and Ireland, to the Prior and Convent of Teukesbury, to elect an abbot in the place of brother Thomas de Leighe, who died on Thursday before the feast of St. Dennis last past. Dated at London, 17 October, 35 Edward III.

Fol. 115*d*. Letter from Edward le Despencer, lord of Glamorgan and Morgannock, to Reginald, bishop of Worcester, that the sub-prior and convent of Teukesbury have signified to him, their patron, that they have elected brother Thomas de Chesterton as their abbot, and prayed that he will consent to such election and present the elect to the same bishop. The said Edward, having so consented, presents the aforesaid elect to the bishop. Dated at his house in London, Monday, the vigil of St. Andrew the Apostle, 1361.

Appointment by Nicholas de Redyngge, sub-prior, and the convent of the monastery of Blessed Mary of Teukesbury, of the order of St. Benedict, of brothers John Marcle and John de Prestebury, their special proctors, to present to brother Thomas de Chesterton their election of him as abbot, and to pray his consent to the same. Dated in the chapter-house of Teukesbury, Wednesday, the morrow of St. Clement the Pope, to wit, the 24 November, 1361.

Letter from Richard de Ledbury, rector of the church of Bredon, to the Prior of Worcester, that having received a commission from the same prior, dated 14 December, 1361, to cite all opposers to the election of brother Thomas de Chesterton as abbot of Teukesbury, to appear on Saturday after the feast of St. Lucy the Virgin at the first hour in the cathedral church, he went to the church of Teukesbury and cited the opposers to appear as directed. In witness whereof he has set the seal of the deanery of Breodon. Dated at Bredon Thursday after the feast of St. Lucy the Virgin.

Fol. 116. Letter from Nicholas de Redyngg', the sub-prior, and the convent of the Blessed Mary of Teukesbury to the lord

¹ Nephew of Hugh de Spencer, son of Eleanor, daughter and co-heiress of Gilbert de Clare, last Earl of Gloucester, and through her patron of Tewkesbury.

Reginald, bishop of Worcester. That by the sacred canons, a church should not be vacant beyond three months, &c., and their monastery being vacant by the death of brother Thomas de Leighe, the last abbot, who died on 7 October, 1361, and his body was buried on 19th of the same month, they sought from the noble man and their patron, the lord Edward le Despenser, and in his absence from his proctors and attorneys, licence to elect an abbot. Which being obtained, the said sub-prior and all and singular the monks meet together on 18 of November in their chapter-house to treat of the election of a future abbot, when Wednesday after the feast of St. Clement the Pope, to wit, 24 November, was fixed for the election. In the mean time, having cited those absent, and all those who would and could be present in the said chapter-house, being come together on the said Wednesday, and the Word of God having been set forth, the hymn *Veni Creator* being solemnly sung, and moreover there having been read the constitution of the general council, after some discussion, it was at length agreed to proceed by way of compromise¹; and power was committed to brothers Nicholas de Rodyngg', the sub-prior, Robert de Stolton, sacristan, John Marcle, precentor, William de Putteleye, prior of Cranebourne, Thomas de Chesterton, cellarer, John de la Hyde, Richard de Stowe, sub-cellarer, William de Homleye, and John de Ayshford, monks, till the darkness of night of the same Wednesday only, to elect an abbot from themselves or others of the monastery. And after long treaty they elected Thomas de Chesterton, cellarer. Then brother Nicholas de Rodyngg came into the chapter-house and declared the election as above; and all having approved the same election, they, singing *Te Deum laudamus*, carried the same elect to the high altar and placed him upon the same, as is the custom, and then brother Nicholas de Redingg' published the election to the clergy and people congregated there in a great multitude. And afterwards, about the hour of vespers on the same Wednesday, the election was presented to the aforementioned elect in the chapel of the infirmary, by brothers John Marcle, precentor, and John de Prestebury, the third prior (*ij^{um} priorem*), monks and proctors, for his consent; and at length the same elect, on Thursday following, to wit, 25 November, being unwilling to resist the divine will gave his consent in the same chapel. On account of these things, the

¹ See *ante*, Part II., p. xvii.

said Nicholas de Rodingg, sub-prior, prays the said bishop to confirm the same election and to do what to his paternity belongs in the matter. Dated in the chapter-house of Worcester, 29 November.

Fol. 116*d*. Notarial certificate to the above by Peter de Wodmencote, clerk, of the diocese of Worcester, notary public by apostolic authority.

Articles touching the election of brother Thomas de Chesterton as abbot of the monastery of Teukesbury, transmitted to the bishop, of Worcester. First, it is intended to prove that the monastery being vacant and licence having been asked from the patron, the election of the future abbot of the same monastery belongs and pertains, and for forty years and since, and before the time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, belonged and pertained to the convent of the same monastery or the monks there forming the chapter. Also, that the same convent, and monks of the said monastery there forming the chapter were in peaceful possession of the right of electing an abbot, as is aforesaid, all the time above-said. Also, that the said monastery being vacant by the death of brother Thomas de Leighe, the last abbot, and his body being buried, licence to elect an abbot was sought from Sir Edward le Despenser, and in his absence from his attorneys on that behalf appointed, and licence was obtained from the same attorneys. Also, for making such election, the aforesaid Sir Edward le Despenser gave his consent. Also that on the 18 November the monks in holy orders and professing the rule of St. Benedict, being assembled in the chapter-house fixed upon Wednesday after the feast of St. Clement the Pope, namely, 24 November, 1361, for the election of a future abbot. Also, that on the said day it was unanimously agreed to proceed by way of compromise. Also, it was agreed to choose nine persons of the said convent to elect and provide for themselves and their monastery one of themselves or other brother of the convent, as abbot, to wit, brother Nicholas de Redingg, sub-prior, Robert de Stolton, sacristan, John Marcle, precentor, William de Putteleye, prior of Cranbourne, Thomas de Chesterton, cellarer, John de la Hyde, Richard de Stowe, sub-cellarer, William de Hornleye, and John de Ayschford, monks,

to whom power was given by brother John de Prestebury, the third prior, and the whole monastery (those nine excepted) till the darkness of night of that Wednesday, to elect an abbot. Also that the said compromisors (*compromissarii*) accepted such power, and after consideration among themselves they elected brother Thomas de Chesterton, cellarer, monk, and one of the compromisors, as abbot (the same Thomas only excepted from the voters). Also, that brother Nicholas de Redyngg', one of the compromisors, solemnly elected the said Thomas before all the monks assembled in the chapter-house. Also, that the said brother Thomas de Chesterton is a monk of the convent of the monastery aforesaid, of good fame and of uncorrupt opinions, expressly professing the rule of St. Benedict in the same monastery, careful and discreet in business, sufficiently instructed in the knowledge of letters, of commendable life and habits, in priest's orders, of lawful age, born in lawful matrimony, and prudent in spiritual and temporal matters. Also, the said election was publicly and solemnly celebrated, pronounced, and accepted, approved and ratified by all and singular the convent (the said elect only excepted), and afterwards solemnly published to the clergy and people in the vulgar tongue. Also, that the said elect subsequently gave his consent. Also, that all and singular the premises are publicly known and famous in the monastery of Teukesbury and neighbouring places. All which premises the proctor intends to prove.

Appointment by the sub-prior and convent of Teukesbury of Master John de Aston, clerk, their proctor, to pray from the lord Reginald, bishop of Worcester, confirmation of the election of brother Thomas de Chesterton as abbot of their monastery. Dated in the chapter-house of Teukesbury, 10 December, 1361.

Fol. 117*d*. Confirmation of the said election by the bishop of Worcester (?)¹.

Fol. 118. REGISTER OF THOSE things which were done, the see of Worcester being vacant by the translation of the lord

¹ The Bishop Bryan died on the very day, 10th Dec., 1361, the Tewkesbury monks appointed their Proctor. Barnet, the new Bishop, was not enthroned before the 12th March, 1361.

John de Barnet late bishop of Worcester to the church of Bath and Wells, from the first day of April, 1364, to the second of July of the same year.

Commission from Simon, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the prior of Worcester to exercise all ordinary jurisdiction in the city and diocese of Worcester during the vacancy of the see. Dated at Cheryngges, the 8th of the Ides of April, 1364.

INSTITUTION OF CLERKS.

Robert de Caldewell, clerk, presented by Sir William de Scanceby, prebendary of the prebend of Compton Mirdak, to the church of Bodebrook, vacant by the resignation of Nicholas Andrew, the last rector. And he was admitted to the same on 23 April, 1364.

William Warde, priest, presented by the prior and convent of St. Sepulchre of Warwick, to the church of Haseleye, vacant by the resignation of Sir William de Nayleston, the last rector. And he was admitted to the same on 29 May.

Robert Jones of Bokeford, priest, presented by brother Drocum, proctor of brother John de Medunta, prior of Derhurst, to the church of Welneford, vacant by the death of Sir William de Scanceby, the last rector. And he was admitted to the same on 21 June.

Martin Trouel, priest, presented by the King, the see being vacant, to the preceptory of the hospital of St. Wolstan of Worcester, vacant by the resignation of Sir Robert de Dychesdon, the last preceptor. And he was instituted there on 19 June. And the rector of St. Ellen of Worcester is written to, to induct him.

Letter from Lewis¹, bishop of Hereford, to the Prior of Worcester. Whereas the prebend of Mordon and Waddon of the diocese of Worcester, is a prebend of the cathedral church of Hereford, and belongs to the bishop's collation, which same prebend the bishop had given to Master Edmund Morteyn, who had taken it in exchange for the prebend of Thokerinton in the cathedral church of

¹ Lewis Charleton, 1361—1369.

York, the same bishop prays the prior to give his consent to the entry of the same Edmund upon the same prebend. Dated at Bosebure, 22 April, 1364.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester consenting to the entry of the same Edmund Morteyn, canon of Hereford or his proctor, as above. Dated at Worcester, 23 April, 1364.

Institution of William Lude, priest, presented by the lady Eleanor Bussell to the church of Durham¹, vacant by the death of Master John, the last rector. And he was admitted to the same on 6 May.

Institution of John Brain, priest, presented by Master John de la Donne, rector of the Church of St. Ellen of Worcester, to the perpetual chantry, commonly called "Spagard" in the said church, which chantry has been vacant for a long time. And he was admitted on 19 June. And the rector of the church of St. Swithin is written to, to induct him.

Fol. 118*d*. Institution of John Gorwey, priest, presented by the prioress and convent of Uske to the vicarage of the church of Begworth, vacant by the resignation of Master William Semes, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 19 June.

Institution of Nicholas Geffrey, priest, presented by the king, the see of Worcester being vacant, to the wardenship of the hospital of Holy Trinity of Langebrugg next Berkele, vacant by the resignation of Walter Launce, the last warden. And he was admitted on 26 June.

Letters dimissory for John Webbe of Matheme for all minor orders, 4 May.

The like for John Cockes of Perschore for deacon's and priest's orders, 15 May.

The like for Laurence Smythes of Marteleye for deacon's and priest's orders, 15 May.

¹ In margin Derham.

The like for John ate Feld of Leech Turvyle to sub-deacon's orders by title of the monastery of Brueria, 30 May.

Visitations in the Archdeaconry of Worcester.

The Prior of Worcester visited the chapter of the same on 11 April.

The same prior visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Poywyk on 12 April in the parish church there and received in the name of a proxy 4 marks from the said church.

Master Thomas de Lench and brother John de Mucheneye, commissaries of the said prior, visited the clergy and people of the city and deanery of Worcester in the cathedral church of Worcester on 13 April.

The Prior of Worcester visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Wych in the parish church of Terdebygg on 15 April, and received in the name of a proxy 4 marks.

The same prior visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Warwick in the parish church of Wawenneswotton on 16 April, and there received in the name of a proxy 4 marks.

The same prior visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Kyngton in the parish church of Wolvord'.

Master Thomas de Lench' and brother Richard Hengesheye commissaries of the said prior, visited the abbey of Pershore, on 24 April, and received proxies in food and drink.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of the same on the same day in the parish church of St. Andrew of Pershore.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Kyderminstr' in the parish church of the same, on 27 April, and also made visitation there of the parish church of Clent and Rouleye on the same day, and received from the same church of Clent in the name of a proxy 20s.

The above said prior visited the monastery of Stodley in the chapter-house of the same on 20 May, and against him at his entry were assembled many with bows and divers other arms to resist the same prior that he should not exercise his jurisdiction. These the same prior would have excommunicated but for the intervention of certain great men there. And he received proxies there in meat and drink.

The same prior visited the abbey of Alencestr' and the priory of Cookhull separately on 21 May, and he received proxies in food and drink.

Master Thomas de Lench' and brother Richard Hengesheye visited the collegiate church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick and the house of St. Sepulchre, in their chapter-houses, on 7 May. And they received in the name of a proxy half a mark from the church of Pillardyngton, appropriated to the said collegiate church.

Visitations in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester.

The Prior of Worcester visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Campeden in the parish church of Wykewane on 18 April and there received in the name of a proxy 4 marks.

Fol. 119. On the same day he visited the parish church of Dydebok and there received in the name of a proxy 4 marks.

The same prior visited the abbey of Wynhcumb in the chapter-house of the same on 19 May, and received proxies in meat and drink. And on the same day Master Thomas de Lench', commissary of the said prior, visited the clergy and people of the deanery of the same, in the church of St. Peter of Wynhecumb.

Master Robert de Nettleton and brother Roger de Temebur', commissaries of the said prior, visited the monastery of Teukesbur' in the chapter-house of the same on 23 May. And they received proxies in meat and drink.

The same commissaries visited the abbey of St. Peter of Gloucester in the chapter-house of the same on 26 May. And they received proxies in meat and drink.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Stonhouse in the parish church there on 27 May.

Master Robert More and brother Roger Temedebur', commissaries of the same prior, visited the monastery of Cirencestr' in the chapter-house of the same on 12 April. And they received in the name of a proxy 4 marks.

On the same day the said commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of the same place in the parish church there.

The said brother Roger de Temedebur' and John de Seggesberewe visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Stowe in the parish church there on 6 May.

The said commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Fayreford in the parish church there on 7 May.

The said commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Gloucester in the church of St. Nicholas there on 8 May. And on the same day the commissaries visited the monastery of Lanthon' next Gloucester and received proxies in meat and drink.

The said commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Deresleye in the parish church there on 9 May.

The same commissaries visited the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol in the chapter-house of the same on 29 May, and received proxies in meat and drink. And on the same day visited the clergy and people of the deanery of the same in the parish church of St. Augustine.

The said commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deaneries of Haueskesbur' (*sic*) and Button in the parish church of Sobbur' on 28 May, and received 40s. in the name of a proxy from the church of Great Badmynton appropriated to the abbot and convent of Lylleshulle.

Sum of the sinodals in the deaneries of the archdeaconry of Worcester.

In the deanery of Worcester,	20s.
In the deanery of Poywyk,	13s.
In the deanery of Perschore,	39s.
In the deanery of Wych,	27s.
In the deanery of Kyderminster,	24s.
In the deanery of Warrewyk,	26s.
In the deanery of Kyngton,	25s.
Sum <i>8<i>li</i></i> .	14s.

Sum of the sinodals and pentecostals in the archdeaconry of Gloucester, *9*li**. 17s.

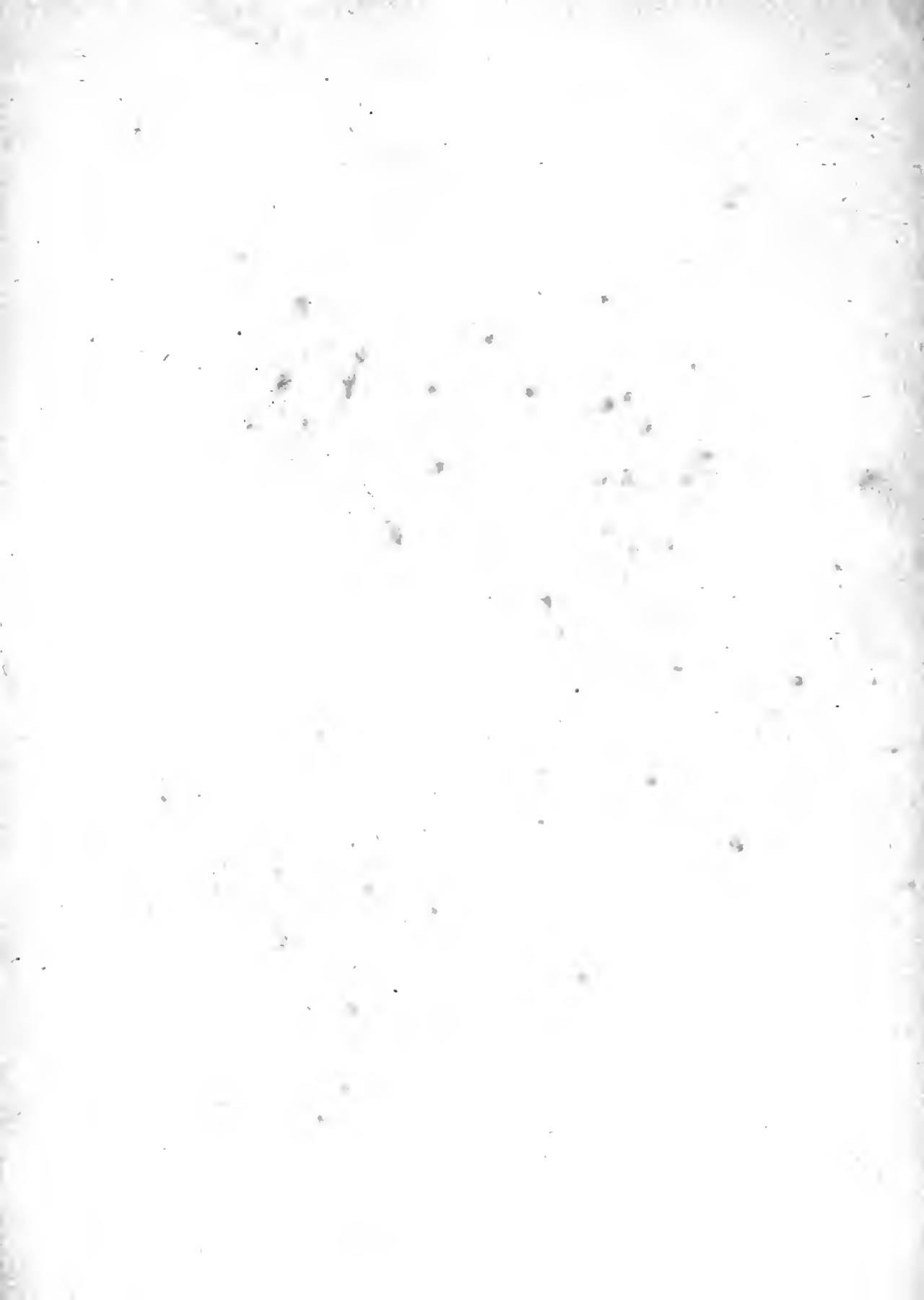
Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the dean of Christianity of Warwick and sub-warden of Stratford. That having promulgated the sentence of the greater excommunication against John de Hatton for his great offences, the said prior commands the said dean to declare the same John excommunicated, in the parish church of Stratford and other neighbouring places, where it may seem expedient, on Sundays and festivals between the solemnization of masses and to cite him and Amice de C. to appear before the same prior or his commissary in the cathedral church of Worcester to receive the punishment (*pœna*) or aggravation of the said sentence, and the said warden also to appear.

Fol. 119*d*. Institution of Geoffrey, chaplain of Ilmenton, presented by Peter de Montefort to the church of Baudesert (*Bello Decerto*) vacant of William, late rector of the same. And he was admitted to the same on 1 February, 1368[-9]¹.

Institution of Philip, chaplain of Weston upon Avon, presented by the prior and convent of Kyleworth to the church of Wyllesbourne, vacant by the death of.

¹ This belongs to the vacancy on the death of Bishop Whittlesey, 1364—1368.





THE REGISTER OF THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

DURING THE VACANCY OF THE SEE,

USUALLY CALLED

“REGISTRUM SEDE VACANTE.”

EDITED FOR

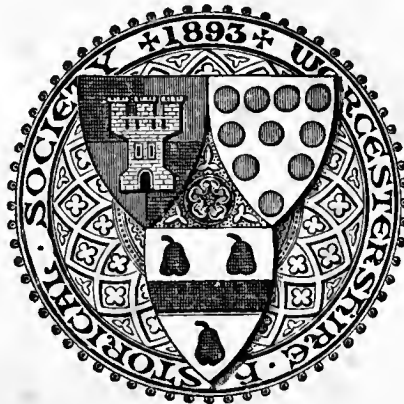
THE WORCESTERSHIRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BY

J. W. WILLIS BUND.

PART IV.

*From the Death of Bishop William de Lynn, 18 November, 1373; to the
Consecration of Bishop Bourchier, 5th May, 1435.*



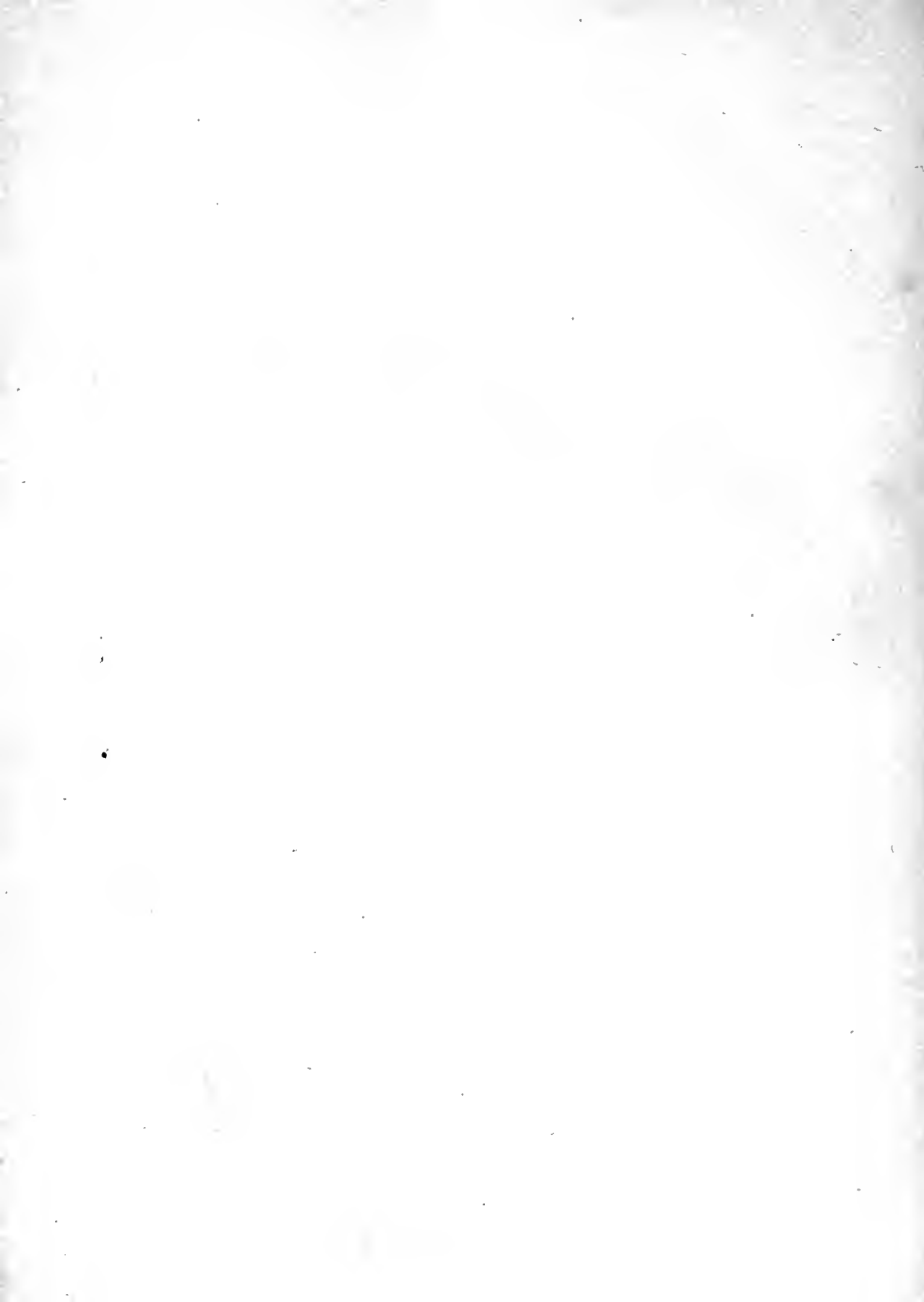
Printed for the Worcestershire Historical Society,
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1897.



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INTRODUCTION.

THIS fourth part concludes the Sede Vacante Register. It covers a period of some 70 years, from the enthronement of William Whittelsey in 1364 to the enthronement of Thomas Bourchier in 1435. With this the Register somewhat abruptly ends. Whether the proceedings on subsequent vacancies were recorded in another volume that has not survived, or whether they were recorded at all, does not appear. In the next century up to the Reformation or to the enthronement of John Bell in 1539, who was the last Bishop of the whole Diocese, Gloucester being created in 1541, there were eight vacancies, but there is no record of what took place on any of them¹.

In the period covered by this part there were eight vacancies in the See:—

1. 1368, on the translation of Bishop Whittelsey to Canterbury.
2. 1375, on the death of William de Lynn.
3. 1395, on the translation of Henry Wakefield to London.
4. 1401, on the death of Tideman de Winchcomb.
5. 1407, on the translation to London of Richard Clifford.
6. 1419, on the death of Thomas Peverell.
7. 1426, on the translation of Philip Morgan to Ely.
8. 1433, on the death of Thomas Polton at the Council of Basle, and the election of Thomas Bourchier.

These vacancies are thus dealt with. The two with which this part begins have been misplaced, the one on the death of Wolstan de Bransford, which took place on the 6th August, 1349, should have come in Part III. after p. 191. It occupies 32 pages, 223 to 256. On p. 256 the register of what took place on the previous vacancy, that from the death of Thomas Heminghale,

¹ On page 227 are three entries on the vacancy on the death of Bishop Robert Morton, in May, 1497, and the appointment of his successor, John de Gigliis, one of the Italian Bishops of Worcester. The entries are—application by the Prior Wil-

liam Wenloke for a *congé d'elire*, 5 May, 1497; appointment of Proctors to the Archbishop Morton, asking for the usual commission; and a letter to the Archbishop to the same effect.

1338, to the enthronement of Wolstan de Bransford in 1339, is given. This should have come in in Part III. at p. 191, and preceded the former entry. It occupies 26 pages, from 256 to 282. This part really begins on p. 282. There is no record of the vacancy in 1368, from the translation of Whittelsey to Canterbury to the enthronement of William de Lynn. The vacancy that arose on Lynn's death on the 8th November, 1373, is fully reported, in fact the longest in the Register. This lasted almost two years, to the 28th October, 1375, when Henry Wakefield became Bishop. This will be found on pages 282 to 353. Wakefield died on the 11th March, 1395, and the matters that happened between then and August, when the vacancy was filled by the transfer of Tideman de Winchcomb from Landaff to Worcester, will be found on pages 353 to 371. Tideman de Winchcomb died on the 13th June, 1401, and the vacancy lasted till the 17th October of the same year, when Richard Clifford was appointed. The record of this vacancy is found on pages 371 to 386. Clifford was translated to London on the 21st October, 1407, and the See was filled up by the appointment of Thomas Peverell on the 21st November of the same year. This covers pages 387 to 390. Peverell died on the 1st March, 1418, and Bishop Morgan was consecrated the 3rd December, 1419. This vacancy is recorded on pages 390 to 407. There is no record of the vacancy in 1426, from the translation of Bishop Morgan to the appointment of Thomas Polton. Polton died in 1433, and the See remained vacant till the 5th May, 1435, when Bourchier was enthroned. This vacancy extends from page 408 to the end of the book. It will therefore be seen that, except in the case of the vacancies between Whittelsey to Lynn, 1368, and Morgan to Polton, 1426, all the vacancies from 1368 to 1435 are recorded in this part, and also two of those that should have been in Part III.

A very slight inspection of this part will shew that it is mainly made up of three things, Visitations, Ordinations, and Institutions. The subjects of both local and general interest recorded are much fewer than in the previous parts. What there are relate to matters of interest, but it is to be regretted that there are not more of them. Probably the most interesting, from a general point of view, is the letter of Edward III., ordering prayers to be offered up for the Black Death¹. So far as can be ascertained, this letter has

¹ p. 241.

not been previously published; it does not appear in this form in Rymer's *Fœdera*.

Dividing the matters in this part in the same way as in the previous ones, the subjects will be dealt with in the three following divisions:—

I. Matters relating to filling up the vacancy of the See, and the election of a new Bishop.

II. Matters relating to the general administration of the Diocese by the Prior and Monastery during the vacancy.

III. Miscellaneous matters.

I. As to matters relating to the vacancy of the See, and the election of a new Bishop. Of the eight vacancies, five elections are recorded, and it is worthy of note that although the King gave the monks his *congé d'elire* in each case, yet the elected candidate was set aside by the Pope in no less than six cases, and the Bishoprick given to the Pope's nominee. This shews most clearly that although in theory there might be freedom of election of Bishops before the Reformation, yet in practice the Pope not only claimed but enforced the right to place in the English Sees his own nominees. In many cases the See had been "provided" by the Pope in spite of the Statute of Provisors, and of all the English Laws declaring such a practice illegal, long before the actual vacancy took place. Thus, for instance, Archbishop Arundell wrote to the Prior that the Pope Gregory XII. had translated Thomas Peverell, the Bishop of Landaff, to Worcester¹, and this seems to have been accepted without question.

There is no account given of Thoresby's election nor of his enthroning; all that appears is the Prior's letter to the Archbishop informing him of Wolstan's death and asking for a commission to administer the spiritualities, and the letter to the King seeking for a *congé d'elire*. Of the election of Wolstan, the usual letters to the Archbishop notifying the death², and to the King for a *congé d'elire*, are given, and also the order for the Worcester monks to assemble for the election of a Bishop³, and that on so assembling they had agreed to proceed with the election "by compromise."

On the death of Lynn⁴ there are the usual letters to the King and Archbishop, and a letter of the King to the Archbishop saying the monks had elected the Prior, William Legh, and asking him to

¹ p. 390.

² pp. 223, 224.

³ p. 267.

p. 282.

confirm the election. A full account of the election¹, which was "by inspiration," is given, and a decree of the Sub-Prior and Chapter to the Pope Gregory XI. recounting the proceedings of the election. All the proceedings were, however, useless, as on the 3rd October, 1375², an order was received from the Archbishop informing them that the Pope had provided the Archdeacon of Canterbury, Henry Wakefield, with the See of Worcester, and ordering the Prior to permit him to exercise the spiritualities and to deliver up to him the Registers and seals.

On Wakefield's death, 1395³, there is a letter to the King, Richard II., asking for a *congé d'elire*, and that document is sent, but it is attested not by the King, but by Edmund, Duke of York, Keeper of England. There is also the customary letter to the Archbishop, but there is no further account of the election, only the usual order⁴ by the Archbishop that, having heard the Pope has translated the Bishop of Landaff, Tideman de Winchcomb, to Worcester, they should deliver up to him the seals and registers.

On Winchcomb's death⁵ the usual letters to the King and Archbishop appear, and also a long account of the election, which was "by inspiration," of Richard Clifford, elect of Bath and Wells. For once the Pope confirmed the election, and the Archbishop made the usual order⁶ directing the Prior to hand over the registers and seals.

Clifford was translated to London⁷, and the only note as to filling up the vacancy is the Archbishop's order that the Pope having translated the Bishop of Landaff, Peverell, to Worcester, the Prior is to deliver up all registers and muniments to the new Bishop⁸.

On Peverell's death⁹ the usual letters to the King and the Archbishop passed. The commission to the Prior authorising him to act in spiritualities during the vacancy in consequence of the absence of Archbishop Chicheley abroad, is given by Lyndewoode, official of the Court of Canterbury during the Archbishop's absence out of the kingdom. An account of the election of the new Bishop¹⁰, Philip Morgan, is given. He was elected "by inspiration," and the Prior and Chapter wrote to the Pope, Martin V., asking him to confirm the election. No further entry appears, but in this case the election was confirmed; Morgan was Bishop from 1419 to 1426, when he was translated to Ely.

¹ p. 290.² p. 353.³ p. 353.⁴ p. 369.⁵ p. 372.⁶ p. 385.⁷ p. 387.⁸ p. 390.⁹ p. 391.¹⁰ p. 405.

Of the vacancy caused by Morgan's translation no record is given. Bishop Polton was translated from Chichester to Worcester to fill it, and held the See until his death. On the vacancy thus caused the usual letters¹ do not appear. The Bishop died on the 23rd August, 1433, at the Council of Basle. The Prior alleged he did not hear of the death till the 25th September. He must have written at once to the Archbishop, for the commission authorising the Prior to exercise spiritual jurisdiction was issued on the 2nd October. But the *cong  d'elire* was not issued until the 16th November. There is a long letter² from the Prior to the Pope, Eugenius IV., detailing the proceedings at the election of Bourchier and asking for its confirmation; 45 monks were present, and they unanimously elected (it would seem "by inspiration") Thomas Bourchier. The monks seem to have had considerable doubt about his age, whether he was old enough for a bishop, and, if not, whether he had received a dispensation from the Pope. The reasons given for his election are noteworthy: (1) That he would be very useful to the Church at Worcester and the whole English Church in expelling and extirpating the errors and heresies daily exercised in divers parts of the Diocese of Worcester; (2) that he would correct oppression in the Church and invasion of her rights and liberties by the secular power exercised in those days more than usual; and (3) he was born of the noble blood of the Kings of England. The conduct of the elected Bishop shewed that the Prior was right in attributing discretion to him. On being informed of his election³ and asked to consent to it, he would neither consent nor dissent, but submitted himself to the will of the Pope. The subservience of the Bishop elect was rewarded, for the Pope confirmed the election. In order to obtain the confirmation of the election it was necessary to appoint Proctors to get the matter carried through at Rome, and the custom was to appoint one person residing at Rome and one person, usually one of the monks, who went over to Rome specially on the business; but in this case four Proctors were appointed, all residing in Rome, the reason given being the various dangers by land and water to those going to the Holy See on account of the wars between Henry, King of England, and his adversaries⁴.

An unusual delay occurred in the confirmation of Bourchier's appointment; usually it was done in not more than two or three

¹ p. 408.² p. 431.³ p. 434.⁴ p. 435.

months, but in this case nearly two years elapsed, from 1433 to 1435, but whether the delay arose from the dangers of travelling, or from a desire to wait so as to get over the difficulty as to the Bishop's age, does not appear.

This closes the series of elections of Bishops in this part of the register. It is to be regretted that the details given in the first part as to the election and enthronement of Ginsborough were not repeated in at least another instance, and that the record of the elections becomes something like a form.

II. The most important matters relating to the administration of the diocese that occurred during the vacancies now being considered were usually (1) Visitation, (2) Ordination, and (3) Institution.

As to visitation, as soon as a vacancy occurred, and the Prior received from the Archbishop of Canterbury, or if the Metropolitan See was vacant from the Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, the commission to exercise Episcopal jurisdiction during the vacancy of the See, he at once turned his attention to visiting the different churches, deaneries, and religious houses in the diocese. No less than eight visitations are recorded in this part. This constant exercise of the Prior's right had the desired effect. In the early entries some of the larger religious houses always resented, and sometimes went so far as to resist, the Prior's right to visit, but in these later visitations the right seems never to have been questioned, and the Prior's visitation passed without not only challenge but almost without comment. Not only did the religious houses not resist, but they seem to have entertained the Prior and his representatives when they came. At the last visitation here recorded¹, that in 1433, the Prior is mentioned as having dined or slept, or both, at Alcester, Winchcomb, Tewkesbury, Llanthony, St. Augustine's, Bristol, and Cirencester. Indeed some of the abbeys that were exempt from visitation shewed him or his commissaries hospitality, such as Evesham and the Cistercian abbey of Bordesley.

The first recorded visitation in this part is in 1349². The Prior visited his own house of Worcester, and the clergy and people of the rural-deanery of Worcester, in the cathedral. The Prior's commissaries then went on their rounds, Powick, Kidderminster, and the churches of Clent and Rowley. They then went to Tardebigge for the deanery of Wych, to the abbey of Pershore,

¹ p. 428.

² p. 249.

the rural-deanery of Pershore, at St. Andrew's, the monasteries of Alcester and Studley, the rural-deanery of Warwick, at Wanneswotton, the house of St. Sepulchre, Warwick, the college of the Blessed Mary of Warwick, and the rural-deanery of Kineton at Wolford. For some reason the Blockley rural-deanery was not visited on this occasion. They finished up with the two Worcester hospitals of St. Wolstan and St. Oswald, and afterwards went to the monastery of Little Malvern. This completed the Worcester Archdeaconry.

The Archdeaconry of Gloucester was begun by visiting the rural-deanery of Campden at Wicwar, the parish church of Dydebrook, the abbey of Tewkesbury, the rural-deanery of Gloucester, at St. Nicholas' church, Gloucester, the monasteries of Llanthony and St. Augustine, Bristol, the rural-deanery of Bristol, at the church of St. Augustine the less, and also the houses of St. James and St. Mary Magdalene, Bristol, the Hospital of St. Bartholomew and St. Mark, Byleswyke. The deaneries of Bitton and Hawkesley at Chipping Sodbury, the deanery of Dursley at Dursley, the monastery of St. Peter at Gloucester, the deanery of Stonehouse at Byseleye, the deanery of Cirencester at the parish church there, the deanery of Fairford at Fairford, the deanery of Winchcomb at the parish church there, and the monastery of Winchcomb. At only one place did they meet with any obstruction¹, and that was at the abbey of Cirencester. The abbot of Cirencester not only refused to admit them, but obtained an order from the Court of Arches prohibiting the Prior of Worcester visiting the abbey, on the ground that it was notorious the abbey was free from visitation except by the Papal legate, the Metropolitan or Diocesan of the place. The matter ended in a compromise ; the Prior was to enter, expound the word of God, if he was so minded, inquire, not on general matters, but only on two points and no others, (1) if the Mass of the Virgin was daily devoutly celebrated, and (2) if a daily chapter was held for correction of manners and regular observance. The Prior was enabled to do this by deputy, and to receive 4 marks and no more ; he was not to lodge with his household and carriages, or exact anything more in payments, and if he attempted to do so he might be resisted.

This agreement settled the question of visitation ; from hence-

¹ p. 253.

forth it became only a form, a means whereby the Prior collected a certain sum of money and received a certain amount of hospitality.

Although there appears notice of another visitation, yet the next recorded was in 1338. Then the same places were visited, and also the priory of Cokehill, the nuns of Whiston and the deanery of Campden at the parish church, the church of Dodebrook, the parish church of Hales, the houses of Wroxhall and Pinely, the deanery of Stowe in the parish church, and the parish church of Deerhurst. On this occasion there seems to have been no resistance anywhere. It would appear from the letter sent to the Prioress of Wroxhall after the visitation, that at her house there was considerable need for it, if not for something more. Certain things it is said were found that required amendment for the health of the nuns' souls, so the Prior made certain ordinances for them. They were to keep silence, cease quarrelling, and refrain from using bad language. They were not to go out without reasonable occasion, and when they went, two young sisters were not to go out together. No layman was to eat in the frater, no male servant over 12 to be admitted; the nuns were not to go on foot to Coventry or Warwick. The doors were to be locked at the sound of the curfew, and no one was to enter afterwards, and no layman be allowed in the infirmary after curfew. From this it would seem that the Lady Agnes de Broys, the Prioress of Wroxhall, was not the strictest of disciplinarians.

In 1373¹ are two mandates, one to the Archdeacon of Worcester, the other to the Archdeacon of Gloucester, directing them to cite all abbots, priors, deans, provosts, masters, ministers, chapters, convents and colleges, and all portioners, pensioners, rectors, vicars, parish priests and others celebrating divine service, with three or four more for each parish to appear at certain days at certain places to undergo visitation. The schedule mentions the days and places, which latter are practically the same as those in the previous visitation.

The visitation held in 1373, and the record of it², so far as relates to the Archdeaconry of Worcester, shews that all went quietly, and the proxies were duly paid. No record appears as to the Archdeaconry of Gloucester.

The next recorded visitation took place in 1401³. There not

¹ p. 284.

² p. 284.

³ p. 382.

only seems to have been no resistance, but the Abbey of Great Malvern, which was not visited, being a daughter-house to St. Peter's, Westminster, paid 40s. to the Prior, *nomen subjectionis*, due to the Cathedral Church, and 4 marks as a procuration for Powick. The college of St. Thomas at Stratford-on-Avon was also visited, and the college of Westbury.

Another visitation was made in 1407¹, which does not seem to have been so complete as the previous one, the rural-deanery of Blockley was, however, visited with that of Stow at the parish church there. The visitation for the rural-deanery of Dursley was held in the church of Berkeley, that for Stonehouse in Nun's Hampton, and that for Winchcomb at Cheltenham.

In 1418,² a very full visitation of all the deaneries and religious houses and certain churches in each archdeaconry was made, but it does not seem that there were any additions to those previously visited at some one or other of the former visitations.

The last recorded visitation was in 1433³. Here there was some variation in the churches of the different deaneries at which the visitation was held: for instance the deanery of Kidderminster was divided into two parts, one part was visited at Kidderminster, and the other at Halesowen. The deanery of Wych was visited at Bromsgrove.

This completes the recorded list of the Prior's visitations. It is of considerable importance in the history of the diocese, first in shewing how eager the Prior was to enforce his rights and get his revenue, next, the attempt of the great monasteries to resist the control of Worcester, trying to escape visitation altogether, and lastly the complete triumph of the Worcester House in establishing its authority over all the deaneries, churches and religious houses in the diocese that were subject to episcopal visitation. How eager the Worcester Prior was to extend his authority⁴ is shewn by the attempts he made to visit the church of St. Oswald at Gloucester in 1374; that church was a royal foundation exempt from all jurisdiction but that of the Archbishop of York, and so free from the Prior's jurisdiction, who only acted as the deputy of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The See of York being vacant by the death of Archbishop Thoresby, the Prior at once gave notice of his intention to visit the church, in other words to get fees. A writ from the King promptly prohibited the Prior doing anything to

¹ p. 388.² p. 396.³ p. 428.⁴ p. 306.

prejudice the church of York. It may seem a small matter, but it shews the eagerness of the Worcester House to enforce its jurisdiction, especially when it is borne in mind that the vacancy in the Sec of York only lasted seven months. Archbishop Thoresby died in November, 1373, and Archbishop Neville was consecrated in May, 1374.

Ordinations and the consequent institutions also occupied a large part of the Prior's time, and it seems probable, having regard to the agreement here given as made between the Prior and the Bishop of Faro¹, that the pecuniary interest of the Prior and his monks had some bearing on these duties. The Prior by a formal commission dated the 28th March, 1395, gave the Bishop power to dedicate churches and churchyards and reconcile the same if polluted; to consecrate altars, bless chalices, vestments and other ecclesiastical ornaments; to celebrate Holy Orders, confirm boys, bestow the gift of benediction on abbots, consecrate virgins, and do the other things which should be exercised by the episcopal order. On the same day a deed was drawn up between the Prior and the Bishop settling the sums to be paid to the Bishop for exercising these episcopal functions, and the share the Prior was to receive out of them. For celebrating general orders, out of the fees paid by the candidates, the Bishop got 20s., and presumably the rest went to the Prior. If the Bishop conferred minor orders at times other than those at which general orders were given, he took all the fees of old time accustomed.

In settling up his accounts with the Archbishop, as soon as the See became full, the Prior had to account for the fees; a third of them he was entitled to retain for the use of the Worcester House², the other two-thirds went to the Archbishop. In the account of the Prior's receipts on the vacancy caused by the death of Bishop Wakefield in 1395, the fees for institution were:—

From institutions and exchanges £8 6 8

From letters dimissory 0 4 0

As in this vacancy there were several persons ordained on letters dimissory, it seems probable that the 4s. would be the net amount after deducting what was paid to the Bishop for performing episcopal functions.

The total amount received by the Prior was £68 10s. 6d. He

¹ p. 356.

² p. 370.

was allowed to retain £22, and the Archbishop had £45 13s. 8d. A more elaborate account will be found of the Prior's receipts during the vacancy on the death of Thomas Polton¹, from 2nd October, 1433, to 5th May, 1435.

Visitations then produced £50 6 8

Institutions and exchanges 15 10 0

The total receipts were £203. These are clearly gross, for the Prior asks to be allowed for sums, for which he was unable to levy on account of the scarceness of money and letters of royal protection and by other means detained, amounting to £21 6s. 8d. He also asks for monies that he had not been able to get for synodals and pensions on account of the poverty of the payees, sums amounting to £1 6s. 8d., and in this way he makes his net receipts as £178 10s., of which £60 2s. 2½d. was allowed to the Prior for his third. There is rather a curious charge made against the Archbishop by the keeper of the prison² of the palace of the Bishop. He first deducts his stipend of a shilling a week, and then for iron chains and other things for the safe keeping of the prisoners, 9s.

Whether these charges were fair and proper is a matter that cannot now be determined, but one thing is clear, that the Archbishop made the Prior account for every farthing that came to his hands, and that if the Prior was a hard taskmaster over those who had to pay to him, his master, the Archbishop, was as hard, if not harder, when the Prior had to settle up accounts.

Another point in this account deserves notice. The court of the Marches of Wales had been recently established, and the officers of that court were very desirous of extending their authority. Part of Worcestershire, Bewdley, was admittedly within the area over which this court exercised jurisdiction; attempts were from time to time made to extend it over the whole county. Among the Worcestershire Sessions Records are writs, in the reign of James I., staying proceedings at Quarter Sessions and transferring the matter to the court of the Marches of Wales. Here we get an instance of the effect of the procedure of the new court. For the testamentary jurisdiction the Prior exercised during the vacancy of the See he only got £4, and he gave as the reason for the smallness of the sum, only half of the sum obtained on the previous vacancy,

¹ p. 435.

² p. 437.

a much shorter term, not so much the scarcity of wills, but because the court of the Marches in the archdeaconry, assisted by their ministers, disturbed as well divers religious persons as beneficed ecclesiastics by their exactions, so that such emoluments and profits were almost of no value. From the time of its institution to the time of its suppression the court of the Marches of Wales appears to have been always regarded with dislike and aversion, especially by those in any way connected with the ordinary courts, and more especially by the clergy, both English and Welsh.

In the vacancies from the death of Hemenhale to Bransford, 133 $\frac{3}{4}$, and Bransford to Thoresby, 1349-1350, it would seem no ordinations were held. The need for them was obviated by giving letters dimissory¹. In 1349 no less than 171 are recorded as being given for the orders of deacons, priests and all Holy Orders, as well as for minor and sub-deacons' orders. Obviously in this way an ordination at Worcester was saved. Whether read in the light of the arrangement with the Bishop of Faro it was more profitable for the Prior to do this does not appear, but it may well be that the whole of the fees on letters dimissory went to the Prior, while on an ordination he had to pay a part to the Bishop who ordained. If this was so it is strange that the granting of letters dimissory was not more extensively used than it appears to have been, although they occur pretty frequently throughout the Register, yet never in the wholesale way they do in this case.

The first ordination recorded in this part is in 1373², when 28 priests (5 belonging to religious orders), 26 deacons (2 belonging to religious orders), 39 sub-deacons (2 religious brethren), and 36 acolytes (2 Friars Preachers), a total of 129, were ordained.

The next ordination was in 1374³, when 25 priests (7 of religious orders), 24 deacons (6 religious), 29 sub-deacons (9 religious), 63 acolytes (10 religious), and 22 clerks of the first tonsure, a total of 163, were ordained.

In 1375⁴, when the next ordination was held, 22 priests (5 religious), 20 deacons (9 religious), 22 sub-deacons (14 religious), 11 acolytes (4 religious), were ordained, or a total of 75.

In 1395⁵, when in the vacancy on Bishop Wakefield's death an ordination was held, there were only 2 priests, 3 deacons, 2 sub-deacons, and 1 acolyte, or a total of 8.

¹ p. 247.² p. 295.³ p. 330.⁴ p. 340.⁵ p. 355.

In 1401¹, the ordained were 50. Of these 21 were priests (12 religious, 9 secular), 8 deacons (4 religious and 4 secular), 13 sub-deacons, all religious, and 8 acolytes (3 Friars Minor and 5 secular).

In 1419², the persons ordained were 9 priests (3 religious, 6 secular), 8 deacons (2 religious and 6 secular), 4 sub-deacons all secular, 14 acolytes, only 1 religious, or a total of 35 persons.

At Easter, 1419³, there was another ordination, when 36 persons, 13 priests, 1 a monk of Bury, 15 deacons (5 religious, 4 Cistercian and 1 Benedictine), 5 sub-deacons and 3 acolytes, all secular, were ordained.

At Trinity, 1419⁴, another ordination was held, at which were ordained 22 persons, 9 priests (3 religious), 6 deacons (3 religious), 4 subdeacons (2 religious), and 3 acolytes.

In 1433⁵ there seem to have been a number of ordinations. The first was at Christmas, when 25 persons, 4 priests, 5 deacons (2 religious), 8 sub-deacons (3 religious), 8 acolytes (1 religious), were ordained.

At Lent, 1433⁶, the persons ordained were 10 priests, 9 deacons, 13 sub-deacons, and 5 acolytes, a total of 37.

The date of the next ordination is not given, it was probably Christmas, 1433⁷; the number ordained was 32, consisting of 9 priests, 13 deacons, 6 sub-deacons, and 4 acolytes.

At Easter, 1434⁸, the ordained were 12, priests 7, deacons 2, sub-deacons 2, acolytes 1.

At Trinity, 1434⁹, there were only 3 priests, 1 deacon, 2 sub-deacons, and 4 acolytes, a total of 10.

In September, 1434¹⁰, the number increased to 27, there being 8 priests (3 religious), 8 deacons (4 religious), 9 sub-deacons (4 religious), and 2 acolytes.

At Christmas, 1434¹¹, the last ordination here recorded, the numbers were, 5 priests, 9 deacons, 2 sub-deacons, and 8 acolytes, or a total of 24. For some reason, probably because they would agree to take less or because they had more leisure, all the ordinations recorded in this part, that is, between 1373 and 1434, were by Suffragan Bishops, and the majority by suffragans, other than English, or to speak more accurately, suffragans *in partibus*.

In 1373, 1374, 1375, "Robert Prissinensis" was the Bishop.

¹ p. 374.
⁷ p. 438.

² p. 391.
⁸ p. 440.

³ p. 393.
⁹ p. 443.

⁴ p. 401.
¹⁰ p. 441.

⁵ p. 417.

⁶ p. 419.
¹¹ p. 444.

He was suffragan of Hereford in 1360, Chichester, 1362, and Worcester, 1373—1375.

In 1395, William, Bishop of Faro. This Bishop, William Northbrugge (*Pharensis*), was consecrated at Rome, was suffragan of Lincoln, 1385—1387, York, 1390, and acted at Worcester in 1395. Before the next vacancy at Worcester he had got other preferment, having become vicar of Nafferton in 1398, Warden of the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalene at Kynewaldsgrave, 1399, Rector of Trinity Goodramgate, York, 1400. He seems to have also acted again as suffragan to York in 1403 and 1408.

In 1401 the Prior did not go far from home to get a Bishop. The then Abbot of Pershore, Nicholas, was, in addition to various other offices, Bishop of Dunkeld. He had acted as suffragan in the diocese to Bishop Wakefield, and Bishop Tideman had made him Rector of Beoley; so holding a living and being the head of a Religious House in the Diocese, both of which the Prior had the right to visit, he would be amenable to the Prior's wishes. He appears to have ordained on this occasion and also at the three ordinations in 1419. Between these dates he had further preferment in the Diocese, having been presented to the living of Belbroughton in 1411.

In the remaining ordinations in 1433 the officiating Bishop was an Irish suffragan, Robert Windel, Bishop of Emly (*Imelacensis*). He was "provided" in 1422, suffragan of Norwich in 1424, of St. Edmund's in 1430, of Worcester in 1433, and of Salisbury in 1435.

The ordination lists are of interest; they afford information that it would be difficult to get elsewhere. In the record of the early ordinations the titles and the value of the titles are carefully set out; this is gradually left out, and the division appears between religious and secular, which becomes more marked in the later ordinations. It is also interesting as shewing the number of the monks in orders. Looking through the lists and knowing the large monasteries there were in the Diocese, Evesham, Pershore, Winchcomb, Cirencester, Tewkesbury, Gloucester, the number of monks who were ordained does not appear very large. It will also be seen that of the religious who were ordained, a large proportion belonged to one or other of the orders of Friars, chiefly the order of Friars Preachers. It is perhaps not right to draw any

inference from isolated cases of ordination extending over a series of years, but even after making all allowance for this, the change in the character of the persons ordained, as recorded in the register, reflects the change that was passing over the country in church matters.

The Institutions to benefices in the Diocese mentioned in this part are very numerous. In the General Introduction to this Book a Table is given shewing the Benefices mentioned and the Patrons; it is therefore not necessary to further refer to this point here. But there are other things disclosed by these lists of Institutions that are worthy of notice.

(1) It is clear that non-residence was becoming increasingly common, and that the Prior was trying to put a stop to it. There are several cases in which persons were deprived for absenting themselves and refusing to return, for instance, Wenrych, Alveston, and Twining¹.

(2) Resignations seem to have become fairly common, thus Kemerton, Cotton, Malvern, Minchinhampton, Barndesley², are all mentioned as resignations in August, 1349. And it would appear that in some cases a provision was made for an allowance out of the income by way of pension to the clerk resigning. For instance³, in the case of Cowley, the vicar resigned on having an annuity of £4 out of the fruits of the vicarage for his maintenance.

(3) Exchanges seem to have been greatly on the increase; there are numerous instances of exchange over all parts of the country between the holders of different benefices in other Dioceses, London, Salisbury, St. David's, Canterbury, Lichfield, Lincoln, Hereford, Winchester, Bath and Wells, Chichester⁴.

Dilapidations formed one of the subjects of the Prior's complaints. In 1349 he directed the Archdeacon to enquire into the defects in the chancel of the church of Berford⁵, and in the books, ornaments, house and manse of the rectory, by default of Adam the late Rector. In the same year the Prior directed the dean of the collegiate church of Westbury, on the complaint of one of the canons, Ralf de Daventre, who had succeeded to the prebend held by Thomas Mury-mouth, deceased, to enquire into the alleged defects in the manor of the prebend which this Thomas Mury-mouth was bound to make

¹ pp. 306, 320, 323. ² pp. 232, 233. ³ p. 412. ⁴ pp. 302, 303, 346, 309, 328, 344, 363, 364, 365, 377. ⁵ p. 225.

good while he lived. The Archdeacon of Worcester's official was also directed to enquire into a complaint of the Rector of St. Mary of Witton, next Droitwich, of the defects in the chancel of the church, and in the books, ornaments, house and the manse of the rectory, by the default of the late Rector, William Lufton.

In 1420¹ there was a dispute as to the repair of the parish church of Hawkesbury. It was alleged on the one hand that the patrons, the Abbey of Pershore, were liable, as the Vicar, time out of mind, had been free from the repairs of the chancel. The Abbot alleged the usual rule prevailed. The matter was referred to arbitration of the Prior as to who ought to do the repairs to the chancel.

A peculiar case, somewhat of the nature of dilapidations, arose at Bromsgrove. By an act of Edward I., 35 Ed. I. Stat. 2, the Rector could only cut trees in the churchyard for the necessary repairs of the chancel. When the Prior visited the deanery of Wych, he found that in various parishes the parishioners asserted that the trees growing in the churchyards² were wholly at their disposition, and could be cut down at their pleasure, and that the Rector or Vicar could not cut any of the trees without the parishioners' leave. The Prior argued (1) that no such custom could be legal, as by the canons no faculty for disposing of ecclesiastical goods could be presumed to the laity; (2) that as the churchyard was dedicated to God, the soil of it, and so the trees growing in the soil, were ecclesiastical property, and any one who took or interfered with them incurred the sentence of the greater excommunication. The Vicar of Bromsgrove was therefore required in his church, and all other churches in the rural-deanery of Wych on Sundays and festivals, when the greatest number of parishioners were present, to admonish the parishioners to abstain from such damnable presumption, and to pay for the damages they had done within 18 days, otherwise they were to be proclaimed to be excommunicated.

It is hard to see why of all places the deanery of Wych should have put forward this custom. It comprised a good deal of the Forest of Feckenham, and probably there was as much or more wood in it than in any other part of the diocese; unless it was that the Forest laws were so strictly enforced as to vert that the

¹ p. 428.

² p. 270.

parishioners had nowhere to get wood, and so it was more valuable there than elsewhere, the reason for this custom being set up in this particular place is not very apparent.

III. To turn to the matters of general interest.

A letter of Edward III., dated 5th September, 1350, 23 Ed. III.¹ addressed to the Keepers of the Spiritualities of the Bishopric, the See being vacant, sets out that the people who have survived the Black Death are ungrateful to God, and stiff-necked, and that as there is nothing which prayer with its accompaniments, earnestness, humility, and fasting cannot obtain, the King exhorts them to urge on the people to repent and give themselves to prayers, fastings, and exercises of holiness, that God may in His pity drive away their plague and sickness. If the people cast out of their hearts spiritual wickedness, this scourge of the air and other tempests may depart from them. It does not appear if anything was done on this letter, which looks as if it was a circular to all the dioceses in the country, but it shews how much the Black Death must have affected the King for him to resort to these means of averting the plague.

In 1353, 26 Dec., 12 Ed. III., a writ from the King to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the Diocese of Worcester was sent, requiring a certificate before the 25th March as to how much of the wool granted by Bishop Hemenhale and the clergy of the Diocese of Worcester in the last Parliament at Westminster, in accordance with the grant made in the great council of Northampton, had been collected, the number of sacks, and where and in whose hands the wool is.

In 1339², 12 Ed. III., by reason of the war with France, the King had seized the temporalities of the alien Allies in this country. One of them, Lyra in Normandy, possessed the advowson of Feckenham on its becoming vacant; during the war the King presented to the living.

In 1373³, 48 Edward III., a writ was directed by the King to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the Diocese of Worcester to certify what benefices, archdeaconries, dignities, parish churches, prebends or chapels were in the hands of aliens within the diocese, the name and value of each, not by tax but by the extent in the Registers of the Bishops; the names of aliens or indigens who

¹ p. 241.

² p. 265; see p. 315.

³ p. 293.

held benefices by the authority of aliens, for what time they have held them, and which of them are resident. The writ was dated the 6th March. On the 25th the Prior ordered the Archdeacon of Worcester to put it into execution, and the return was made in June¹. It finds that the only aliens then holding benefices in the diocese were John Maubert, a monk of Couches, a monastery in the Diocese of Lissieux, who with another monk held the monastery of Wanes Wotton which was worth 40 marks a year. Roger Harewelle occupied that Priory by letters patent from the King and received the profits, but whether or not from aliens they did not know.

Another monk of Couches was the Prior of Astley, who resided there with one monk. The priory was worth £30 a year.

The living of Feckenham belonged to the Abbey of Lyra, the abbot was the rector. It was worth 20 marks a year, and occupied by a monk of Lyra. That abbey also owned the livings of Hanley Castle and Eldersfield, and farmed them out to the Prior of Little Malvern at a rent of £20, the estimated value of the livings, that is of the profits of the Prior beyond the rent, was 20s.

The Abbey of St. Denis, near Paris, owned Deerhurst. A monk of the Abbey was Prior, and he resided there with two monks. The estimated value of the spiritualities and temporalities was 200 marks.

The Church of Beckford and the Chapel of Aston, which together were worth 40 marks, belonged to the Priory of Newent. At that date the Prior was an alien, John de Fabri, who resided at Newent. The Priory of Beckford was occupied by a regular canon of the House of St. Barbara, who resided there with one monk. It was worth £40 a year.

The Prior of Brymsfield was also an alien; he held the parish church, which was worth 12 marks a year.

It will be seen by the return that the Houses divided themselves into two classes: (1) Houses here of abbeys abroad, such as Couches and Lyra, and (2) cells of English abbeys of which the Prior at the time was an alien. They stood on a very different footing. The King appears to have seized the first as enemies' property², but as far as can be ascertained in the second, aliens were not allowed to exercise any temporal rights; the King exercising them.

¹ p. 307.

² p. 315.

Thus on a vacancy the King presented. And also to the church of St. Andrew, Droitwich, which belonged to Deerhurst¹.

In 1375, 48 Edward III., a writ² was sent to the Keepers of the Spiritualities of the See of Worcester reciting that at the Convocation of the Clergy at the Church of St. Paul's, London, the King had been granted a tenth of their benefices in aid of the expenses of the war and in defence of the Kingdom and Church of England. Collectors of the tenth were ordered to be appointed, and the Prior at once appointed the Abbot of Cirencester to levy the tenth in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester, and the Abbot of Pershore in the Archdeaconry of Worcester.

In 1375³, 49 Edward III., it appears that the greater part of the tenth had been collected, but there were certain arrears outstanding, and a writ was directed to levy these arrears. Some of them are curious. The Church of St. Stephen, Bristol, owed 5*s.* on its own account and 12*d.* for the procuration of the Abbot of Galston' in that Church. From the portion of the vicarage in the Church of Berkeley, 10*s.* From the prebend of Richard Michel in the Church of Westbury, 6*s.* 8*d.* It will be observed that all the arrears in this writ are in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester; there does not appear to be a similar one for the Archdeaconry of Worcester.

Another writ⁴ from the King in the same year asked for the prayers of the clergy of the diocese for the King, the prosperous state of the kingdom, and of the peers, magnates, and all the people of the same, and especially for the state and happiness of the expedition of the King's sons, the Earl of Cambridge and Jolin, Duke of Brittany, whom the King had sent to parts beyond the sea for the safety of the right of the Kingdom of England.

The Archdeacon of Worcester ordered prayers to be said in his Archdeaconry in all conventual and parish churches on Thursdays and Saturdays for the safety and happy return of the expedition to Brittany, but the prayers of the Diocese of Worcester did not have much effect. This expedition to Brittany was one of the fruitless expeditions to recover ground in France which brought neither honour nor gain to the country.

In 1395, 18 Richard II., a writ⁵ was directed to the Keepers of the Spiritualities ordering them to levy the tenth granted to the

PP. 315, 337, 344.

² p. 305.

³ p. 329.

⁴ p. 338.

⁵ p. 359.

Crown at the last Convocation of the Province of Canterbury on the 5th February last, poor nuns and religious women of whatsoever order being excepted from the grant. The Prior appointed the two great Cistercian abbots of the Dioceses, the Abbot of Bordesley for the Archdeaconry of Worcester, and the Abbot of Hayles for that of Gloucester, to collect this tenth, and certified to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer that he had made these appointments.

Tenths to the Crown were only one of the outgoings that the mediæval clergy had to pay. It appears from this part of the register that there were two other levies that were treated as of common occurrence: (1) For the purpose of the Diocese, (2) to maintain foreign ecclesiastics.

The following seems to have been for Diocesan purposes.

An order¹ in 1374 by the Prior to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester warning all ecclesiastical persons in his Archdeaconry to pay a halfpenny on every mark of the value of their goods and benefices, and to call together the clergy and clearly make the mandate known to them.

The following appear to be for Foreign Ecclesiastics²:—

In December, 1338², the Papal Nuncio, Bernard, ordered the Prior to keep in safe custody all the goods of Bishop Heminghale, which the Nuncio had sequestrated for the Peter's pence, and divers sums of money the Bishop owed to the Chamber of the Pope and refused to pay. This was certainly a large stretch of jurisdiction by the Nuncio purporting for an alleged debt to the Pope to seize the whole of the Bishop's estate to the prejudice of all the English creditors. The Prior was, however, equal to the occasion; he replied to the Nuncio's mandate that it could not be executed, as three days before its date the King's Escheator had seized the Bishop's goods for monies due to the King, so no officer of the Prior's could take them, nor could he give any information as to them.

In 1374³ three Papal Nuncios, the Spanish Bishops of Pampelona and Senigaglia and the provost of the church of Valentinois, were sent to Flanders on matters concerning the property of the Church. They had with them three letters from Pope Gregory, the one fixing

¹ p. 320.

² p. 266.

³ p. 322.

the sum of 12 florins of gold to be paid to the Bishop of Pampelona, the others, 6 florins of gold to each of the other two. This sum had to be raised. As the Nuncii went to Flanders it is hard to see why the English clergy should be taxed, but so it was. The See of Canterbury was then vacant by the death of Archbishop Sudbury; the Prior and Chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury, acted in the matter, and ordered all ecclesiastical persons in the city and diocese of Worcester to pay one halfpenny on every mark of the value of their goods and benefices within 24 days to the Rectors of the Church of St. Gregory next St. Paul's, London, and St. Botolph without Aldersgate, who had been appointed to receive the money. The Prior acknowledged the receipt, and ordered the Archdeacon to collect the money. This was in October¹. In December the Canterbury Prior sent two further letters to the Worcester Prior: the first informed him that as the Nuncii had remained longer in Flanders than had been expected it was necessary to levy a further farthing in the pound for them, and the second, to require the levy of another farthing towards an allowance of 12 florins a day to a fresh Papal nuncio, Pileus, Archbishop of Ravenna, Nuncio to France and England; the money to be paid to the same receivers as the other². In January came a further mandate from the Canterbury Prior, ordering the levy of another farthing in the pound for a further allowance to the three Nuncii³. This seems to have been too much. The Worcester Prior certified that he had received and published the order for the levy, and had sent letters certificatory by the Abbot of Winchcomb, but the Receiver refused to take the amount collected except in one sum.

In 1395⁴, the Archbishop ordered the Prior to levy procurations for the two Papal Nuncii, the Archbishop of Ravenna and the Bishop of Carpentras. The Prior ordered the Archdeacon of Gloucester to execute the mandate, but there does not appear to be any order to the Archdeacon of Worcester. The Prior, however, certified the Archbishop that there were some alien priories in the Diocese on which nothing could be levied, as they were in the King's hands.

In 1395⁵, the Prior, by direction of the Archbishop, ordered a halfpenny in the pound to be levied for Bartholomew de Navarre,

¹ p. 323.² p. 323.³ p. 324.⁴ p. 351.⁵ p. 353.

advocate of the apostolic consistory, who was going to England on business of the Pope and the Roman Church.

There is a further order¹ on the same matter by the Archbishop, directing the collection of a halfpenny in the pound on every benefice in the province of Canterbury, for a provision for Bartholomew de Navarre.

It cannot be wondered that great discontent was felt with the Papal exactions of these levies for foreign officials, if the above are anything like a fair specimen of what took place.

As to the administration of justice and the conduct of the clergy there are several interesting entries.

The difficulty of the spiritual jurisdiction over the clergy seems to have been in full force. A writ of *venire facias*² was sent to the Prior, ordering him to cause the parson of the church of Ripple to come before the king's justice to answer Geoffrey Spenser of Upton on Severn in a plea of debt.

The Prior of Studley³, patron of the church of Cokton, complained that the vicar was non-resident, and asked that he might be ordered to return in a month.

The vicar of Great Malvern⁴ would not reside, so he was turned out and a new vicar appointed, the Prior first taking from the new vicar⁵ an indemnity against any proceedings on the part of the old vicar.

John Strongmow, of Upton, Clerk⁶, was charged before the King's Justices with robbery of woollen clothes and the murder of three persons. He was kept in the Bishop's prison for some time, and after proclamation made, and no one opposing his purgation, he was allowed to purge himself before the sub-prior⁷, the Prior considering the laudable life and conversation of the said John before the defamation aforesaid, and his innocence in the premises by the testimony of faithful witnesses.

John Veynour, of Stoneleigh, was charged before the King's justices with stealing a blue robe and blue tunic from Simon Philip of Longedon; he was convicted and handed over to the Bishop's prison. The Rural Dean of Kineton certified that by an inquisition made by trustworthy men, both clerks and laymen, he could find no reason the purgation should not be proceeded with⁷.

¹ p. 369.

² p. 247.

³ p. 258.

⁴ p. 260.

⁵ p. 262.

⁶ p. 271.

⁷ p. 279.

In 1373¹ the Prior leased to John Newman, citizen of Worcester, the custody of the gaol of the episcopal palace of Worcester, and the bodies of the two prisoners therein, to be kept in a healthy and good state, during the pleasure of the Prior. Newman bound himself to pay 100 marks in the event of any prisoner delivered to him escaping.

In 1375² there is another indenture between the Prior and Newman, whereby Newman acknowledges the receipt of the bodies of four clerks convicted of felonies before the King's justices.

The rector of the church of Clifton next Bristol³, was called on to shew cause why he should not be deprived from non-residence and not returning when called upon to do so.

The rector of Wolford⁴ owed 4 marks to the church of Worcester; he did not pay, so he was excommunicated, his church placed under an interdict, and the fruits of it sequestered.

In 1374⁵ there are three writs from the Crown, the first doing away with the sentence of excommunication on John Weoleye for contumacy pending his appeal, the second enforcing the sentence, and the third⁶ enforcing the ecclesiastical censure against the parson of Campden, excommunicated for contumacy.

On the 14th February, 1375⁷, William Drake, tinker, appealed Phillip Spence for stealing 2 yards of cloth of a bloody colour; the jurors convicted Spence, who thereupon acknowledges himself a clerk and claimed the ecclesiastical court, and was committed to the ordinary of the Prior of Worcester.

The rural dean of Fairford⁸ was ordered to denounce with all due ceremony the Prior of Lechlade, as excommunicated, because he refused to carry out the order of Bishop Lynn, made on his visitation, for the better rule of his house, because he diminished the divine culture, wasted and defiled the goods of the priory, and led a dissolute life.

On the 23rd July, 1375⁹, the rector of Hambury came before the Prior and J. Segg, notary public, and swore he would from thenceforth cease to have any improper intimacy with Margaret Joos, and would not meet her in suspicious places, under a penalty of £10.

¹ p. 286.² p. 317.³ p. 303.⁴ p. 304.⁵ p. 310.⁶ p. 313.⁷ p. 325.⁸ p. 330.⁹ p. 340.

In 1394¹, William Bysseleye, the master of St. Oswald's Hospital, Worcester, was charged with dilapidation of the goods of the house and other excesses; he was found guilty, and unfit to have the care of the hospital, and was removed from it, and another brother, David Burnard, appointed in his place.

In 1401² the Prior issued a commission to the rural dean of Worcester and two others, to ask the King's justices for gaol delivery for the county to hand over to them the body of Richard Medborne, who had fled to the churchyard of the cathedral, and remained there until arrested; contrary to the ecclesiastical liberties and customs of old time used in the kingdom of England. The Commission were to warn those who arrested him to deliver him up, and they were also ordered to be excommunicated. It would appear that Medborne and some others had escaped from the prison in the castle and fled into the adjoining churchyard of the cathedral, where they considered themselves safe from recapture, but that the civil officials had re-arrested them.

This notice of legal proceedings may close with three cases, each characteristic of the time. Worcester was a Benedictine House³; Hayles, a Cistercian, and the Worcester Prior would not regard the Cistercian Abbot with too friendly eyes. In 1419 the Prior declared one Agnes Porter contumacious, because she refused to answer to a charge of undue intimacy with the abbot. She appealed to the Archbishop but did not appear. The Prior was ordered to do what was necessary for the correction of the soul of Agnes Porter. She was again cited and did not appear, so it was ordered she should be suspended from entering churches, and was again cited to appear. It is not clear what further took place, but the case is a good instance of the limits of the jurisdiction of the time. Neither a Benedictine Prior nor English Archbishop had any jurisdiction over a Cistercian abbey; if the Abbot was really guilty nothing could be done to him, he was not amenable to the Prior's jurisdiction, and if Agnes Porter kept in the limits of the abbey she too was safe. The case reads as if something dreadful would happen to her, while in effect the Prior and Archbishop were powerless.

The next cases shew how hard the Church could hit in matters

¹ p. 360.

² p. 381.

³ p. 403

where it had jurisdiction. The vicar of Dydebroke neglected to pay his procuration at the Prior's visitation. He was suspended; notwithstanding he went on doing divine service. For this he was cited to appear in the Archbishop's Court¹.

A mill belonged to the Worcester monastery; certain sons of iniquity entered the mill, beat the miller, cut off the ears and tail of a palfrey, the property of the church, and thereby incurred sentence of greater excommunication².

A man convicted of robbery was allowed to purge himself because he was a clerk, but a woman charged with impropriety was not allowed to enter any church; a person who would not pay his debt to the Prior, but would still do his duty as parish priest, was put to the cost of appearing before the highest ecclesiastical court in the kingdom, that of the Archbishop, while the men who cut off the ears and tail of a horse, the property of the Church, incurred the greatest penalty known to the Church, excommunication. Can it be wondered that the English people when they had the opportunity got rid of the criminal ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

In 1338³, there is a letter from the Prior to the King, acknowledging the receipt of a writ summoning the Prior and Archdeacon of Worcester by themselves, the Chapter by one proctor, the Clergy by two proctors, to appear at the Parliament to be held on the morrow of St. Hilary. This was the Parliament which Edward called before beginning his great war, and it was probably because the King was desirous of getting as much money as possible for the war that made him so particular in his summons. The Parliament granted him a proportion of the last crop of wool, much of which was in the hands of ecclesiastics, notably the Cistercians, and this no doubt furnished the idea for having as many ecclesiastics present as possible.

There are many other matters in this part that deserve notice, but this Introduction has already run to an excessive length, and most of the matters are mentioned in the General Introduction of the book, where it is attempted to classify as far as possible the contents of the Register. This introduction may therefore conclude with calling attention to two other matters: the dispute in the monastery of St. Augustine, Bristol⁴, and the profits of the Church of Tetbury.

¹ p. 403.

² p. 223.

³ p. 258.

⁴ p. 318.

With regard to the first, disputes had arisen between the abbot and the monks, and in some way—how is not very clear, but probably as visitor—it became the duty of the Worcester Prior to settle them; the Prior's award goes into the matters with a minuteness that supplies a most interesting and graphic picture of the life in a house of Augustine Canons at the end of the 14th century. Nothing seems to have been too minute for the Prior to inquire into: the diet and physic of the Canons when ill, the custody of the seal of the abbey, the recreation of the monks, the part the seculars were to take in the services in the chapel of the Virgin. The provision for wax in the chapel, for oil, for lights in the dormitory and infirmary, the sale of the corn of the monastery, the care of the bedding, the position of the kitchener, the quality of the bread and ale, the kinds and quantity of meat, when fresh fish should be served, the knives of the convent—all these are provided for in the award.

In the other case¹, the settlement of the shares of the Vicar of Tetbury and the Abbot of Eynsham in the portions of the vicarage; a very interesting account is given of the portions of a vicarage in 1374. It was found the vicar had the whole manse in which the rectors used all to live; he should also have the rents of certain houses, the tithe of hay, 90 acres of arable land, 4 acres of meadow pasture for six bulls with the bulls of the lord of the town. A part of the profits of ecclesiastical benefices were, it would seem, derived from the payment for the services of the bulls, 12 quarters of corn for the parish which is called "chircheschottes." The tithe of wool, lambs, calves, young pigs, geese, milk, cheese, mortuaries and oblations. Out of these he was to find a parish priest, to pay the stipend of a deacon, to maintain "a mortar" to burn at funerals and processions, to find lamp oil, four processional candles to be made of 8 lbs. of wax, corn for making the Host, and incense for the principal feasts, as well as certain other outgoings; everything else that the Rector did not take went to the Abbey of Eynsham.

From the matters already mentioned it will be seen what an interesting document the Register is, and the light it sheds on the life of the 14th and 15th centuries. While much that is in it is of merely local interest and material for a History of

¹ p. 325.

Worcestershire, there is a great deal of far wider importance, and that has a bearing upon the general history of the time. The thanks not only of the Society but also of all students of English mediæval history are due to the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, to whom, as the successors of the Prior and monastery, the Book now belongs, for allowing it to be published, and the facilities they have given for its publication.

J. W. B.

*Lincoln's Inn,
November, 1897.*

SEDE VACANTE REGISTER.

*Vacancy of the See from the death of Wolstan de Bransford, August 6, 1349,
to the translation of John Thorseby, January 4, 1350.*

ORDER by the Prior of Worcester to the abbot of Pershore, and all abbots, priors, &c., in the Archdeaconry of Worcester, that, under pain of excommunication, they shall cite those sons of iniquity (of whose names the Prior is ignorant) who went to the mill of the Prior and Convent of Worcester, next the river of La warn, which is called "le se," within the manor of Wyk Episcopi, with arms, and entered the said mill, beat the keeper of the same, and cut off the ears and tail of a palfrey, the property of the church, whereby they incurred sentence of the greater excommunication.

Presentation of John de Foxeyle to the church of Bacheshere in the diocese of Worcester by William de Salwarp' and Richard de Bromwych, by reason of the Wardship of Thomas de Hodynton. Dated 27 May, 1350¹.

Fol. 120. Register of Brother John de Evesham, Prior of Worcester, the See being vacant by the death of Wolstan, bishop of Worcester, on 6 August, 1349.

Letter of inquisition from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester upon the presentation by John de Bello Campo, lord of Holte, of Thomas atte Halle of Little Wytleghe to the church of Holte. Dated at Worcester, 9 August, 1349.

Letter from the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to Thomas², archbishop of Canterbury, acquainting him with the death of Wolstan, late bishop of Worcester, and praying for a commission

¹ These two entries are misplaced, they should have come at the end instead of at the beginning of the vacancy between Bransford and Thorseby. The whole vacancy is

misplaced by several years. This is the vacancy from 1349—1350. The preceding one in the register was from April to July, 1364.

² Thomas Bradwardine.

to exercise spiritual jurisdiction during the vacancy of the See, in accordance with the composition made between Boniface, formerly archbishop of Canterbury, and the predecessor of the said prior. Dated 9 August, 1349.

Letter from the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to King Edward III., acquainting him with the death of Wolstan, late bishop, and praying for a *congé d'elire*.

Letter of inquisition from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester, upon the presentation by the abbot and convent of Evesham of Nicholas Avenaunt of Warwick, acolyte, to the church of Overswelle. Dated at Worcester, 9 August, 1349.

Fol. 120d. Institution of Thomas atte Halle of Little Wytleghe, clerk, presented by John de Bello Campo to the parish church of Holt. Dated 11 August, 1349.

Induction of the same. Dated 12 August, 1349.

Letter of inquisition from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester upon the presentation by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, of Adam Careles, chaplain, to the church of Newynton. Dated at Worcester, 11 August, 1349.

Institution of William de Founteneye, chaplain, rector, as it is said, of the church of Willareseye, presented by the abbot and convent of Evesham to the church of Broughton, and of John Radeford of Shirbourn, chaplain, rector, as it is said, of the church of Broughton, to the church of Willareseye. Dated at Worcester, 10 August, 1349.

Fol. 121. Letter of inquisition from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester upon the presentation by Sir Nicholas Burnel, knight, of Thomas de Wyke, next Pershore, to the church of Brouton Haket. Dated at Worcester, 11 August, 1349.

Letter of inquisition from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester upon the presentation by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, of John Sonnebur' of Wyke, clerk, to the church of Little Comberton. Dated at Worcester, 12 August, 1349.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester, that having received a complaint from Walter de Ross', rector of the church of Berford, that there are many defects in the chancel of the same church, and in the books, ornaments, and houses and manse of the rectory, by default of Master Adam, late rector, deceased, the said archdeacon is to inquire as to the same. Dated at Worcester, 12 August, 1349.

Fol. 121*d*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the dean of the collegiate church of Westbury, that having received a complaint of Ralph de Daventre, canon of Westbury and late prebendary of Master Thomas Murymouth, lately deceased, that there are many defects in the manse of the said prebend, the repair whereof the late master Thomas was bound to make while he lived, the said dean is to inquire as to the same. Dated at Worcester, 12 August, 1349.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the official or commissary of the Archdeacon of Worcester, that having received a complaint from Richard Peperwhit, rector of the church of the Blessed Mary of Witton next Wych, of many defects in the chancel of the same church, and in the books, ornaments, and houses, and the manse of the rectory, by default of William Leffren, the late rector, deceased, the said official or commissary is to inquire as to the same. Dated at Worcester, 12 August, 1349.

Letters of appeal by brother John Lemenstere, monk of the church of Worcester, as to the spiritual jurisdiction of the Prior of Worcester.

Fol. 122. Presentation by brother Peter, warden of the hospital of St. Wolstan of Worcester, and the brethren of the same house, of John de Dodyton', chaplain, to the vicarage of the church of Coule. Dated at Worcester, 13 August, 1349.

Letter of inquisition upon the same presentation. Dated at Worcester, 13 August, 1349.

Institution of the same John de Dodyton. *Crossed out*¹.

¹ See *post*, p. 232.

Form of letters of institution.

Form of letters of induction.

Fol. 122*d*. Form of letters of collation.

Form of letters of induction.

Form of letters for the repair of a church.

Form of letters of institution by reason of an exchange.

Fol. 123. Form of letters of induction thereupon.

Form of letters of sequestration. The example given refers to the church of Etyngdon, and mentions John, the late rector.

Another form of letters of sequestration. The example refers to the church of Breodon, and mentions Master R. de Chik, rector, and J. de Lowe, late rector.

Form of letters dimissory.

Fol. 123*d*. Another form of letters dimissory.

Form of institution to a perpetual chantry.

Form of commission for making an exchange in divers dioceses.

Form of certificate thereto.

Fol. 124. Form of institution by reason of an exchange.

Form of induction upon the same. The example given refers to an exchange between William de Est, rector of Overbury in the diocese of Worcester, and John Geraud, rector of the church of Netelham in the diocese of Lincoln.

Another form of institution.

Another form of induction.

Fol. 124*d*. Supplication¹ from William, Prior of Worcester, and the chapter there, to King Henry VII. for a *congé d'elire* upon the death of Robert, late bishop of Worcester. Dated in the chapter-house of Worcester, 5 May, 1497.

Appointment of John Stratteford, almoner, and Thomas Myldenham, sacristan, monks of Worcester, as proctors and messengers of the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, to John², archbishop of Canterbury, to demand a commission for the prior to exercise spiritual jurisdiction within the diocese during the vacancy caused by the death of Robert, the late bishop. Dated in the chapter-house of Worcester, 13 May, 1497.

Fol. 125. Letter from the Prior and Convent of Worcester to John², archbishop of Canterbury, praying for a commission to exercise episcopal jurisdiction within the diocese during the vacancy of the See. Dated in the chapter-house at Worcester, on the Vigil of Pentecost, 1497.

Fol. 125*d*. Institution of John de Mershton, clerk and master of arts, to the church of St. Swithin of Worcester, at the presentation of the Prior and Convent of Worcester, upon the resignation of Master John de Teukesbury, the last rector. And he was admitted on 21 November, 1349.

Institution of Nicholas Sturmy, clerk, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, to the church of Elmeley Lovet, upon the resignation of Master Simon de Clare, the last rector. And he was admitted on 24 November.

Institution of John Symondes of Grafton, priest, presented by Hugh de Dokesley to the chantry-chapel of the Blessed Mary in the churchyard of Kydermustr', upon the death of Master John Bakoun, last ministering in the same. And he was admitted on the said day.

Institution of John Rogers of Febedon, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Evesham to the vicarage of the church of

¹ This and the two following entries are misplaced; they are in a later hand, and relate to the vacancy on the death of Robert

Morton, and the succession of John de Giglis, 1497.

² John Morton.

Ombresley, upon the resignation of Master Richard Golafre, chaplain, by reason of his exchange for the vicarage of the church of Hanley. And he was admitted on 26 November.

Institution of Richard Golafre, chaplain, presented by the prior and convent of Little Malvern to the vicarage of the church of Hanley, upon the resignation of Master John Rogers of Febedon. And he was admitted on the said day.

Institution of Richard Dyere, priest, presented by Sir William Corbet, knight, lord of Chaddesley, to the church of Chaddesleye Corbet, upon the resignation of John de Boys, the last rector. And he was admitted on 27 November.

Institution of Nicholas de Southam, priest, presented by Master John de Bukyngham, prebendary of the prebend of Compton Murdak in the collegiate church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick, to the church of Budebrok, vacant by the death of Master Henry, the last rector. And he was admitted on 28 November.

Institution of Reginald le Parker of Abbedeyle, acolyte, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick and Marshal of England, to the church of Shraveleye, vacant by the death of Master Stephen, the last rector. And he was admitted on the same day.

Institution of John Dauwes of Radeford, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Nutteleye, of the order of St. Augustine, in the diocese of Lincoln, to the vicarage of the church of Swelle Inferior, vacant by the death of Master John de Stanwey, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 31 December.

Fol. 126. Institution of Simon atte Bergh, priest, presented by Thomas Aspale and Walter de Haywod, proctors of Sir John de Sancto Philiberto, to the church of Thormerton, vacant by the death of William, the last rector. And he was admitted on 5 December.

Institution of William Stigant, priest, presented by John, Earl of Kent, and Lord Wake, to the church of Musarder, upon the

resignation of John Gunnesby, who has taken another cure in the diocese of London. And he was admitted on the said day.

Institution of John de Todynham, priest, presented by the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to the vicarage of the church of Dodurhull, vacant by the death of Robert atte More. And he was admitted on 6 December.

Institution of John de Lonenhull, priest, presented by King Edward III., by reason of the priory of Brumesfeld being in the hands of the Crown on account of the war with France, to the vicarage of the church of Brumesfeld, vacant by the death of William, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 12 December.

Institution of Reginald Dod, priest, presented by the dean of the collegiate church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick, William de Naileston, and Master John de Bulkynton, to the church of St. Michael of Warwick, vacant by the resignation of Robert de Enderby, the last rector. And he was admitted on 15 December.

Institution of John Brymbrok, acolyte, presented by the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester to the church of Dunteshourne Abbatis, vacant by the resignation of Walter de Radeford, the last rector. And he was admitted on 17 December.

Institution of William de Walton, priest, presented by Ralph, Baron Stafford, to the church of Northcerneye, vacant by the death of Robert de Asschebourn, the last rector. And he was admitted by Henry de la Warn, his proctor, on 19 December.

Institution of William de Lalleford, priest, presented by the dean of the collegiate church of Warwick and John Bukyngham to the church of St. John in the market place (*in alto foro*) of Warwick, vacant by the death of William, the last rector. And he was admitted on 24 December, 1349.

Fol. 126*d*. Institution of William de la Hull, clerk, presented by the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to the hospital of the Blessed Mary next Wyche. And he was admitted on 8 December.

Institution of John Wroxston, priest, presented by John Wailles of Dichford to the church or chapel of Dichford Frary, vacant by the resignation of William Avere, the last rector. And he was admitted on 4 January¹.

Form of institution.

Form of induction.

Fol. 127. Institution of Adam Carles, chaplain, to the church of Newynton, vacant by the death of Richard de Hull, the last rector, at the presentation of Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick. And he was admitted on 14 August, 1349.

Institution of Adam de Holynton, chaplain, to the church of Sallearpp, vacant by the death of Robert, the last rector, at the presentation of Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick. And he was admitted on the same day.

Institution of John de Sonnebury to the church of Little Comberton, vacant by the death of Master William Allot, the last rector, at the presentation of Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick. And he was admitted on the same day.

Institution of Thomas de Wyke, next Pershore, to the church of Brouton Haket, vacant by the death of Philip, the last rector, at the presentation of Sir Nicholas de Burnel. And he was admitted on the same day.

Institution of Walter le Hoppere, chaplain, to the church of Oxshulne, vacant by the death of John de Baynton, the last rector, at the presentation of Sir John de la Hale, knight. And he was admitted on 13 August, 1349.

Institution of William de Founteneye, chaplain, to the church of Bourghton, vacant by the resignation of John de Radeforde of Shirbourn, chaplain, by reason of an exchange for the church of Willareseye, at the presentation of the abbot and convent of Evesham. And he was admitted on 14 August, 1349.

¹ See *post*, p. 235.

Institution of Thomas de Sotttere of Rysyndon, priest, to the church of Great Rysyndon, vacant by the resignation of Sir William de Welleford, at the presentation of Walter de Hisle. And he was admitted on 14 August, 1349.

Institution of Roger, called Magorlynges, of Tettebur', clerk, to the church of Saperton, vacant by the [blank] of Thomas Gottere of Rysyndon, at the presentation of [blank] de Hisle. And he was admitted on 14 August, 1349.

Institution of Thomas atte Halle of Wytleghe Parva, clerk, presented by John de Bello Campo of Holte to the church of Holte, vacant by the resignation of Thomas, the last rector. And he was admitted on 11 August.

Fol. 127*d*. Institution of John de Radeforde, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Eveshame to the church of Willarseye, vacant by the resignation of William de Founteneye, chaplain, by reason of an exchange for the church of Broughton. And he was admitted on 14 August, 1349¹.

Institution of William de Elmeleye, presented by Sir Peter de Veel, knight, to the church of Charfeld, vacant by the resignation of Robert de Hamslap, chaplain. And he was admitted on 14 August, 1349.

Institution of Robert de Hamslamp (*sic*), presented by Sir Peter de Veel, knight, to the church of Torteworth, vacant by the death of Osbert, the last rector. And he was admitted on the said day.

Institution of William de Wymundham, clerk, presented by William, archbishop of York, to the church of Otyngdon, vacant by the resignation of John de Helwelle, chaplain. And he was admitted on the same day.

Institution of Walter de Piriton, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester to the church of Dorseye, vacant because Thomas de Piriton, the late rector, took another benefice. And he was admitted on 14 August.

¹ See preceding page.

Institution of John Blank, priest, presented by Sir Giles de Beauchamp, knight, to the church of Kenemerton, vacant by the resignation of William de Gulford, the last rector. And he was admitted on 17 August, 1349.

Institution of Nicholas Avenaunt of Warwick, clerk, presented by the abbot and convent of Eveshame to the church of Overswelle, vacant by the death of John de Icombe, the last rector. And he was admitted on 18 August, 1349.

Institution of Ralph de Ullunhale, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Eveshame to the church of Ullebergh, vacant by the death of Nicholas, the last rector. And he was admitted on 18 August, 1349.

Institution of William de Cotton, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Eveshame to the vicarage of the church of Cotton, vacant by the resignation of John de Bengeworth, the last vicar. And he was admitted on the same day.

Fol. 128. Institution of Edmond de Hanewelle, priest, presented by John de Brailles, rector of the church of Fladebury, to the vicarage of the chapel of Habbelench, vacant by the death of John de Budeford, the last vicar. And he was admitted on the said day.

Institution of John de Dodyton, priest, presented by brother Peter, warden, and the brethren of the Hospital of St. Wolstan of Worcester, to the vicarage of the church of Croule, vacant by the death of Thomas, the last vicar. And he was admitted on the said day¹.

Institution of John de Knython, chaplain, presented to the church or chapel of Dychford Frary, vacant by the death of John le Bachiler, the last rector, by John de Brailles of Dychford. And he was admitted on 22 August².

Institution of Thomas le Clerk of Hereford, priest, presented by the sub-prior and convent of Great Malvern to the vicarage of the

¹ See *ante*, p. 225.

² See *ante*, p. 230; *post*, p. 235.

parish church of Malvern, vacant by the resignation of Nicholas le Smythes of Poiwyk, the last vicar. And he was admitted on the same day.

Institution of Richard de Budeford, priest, presented by Sir Peter de Montefort to the church of Whitchirche, vacant by the death of Master William, the last rector. And he was admitted on 25 August.

Institution of Stephen Hathemare, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester to the church of Newynton, vacant by the death of Master Geoffrey, the last rector. And he was admitted on 26 August.

Institution of William de Rombourgh, priest, presented by Edmund de Bereford, clerk, to the church of Wodecestre, vacant by the death of Nicholas, the last rector. And he was admitted on 26 August.

Fol. 128*d*. Institution of John de Middelton, clerk, presented by King Edward III. to the church of Mynchenehampton, vacant by the resignation of John de Houton, the last rector. And he was admitted on 27 August, 1349.

Institution of Thomas de Wodeford, chaplain, presented by Humphrey Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, to the church of Barndesleye, vacant by the resignation of Nicholas de Neweton'. And he was admitted on 28 August.

Institution of Thomas de Hales, priest, presented by Philip de Tame, prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, to the vicarage of the church of Shirbourn, vacant by the death of John le Bacar, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 28 August.

Institution of William de Uppedich, clerk, presented by King Edward III., by reason of the wardship of the lands of John Moigne, deceased, to the church of Shipton Moigne, vacant by the death of Thomas, the last rector. And he was admitted on 30 August, 1349.

Institution of John le Reve of Laxton, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Stodlegh to the vicarage of the church of St. Peter de Wytton next Wych, vacant by the death of Thomas Cassy, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 30 August, 1349.

Institution of William de Wikford, priest, presented by Ralph, Baron de Stafford, lord of Tonebrugge, to the church of Ryndecombe, vacant by the resignation of John de Rothewell, the last rector. And he was admitted on 1 September.

Institution of William de Hamenassh, priest, presented by the Prior of Worcester, at the nomination of Sir John Talbot, knight, to the church of All Saints of Worcester, vacant by the death of Ralph, the last rector. And he was admitted 9 September, 1349.

Institution of Philip Areme, acolyte, presented by John de Middelton, rector of the church of Nun's Hampton, to the perpetual chantry of the Blessed Mary in the church aforesaid. And he was admitted on 10 September.

Fol. 129. Institution of John Frankeleyn of Brocworth, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Lanthony next Glouccster to the vicarage of the church of Great Bernynton. And he was admitted on 10 September.

Institution of Richard Upton of Cirencestr', priest, presented by Thomas de Berkelee to the church of Syde, vacant by the death of William, the last rector. And he was admitted on 15 September.

Institution of Richard atte Wode of Cheveryl, priest, presented by John de Sancto Laudo to the church of Clifton, vacant by the resignation of John Blank', the last rector. And he was admitted on 17 September.

Institution of William Martyn of St. John next Worcester, acolyte, presented to the perpetual chantry in the church of St. Martin of Worcester by William, rector of the same church. And he was admitted on 17 September.

Institution of William Cely, chaplain, presented by King Edward III. (by reason of the temporalities of the priory of Deerhurst¹ being in the King's hands, on account of the war with France) to the church of Culne St. Dennis, vacant by the death of Robert de Hayt, the last rector. And he was admitted on 20 September.

Institution of Ralph de Malton, priest, presented by King Edward III. (by reason of the temporalities of the abbot of Lyra² in England being in the king's hands, on account of the war with France) to the vicarage of the church of Cheddeworth, vacant by the death of Hugh, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 20 September.

Institution of William Brocworth, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Lanthony, next Gloucester, to the vicarage of the church of Brocworth, vacant by the death of John, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 20 September.

Institution of William Avercy, chaplain, presented by John Brailles of Dicheford to the church or chapel of Dycheford Frary, vacant by the resignation of John de Knythton', the last rector. And he was admitted on 26 September³.

Institution of Robert de Brewod, priest, presented by the prioress and convent of Brewod to the church of Brome, vacant by the resignation of Roger, the last rector. And he was admitted on 27 September.

Fol. 129*d*. Institution of Henry de Hull, priest, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, to the church of Sallewarp, vacant by the death of Adam, the last rector. And he was admitted on 27 September, 1349.

Institution of Master Stephen Ally of Wych, clerk, presented by William Dabitot of Crombe Osbern to the free chapel of Crombe aforesaid, vacant by the death of Thomas de Hanleye, the last rector. And he was admitted on 27 September.

¹ Deerhurst was a cell to the abbey of St. Dennis, near Paris.

² Lyra was a Norman abbey that ob-

tained large grants of land in England at the Conquest.

³ See *ante*, pp. 230 and 232.

Institution of Adam de Ryngesthorp, clerk, presented by Ralph, Baron of Stafford, lord of Tonebrugge, to the church of Compton Wyndyates, vacant by the death of Robert le Ferour, the last rector. And he was admitted on 29 September.

Institution of John de Hokonere, clerk, presented by John Trussel of Cublesdon to the church of Billesleye, vacant by the death of Roger de Conyggesby, the last rector. And he was admitted on 1 October, 1349.

Institution of Robert de Overton, priest, presented by Sir William de Meldon, knight, to the church of Haselour, vacant by the death of John de Gildon, the last rector. And he was admitted on 6 October.

Institution of John de Blockeley, priest, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, to the church of Lytethurn, vacant by the death of Philip Mile, the last rector. And he was admitted on 7 October.

Institution of William Nayleston, priest, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, to the prebend which Master Henry de Stonleye lately held in the collegiate church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick, vacant by the death of the said Henry. And he was admitted on 10 October.

Institution of William de Wormynton Parva, priest, presented by Sarah de Pryeyeris to the church of Dorsynton, vacant by the resignation of William, the last rector. And he was admitted on 11 October:

Institution of John Morewy, priest, presented by the Prior and convent of Worcester to the church of the Blessed Clement of Worcester, vacant by the death of John de Gurdewell, the last rector. And he was admitted on 11 October.

Institution of Master William de Adelmynton, presented by the abbot and convent of Wynch' to the church of Bladynton, vacant by the death of Thomas de Glouc', the last rector. And he was admitted on 12 October.

Institution of John de Askam, clerk, presented by King Edward III. (by reason of the temporalities of the abbey of Pershore being in the King's hands) to the church of Bradeweve, vacant by the death of John de Ockeleye, the last rector. And he was admitted on 13 October.

Fol. 130. Institution of John le Skynnere of Brailles, priest, presented by Sir John de Brailles, rector of the church of Fladebury, to the vicarage of the church of Fladebury, vacant by the resignation of Richard, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 13 October.

Institution of brother John Coci, monk of the monastery of St. Dennis in France, presented by the abbot of St. Dennis to the cure of the parish church of Derhurst, vacant by the death of [blank]. And he was admitted on 29 September, according to the form of the composition made between Godfrey¹, formerly bishop of Worcester, and Matthew, then abbot, and the convent of St. Dennis.

Institution of Thomas de Freman of Oxindon, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Pershore to the perpetual chantry in the church of the Blessed Edburgh² of Pershor, vacant by the resignation of John de la Feld, the last minister. And he was admitted on 15 October.

Institution of John de la Pulle of Great Malvern, priest, presented by William de Defford to the church of Bradecote, vacant by the resignation of Henry de Tachebrok, the last rector. And he was admitted on 15 October.

Institution of Peter Roysonn of Yntebergh³, priest, presented by Joan Comyn to the chapel of Morton Hundurhull, vacant by the death of Roger, the last rector. And he was admitted on 15 October.

Institution of Thomas, son of Peter, called the clerk of Gloucester, presented by Thomas Fabyan and Eva, his wife, Rose, sister of the same Eva, and John Coof, son of Matilda Helyonn, to the

¹ Godfrey Giffard, 1268—1302.

² In the margin is "chantry in the conventual church of Pershore." The conven-

tual church of Pershore was dedicated to St. Mary and St. Edburgh,

³ Qy. Inkberrow.

church of Eggeworth, vacant by the death of Thomas, the last rector. And he was admitted on 22 October.

Institution of Henry de Bybury, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Lanthony next Gloucester to the vicarage of the church of Bernynton Magna, vacant by the resignation of Master the last vicar. And he was admitted on 23 October.

Institution of John Russel, priest, presented by Sir William Boteler, knight, to the perpetual chantry of the Blessed Mary in the parish church of Alyncestr', vacant by the resignation of Robert de Cherlynton, the last minister. And he was admitted on 23 October.

Fol. 130*d*. Institution of John de Wyllaxford, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Alyncestr' to the vicarage of the church of Beoleye, vacant by the resignation of Richard de Fladebury, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 23 October.

Institution of Richard Hayward of Rowell, presented by the abbot and convent of Wynch' to the perpetual vicarage of the church of Rowell, vacant by the resignation of John, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 23 October.

Institution of brother Guillerinus, called Pinchart, monk of the monastery of St. Peter of Chastillon of Couches in the diocese of Evreux, presented by the abbot and convent of the said monastery to the priory and parsonage of Wotton, vacant by the death of brother Michael de la Bouch, the last prior. Date of presentation Tuesday after the feast of St. Dennis, and of admission, 24 October, 1349.

Institution of John Saunter of Grutelton, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Malmesbury in the diocese of Salisbury to the church of Lutelton upon Severn, vacant because Robert, the last rector, had taken the church of Stanbrugg in the diocese of London. And he was admitted on 26 October.

Institution of Master John de Briane, clerk, presented by King Edward III. (by reason of the vacancy of the bishopric of Wor-

cester) to the prebend which Master Reginald de Briane had in the collegiate church of Westbury, by the resignation of the said Reginald. And he was admitted on 29 October, 1349.

Fol. 131. Institution of brother Richard de Hampton, canon of the monastery of Hales Owweyn, presented by the abbot and convent of Hales to the vicarage of the parish church of Hales. And he was admitted on 2 November.

Institution of John Frankelcyn, chaplain, presented by the prior and convent of Lanthony next Gloucester to the vicarage of the church of Brocworth', vacant by the resignation of William, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 5 November.

Institution of Thomas de la Feld, priest, presented by the Prior and Convent of Worcester to the vicarage of the church of Wyk and the chapel of St. John, vacant by process of law made before inquisition by the dean of Worcester. And he was admitted on 7 November.

Institution of Thomas de Yevele, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Great Malvern to the church of Upton Snodesbur', vacant by the resignation of Thomas de Yevele, the last rector. And he was admitted on 12 November.

Institution of William Fincham of Lavenham, priest, presented by Agnes, abbess, and the convent of Godestowe, to the church of Dagelyngworth, vacant by the resignation of Thomas, the last rector. And he was admitted on 14 November.

Institution of Master John Heyne of Kybworth, clerk and master of arts, presented by the warden and scholars of the house of scholars of Merton at Oxford to the church of Lapworth, vacant by the death of Master Richard de Wyte, the last rector. And he was admitted on 19 November.

Institution of Henry le Gardiner, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Maxstel to the vicarage of the church of Toneworth,

vacant by the death of Richard Gardiner, the last vicar. And he was admitted on 19 November.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Gloucester to cite all abbots, priors, deans, provosts, preceptors, &c., in his archdeaconry to appear on Friday after the feast of the Assumption in the church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester, before the prior or his deputy, to make canonical obedience. Dated at Worcester, 15 August, 1349.

Mandate from the Sub-prior of Worcester to the dean of T. to cite all rectors, vicars, chaplains, clerks, ministers and three or four laymen from every parish to appear before him in the church of St. Andrew of T., and do all that pertains to the office of visitation.

The like mandate sent to every deanery.

Fol. 132. Commission from the Sub-prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Gloucester for receiving the goods of intestates, or those dying without a will, and the fruits of vacant benefices within the ambit of his jurisdiction. Dated at Worcester, 23 August, 1349.

Commission from the Sub-prior of Worcester to W. de Chelt' to perform divine service in his oratory in his manse at Pokelchirch in the diocese of Worcester, for himself and his household, by a fit chaplain, without prejudice to the mother church.

Commission from the Sub-prior of Worcester to Master Simon Tankard, dean of Gloucester, and John de H., rector of the church of Holy Trinity of Gloucester, to ask for, exact, and receive from the King's justices all clerks indicted of felony or other crimes.

Commission from the Sub-prior of Worcester to N. de P. to ask for, receive, and collect the fruits of the parish church of Clifton in the diocese of Worcester during the time of the present vacancy, and to provide a fit minister to perform divine service there.

Fol. 132*d*. Form of resignation of a vicarage of a church. The example given is by W. de Aston of the church of R.

Mandate by the Sub-prior of Worcester to the deans of the deaneries of Wych and Warwick to levy procurations for visitations and to cite all executors of wills in their deaneries to appear to prove such wills.

Form for resigning the presentation to a church.

Form of acquittance from administering a will.

Form of resigning a church. The example given is the resignation by Geoffrey de Weston of the rectory of the church of Harnhull, in the patronage of Sir John de Wyninton, knight. Dated the 6th of the Kalends of September.

Form of citation of the executors of a rector to answer to his successor.

Fol. 133. Form of citation in a testamentary cause.

Form of mandate to religious persons to make visitation.

Mandate from the Sub-prior of Worcester to the dean of Bristol to cite the master and brethren of the house of St. Mark of Byleswyk, the prior and monks of St. James of Bristol, the religious women of the house of the Blessed Mary Magdalene and the hospital of St. Bartholomew there, to appear in their houses and prepare themselves for visitation.

Mandate from the Sub-prior of Worcester to the dean of S. to cite all abbots, priors, deans, provosts, &c., in his deanery to appear on a certain day and at a certain place to receive and do what to the office of visitation pertains.

EDWARDUS Dei gratia Rex Angliæ, et Franciæ, et Dominus Hiberniæ, custodi spiritualitatis Episcopatus Wygorniensis sede vacante salutem. Dum pestilentias et tribulationes multas et malas quibus terribilis in consiliis super filios hominum justus Deus mundum jam visitat et flagellat, ostendens populo suo dura ut timens et penitens quærat humilium nomen ejus attendente consideratione

pensamus nimirum obstupescimus et timemus quod populus modicus qui remansit tam infelix Deo ingratus et duræ cervicis existit, quod tam terribilibus non flectitur Dei judicii et exemplis, nam si credi debeat operibus, videtur semper ascendere iniquitas et superbia populi, et in eo caritas plus solito refrigescit, quod majoris calamitatis utinam non subversionis videtur esse præsignium, et quod sic eveniet verisimiliter est timendum nisi Deus, qui per culpam offenditur penitentia peccantium et orationibus fidelium complacetur, unde cum nichil sit quod oratio, suas habens circumstantias, instantiam videlicet humilitatem et jejunium ac cetera munimenta virtutis obtinere non possit, ad orationis arma devote recurrimus, nos et commissum nobis populum divinæ misericordiæ humiliter commendantes, sed quia de propriis meritis minus confidimus, vos qui constituti estis pro hominibus ut offeratis dona et sacrificia pro peccatis ex, cordis intimis exoramus, quatinus pro nostra populi que salute devotas Deo preces et hostias offeratis, parochianos vestros et alios quos poteritis salutaribus monitis inducentes, et induci per alios facientes, ut divina recognoscentes beneficia de peccatis suis peniteant, et orationibus jejuniis et virtutum exercitiis indulgeant, et a malo declinent, ut sic Deus miseratus pestem pellat et langorem, pacem et tranquillitatem tribuat, ac corporis animæque salutem, speramus enim per Dei gratiam quod si populus a cordibus suis spirituales repellat nequitas discedet ab eo tam aeriarum quam aliarum malignitas tempestatum. Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium v die Septembris anno regni nostri Angliæ xxiiij^o regni vero nostri Franciæ decimo¹.

(*Translation.*)

EDWARD, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the Bishopric of Worcester, the See being vacant, Greeting. Whilst we regard the many and evil plagues and tribulations, with which a just God, terrible in his counsels with regard to the children of men, is now visiting and scourging the world, shewing to his people hard things, that in fear and penitence they may the more humbly with diligent heed call on his name, without doubt we dread and fear that the remnant of the people—so wretched—

who have survived, are ungrateful to God and stiff-necked, because they do not humble themselves under such terrible judgments and manifestations of God, for though he ought to be believed by his works, it seems that the iniquity and pride of the people ever increase, and thereby charity more than ever grows cold, which appears to presage a greater calamity, God grant it be not of utter destruction, and that it shall so happen is indeed to be feared, unless God, who is offended by guilt, shall be appeased by the repentance of sinners and the prayers of the faithful. Wherefore as there is nothing which prayer with its accompaniments, to wit, earnestness, humility and fasting, and other defences of holiness, cannot obtain, we devoutly have recourse to the arms of prayer, humbly commending ourselves and the people committed to us to the Divine pity; but because we have the less confidence in our own merits, from our inmost heart we beseech you, who are appointed to offer gifts for men and sacrifices for sins, to offer devout prayers and sacrifices to God, persuading, with wholesome admonitions, your parishioners and others whom you are able, and causing them to be persuaded by others, that, acknowledging Divine favours, they may repent of their sins, and give themselves up to prayers, fastings, and exercises of holiness, and turn aside from evil, that so God in his pity may drive away this plague and sickness, may grant peace and tranquillity, and salvation both of body and soul. For we hope, by the grace of God, that, if the people cast out from their hearts spiritual wickedness, this scourge of the air as well as other tempests may depart from them. Witness ourself at Westminster, the 5th day of September in the 23rd year of our reign of England, and in the 10th of our reign of France.

Form of mandate for receiving penances for contumacy.

Fol. 134. Another form of a like mandate.

Another form of a like mandate and for citing executors of wills, not yet proved.

Form of writ to a dean for rendering an account of his ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

Form of citation in a testamentary cause.

Form of a citation in a dispute touching tithes.

Form of a citation in a cause of defamation.

Fol. 134*d*. Form of letter of suspension for contumacy.

Form of letters testimonial for resigning a church.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the official of Gloucester acquainting him with the prior's intention to make visitation in the diocese, and forbidding him and all ecclesiastical persons to do anything to prejudice the same.

Form of mandate to excommunicate "certain sons of iniquity" for defaming a person with the crime of fornication.

Appointment of William Ally of Wych as apparitor of the deanery of Wych.

Appointment of W. de F., rector of the church of T., as dean of Poywyk.

Form of letter for the excommunication of persons who impeded the administration of the goods of a deceased.

Fol. 135. Another like form of letter.

Fol. 135*d*. Form of commission to hear and determine a cause of matrimony and divorce.

Form of commission for holding a consistory court.

Form of citation to exhibit the register of causes in the consistory court.

Form of letter of absolution from excommunication for contumacy.

Form of mandate to call and warn a person to perform the penance imposed upon him for fornication.

Form of suspension for contumacy.

Fol. 136. Form of general commission from the Prior of Worcester to make visitation, institute, and deprive clerks, &c., in the diocese of Worcester.

Another like form.

Fol. 136*a*. Letter from William de Thyng hull, commissary general of John¹, bishop of Hereford, to the dean of Poywyk asking him to cite Matilda Flemmyng, formerly the wife of Robert Flemmyng of Upton next the Severn, deceased, and executrix of the same, to appear in the cathedral church of Hereford to answer Walter le Sheremon in a testamentary cause. Dated at Hereford, 31 October, 1349.

Licence from the Prior of Worcester to Henry de Insula, prior of Horseleye, of the Augustinian order, to make the "pilgrimage of the apostles Peter and Paul," having obtained the consent of the prior of Bruton, to whom he is subject. Dated at Worcester, 31 December, 1349.

Fol. 137. Letter from John¹, bishop of Hereford, Stephen, the dean, and the chapter of Hereford, to the Bishop of Worcester, or, the See being vacant, to the Keeper of the spiritualities. Desiring to glorify the Lord in his saints, and especially in the holy confessor the blessed Thomas, formerly bishop of Hereford², their special patron and protector, praying for their people, their city, and for the English nation; the merits of whose life having brought about miracles, the lord John, the pope³, added him to the catalogue of twenty-two holy confessors. They are disposed to translate his body and to raise it above the ground and exalt it as a precious pearl hidden in the heart of the earth. Which translation was much desired in times past, now evils multiplying on all sides the people attempt this solemnity with the hope of divine pleasure and mercy. Therefore that a light of such brightness be not hidden

¹ John Trilleck, 1344—1360.

² Thomas de Cantilupe, 1275—1282.

³ John XXII., 1316—1334.

under ground they propose, for the honour, they believe, of God, and health of the faithful, as they hope, speedily to reveal him that by his intercession the Lord may purge the whole world from errors, allay disease, drive away famine, give peace, remove all harmful things, and grant all things in time to come, appointing for this the 8th of the Kalends of November, to wit, the 25th October. They therefore pray that the said day may be notified to all parishioners and others of Worcester diocese. They have requested indulgences from the treasury of Worcester, that to an office of so great solemnity a multitude of Christian people may flock together, and that the bishop or keeper will deign to adorn their church by his presence. Dated at Hereford, the feast of the Nativity of the blessed Margaret the Virgin.

Fol. 137*d*. Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the sub-prior and chapter acquainting them with his intention to make visitation in the city and diocese of Worcester, and on Friday after the feast of the Assumption to visit their monastery. Dated 11 August, 1349.

Fol. 138. Certificate of the receipt of the same mandate.

Letter from John de W., president of the Consistory Court of Worcester, and commissary of John, bishop of Worcester, to the dean of Wych and vicar of Bromesgrave to excommunicate all those who had attempted to take away the rights and liberties of the Prior and Chapter of Worcester in Bromesgrave, according to the Constitution of Oxford and other Constitutions of the holy fathers.

Fol. 138*d*. Writ of *venire facias* to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester to cause John de Wyndesore, parson of the church of Clive Episcopi, clerk, to come before the King's justices to answer Master Robert de Chikewelle, clerk, of a plea of debt. Dated at Westminster, 28 November, 23 Edward III.

Mandate to the Dean of Worcester to execute the same writ. Dated at Worcester, 28 December, 1349.

Certificate of the same writ to the Court.

Writ of *venire facias* to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester to cause John de Ryvers, parson of the church of Rippel, clerk, to come before the King's Justices to answer Geoffrey le Spenser of Upton upon Severn of a plea of debt. Dated at Westminster, 23 November, 23 Edward III. And the Dean of Worcester is written to, to execute this writ and certify.

Certificate of the same writ to the Court.

Fol. 139. Letters dimissory for the order of deacon:—Reginald Parkere, rector of the church of Shraveley, to the order of sub-deacon, Peter, called Somonour, of Upton upon Severn, William Mathoun of the same place, Robert Leget, Richard Lench, rector of the church of Lench Roudolf, Thomas Lucas of Lechlade, William Martyn, John Fryday of Pershore, Peter Groos, Nicholas, son of Ralph de Grootere, Robert Elene of Snetefeld, Thomas de Tydynton, and Thomas Lucas of Doddell.

Letters dimissory for priest's orders:—Thomas de Lench, Walter Rom of Fladebury; brothers of Lechlad, John Lucas and John Melyn; Thomas, son of John Taillor of Morton Daubeneye, Simon, heir of Barndesleye, Richard Taillor of Cirencester, and Richard de Duddeleye.

Letters dimissory for all holy orders:—William de Aston, rector of the same place, William de la Hull of Wych, Richard Freman, and Richard Lovocok of Lytethorn; canons of Hales, brother John de Wych, Adam de Hales, John de Bremesgrave, John de Clent, and Richard de Kydermenstr'.

Letters dimissory to minor and sub-deacon's orders:—Walter de Graundon of Cheltenham, John le Deyere of Cheltenham, Roger Magerlyng of Tettebur'; brother Richard de Haukesbur', monk of Pershor'; Master John de Mersheston, John Cade of Heyhamsende, Henry Wodeward of Eldesfeld, Nicholas Greue of the same place, William Pedys, Thomas Lokare, Thomas Taillor of Bokelond, Richard called Deye of Cheltenham, Richard atte Penne of Fairford, Henry atte Watre of Quenynton; brothers of Lechlad, Stephen Champ and Robert Carpenter; brothers of St. Bartholomew of

Gloucester, John Klech and John Droys ; William Palmer of Stowe, Nicholas Symcokes of Southcerneye, John de Oxindon, William in le Hale of Bradewas, Master William de Adelmynton, rector of Bladynton ; monks of Gloucester, John Temese, Walter de Cheltenham, and Walter Crook ; John Bernard of Straford, Thomas atte Lude of Wynterbourn, Henry Leggar of Culne Roger, William Hasele of Maiesmor, Richard Salmon, William Hunte, Thomas atte Castel of Halford, Richard Ernald of Meone, Richard Wygget of the same place, John Cissote of Hampton Episcopi, John Billyng of Cherlecote, William Hocseye, William Robyns of Bladinton, John Thomkyns of the same place, and Philip de Duddel'.

Fol. 139*d*. Letters dimissory for all holy orders :—Canons of Lanthony of Gloucester, to wit, John de Grafton, John de Bolleye, Roger de Etone, Thomas de Donyngton, William de Evesham, Stephen de Archerstok, Nicholas de Cerneye and William de Chiriton ; Roger atte Holyes of Kyngesnorton, John Knee of Poywyk, Robert Murdok, rector of Wynterbourn, Richard Calewe of Gloucester, John atte Brugg of Holenast', Walter de Poywyk, Thomas Piers of Cheddeworth, Thomas Yonge, rector of the church of St. Stephen of Bristoll, Roger White, rector of the church of Coldeashton, Henry Baldewyne, John de Badmynton, Walter Cheltenham, Richard Martyn, John Goldeney, John Snyte, Walter Ragon, John de Lanston, and Adam de Salusbur', canon of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol, Thomas de Stonehouse, John, son of Robert Cocus of Fayrford, John de Sanford, Nicholas Wyneband, rector of the chapel of Hildesleye, Richard Pillisgate, rector of the church of Hampton Meysy, John atte Fortheie of Chorleton Regis, Robert Wythyn, rector of the church of Hyndelup, and Richard Taillor of Nethetyndon.

Letters dimissory for the order of sub-deacon :—Peter le Somenour of Upton upon Severn, William le Mathon of the same place, Philip Dreme, Roger Magerlyng of Tettebur', Richard Symond of Alneston, Robert Leget of Terdebygge ; brothers John Hay, Richard de Piryton, Nicholas de Seynesbur', Richard de Haukesbur', John Bourton, Robert Bourton, monks of Pershore ; Master John de Mershston, Master William Aleyn, rector of the church of Wythindon, Thomas Lucas of Doddell', Thomas Fraunceys,

Walter le Deye of Cheltenham, John de Paunceleye, Thomas atte Lude, John atte Chircheye, John Fryday of Pershore, Stephen de Neubur', brother of Lecchelad, Thomas Lucas of Lechelad, Robert Carpenter of the same place, Richard, rector of Lench Roudulf, John de Hedynton, rector of the church of Shosnecote, Robert Eleyne of Snetefeld, William Mattyn St. John, John, son of Laurence de Ashton, Richard de Luttelbur', Richard de Ludyngton, Ralph de Kudynton of Shirbourn, and John Heyward of Bernynton with William his fellow.

Letters dimissory for the order of deacon:—Thomas Cook of Lechlade, John le Clerk of Coverleye, Simon, heir of Barndesb', Richard Tailor of Cirencestr', John Sampson of Wyke next Pershore; brother Thomas Catour, monk of Pershore; Richard de Doddel'; brothers of Lechelad, John Lucas, John Molyns, Henry Bonny of Great Bernynton, vicar of Campedene, Walter Rom of Fladebury, Thomas de Lench', Richard de Luttlebur'.

To minor orders and orders of sub-deacon only, Thomas Franceye, rector of Shipton Clive, and John atte Chircheye of Brithlampton.

Letters dimissory for deacons' and priests' orders:—Thomas de Legh, rector of Estlech' St. Martin, John Starry of Wych, Richard de Wodeford de Bradewelle, William Ward, vicar of Little Wylmescote, Walter de Littlebur', Walter de Luttelbur', and John Rotteleye of Tysho.

Letters dimissory for priests' orders:—Thomas [*blank*], rector of Estlech' St. Andrew, Henry Taillour of Lechlade, Robert Kyrkeby of Stowe, Edward, William de Pendok, Roger in le Hurne of Wynston, John Parkynes of Westecote, Henry de Honynton, Nicholas Gorewy of Fladebury, brother Henry de Biseleye, monk of Little Malvern, Richard Bolenynth, John Starye of Wych, Walter de Sandford of Cheltenham, Gilbert Derlyng, vicar of Umpedene, John Sampson of Wyke, and Thomas Wast, vicar of Little Wilmycote.

Fol. 140. Visitation made in the archdeaconry of Worcester in the time of the vacancy of the bishopric, A.D. 1349.

The Prior of Worcester visited the chapter of the same on Friday before the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary, in the year abovesaid.

The Sub-prior of Worcester and Master Robert de Nettelton, commissaries of the same prior, visited the clergy and people of the city and deanery of Worcester on Wednesday after the feast of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist in the aforesaid year, in the cathedral church of Worcester.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Poywyk in the parish church of Poywyk on Thursday after the same feast, and there received in the name of procurations 4 marks.

The same Master Robert de Nettelton and Brother Nicholas de Clanefeld, commissaries of the said prior, visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Kydermenstr', in the parish church of the same place, on Thursday next after the feast of the Blessed Mary; visited the parish church of Clent and Rouley on the same day, and received from the same church of Clent in the name of a procuration, 20s.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Wych' in the parish church of Terdebygge on Friday next after the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Mary in the aforesaid year, and received there in the name of a procuration 4 marks.

The same commissaries visited the monastery of Pershore in the chapter-house of the same on Monday the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in the aforesaid year, and were supplied with meat and drink.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Pershor in the church of St. Andrew, on the same day.

The same commissaries visited the abbey of Alyncest' in their chapter-house on Thursday after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and were supplied with meat and drink.

The same commissaries visited the monastery of Stodlegh, in the chapter-house there, on Wednesday after the same feast, and were supplied with meat and drink.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Warwick in the parish church of Wanceneswotton on Thursday after the same feast, and received in the name of procuration 4 marks.

The same commissaries visited the house of St. Sepulcre of Warwick, in the chapter-house there, on Friday after the same feast.

The same commissaries visited the collegiate church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick on the same day, and received there from the church of Pillardynton, appropriated to the same collegiate church, in the name of a procuration, half a mark.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Kyngton, in the parish church of Welford, on Saturday before the same feast, and received in the name of a procuration 4 marks.

The same commissaries visited the hospital of St. Wolstan of Worcester on 22 September, and were supplied with meat and drink.

The same commissaries visited the hospital of St. Oswald of Worcester and the monastery of Whiston on Tuesday after the feast of St. Matthew the Evangelist, and were supplied with meat and drink.

The same commissaries visited the monastery of Little Malvern on Monday before the feast of St. Michael, and were supplied there with meat and drink.

Fol. 140^d. Visitation made in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester in the time of the vacancy of the See of the Bishopric of Worcester, 1349.

Master Robert de Nettelton, clerk, and brother John de Leomenstr', precentor, commissaries of the prior, visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Caumpedene in the parish church of Wykewane, on Thursday before the feast of St. Michael, and there received in the name of a proxy 4 marks.

They visited the parish church of Dydebrok on Friday before the feast of St. Michael, and received in the name of a proxy 4 marks.

They visited the monastery of Teukesbury, in the chapter-house of the same, on Thursday after the feast of St. Michael, and were provided with meat and drink.

They visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Gloucester, in the parish church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester, on Friday after the feast of St. Michael.

They visited the monastery of Lanthony, next Gloucester, in the chapter-house there, on Saturday after the feast of St. Michael, and were provided with meat and drink.

They visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Bristol, in the church of St. Augustine the Less, on Monday before the feast of the translation of St. Oswald, the Archbishop.

They visited the monastery of the Blessed Augustine of Bristol, in the chapter-house there, on the same day, and were provided with meat and drink.

They visited the priory of St. James of Bristol, and the houses of the Blessed Mary Magdalene, the hospital of St. Bartholomew, and the house of St. Mark of Byleswyke, each severally in their chapter-houses, on Tuesday before the feast of the translation of the aforesaid saint, and were provided with meat and drink.

They visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Button and Haukesbury, in the parish church of Market Sobbury, on Friday after the same feast.

Fol. 141. They visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Dersleye, in the parish church of the same place, on Saturday after the said feast.

They visited the monastery of St. Peter of Gloucester, in the chapter-house of the same, on Monday after the feast of St. Dennis, and were provided with meat and drink.

They visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Stonhouse, in the parish church of Byseleye, on Tuesday after the same feast.

They visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Cirencester, in the parish church of St. John of Cirencester, on Wednesday after the same feast.

They visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Fairford, in the parish church of the same place, on Thursday after the same feast.

They visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Wynche-combe, in the parish church of the same place, on Friday before the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist.

They visited the monastery of Wynch', in the chapter-house of the same, on Saturday before the same feast, and were provided with meat and drink.

Fol. 141*d*. Note that on the next law day after the feast of St. Edward, the prior wishing to visit the abbey of Cirencester, had a controversy in the form following.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the abbot and convent of the Blessed Mary of Cirencester, reciting his title to ecclesiastical jurisdiction in the diocese of Worcester during a vacancy of the See, and declaring his intention to visit the monastery on the next law day after the feast of St. Edward in the chapter-house there; and if the said abbot should pretend that he ought not to undergo such visitation, that then the said abbot should appear in the church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester on the next law day before the same feast, to shew cause why he should not undergo such visitation.

Fol. 142. Inhibition by the official of the court of Canterbury to John de Evesham, prior of Worcester, setting out that it is notorious that the abbot and convent of Cirencester are free from visitation except of the legate of the Apostolic See and Metropolitan or diocesan of the place, and citing the said prior to appear in the church of the Blessed Mary of the Arches of London, on the fourth law day after the feast of the commemoration of All Souls. Dated at London, the 5th of the Ides of October, 1349.

Fol. 142*d*. Another inhibition by the same to the same, in similar terms. Dated at London, the 16th of the Kalends of November, 1349.

Certificate by the Prior of Worcester of the receipt of the above inhibition. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Kalends of November, 1349.

Appointment by the Prior and Chapter of Worcester of Master Robert de Nettleton and brother John de Lyce, sub-prior of the house of Worcester, brother Robert de Weston, cellarer, and brother John de Lecomistr', precentor of the same house, as proctors to treat for the abbot and convent of Worcester upon the matter of the visitation, proxies, and correction of faults of the monastery of Cirencester by the said prior, during the vacancy of the See of Worcester. Dated in the chapter-house of Worcester, the 10 October.

Fol. 143. Composition made between John, prior of the cathedral church of Worcester, and the convent of the same place, and the abbot and convent of Cirencester, touching the matter of visitation of the monastery of Cirencester during a vacancy of the See of Worcester. That the prior for the time being by authority of the court of Canterbury, official and administrator of the spiritualities in the city and diocese of Worcester, the See of Worcester being vacant, or the same prior being dead or otherwise reasonably impeded, the sub-prior of Worcester, official and administrator of the said city and diocese, during every future vacancy of the See, may go once to the said monastery for purpose of visitation, and then only with one monk and one secular clerk, the said abbot

and convent nevertheless being first forewarned by letter. And he shall enter the chapter-house of the said monastery, and the abbot and convent being there come together, he shall expound, if they will, the Word of God, and having so entered, the said prior or sub-prior shall inquire in the manner accustomed at the visitations of bishops, without exacting an oath, upon two heads or articles, that is to say, whether there was daily celebrated the mass of the Blessed Mary the Virgin in the said monastery of Cirencester devoutly, and whether the chapter was held in the same every day for the correction of manners and regular observance. And the said prior or sub-prior may in manner aforesaid send any of the monks of Worcester as his commissary, with one monk and one secular clerk, who having entered the chapter-house, as aforesaid, shall first shew his commission and inquire upon the said articles. And if anything shall require correction such inquisitor or visitor shall shew the same to the abbot of Cirencester, or he being dead or impeded, to the elder of that place. The said prior or sub-prior or monk visiting in manner aforesaid shall receive 4 marks in the name of a proxy, and nothing more for all hospitality and other things whatsoever concerning such visitation, and the same prior, sub-prior or monk so visiting shall by no means lodge with his household and carriages in the same monastery, nor shall he exercise or exact anything further except by the special authority of the Apostolic See or of its legates; and the prior and chapter of Worcester declare that it shall be lawful to the abbot and convent of Cirencester to resist any visitation which shall be contrary to such composition. Saving to the said prior of Worcester all other jurisdiction and power by reason of his said office of official and administrator, as aforesaid. Dated by the prior and chapter aforesaid on 2 December, 1349, and by the abbot and convent aforesaid on the third of the Kalends of December, 1349.

Confirmation of the above composition by John, bishop of Worcester¹. Dated at London, 1 March, 1349[-50].

Memorandum, that John atte Felde, of Leche Turville, had letters dimissory to the order of sub-deacon, under the title of the

¹ John de Thorseby enthroned January, 1349-50.

monastery of the abbot and convent of Bruere, on the 30th of May, 1364.

Item, on the Wednesday next preceding, John Warde, chaplain, presented to the church of Haseley by the prior and convent of St. Sepulchre of Warwick, and had letters of inquisition directed to the rector of Haselor', official of the archdeacon of Worcester.

Institution of W. Warde of W., priest, to the parish church of Haseley, vacant by the resignation of W. de Flaileston, at the presentation of the prior and convent of St. Sepulchre of Warwick.

Vacancy from the death of Thomas de Hemenhale, 21 Dec., 1338, to the enthronement of Wolstan de Bransford, April, 1339¹.

Fol. 145. Register concerning those things which were done in the See of Worcester, vacant by the death of Thomas de Hemenhale, bishop, on the day of St. Thomas the Apostle, A.D. 1338, and who died in his Castle of Hertlebury, and was buried in the cathedral church of Worcester on the day of St. John the Evangelist next following.

Intimation by Wulstan, prior, and the chapter of Worcester, to John, archbishop of Canterbury², of the death of Thomas, late the bishop, on 21 December, at Hertlebury, and requesting that, according to a composition made between Boniface, formerly archbishop of Canterbury, and the prior and chapter of Worcester, and confirmed by the Apostolic See, and brother John de Peckham, formerly archbishop of Canterbury, that he will appoint the said prior during the vacancy to take cognizance of causes belonging to the episcopal court, the institution and deprivation of clerks, the election, examination, and confirmation, and invalidating of the same and all other things which in the composition aforesaid more fully are contained. According to the same composition the said prior and chapter will be careful to answer to the archbishop of the issues and emoluments. Dated in the chapter of Worcester the 9th of the Kalends of January, 1338[-9].

¹ This vacancy should precede the last.

² John Stratford.

Intimation by Wulfstan, the prior, and chapter of Worcester, to the King Edward III. and to his eldest son, the Duke of Cornwall, of the death of the bishop, and praying for licence to elect a bishop. Sent by the hands of brother Simon Crompt, their monk, and Master William de Bergeveneye, their clerk. Dated in the chapter of Worcester, 24th of December, 1338.

Petition by John de Muchelneye, general proctor of the prior and chapter of Worcester, the See being vacant, to the Apostolic See, for the confirmation of the jurisdiction of the said prior and chapter in accordance with the abovesaid composition.

Fol. 145*d*. Letter from the Prior of the cathedral church of Worcester, the See being vacant, intimating to the dean of Pershore, and all and singular the abbots, priors, rectors, and vicars in the said deanery, that, at the instance of Peter de Grote, his very special friend, he has appointed Hugh de Grote apparitor of the deanery. Dated at Worcester, the 7th of the Kalends of January, [1338-9].

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to William, perpetual vicar of the church of Beggesworth, of the deanery of Wynchecombe, enjoining him to exercise the office of dean of Wynchecombe faithfully and usefully as he had before done. Dated at Worcester, as above.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the dean of Kidderminster to sequestrate the goods of Master John de Careselle, late rector of the church of Kidderminster, now deceased. Dated at Worcester, as above.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the sub-prior and chapter of Worcester, declaring his intention to make visitation of the chapter of the monastery and the city, clergy and people of the deanery of Worcester, on Wednesday next. Dated at Worcester, as above.

Fol. 146. Mandate by the Prior to the Dean of Worcester to cite the clergy and six or four trustworthy laymen of the several

parishes, to appear before him at his visitation of the deanery on Thursday next in the cathedral church of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, as above.

Mandate by the Prior to the Dean of Poywyk to cite the clergy and people of his deanery to appear before him at his visitation in the parish church of Powyk on Saturday the morrow of the Circumcision. Dated at Worcester, the 7th of the Kalends of January, 1338[-9].

Fol. 146*d*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the archdeacon of Worcester, upon the complaint of the prior and convent of the Blessed Mary of Stodley, appropriators of the church of Cokton, enjoining him to go to the said church and other neighbouring churches, and there publicly before the parishioners admonish Richard Attenashe, perpetual vicar of the church of Cokton, to return to his vicarage within a month and reside there under penalty of the law, and to cite him to appear before the said prior in the cathedral church of Worcester, to shew cause why he should not be removed from the said church. Dated at Worcester, the 5th of the Kalends of January, 1338[-9].

Letter from the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester to King Edward III., acknowledging the receipt of a writ witnessed by Edward, Duke of Cornwall, at Berkhamsted, on 26 January, 12 Edward III., summoning the prior and archdeacons of Worcester by themselves, and the chapter of Worcester by one proctor, and the clergy by two proctors, to appear at the parliament to be held at Westminster on the morrow of St. Hilary. Which writ the keeper aforesaid will diligently execute. Dated at Worcester, 26 January.

Fol. 147. Certificate by the dean of Christianity of Worcester that he had received the mandate of Nicholas Morice, sub-prior of Worcester, the official of the prior, dated the 3rd of the Ides of January, enjoining him to summon certain persons in a schedule annexed¹ to appear before the said prior, himself or other com-

¹ Schedule not given.

missary, in the cathedral church of Worcester, on the 12th of the Kalends of February next to come, to answer for contumacies and to receive punishment, and had cited them. Dated at Worcester, the 13th of the Kalends of February, as above.

Letter from the official of Worcester to John, archbishop of Canterbury, reciting that on the 7th of the Ides of January he had received the letter of Adam Murymouth, vicar-general of John, archbishop of Canterbury, and canon of London, dated at London the 4th of the Nones of January, 1338[-9], commanding him to sequestrate the goods of Thomas, late bishop of Worcester, who is said to have died intestate, and to cite the executors of his will, if he made any, to appear in the church of the Blessed Mary of Aldermaricherch, London, and the said official certifies that Sir William Trussel, Knight, the escheator and his sub-escheator, had already sequestered the late bishop's goods by reason of a debt to the King. It is not known whether the late bishop made a will or appointed executors. Although he has enquired in whose possession the seals of the bishop were at the time of his death, he cannot truly certify. It is said by some of the household of the bishop that the seals are in the possession of Master Andrew Offord, the late bishop's chancellor, but as he resides outside the diocese of Worcester he cannot cite him. Dated at Worcester, &c.

Proclamation by Wulfstan, prior, and the chapter of Worcester (brothers Simon Crompe and John de Westbury, who were absent on lawful business, only excepted), reciting that Thomas de Emenhale, formerly bishop of Worcester, having died on the feast of St. Thomas at the castle of Hertlebury, and having been buried in the cathedral church of Worcester on the feast of St. John the apostle and evangelist, that on that present Sunday next after the Circumcision they had fixed the Monday following for the election of a future bishop; and that they had deputed brother R. de Clifton, precentor of their church, to cite the absent monks.

Fol. 148. Proclamation by Robert, bishop of Chichester¹, vicar-general of John, archbishop of Canterbury, to the archdeacon of

¹ Robert of Stratford, 1337—1362.

Worcester or his official, reciting the election of Wulstan, prior of the cathedral church of Worcester, as bishop, and ordering him to cite opposers to the election before the said archbishop on the next law day after the feast of St. Scolastica, the Virgin, in the parish church of Maydestone in the diocese of Canterbury. Dated at Aumbrele, the 14th of the Kalends of February, 1338[-9].

Letters dimissory by the prior, &c., for Sir Thomas de Pyriton, rector of the church of Dersleye, deacon of the diocese of Worcester, to be promoted to the order of deacon (*sic*) by any Catholic bishop, notwithstanding he was beneficed in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Ides of January, 1338[-9].

Mandate from the sub-prior of the cathedral church of Worcester, commissary general and special of the prior of the same place, to the dean of Wych to cite certain persons, whose names are mentioned in a schedule annexed¹, to appear before the prior in the church of S. Augustin of Dodurhull, next Wych, on the 1st of February next to come, to answer upon matters concerning the correction of their souls according to what appeared at the visitation in the said deanery, and also to exhibit the letters, instruments, and muniments that they had not exhibited at the said visitation. Further he is to cite all executors of wills not yet proved to appear before the prior to exhibit and prove such wills. Dated at Worcester, the 11th of the Kalends of February, 1338[-9].

Fol. 148*d*. Security by Thomas Aleyn of Compton Magna, who had lately been instituted to the perpetual vicarage of the church of St. Thomas of Great Malvern, in the diocese of Worcester, at the presentation of the prior and convent of Malvern, patrons of the said vicarage, on the removal of Thomas de Blourton, the former vicar, that he has sworn to preserve the prior and sub-prior of Worcester indemnified against the said Thomas de Blourton. Dated at Worcester, the 12th of the Kalends of February, 1338[-9].

Letters testimonial by the Prior of Worcester that the register of Thomas de Cobham, formerly bishop of Worcester², having been

¹ Schedule not given.

² 1317—1327.

searched, it was found that Richard de Bretforton, acolyte, of the diocese of Worcester, was ordained sub-deacon by Robert, bishop of Clonfert¹, on Saturday *quatuor temporum*, after the feast of St. Lucy the Virgin, 1323, in the church of St. Gregory of Croppe-thorn, in the place and by the authority of the said bishop of Worcester; that he was ordained deacon by the same bishop of Clonfert on Saturday, on which is sung the office *Societas*, that is to say, the day before the Kalends of April, 1324, in a place exempt in the church of the Friars Minors of Gloucester to the title of patrimony; and that on Saturday *quatuor temporum* on the Vigil of Holy Trinity, 1324, in the conventual church of Wynche-cumb, the same bishop ordained him priest. Dated at Worcester, the 12th of the Kalends of February, in the abovesaid year.

Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to the dean of Kidderminster stating that he proposes to visit the parish church of Hales on the 4th of the Kalends of February next to come, and the clergy and people of the residue of the deanery in the parish church of Kydermenster on the 3rd of the Kalends of February, and ordering the said dean to cite the abbot and convent of Hales appropriators of the said parish church, and the said clergy and people, to appear before him in the respective churches on the above-named days to shew their privileges, instruments, muniments, &c. Dated at Worcester, the Nones of January, in the year abovesaid.

Fol. 149. Writ from Edward III. to the keeper of the spirituality of the episcopate of Worcester to certify, before the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary next to come, how much of the wool granted by the late bishop and the clergy of the diocese of Worcester in the last parliament at Westminster, in accordance with the grant made in the great Council held at Northampton, had been collected in the said diocese, the number of sacks of wool, and where and in whose hands the wool is known to be. Witness, Edward, Duke of Cornwall, &c., at Windsor, 26 December, 12 Edward III.

Certificate of the keeper of the spirituality of Worcester to the King, that he has found no wool collected and could not know from

¹ Clonfert in Ireland.

whom the wool ought to be collected or levied, as the names of those who granted it do not appear, but that he has received another writ, with a schedule enclosed, containing the names of the religious men owing the wool, which writ he will endeavour to execute with all possible diligence. Dated at Worcester, 26 January, 1338[-9].

Fol. 149*d*. Confirmation by brother Nicholas Morice, sub-prior of Worcester, commissary general of the prior of the same place, of the election of brother W. de Wylton as prior of the House of regular canons of St. Sepulchre, Warwick, in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 5th of the Ides of January, in the year abovesaid.

Institution by the sub-prior of Worcester of Thomas Aleyn of Cumpton Magna, priest, to the perpetual vicarage of the church of St. Thomas of Great Malvern, in the diocese of Worcester, at the presentation of the prior and convent of Malvern the true patrons. Dated at Worcester, the 20th of the Kalends of February, in the year abovesaid.

Mandate by the sub-prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester or his *locum tenens* to induct Thomas Aleyn of Cumpton Magna into possession of the above-named vicarage. Dated at Worcester, the 15th of the Kalends of February, in the year abovesaid.

Item, the said Thomas Aleyn of Cumpton Magna, priest, was instituted into the perpetual vicarage of the Church of St. Thomas of Great Malvern on the 15th of the Kalends of February, in the year abovesaid, and swore to make personal residence according to the form of the constitution.

Letters testimonial by the Prior of Worcester that Philip de Wytloxford had been ordained to all holy orders. Dated at Worcester, the 13th of the Kalends of February, in the year abovesaid.

Item, on the same day Roger de Midelton, rector of the church of Broxwell, obtained letters dimissory to the orders of sub-deacon and deacon.

Licence by the prior to Robert ———, sub-deacon, rector of the church of Severnstock, to be promoted to the orders of sub-deacon and priest by any bishop, notwithstanding he was beneficed in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Ides of January, in the year abovesaid.

Fol. 150. Letter by the Prior of Worcester to the dean of Pershore reciting that he had lately visited the chapter, city and deanery of Worcester, and ordering him to cite all whom it concerns to appear before him at his visitation of the residue of the diocese, on Tuesday next after the feast of the Epiphany next to come, in the church of St. Andrew of Pershore, in the year abovesaid.

Letters testimonial by the Prior of Worcester stating that he has examined the register of Adam, late bishop of Worcester¹, and finds that Anthony Fossour, priest, was instituted by Adam de Harwynton, vicar-general of the said bishop, perpetual vicar of Aston Canntelow, in the diocese of Worcester, at the presentation of Robert Manduyt, then rector of the church of Aston and true patron of the vicarage. Dated at Worcester.

Declaration by the Prior of Worcester that the abbot and convent of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Cirencester, of the order of St. Augustine, in the diocese of Worcester, had sufficiently shewn at his visitation of the diocese their title to the parish churches of St. John, Cirencester, Cheltenham, the Blessed Mary of Aumeneye, Driffeld, and Preston, with the chapels annexed to the same, and also their right to receive a portion of the tithes within the parish churches of Cotes and Harnhull, and an annual pension of half a mark from the perpetual vicar of the church of Driffeld.

Sentence of deprivation delivered by the sub-prior of Worcester upon Thomas de Blourton, vicar of the church of St. Thomas of

¹ Adam Orleton, 1328—1333.

Great Malvern, of his vicarage for not having returned and resided in the same as he had been enjoined. Dated in the cathedral church of Worcester, the 3rd of the Ides of January, 1338.

Fol. 150*d*. Intimation by the sub-prior of Worcester to the prior and convent of Great Malvern of the above sentence of deprivation, and authorising them as the true patrons of the vicarage of St. Thomas of Great Malvern to present a fit parson. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Ides of January, in the year abovesaid.

Notification by the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester, that he proposes to visit the clergy and people of the deanery of Gloucester in the church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester, on the Ides of January next to come, the clergy and people of the deanery of Cirencester and Fayreford in the church of St. John of Cirencester, on the Friday following, the clergy and people of the deanery of Stonhouse in the parish church of Tetebury on the following Saturday, those of the deaneries of Haukesbury and Button in the parish church of Market Sobbury on the following Monday, the clergy and people of the deanery of Bristol in the church of St. Augustine the Less on the following Tuesday, and the clergy and people of the deanery of Dersleye in the parish church of Thornebury on Thursday next ensuing, to enquire into crimes, excesses and defaults committed, and to correct and reform errors, and commanding the said official to cite the said clergy and people to appear before him on the days and in the places named. Dated at Worcester, the 4th of the Nones of January, in the year abovesaid.

Fol. 151. Commission by the official of the court of Canterbury, in the absence of John, archbishop of Canterbury¹, in foreign parts, to the Prior of Worcester, appointing him, during the vacancy of the See, to exercise all episcopal jurisdiction and power in the city and diocese of Worcester, according to the form and effect of a composition between Boniface, formerly archbishop of Canterbury,

¹ John Stratford.

on the one part, and the prior and chapter of Worcester on the other. Dated at London, the 4th of the Kalends of January, 1338[-9].

Presentation by the King of John de Charneles, clerk, to the church of Tredynton in the diocese of Worcester. Witness, Edward, Duke of Cornwall, Keeper of England, at Berchamstede, 4 January, 12 Edward III.

Presentation by the King of Stephen de Grenebarwe to the vicarage of the church of Feckynham, in the diocese of Worcester, in the King's gift, by reason of the temporalities of the abbey of Lyra¹ being in his hands on account of the war with France. Witness, Edward, Duke of Cornwall, &c., Keeper of England, at Berkhamsted, 12 January, in the year abovesaid.

Fol. 151*d*. Commission by the Prior of Worcester to A. de B., sub-prior, Robert de Clifton, precentor, and Simon Crumpe, sacristan of the cathedral church, and also to brother J. de Westbury, monks, or threc, two or one of them, to visit the clergy and people of the whole diocese of Worcester, abbeys, priories, hospitals, monasteries, parish churches, chapels, oratories, and other collegiate places not yet visited by him, and to enquire concerning the state of all persons, correct, punish, and reform defaults, excesses and crimes, if they shall find any not corrected, institute, displace, appoint, and remove beneficed clerks, receive canonical obedience, examine, confirm and invalidate elections, commit the administration of both spiritual and temporal affairs to those confirmed, and to proceed in all causes pending or already commenced in the consistory court and without, and bring them to a due end ; and further, to demand clerks arraigned before the King's justices, and retain them in safe custody, and canonically free those shut up in the episcopal gaol, grant letters dimissory, admit resignations of benefices, authorize changes of ecclesiastical benefices, and to do all other things which by the authority of the Court of Canterbury, the See being vacant, it was competent for the said prior to do. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Ides of January, in the year abovesaid.

¹ The abbey of Lyra was in Normandy.

Commission by Wulstan, Prior of Worcester, to Roger, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield¹, to arrange the matter of exchange of benefices between Thomas de Leminton, perpetual vicar of the church of Market Kyngton, in the diocese of Worcester, and Henry, perpetual vicar of the church of Leminton Priors, in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, and to institute the said Henry to the church of Kyngton at the presentation of the prior and convent of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Kenclworth. Dated at Worcester, as above.

Fol. 152. Mandate by the Prior to the official of the archdeacon of Worcester to cite the said archdeacon to be present in the parliament to be held at Westminster on the morrow of the Purification, also to cite all the clergy of the archdeaconry of Worcester to appear before him in the cathedral church on the morrow of St. Vincent the Martyr next to come, to elect two proxies to be sent for them to the said parliament. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Nones of January, in the year abovesaid.

Institution of John de London, priest, rector of the church of Doynton, in the diocese of Worcester, at the presentation of the prior and convent of the priory of Lantony, next Gloucester. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Nones of January, in the year abovesaid.

Order for the induction of the said John to the same church by the official of the archdeacon of Gloucester. Dated as above.

Mandate from the Prior to the official of the archdeacon of Worcester on the authority of a mandate, dated at London, 30 December, 1338, from Master Bernard Sistr', canon of the church of Hilary Poitou, and Nuncio of the Apostolic See in England, to keep in safe custody all the goods of Thomas, formerly bishop of Worcester, sequestrated by the said Nuncio, for the Peter's pence, and great and divers quantities of money which he owed to the Chamber of the Pope, and had hitherto delayed to pay, to the prejudice of the said Chamber; and to certify before Sunday next after the feast of the Epiphany next to come, what he has

¹ Roger de Norbury, 1322—1359.

done in the premisses, the quality and quantity of the goods, and the value of the same. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Nones of January, in the year abovesaid.

Fol. 152d. Certificate of the Prior of Worcester to Master Bernard Sistr', nuncio of the Apostolic See, of the receipt of the above mandate on 2 January, and that he had given commands to the officials of the archdeacons of Worcester and Gloucester to collect all the goods of Thomas, the late bishop, but that, three days before the date of the mandate, Sir William Trussel, Knight, the escheator, by reason of the large sum of money due to the King by the said bishop, had by royal authority sequestrated, taken, and removed the said goods, so that no one on his part could lay hands on them, nor could he give any information concerning the quantity and nature of the same. Dated at Worcester, the 8th of the Ides of January, in the year abovesaid.

Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to the prior and convent of the monastery of Stodleye, of the order of St. Augustine, in the diocese of Worcester, to appear before him on Friday next after the feast of St. Hilary next to come, in their chapter-house, to undergo his visitation, and on the Thursday preceding to certify him at Terdebigg' by their letters patent the names and surnames of all the canons regular and the lay brethren (*fratrum conversorum*) of their house. Dated at Worcester, the 3rd of the Nones of January, in the year abovesaid.

Fol. 153. Mandate to brother Robert de Clifton, their monk and precentor of the cathedral church, by the prior and chapter of Worcester assembled this Monday the next after the Circumcision, 1338[-9], for the election of a future bishop, to admonish all excommunicated, suspended, and interdicted persons among them, if any there be, which God forbid, and others who ought not of right to be present at such election, to depart from their chapter to permit the others freely to elect. Dated at the chapter on the year and day aforesaid in the capitular hour of that day.

Warning by A. de B., monk of the cathedral church of Worcester, in his own name and in the name of all and singular of the chapter,

to all excommunicated, suspended, and interdicted persons, and others who ought not of right to be present at the above election to depart from the chapter.

Proclamation by Wulstan, prior, and the chapter of Worcester, that Thomas de Hemenhale, their bishop, having died on the day of St. Thomas the Apostle, 1338, and having obtained the King's licence to elect a pastor, and being assembled in their chapter on Sunday next after the feast of the Circumcision in the same year, they treated concerning the date of the election of a future pastor, and that with the assent of all present they appointed Monday next after the said feast of the Circumcision, with continuation and prorogation of the following days, for the said election in their chapter; and that so assembled at the close of the sermon, the Holy Spirit having been invoked and the constitution of the general council read, due deliberation being had, it pleased one and all of their chapter to proceed to make this election "by way of compromise," wherefore without a dissentient voice they elected A. de B., E. de C., and O. de N. compromisers, and gave them and the greater part of them full power, for themselves or the others, to provide a pastor, and promised that they would receive him as bishop and pastor whom the said compromisers might see good to elect. In witness whereof, &c.

Fol. 153*d*. Commission by brother Nicholas Morice, sub-prior of Worcester, commissary of the prior, to the official of the arch-deacon of Worcester, and Robert de Staverton, perpetual portioner of the church of St. Nicholas of Warwick, in the diocese of Worcester, reciting that he had confirmed the election of brother William de Wylton as prior of the *regular* church (*ecclesie regularis*) of St. Sepulchre of Warwick, of the order of St. Augustine, and instituted him in the same, and appointing them or either of them to install him as prior of the said church. Dated at Worcester, the 5th of the Ides of January, in the year abovesaid.

Memorandum, that on Saturday next after the feast of the Epiphany, to wit, on the 5th of the Ides of January, 1338[-9], in the chapel of St. Thomas in the cathedral church of Worcester, the see being vacant, a certain Walter de Wolkesheye, clerk, proctor

of brother William Hereward, abbot of Cirencester, made canonical obedience in the name of his lord, to the Prior of Worcester, before brother Nicholas Morice, sub-prior and commissary of the said prior, for receiving canonical obedience from any subjects of the diocese of Worcester, and that the same sub-prior, with the consent of the said proctor, appointed Wednesday after the feast of St. Wulfstan to treat finally concerning the act of visitation in the Monastery of Cirencester to be exercised by the said prior, in the cathedral church, with those of the chapter of the same, there being present, Master John de Usk, rector of the church of Hanbury, next Wyche, Peter de Avebury, Henry de Neubold, Henry Tankard, and Thomas de Alston, and brothers Robert de Clifton, precentor, Henry Fouck', Simon Crump', sacristan, John Westbury, Nicholas de Stanlack, Robert de Weston, cellarer, and other monks of the cathedral church.

Fol. 154. Mandate by brother Nicholas Morice, sub-prior of Worcester, to the prior of the church of Wawenes Wotton, and rector of the same, in the diocese of Worcester, to pay the proxy of 4 marks before the feast of the Purification next to come to the Prior of Worcester, by reason of the late visitation of the said church. Dated at Worcester, the 11th of the Kalends of February, in the year abovesaid.

Mandate by the sub-prior of Worcester to the prior of the conventual church of Kenilworth and convent of the same place, in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, to pay 4 marks proxy for visitation to the prior and chapter of Worcester, before the feast of the Purification next to come, by reason of the church of Dudiford, in the diocese of Worcester, being appropriated and united to him and his conventual church. Dated at Worcester, the 11th of the Kalends of February, in the year abovesaid.

Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to the abbot and convent of Tewkesbury, notifying his intention to visit their monastery on the 4th of the Kalends of February next to come, and commanding the said abbot and his monastery to appear before him in their chapter on the above-named date, their scholars studying at the University alone excepted; also to certify him as to names and

surnames of the brethren on the morrow of the Conversion of St. Paul, in the monastery at Wynchecumbe. Dated at Worcester, the Nones of January, in the year abovesaid.

Fol. 154*d*. Notification by Robert de Clifton, precentor of the cathedral church of Worcester, by authority of the prior of the same church, to Roger, perpetual vicar of the church of Bremesgrave, in the diocese of Worcester, that in his visitation of the deanery of Wyche, which he had lately made by the authority of the Prior of Worcester, very many rectors and vicars intimated to him that their lay parishioners, asserting that the trees growing in the churchyards (*cemeteriis*) were wholly at their disposition, cut the same down without licence of the said rectors and vicars, and did not permit, nay even openly prohibited, their rectors and vicars to meddle with such trees, or to make use of them for the repairs of chancels when they should be in need, unless the consent and licence of the parishioners had been given. Considering that the premises cannot be sustained by right, or the longest custom cannot run against the institutes of the sacred canons, whereby it is provided that no faculty of disposing of ecclesiastical goods should be presumed to the laity, but was altogether interdicted, and which same custom is accounted vain. And whereas every churchyard being specially dedicated to God is the soil of the church, and consequently the trees planted in it must be numbered among the ecclesiastical property and faculties, and that it was provided by many constitutions of the holy fathers that all who impeded the ecclesiastical liberty under whatsoever plea, or took anything away from ecclesiastical places without the will of the lords thereof, especially from sacred places and those dedicated to God, as from churches and churchyards, should be considered as involved in the sentence of the greater excommunication and rightly considered sacrilegious. Wherefore the said Roger is commanded openly and publicly, in his church and the other churches of the deanery of Wyche, on Sundays and festivals between the solemn services of the mass, whilst the greater multitude of the parishioners are present, to admonish and persuade the said parishioners to abstain from all such vain and damnable presumption, and competently to satisfy for their offences the churches and their ministers whom they have not feared to prejudice, within 15 days

from the time of such admonition, and if they will not take heed to obey the said admonition publicly and solemnly to proclaim them as excommunicated. Dated at Worcester, the Ides of February, in the year abovesaid.

Act of purgation by the sub-prior of Worcester for John Strongmow of Upton, clerk, charged before the Justices of the King with the crime of robbing Alice ate Mulne, John de Brocton, and Margery, daughter of the said Alice, of woollen cloths and other goods, to the value of 40s., and of feloniously killing the same persons at Driffeld, on Monday before the feast of St. John before the Latin gate, 10 Edward III., and yet for some time shut in the prison of the ordinary of the place, proclamation having been made and no one opposing the same purgation. The above was done on the 14th of the Kalends of March in the year abovesaid.

Fol. 155. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the archdeacon of Gloucester to sequesterate the ecclesiastical goods of the late rector of the church of Risindon Magna, to the value of the defects which at the time of his death he left unrepaired in the chancel, books, ornaments, and buildings, and in the dwelling-house of the rectory, which defects were notified by Robert de Teynton, the present rector.

Notification by Robert de Clifton, precentor of the cathedral church of Worcester, and commissary general of the prior of the same, that in his visitation of the city and diocese of Worcester he had found that the prior and monks of the priory of Duddeleye of the Cluniac order in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, had for some time without sufficient title taken an annual pension of 6 marks from the parish church of Northfeld, in the diocese of Worcester, and from John de Chastiloun, rector of the same; that he had cited the said prior and monks to prove their right to take the said annual pension, and because they had refused to appear he had pronounced them in contempt and sequestered the 6 marks into the hands of the same rector; moreover that he had inhibited the said John, the rector, by John Maysei, priest, his proctor, from paying the said annual pension to the religious

of Duddeleye, without the mandate of the prior of Worcester, under pain of the greater excommunication. Dated at Worcester, the 15th of the Kalends of March, 1338[-9].

Fol. 155*d*. Declaration by Robert de Clifton, precentor of the cathedral church of Worcester, that William, perpetual vicar of Aldermeston, in the diocese of Worcester, who had appeared before him in his late visitation of the deanery of Kyncton, had been instituted and inducted into his vicarage in form of law; notwithstanding the charge, he had not taken the oath of personal and continual residence in the same according to the constitutions of the Apostolic See. Dated at WOLFORD MAGNA, on the 3rd of the Ides of February, 1338[-9].

Memorandum, that the Prior of Worcester visited the chapter of the same on the 3rd of the Kalends of January, 1338[-9].

Item, on the 2nd of the Kalends of January, in the same year, he visited the clergy and people of the city and deanery of Worcester in the cathedral church.

Item, on the 3rd of the Nones of January he visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Poywyck, in the parish church of Poywyck, and took 3 marks in the name of procuration.

Item, on the 2nd of the Ides of January, in the same year, Robert de Clifton, commissary of the said prior, visited the clergy and people of the whole deanery of Pershore in the church of St. Andrew of the same.

Fol. 156. Item, on the 19th of the Kalends of February, in the same year, the same brother Robert visited the clergy and people of the whole deanery of Wyche at Terdebygg in the parish church of the same, and took 4 marks in the name of procuration due by the same church.

Item, on the 18th of the Kalends of February, in the same year, the same brother Robert visited the priory of Stodleye and was there provided with food and drink.

Item, on the 15th of the Kalends of February, in the same year, the same brother Robert visited the abbey of Alincestr', and was there provided with food and drink.

Item, on the 17th of the Kalends of February, in the same year,

the same brother Robert visited the clergy and people of the whole deanery of Warwyck in the parish church of Wavenes Wotton.

Item, on the 14th of the Kalends of February, in the same year, the same commissary visited the priory of Cockhull, and was there provided with drink.

Item, on the 12th of the Kalends of February brother Nicholas de Stanlack, commissary of the prior, visited the hospital of St. Wulstan, Worcester.

Item, on the 11th of the Kalends of February brother Nicholas visited the hospital of St. Oswald.

Item, on the day of the Conversion of St. Paul, in the same year, the monastery of the nuns of Wyston was visited.

Item, on the day of St. Vincent the Martyr, in the same year, the clergy and people of the deanery of Campedene were visited in the church of Campedene by the said commissary.

Item, on the morrow of the said feast the church of Wykewane, and there they received 4 marks.

Item, on the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul the deanery of Wynchecumbe at Wynchecumbe.

Item, on the Morrow of the said feast the church of Dedibrock, and there he received 4 marks.

Item, on the 4th of the Kalends of February the abbey of Teukesbury, by brothers Simon Crompe and John de Westbury, and they were provided with food and drink.

Item, on the same day the parish church of Hales.

Item, on the 3rd of the Kalends of February the deanery of Kedermestr', in the parish church of Kedermestr'.

Item, on the 3rd of the Nones of February the abbey of Pershore.

Item, on the day before the Nones of February the abbey of Wynchecumbe.

Item, on Monday next after the feast of the Purification the priory of Little Malvern, and were provided with food and drink.

Item, on Tuesday next following the monastery of St. Peter, Gloucester, and were there provided with food and drink.

Item, on Wednesday, the feast of St. Scolastica, the priory of Lantony, next Gloucester, and there they were provided with food and drink.

Item, on Friday next after the said feast the monastery of

St. Augustine of Bristol, and there they were provided with food and drink.

Item, on Saturday next following the house of St. Mark of Bristol, and there they were provided with food and drink as guests, and as visitors received 2 marks, half a mark of which they returned to the master and brethren.

Item, on Monday next following the house of St. James of Bristol.

Item, on Saturday next after the feast of the Purification the monastery of Wroxhale.

Item, on Sunday next following the monastery of Pinnele¹.

Fol. 156*d*. Item, on Tuesday then following the house of St. Sepulchre of Warwick.

Item, on Thursday next after the feast of St. Scolastica the deanery of Kyncton, in the church of Wolvorde Magna, and on Friday then next following the deanery of Stowe, in the church of Stowe.

Visitation made in the archdeaconry of Gloucester at the time of the vacancy of the episcopal see, 1338, by brother John de Westbury, monk of Worcester, and Master H. de Neubold, clerk, commissaries of the prior of Worcester.

First, visitation of the clergy and people of the deanery of Gloucester, in the church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester, by the said commissaries on the day of St. Hilary in the abovesaid year.

Item, the deanery of Cyrencester, Fayreford, in the church of St. John, Cyrencester, on Friday then next following.

Item, the deanery of Stonhous, in the parish church of Tettebury, on Saturday then next following.

Item, the deanery of Bristol, in the church of St. Augustine-the-Less, on Tuesday, to wit, on the feast of St. Wulstan, bishop and confessor.

Item, the deanery of Dersle, in the parish church of Thornbury, on Thursday next after the feast of St. Wulstan the bishop.

Item, on the same day they visited the house of St. Mark of Bristol, and after midday meal the houses of St. Bartholomew and St. Mary Magdalene.

¹ Pinley, co. Warr'.

Item, the parish church of Derhurst, on Saturday next after the feast of St. Valentine.

Memorandum, that on Saturday next after the feast of St. Scolastica, brother John de Westbury visited the house of St. Mark de Belleswycke, next Bristol, in chief and members, and received 2 marks in name of procuration; and because the master and brethren provided him, his clerks, and servants, with food and drink as guests, not as visitors, the said John returned half a mark, under such protest, however, that if the prior of Worcester did not see good to allow the said donation, the master shall without delay send the half mark by his faithful messenger to Worcester to the said prior.

William le Walche of Tessale, rector of the church of St. Lawrence, Warwick, had letters dimissory to all holy orders.

Richard le Solers, rector of the chapel of Shipton, to the order of deacon.

Richard Girnvile, rector of the church of St. Peter of Bristol, to the order of deacon.

John de Stock Giffard, to the order of deacon.

Henry le Harpour of Ippesleye, to the order of priest.

William Wyxi of Derseley, to the order of sub-deacon.

John le Botiler of Poywyck, to the order of priest.

Thomas de Segrave, to the orders of acolyte and sub-deacon.

Fol. 157. A religiouses dames, dame Agnes de Broy, priouresse de Wroxhale et Covent de mcme le lu de la dyocise de Wyrcestr', Robert de Clyfton, chaunteur de laglise cathedrale de Wyrcestr', commissar' general le priour de Wyrcestr' official et administrour de la espiritualite du cite et la diocise de Wyrcestr' le See vacaute, Saluz en Dieuz. Cum nadgers en notre visitacioun a Wroxhale trovames acunes choses entre vous a redresser et a mender a lonour et pleyssaunce de Deu e honestete de votre religioun e saluz de voz ames, si avums certains ordinaunces et enjunxiouns fetz resonables et acordauns a ley solum le tenour ge cnsut. Premcrementes en noun de Dieu le Pere le Fiez et le Seynt Espirit commaundoums et enjoynums a vous totez en vertu de obediencce Ke deshore en avant en lenclostre et en la esglise, freytour, et dortour, tenoz silence selon votre rule de Seynt Benet meuz en ces heures avez fet, et

cessez de tensouns, de reproves, et de vileynes paroulez et de desordenes veiles a pres corfu, e ge nule de vous sur peyne de escumengement parle en reproce ne en vilenie de votre seour dame Margaret de Acton la gele nous avum duwement correct des choses queux nous aveums de luy a correcter e donums et grantoums a vous dame priouresse pleyn power dabregger sa penaunce solum sa contricioun quel heure ge vous veiez ge il seyt a fere, et vous emouvums dame prioresse ge vous ne seyez mes si legere de doner licence a voz soers de isser la encloystre et nomenent la priourie cume vous avez este en ces heures saunz verreye et resonable en chesun, et cause, et dans ge deux jeuenes ne issent poynt en semble pur male suspecioum ge de ceo purra legerement sourdre ke Dieuz defent. E ge vous dame prioresse et vous souz-prioresse seez pluz diligentz damender les mespriusins desordeynes de vos soers ge en ces heures navez este, et fetez ge lez deuz parties du covent a meyns mangent checun jour en le refreytour et ge entre sy et la feste seynt Johan le Baptist nuyte seculere magne en le refreytour par la resoun de la penaunce en jounte a acun de vos soers taunt ge a tenz temps pur esclaundre eschure ge de lur presence purreyt de leger encrestre. Estre ceo vous commaundums totes et fermement enjoynums ge vous ne eyez nule servaunte entre vous del age de dusse auns et de plus et ge vous eyez un ordinal de votre service saunz demere on delay parconse, e ge rien ne seyt souz tret de la sustinaunce et livere duwe et custumable de la dite dame Margaret par resoun de sa penaunce par nous a luy enjoyunte, e ge le dames ne voisent mes apee a Covynt' ne a Warrwyck cum eles ount fet desordenement en ces heures e ge touz les huys de lencloystre au soun de corfu seyent ferme de clef par la vuve de vous dame suzprieresse si ge nule dame ise ne entre lencloystre a pres corfu saunz graunt cause et saunz la presence de la prioresse ou la suzprieresse suz greve peyne gi seira enjoynte a cele gi le fra, a pres ces heures e ge nule home seculer ne seyt de nuytauntre de denz la porte vers la enfermerie apres corfu sone, e ge apres ces heures facez serveyr al covent par la fenestre del freytour hors de la cusine cum apent a genz de religioun sour peyne ke apent en temoinance.

[TRANSLATION.]

Robert de Clyfton, precentor of the cathedral church of Worcester, Commissary General of the Prior of Worcester, the Official

and administrator of the spirituality of the city and diocese of Worcester, the see being vacant, to the religious ladies, lady Agnes de Broy, prioress of Wroxhale and the Convent of the same place, in the Diocese of Worcester, salutation in God. Whereas lately in our visitation at Wroxhale we found certain things among you to redress and amend to the honour and glory of God, and the integrity of your religion, and the health of your souls, so we have made certain reasonable ordinances and injunctions, according to law after the tenor which follows. Firstly, in the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit we command and enjoin you all by virtue of obedience, that from henceforth in the cloister, and in the church, the frater and the dormitory, you keep silence according to your rule of St. Benedict, better than you have hitherto done, and that you cease from brawling, reproofs and bad words, and from disorderly vigils after curfew, and that none of you under pain of excommunication speak reproachfully or abusively of your sister lady Margaret Acton, whom we have duly corrected for the things for which we had to correct her, and we give and grant to you, lady prioress, full power to abridge her penance according to her contrition at such time as you see good to do so; and we exhort you, lady prioress, not to be so thoughtless as to give permission to your sisters to go out of the cloister, and particularly the priory, as you have hitherto done, without true and reasonable occasion and cause, and, moreover, that two young sisters shall not go out together for fear of evil suspicion which might thereby easily arise, which God forbid; and that you, lady prioress, and you, sub-prioress, be more diligent to amend the disorderly conduct of your sisters than you have hitherto been, and arrange that two parts of the convent at least eat every day in the frater, and that between now and the feast of St. John the Baptist no layman shall eat in the frater because of the penance enjoined on each of your sisters for all that time, in order to avoid slander, which by his presence might easily grow. Moreover we command all and firmly enjoin you that you have no servant among you of the age of twelve years and more, and that you have an ordinal of your service without waiting or delay, and that nothing be taken from the due and customary sustenance and livelihood of the said lady Margaret by reason of the penance enjoined on her by us, and that the ladies never go on foot to Coventry or

Warwick, as, against the rules, they have hitherto done, and that all the doors of the cloister be locked at the sound of curfew by view of you, lady sub-prioress, so that no lady shall go out or enter the cloister after curfew without grave reason, and without the presence of the prioress or sub-prioress, under a heavy penalty, which shall be inflicted on her who shall do so after that time; and that no layman in the night-time be within the door leading to the infirmary after curfew sounds, and that after that time you shall have the convent served from the kitchen by the window of the frater, as is fitting for religious persons, under fit penance. In witness whereof, &c.

Mandate by the sub-prior of Worcester to the prioress and convent of the monastery of Wiston, next Worcester, to appear before him in their chapter on the 5th of the Kalends of February next to come, there to undergo his visitation, and to summon any sisters that may be absent to be present. Dated at Worcester, the 11th of the Kalends of February, 1338[-9].

Fol. 157*d*. Presentation by the King, by reason of the wardship of the heir of Edmund de Mortimer, of John de Caumpeden, vicar of the church of Terdebigg, to the church of Odingleye, vacant by reason of an exchange with Warin, parson of Odingleye. Dated at Kenyngton, 5 February, 13 Edward III.

Presentation by the abbot and convent of the Cistercian monastery of Bordesleye of the said Warin, rector of the church of Oddyngleye, to the church of Terdebigg. Dated in the chapter at Bordesleye, the 4th of the Nones of February, 1338[-9].

Presentation by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, of Master Thomas de Lench, clerk, to the deanery of the collegiate church of the Blessed Mary, Warwick. Dated at London, 10 February, 1338[-9].

Fol. 158. Presentation by the prior of the monastery and convent of the Blessed Mary, Kenilleworth, of Henry, vicar of the church of Lemynton in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, to the vicarage of Kyntton, in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by reason of an exchange with Thomas, vicar of the same. Dated

in the chapter at Kenilleworth on Tuesday next after the feast of the Nativity, 1338.

Certificate from Roger¹, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, that in accordance with the Prior of Worcester's letter, he has examined and approved the causes of the above exchange, and instituted the said Henry to the vicarage of Kyntton, but has, as instructed, reserved his induction to the prior. Dated at Eccleshale, the 19th of the Kalends of February, in the year abovesaid.

Certificate by the Archdeacon of Gloucester that he had executed the mandate of the Prior of Worcester to cite any who desired to oppose the purgation of John Strongmow of Brocton, a clerk convicted of theft and homicide before the king's justices, and imprisoned, according to ecclesiastical liberty, in the prison of the bishop of Worcester at Worcester, the said prior considering the laudable life and conversation of the said John before the defamation aforesaid and his innocence in the premises by the testimony of faithful witnesses. Dated at Worcester on the morrow of the feast of St. Valentine, early in the morning, in the year abovesaid.

Fol. 158*d*. Certificate by the dean of Kyneton to the Prior of Worcester, that, in accordance with the prior's letter, he had executed his mandate publicly to proclaim that if any opposed the purgation of John le Veynour, of Stonleye, clerk, charged before the justices of the king with the crime of the theft of a blue robe of the value of 3*s.*, and a blue tunic of the value of 18*d*. from Simon Philip of Longedon, and at length delivered as a clerk convict to the prison of the bishop of Worcester, at Worcester, the same were to appear before the prior or his deputy in the cathedral church of Worcester on the morrow of St. Vincent the martyr next to come, and that by an inquisition made by trustworthy men, both clerks and laymen, he has found nothing whereby the purgation of the said clerk cannot be proceeded with. Dated at Schirbourn, the 13th of the Kalends of February, in the year abovesaid.

Fol. 159. Certificate from the prior and convent of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Stodleye, of the order of St. Augustine,

¹ Roger de Norbury.

to the Prior of Worcester, reciting that they had received his mandate to appear before him or his deputy in their chapter, on Friday next after the feast of St. Hilary, there to undergo his visitation. Dated in the chapter at Stodleye, the 19th of the Kalends of February, year as above.

Certificate from the abbot and convent of Alincestre, of the order of St. Benedict, to the Prior of Worcester, reciting that they had received his mandate to appear before him or his deputy in their chapter, on Monday next after the feast of St. Hilary, there to undergo his visitation. Dated in the chapter, the 16th of the Kalends of February, year as above.

Fol. 159*v*. Similar certificate from the abbot and convent of Pershore to the sub-prior of Worcester, giving the names of the brethren and monks of their house, viz., brothers Richard de Licheffeld, their prior, Robert de Wynchecumbe, Robert Seuthsex, Roger de Clive, William de Mathine, John de Colleswell, Alexander de Besford, William Porter, Henry de Besford, Henry de Staunton, Andrew de Lega, William de Brerehull, William de Cleobury, John del Hay, John de Longedon, Thomas de Piriton, Henry de Dunclent, Walter de Flavel, Robert de Wotton, Robert de Clifton, John Dabitol, Philip de Stone, Robert de Lutteltone, William de Ridmarleye, John de Lideneye, William de Strengesham, John de Wygornia, John de Cleyhunger, Richard de Blockeleye, and Henry de Lench. Dated at Pershore, in the day before the Kalends of February, 1338[-9].

Similar certificate from the abbot and convent of Wynchecombe of the order of St. Benedict, to the sub-prior of Worcester. Dated in the chapter at Wynchecombe, the 4th of the Nones of February, 1338[-9].

Fol. 160. Similar certificate from John, abbot, and the convent of the Blessed Mary of Teukesbury, to the Prior of Worcester. Dated in the chapter of Teukesbury, the 9th of the Kalends of February, 1338[-9].

Fol. 160*v*. Similar certificate from the prior and convent of the monastery of St. Sepulchre, Warwick, to the Prior of Worcester,

giving the names of their brethren, viz., brothers William de Wilton, prior, William de Wygornia, sub-prior, John de Wygornia, sacristan, William de Coderugg, Richard de Kyngton, Henry de Wylmeleygton, Richard de Kekyngwych, John de Kyngeslone, and Robert de Coderugg. Dated at Warwick, the 5th of the Ides of February, 1338[-9].

Similar certificate from the preceptor of the hospital of St. Oswald, next Worcester, to the Prior of Worcester. Dated at the hospital, on the day of St. Wulstan, 1338[-9].

Fol. 161. Similar certificate from the preceptor and brethren of the hospital of St. Wulstan, next Worcester, to the Prior of Worcester. Dated at the hospital, on the 3rd of the Nones of January, 1338[-9].

Similar certificate from the Prior and Convent of Little Malvern to the Prior of Worcester. Dated at Malvern, on Monday next after the feast of the Purification, 1338[-9].

Fol. 161*d*. Similar certificate from Adam de Staunton, abbot of the monastery and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester, to the Prior of Worcester, giving the names of the brethren, viz., brother John Mangeaunt, prior, Walter de Eton, Henry de Lecch, Philip de Quedesleye, John de Penebrugg, John de Zaneworth, John de Bolynchope, Robert de Oxonia, William Albehale, John Toky, Walter de Chaddesleye, Stephen de Essh, Richard de Monemuth, Walter de Ore, Henry de Poltone, Richard Heved, Robert de Somertone, John de Eldesfeld, John de Masindene, John de Kylpeck, John de Cerne, Richard de Hauteleye, William de Newent, John Chose, John de Teukesbury, William Ailmer, John de Felda, Warin de Essh, John de Longeneye, John Palmare, Walter de Hurtleye, John Straunge, John de Bergeveny, John Monyassh, William de Clopton, Robert de Aston, Henry de Blockeleye, William de Aure, Richard Toky, Thomas Cheltynhame, John de la Hulle, Reginald de la Boure, Richard de la Hulle, John Daubeneye, and William de Holt. Dated in the chapter at Gloucester, the 5th of the Ides of February, 1338[-9].

Fol. 162. Similar certificate from the Prior of Lantony, next Gloucester, to the Prior of Worcester. Dated at Lantony, on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Agatha, 1338[-9].

Similar certificate from the abbot of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol to the Prior of Worcester. Dated at Bristol, the 3rd of the Ides of February, 1338[-9].

Fol. 162*d*. Similar certificate from the master and brethren of the house of St. Mark of Bylleswyck, next Bristol, to the Prior of Worcester. Dated in the chapter at Bylleswyck, on Saturday next after the feast of St. Scolastica, 1338[-9].

Similar certificate from the Prior of St. James of Bristol, and the brethren of the same place of the convent of Teukesbur', to the Prior of Worcester. Dated at Bristol the 15th of the Kalends of March in the abovesaid year.

Vacancy of the See from the death of William de Lynne, 18 Nov., 1373, to the consecration of Henry Wakefield, 28 October, 1375.

Fol. 164. Register of brother Walter Legh, Prior of Worcester, of those things which were done, the See being vacant by the death of William Lynne, bishop of Worcester, on the 18 November, 1373.

Letter from Walter, prior, and the chapter of Worcester to King Edward III., acquainting him with the death of William, late bishop of Worcester, and sending Richard Wenlake, cellarer, and John Malverne, precentor of Worcester, to pray for licence to elect another bishop.

Congé d'elire from Edward III. to the Prior and chapter of Worcester. Dated at Westminster, 28 November, 47 Edward III.

Letter from Walter, Prior of Worcester, and the chapter there, to W.¹, archbishop of Canterbury, acquainting him with the death of William, late bishop of Worcester, on 18 November last past, and praying that the said prior or the sub-prior of Worcester may be appointed official in the city and diocese of Worcester during the

¹ William Whittlesey, 1368—1375.

vacancy of the See, according to the form of the composition made between the predecessors of the said archbishop and the church of Worcester. Dated at the chapter of Worcester, 20 November, 1373.

Commission from William, archbishop of¹ Canterbury, to Walter, prior of Worcester, to exercise all ordinary and special jurisdiction in the city and diocese of Worcester during the vacancy of the See by the death of William, the last bishop, according to the form and effect of the said composition. Dated at Lambeth, the 5th of the Kalends of December, 1373.

Letter from Edward III. to W., archbishop of Canterbury, acquainting him that the sub-prior and convent of Worcester had elected with his licence brother William Leghe, their prior, as bishop, as he has heard by letters from the same, and that he had given his assent to the said election. Requesting the archbishop to do whatever pertained to him in the matter. Dated at Wodestoke, the 24 December, 47 Edward III.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester, to cite all abbots, priors, and others to appear before the said prior in the cathedral church of Worcester on Saturday after the feast of St. Clement, to make canonical obedience¹, &c., and to enjoin all rectors, vicars, and priests to perform the service of the mass for the dead for the soul of the late bishop. Dated 20 November, 1373.

Fol. 164*d*. Certificate by the Archdeacon of Worcester of the receipt of the above mandate. Dated at Worcester, 26 November.

A like mandate for making canonical obedience sent to the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Certificate of the receipt of the same. Dated at Gloucester, 26 November.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the sub-prior and chapter of the same, telling them of his intention to make visitation in the

¹ This entry is in the same terms as the like order on p. 137.

diocese of Worcester, and that he proposes to visit the church and chapter of Worcester on Friday after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, and commanding them to prepare for the same. Dated at Worcester, 27 November, 1373.

Fol. 165. Certificate of the receipt of the same. Dated at Worcester, 30 November.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to cite all abbots, priors, deans, provosts, masters, ministers, chapters, convents and colleges in his deanery, and also all portioners, pensioners, rectors, vicars, parish priests, and others celebrating divine service, and three or four men from every parish to appear on certain days and at certain places in a schedule contained, to undergo visitation. Dated at Worcester, 24 November, 1373.

Form of the schedule to the same mandate annexed, viz. :—
 Firstly, on Saturday next after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, in the cathedral church of Worcester, he shall visit the clergy and people of the deanery of the same. On Monday following he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Poywyke, in the parish church of Poywyke. On Monday after the feast of St. Vincent he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Pershore, in the church of St. Andrew of Pershore. On the same day he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Kyderminstr', in the church of Kyderminstr'. On Tuesday following he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Wych', in the church of Tardebygge. On Wednesday following he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the churches of Alync', Toneworthe, Ippesleye, Stodleye, Cottone, Arowe, Kynewarton, Salforde, Endeforde, Ecleshale, and Graftone, in the parish church of Alync'. On Thursday following he shall visit the churches, chapels, clergy, and people of the deanery of Warwick, in the church of Waweyneswottone, and the college and other churches of the town of Warwick. Also on the same Thursday he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Kyngton in the church of Wolvorde.

Certificate of the receipt of the same mandate. Dated at Worcester, 3 December.

A like mandate directed to the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester. The tenor of the schedule annexed was as follows:— Firstly, on Monday next after the feast of the Conception of the Blessed Mary, he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Stowe, in the church of Stowe. On Tuesday following he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Fayforde, in the church of Fayrforde. On the Wednesday following he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Cirencester, in the church of St. John of Cirencester. On Thursday following he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Stonhouse, in the church of Tettebury. On Friday following he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Dursleye, in the church of Dursleye. On Monday after the Epiphany he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Bristol, in the church of St. James of Bristol. On Tuesday following he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Gloucester, in the church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester. On Wednesday following he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Hawkesbury and Butone, in the chapel of Sobbury Market. On Thursday following he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Wynchecombie, in the parish church of Teukesbury. On Tuesday next after the feast of St. Vincent he shall visit the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Caumpedene, in the church of Caumpedene.

Fol. 165*d*. Certificate of the receipt of the same mandate. Dated at Stowe, 11 December.

Letter from Walter, prior of Worcester, to the King, that he had invoked the greater excommunication upon Giles Braban of Grymehull for forty days, for disobeying the mandates and monitions of the said prior, and prays the King to restrain (*compescere*) the said Giles according to the custom of England. Dated at Worcester, 5 January, 47 Edward III.

Like letter concerning William Thackere of Shenstone. Dated at Worcester, 21 November, 1373.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to brother William Power, monk of the cathedral church, and master John Dunclett, clerk, to receive canonical obedience from all abbots, priors, deans, provosts, masters, ministers, chapters, convents, and colleges, and all pensioners, portioners, rectors, vicars, parish priests, and others within the archdeaconry of Gloucester, and to visit the clergy and people of the deaneries of Stowe, Fayrreforde, Cirencester, Stonhouse, Dusleye¹, Bristol, Haukesbury, and Buttone, and the churches and chapels of the same deaneries, the monasteries of Cirencester, St. Augustine of Bristol, and the house of St. Mark of Bylleswyk, next Bristol, and St. Mary Magdalene there, and the other hospitals, oratories, and other collegiate places within the said deanery. Dated at Worcester, 1 December, 1373.

Fol. 166. Letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury committing the administration of the goods of William, late bishop of Worcester, to masters Robert de la More, Richard Hunte, canon of Westbury, Adam Feurother, Richard Depedale, Robert Walsham, and John Cleyne. Dated at Lamheth, 27 November.

Letter from William, Archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester, requiring him to commit the administration of the goods of William, late bishop of Worcester, to the executors named in the will, and others to be named by the Archbishop. Dated at Lamheth', the 6th of the Kalends of December, 1373.

Indenture made on 28 November, 1373, between brother Walter, prior of Worcester, and John Neweman, citizen of Worcester, whereby the said prior leased to the said John the custody of the gaol of the episcopal palace of Worcester and the bodies of the two prisoners, to wit, John Mallesore, spicer, of Worcester, and John Florence of Askeby, in the county of Lincoln, to be kept in a healthy and good state, during the pleasure of the said prior. And the said John Neweman binds himself in 100 marks to be paid in the event of the escape of any prisoner delivered to him. Dated at Worcester, in the Episcopal Palace.

¹ Sic.

Memorandum, that on 6 December, 1373, immediately after vespers in a chapel in the priory of Worcester, in the presence of a notary public and of masters R. de la More and J. de D., clerks of the notary public, master Thomas de Lexham, Adam Feurother, W. de G., Archdeacon of Gloucester¹, clerks, and Robert Wyke, executors of the will of the lord William Lynne, late bishop of Worcester, deceased, exhibited the said will and a commission from the Archbishop of Canterbury committing to them and others the administration of the goods of the said bishop. And subsequently the Prior of Worcester, by virtue of the said commission, committed to them the administration of the said goods.

On 14 January, in a certain garden within the priory of Worcester, before a notary public and R. de la More and Richard Glynn, his clerks, Sir William Westeneys, knight, and William Hull, rector of the church of G., William More, rector of the church of Estham, and Robert Say, chaplain, executors of the will of Walter Huwet, deceased, exhibited the said will, and subsequently the aforesaid R. de la More, by command of the Prior of Worcester, handed the will and declaration to J. de Segg', Richard Glynn, and Robert Say to examine, read, and make collation thereof, and the said R. Say read the said will word for word from beginning to end.

Probate of the will of Sir Walter Huwet, knight, deceased, granted to John Jocu, priest, official administrator, the executors named in the will refusing to undertake the administration. Dated at Worcester, 14 January, 1373.

Fol. 166*d*. Institution of John Pleystede, priest, presented by William Horseley, keeper of the church of Tormestone, to the vicarage of Acton Torvyle in the diocese of Worcester, on 5 December, 1373.

Institution of John Went, priest, presented by brother Robert Hales, prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, to the church of Quenyngton, by J. Noble, his sufficient deputy, on 19 November. And the official of Gloucester has letters to induct him.

¹ Will. Thrysford was Archdeacon of Gloucester, 1369—1400.

Institution of John Rugge, priest, presented by John Rous and William Gille to the church of Eyford, on 3 December. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester has letters to induct him.

Memorandum, that Walter Bowyare, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Teuk[esbury] to W., late bishop of Worcester, to the vicarage of the church of Stanweye, was instituted to the same.

Institution by the Prior of Worcester of the said Walter Bowyare, chaplain, as above. Dated 22 November.

Letters of induction by the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester for the same Walter. Dated at Worcester, 22 November.

Resignation by the said Walter Bowyare of the said vicarage of the church of Stanweye on 9 December following, in a chamber in the priory of Worcester, to the hands of Walter, the prior, and in the presence of Master R. de la More and John Hambury. And the prior accepted the said resignation.

Institution of John Abbot, of Oxendone, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Teukes[bury] to the vicarage of the parish church of Stanweye on 9 December. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester has letters to induct him.

Memorandum, that Sir John Whysham, knight, presented John Pencruth', priest, to the church of Scheldesleye Beauchamp, vacant by the resignation of John Hackyndon.

Letters of inquisition upon the said presentation addressed to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, 22 November, 1373.

Fol. 167. Institution of William Rome, priest, to the parish church of la Holte in the diocese of Worcester, upon the resignation of William Alewy, the last rector, by reason of an exchange with the hospital of St. Wolfstan of Worcester, and upon the presenta-

tion of John de Bello Campo, the true patron. Dated at Worcester, 2 February, 1373[-4].

Letters of induction for the same addressed to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, 2 February, 1373[-4].

Institution of William Alewy, priest, to the hospital of St. Wolfstan, by the resignation of William Rome, the last preceptor, by reason of the said exchange and upon the presentation of King Edward III., the See of Worcester being vacant. Dated at Worcester, 2 February.

Letters of induction for the same. Dated at Worcester, 2 February.

Institution of Oliver Clede, priest, presented by the Prior and convent of Kenilworth to the chantry in the chapel of Walton¹ on 24 January. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester has letters to induct him.

Institution of John Curtays, priest, presented by J. Blanchard, archdeacon of Worcester, to the vicarage of Claverdon, annexed to his archdeaconry, on 19 February.

Collation by the Prior of Worcester of Henry Machun, priest, to the chantry of Newton and Ryppell founded by J. Salamon in the church of Rippel', upon the resignation of T., priest of the same. Dated at Worcester, 4 April, 1374.

Institution of William Stephenes, deacon, presented by William Rome, rector of the church of la Holte, to the vicarage of the same church on 30 March, 1374.

Fol. 167*d*. Proceedings upon the election of brother Walter de Legh to the bishopric of Worcester on 7 December, 1373, by the sub-prior and chapter of Worcester, the See being vacant by the death of the Lord W. Lynne on 18 November.

¹ In the margin is Walton Devyle.

On 4 December, 1373, in the chapter-house of the cathedral church of Worcester, in the presence of a notary public, master Robert de la More, learned in the law, John Craunforde, priest, and William Halet, clerk, witnesses of the dioceses of Worcester and Lincoln at the hour of the chapter, there personally appeared brothers Walter Lye, prior, Walter Froncestre, sub-prior, John Gloucestr', almoner, Richard Wenlak, cellarer, William Croule, John Lyndeseye, sacristan, John Tenkesbury, Thomas Wyke, Nicholas Hodymone, John Malverne, precentor, John Tredynton, hospitaller, John Stanleye, Richard Wyrcestr', John Hatfelde, Robert Hanus, Robert Lambury, John Wytteneye, Thomas Dene, kitchener, John Grene, Roger Shrouesbury, William Merstone, Richard Graftone, Walter Kyrkeby, John Wytchurche, John Neuport, Roger Euesham, John Uptone, John Wyrcestr', John Kydermustr', Thomas More, and John Bradefelde, monks and brethren forming the chapter of the said church, and, as they asserted, there were no more who had power to elect a future bishop, except brother William Power, to whom leave of absence had been granted. It was then agreed that Wednesday, 7 December, should be fixed for the election of a future bishop, and that the said William Power should be recalled. On which day all the monks and brethren aforesaid, together with the said William Power, coming into the choir of the said church in the morning, the Mass of the Holy Spirit being then celebrated before them, and afterwards coming together into the chapter-house before the first hour of the day, and being so congregated, brother John Grene, monk of the said church, expounded the Word of God before them. And then the prior and monks abovesaid chanted the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*, and afterwards the King's *congé d'elire* was read before them, as was accustomed, and the said prior and convent asked the following seculars, viz. :—Master Robert de la More, Thomas Lench, John Dunclent, John Hale, rector of St. Clement of Worcester, John Craunforde, priest, and William Halet, clerk, who were then in the chapter-house but were not of the said convent, that they would be present as witnesses in the said election. And at the request of the same prior and convent the said master Robert asked the aforesaid prior and convent whether all and singular the brethren and monks of the said church or any others who wished, could, and ought to be present at such election were present, and they answered, Yes. And afterwards the aforesaid master Robert

asked if all the brethren and monks who were there, were ordained in holy orders and professed the rule of St. Benedict and such as ought to be present at the election aforesaid, and they answered, Yes. And subsequently brother Walter, the prior, for himself and the whole chapter, and by will and mandate of the brethren made to him, made and read certain monitions and protestations stating that it was not the intention of him or of any of the chapter that any excommunicated, suspended, or interdicted persons, or any charged with crime, should take part at such election, and he warned such persons, if any there were, to retire from the chapter-house, and afterwards the constitution of the General Council, which begins *Quia Propter*, was read before them by the aforesaid master Robert, who also explained to them the forms of election handed down. Whereupon the same sub-prior and all and singular the other monks abovesaid, except the prior abovenamed, with one voice and in one spirit elected brother Walter, the prior, as bishop of Worcester. And immediately after they chanted the psalm *Te Deum Laudamus*, and carried the said brother Walter to the High Altar of the said church, according to the custom. And thereupon they caused the same election, as aforesaid, publicly and in a loud voice to be proclaimed to the clergy and people by the said master Robert de la More. And afterwards on the same day about the ninth hour brother John de Malverne, precentor of the said church, and Richard Wenlak, cellarer, proctors of the sub-prior and chapter aforesaid, came to the same brother Walter in the chapel of St. Nicholas, within the priory of Worcester, in the presence of the notary and witnesses abovesaid, and asked him whether he would give his consent to such election. To which the said elect answered that he desired to deliberate thereupon. And afterwards on the same day about the hour of Vespers the said brothers John and Richard, the proctors, returned with a notary and witnesses aforesaid and asked the prior as before to consent to the election. Whereupon the said prior gave his consent.

Fol. 168. Appointment by the sub-prior and chapter of Worcester of John de Malverne, precentor, and Richard de Wenlak, cellarer of the said church, proctors, to ask the consent of brother Walter, the prior, to his election as Bishop of Worcester. Dated in the chapter-house of Worcester on 7 December, 1373.

Certificate by John, called Reginald de Segg, clerk of the diocese of Worcester, notary public, that the above things were done, as aforesaid, in the presence of him and the witnesses aforesaid.

Decree of the sub-prior and chapter of Worcester to Pope Gregory XI., recounting the death of the late bishop on 18 November, and his burial in the church of Worcester, and all the proceedings of the election as above set out, and praying the Pope to confirm the same. Dated 7 December.

Fol. 168*d*. Certificate to the above by J. de D., clerk, in the presence of Robert de la More, Thomas Lovell, learned in the law, and also John de Seggesbergh, notary public, John Hale, rector of the parish church of St. Clement of Worcester, John de Crauntforde, priest, and William Halet, clerk, of the dioceses of Worcester and Lincoln.

Further notarial certificate of Reginald de Segg', clerk, of the diocese of Worcester.

Appointment of brother John de Malvern, precentor, and masters Richard de Draytone, Hugh de Harlam, clerks, as proctors of the sub-prior and chapter, to represent the same election to the Pope. Dated in the chapter-house, 12 December, 1373.

Fol. 169. Notarial certificate by John de Dunclent, clerk.

Further notarial certificate by John, called Reginald de Segg'.

Appointment of brother John de Malverne, monk of Worcester, and John de Cherleton, dwelling at the court of Rome, as proctors of the sub-prior and chapter of Worcester, touching the business of the election, before the Pope. Dated 10 December, 1373.

Notarial certificate to the same by John, called Reginald de Segg'.

Fol. 169*d*. Letter from the sub-prior and chapter of Worcester to Edward III., praying him to give his assent to the election of

brother Walter Lyghe, their prior, as bishop of Worcester. Dated 9 December, 1373.

Letter to the Archbishop¹, asking him to write to the King by William Power, the bearer, for the royal assent to the election. Dated at Worcester, Thursday, the feast of St. Wulfstan.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to John Hale, rector of the church of St. Clement of Worcester, appointing him to exercise jurisdiction of granting probates of wills, administrations, &c. Dated 20 January.

Writ from Edward III. to the keepers of the spiritualities of the bishopric of Worcester to certify what benefices as well archdeaconries or other dignities, as parish churches, prebends, or chapels, are in the hands of aliens within the diocese, what those benefices are called, what each one is worth, not by tax but by extent in the registers of the late bishops, according to the true value of the same, the names of the said aliens and of all others, indigens or aliens, who hold benefices by authority of aliens, for what time they have occupied them, and who of the said aliens are residents in the said benefices². Dated at Westminster, 6 March, 48 Edward III.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester or his official to put the same writ into execution. Dated at Worcester, the feast of the Annunciation of our Lady, 1374.

Fol. 170. Letter from William³, bishop of Hereford, to Walter, prior of Worcester, to expedite the proposed exchange between Richard de Breohulle, vicar of the church of Wolvardel' in the diocese of Worcester, and John Halfpeny, vicar of Kynlet of the diocese of Hereford, whereof the abbot and convent of Wigmore are patrons. Dated at Wiggemore, 21 January, 1373.

Memorandum, that the sub-prior of the cathedral church of Worcester, commissary on this behalf, received the said commission and certified the Bishop of Hereford on 30 January.

Institution of John Halfpeny, vicar of the church of Kynlet in the diocese of Hereford, presented by the prior and chapter of

¹ William Whittelsey. ² See *post*, p. 307. ³ William Courtenay, 1370—1375.

Worcester to the vicarage of the church of Wolvardel' in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of exchange, on 30 January. And the vicar of Kydermuſtr' is required to induct him.

Institution of Richard Breohull, vicar of the church of Wolvardel' in the diocese of Worcester, presented by the abbot and convent of Wyggemore in the diocese of Hereford to the vicarage of Kynlet in the diocese of Hereford, by reason of exchange, on 30 January.

Commission from Robert, bishop of Salisbury, to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester to expedite the matter of the exchange between William Pynnok, rector of the church of Cheryngton in the diocese of Worcester, and John Sampson, rector of the church of Schawe in the diocese of Salisbury, whereof John de Estby is patron. Dated at the Park of Remesbury, 25 February, 1373[-4].

Certificate of the receipt of the above. Dated at Worcester, 11 March.

Fol. 170*d*. Institution of William Pynnok, by William Speek, his proctor, to the church of Schawe in the diocese of Salisbury, by the resignation of John Sampson, the last rector, by William Avenel, his proctor. Dated at Worcester, 11 March, 1373[-4].

Institution of John Sampson to the church of Chyryngton in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the resignation of William Pynnok, the last rector, presented by Robert de la More, patron of the church of Chyryngton. Dated at Worcester.

Orders celebrated in the cathedral church of Worcester on Saturday, *quatuor temporum*, in the first week of Lent, 1373, by Robert, bishop of *Presenens*¹, by licence and commission of the prior.

Commencement of the commission to Robert, bishop of *Pre-senens*¹, to celebrate ordinations.

¹ The original Latin here is *per Robertum, episcopum Presenens*¹. In various lists of foreign bishoprics such a title cannot be found; the nearest is *Trecensis* or

Troys in France. *Prenestinus* or *Palestrina*, near Rome, also occurs. It has therefore been thought better to leave it untranslated.

PRIESTS (RELIGIOUS).

John Abyndone, monk of Wynch[comb].

John Saltforde and William Spernore, monks of Alyncestr'.

Richard Braunforde of the order of the Friars Minors of Worcester.

John Brotton of the Augustinian order of Wych'.

PRIESTS (SECULARS).

William Schipward of Scherbourne, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Hereford, to the title of the prior and brethren of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

Simon Pike of Upameneye, to the title of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Lochlade, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content, &c.

John Hale of Munchenhampton, to the title of the abbot and convent of Rewley (*de Regali Loco*) next Oxford, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

Alexander Saleman of Honynton, to the title of the prior and convent of Wrocston, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

John Hickes of Schendon, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

John Skinner of Welnesforde, to the title of the prior and convent of Stodleye, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Eddon of Byles, to the title of the prior and brethren of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Harbard of Chastelmorton, to the title of the prior and convent of Little Malverne, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Grene of Westone, to the title of the prioress and convent of Cochull, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Sterre of Dombelton, to the title of the prior and convent of Cochull, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Smyth of Oxshelne, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bordesleye, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Veysy of Newynton, to the title of the prior and convent of Great Malverne, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

John Gerard, to the title of the prioress and convent of Cochull, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Kays of Wynch', to the title of the prior and brethren of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Robert Bonch' of Oxindon, to the title of the preceptor and brethren of the hospital of St. Wolstan of Worcester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Geoffrey Budel of Grafton Temple, to the title of the abbot and convent of Alync', of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Cok' of Kyngton, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Nicholas Bernhull' by letters dimissory of the Bishop of Lichfield, to the title of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John the Baptist, of the same diocese, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

Fol. 171. William Aleyn of Extone, by letters dimissory of the Bishop of Lincoln, to the title of the house of Land', of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

John atte Welle of Brailes, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bordesl', of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Fox, to the title of the house of Polton, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

William Sly of Wellesbourne, to the title of the abbot and convent of Stonley, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Freke of Beckeforde, to the title of the abbot and convent of Malmesbury, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Saundres of Breodone to a title.

DEACONS.

Walter Gerard, to the title of the prioress and convent of Cochull, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

Thomas Somey of Rammesdon, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Lincoln, to the title of the prior and convent of Colde-norton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Milton, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Lincoln, to the title of the abbot and convent of Radyng', of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Cok' of Cirencester, to the title of the prior and brethren of St. John of Lechlad', of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Combe of Cirencester, to the title of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Smyth of Kenemafforde, to the title of the prior and brethren of St. John of Lechlade, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Hamptone of Gloucester, to the title of the prior and brethren of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Leney, to the title of the same prior and brethren, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Pebmore, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bordesl', of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Benet, to the title of the prior and convent of Chancombe, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Bakere of Chadesl', to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Robert Jolyf of Teukes[bury], to the title of the abbot and convent of Malmesbury, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Cosser (?), to the title of the prior and convent of Little Malverne, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Thorndon, to the title of the abbot and convent of Perschore, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Coupere of Barton, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

Richard Smyth of Chasteldon, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Lincoln, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Frepet of Ch'lebyde, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Lincoln, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John, son of Gervase, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, to the title of the house of Roucestr', of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Roo, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Lichfield, to the title of the house of Holand, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Lacy, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Lichfield, to the title of the house of Crookedon, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Brid of Walton Maudyt, to the title of the house of St. John the Baptist, of the City of Bath, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Coke of Cheltenham, to the title of the house of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Scot of Teukesbury, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald, next Whiston, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Richard Walkere of Cirencester, to the title of St. John of Lechlade, &c.

Brothers John Roos and William Austyn, of the order of the Friars Minors of Worcester.

Brother John Broeworth, of the order of the Friars Preachers of Worcester.

SUB-DEACONS.

Robert Bonch of Wodestok, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Lincoln, to the title of the prior and convent of Nortone, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

Robert Wattes of Resyndon, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Tailor of Bermynnton Magna, to the title of the said abbot and convent, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Mathew of Churchull, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Lincoln, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Torkeden of Northlegh, to the title of the prioress and sisters of Kyngton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Neweman of Pillardynton, to the title of the prior and convent of Poweleye, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Nicholes of Bretforton, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Evesham, to the title of the prior and convent of Davyntre, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Berry of Warwick, to the title of the prior and convent of Chancombe, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Dodyntone of Stowe, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Henry Godeleof of Ascote, by letters dinissory of the bishop of Lincoln, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Lucy of Tradynton, to the title of the prior and brethren

of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Malle of Northlegh, to the title of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Lechlade, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Nicholas Mulward of Bishampton, to the title of the prioress and convent of Cochulle, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Stephenes of Wytteleye, to the title of John Beauchamp, lord of la Holte, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Richard Wattes of Cornbrok, to the title of the master of the hospital of St. John the Baptist of Bristol, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Marchall of Clyfforde, to the title of the prior and convent of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Hale of Ilmyndon, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Wellare of Clopton, to the title of his patrimony, of which he made oath and considered himself content.

Nicholas Caldewell of Northlegh, to the title of the prior and brethren of St. John of Lechlade, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Ranyotes of Honybourne, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Evesham, to the title of the prior and convent of Cochulle, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Stowe, to the title of patrimony, of which he made oath and considered himself content.

John Dalby of Campeden, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Horwode of Northfelde, to the title of the abbot and convent of Hales Owyn, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Clotte of Gloucester, to the title of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Kene of Teukes[bury], to the title of the master and brethren of the hospital of St. Wolstan of Worcester, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content.

Fol. 171*d*. John atte Grene of Newenham, to the title of the prioress and sisters of Hyncwode, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Drew of Yerdeleye, to the title of the same, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Barown of Thormerton, to the title of the prioress and convent of Cochull, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Eddon, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Durham, to the title of the master and brethren of St. Wolfstan of Worcester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Tailor of Fromlod', to the title of the prior and brethren of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Hod, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Robert Haukyns of Willarseye, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenortone, of which he gave particulars and considered himself content with the same.

Robert Bisshop of Bergh, to the title of the prior and brethren of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Nicholas Salewy of Piryton, to the title of the master and brethren of St. Wolfstan of Worcester, as he asserted, &c.

John Benge of Maresmore, to the title of the prior and brethren of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Clyve, to the title of the said prior and brethren, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Roger Aston, to a title.

Religious brethren :—Reginald Dizare and Thomas Hertelbury, monks of the church of Worcester.

ACOLYTES (Religious).

Brother John Bradforde, of the order of the Friars Preachers of Worcester.

Brother Thomas Feckenham, of the same order.

ACOLYTES (Seculars).

William Schipstone.

John Astone.

John Humiltone of Worcester.

John Wilde of Overbury.

Geoffrey Haumbury.

John Wythyndon.

John Dodyng of Elmore.

Henry Hull of Bremesgrave.
 Robert Penne of Malverne.
 Walter Bremmesfeld.
 Thomas Bron of Schirbourne.
 John Scherere of Tettesbury.
 Richard Toft of Froncestre.
 John Roberdes of Fromptone.
 Thomas atte Venne of Hathrop.
 Richard atte Heye of Dodenham.
 John Brighth' of Aldryntone.
 Richard Harries of Warwick.
 Richard Norreys of Claynes.
 Hugh Martyn of Warwick.
 Henry Emmote of Reckeford.
 William Prodomme of Mortone.
 John Freman of Honynton.
 Thomas Hobbes of Ollyndon.
 John Hogges of Alne.
 Thomas Veisant of Worcester.
 William Kene of Kydermustre.
 William Malpas.
 William Colweld of Chaddesl'.
 John Rook' of Wirrecest'.
 John Smyth of Hambury.
 Thomas Capeldre of Cheltenham.
 Richard Rotour of Wassebourne.
 John Berewe of Marteley.
 John Malverne.
 Thomas Elmeleye.

Memorandum, that Walter Kyng of Bremmesfeld, Robert Penne of Malverne, the younger, Robert Neubolde of Stone, John Taylour of Wych, on 10 March, 1373[-4], had letters dimissory for the order of sub-deacon.

Also that William Godryntone, Robert Byssehob of Berga, John Borry of Warwick, Thomas Kene of Tewkesbury, John Drew, John Tregun of Gloucester, John Gregori of Gloucester, William Horewode, John Screveyne of Kemeseye, sub-deacons, on 16 March; and John Taylour of Fromlode, Walter Kyng' of Cronham, John

Clot of Watdene, John Benge of Mayesmor, Robert Maudyt of Newbolde, Richard Wattus of Cumbrok', John Taylour of Salewarp, Thomas Turbeden of Northlegh, John Newemon of Pyllarton', Philip Kyngton, John Marchal of Clyfforde, also sub-deacons, on 22 May, 1374, had letters dimissory to the order of deacon.

Also William Livesy, John Couper of Bartone, on 15 April; John Hamptone of Gloucester, John Thornebury of Bristoll, on 9 May; John Kene of Teukesbury, John Mot of Fayreforde, John Benet of Kyngtone, Thomas Bakere of Brayles, John Borry of Warwick, John Schyngey of Waweyneswotton, and John Bryd of Waltone, 20 May; and William Stevenes, vicar of Holte, on 31 March, deacons, had letters dimissory to the order of priests.

Also of religious persons, brothers Roger Scholle, Roger Appulby, Walter Tene, John Uptone, William Britt, monks of Gloucester, and Robert Cele, John Ekyntone, John Calle, and Richard Wyrcestr', monks of Teukes[bury], on 22 May, had letters dimissory to the order of priests.

Also that John Malverne, Richard Test of Froncestr', John Roberdes of Frompton, William Caddo of Quentone, John Webbe of Watcote, John Bokelonde, and Thomas Hobbes, of Utlicote, acolytes, on 22 May, had letters dimissory to the order of sub-deacons.

Fol. 172. Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Perschore to sequester the parish church of Twenynges, and the fruits thereof, for the repair of the same necessary by the neglect of Robert, the rector of the same church. Dated at Worcester, 1 April, 1374.

Institution of Robert de Retforde, priest, rector of the church of Iwele, in the diocese of Worcester (by commission of Simon¹, bishop of London), to the church of Loketon, in the diocese of London, whereof the abbot and convent of the monastery of the Holy Cross of Waltham are patrons, by reason of the exchange of the said Robert with John Wengrave, rector of the said church of Loketon. Dated at Worcester, 29 March, 1374.

Certificate of the receipt of the commission from the Bishop

¹ Simon of Sudbury.

of London to make the above institution. Dated at Worcester, 29 March, 1374.

Institution of John Wengrave to the parish church of Iwele, in the diocese of Worcester, whereof the abbot and convent of Gloucester are patrons, by reason of the above exchange. Dated at Worcester, 29 March.

Fol. 172*d*. Commission from the Prior of Worcester to Robert, bishop of Salisbury, to expedite the business of the exchange of Roger Kelham, rector of the church of Nyweton Tony, in the diocese of Salisbury, and Richard Hackestone, rector of the church of Derham, in the diocese of Worcester, whereof the patronage belongs to Sir Robert Aston, knight, by reason of the wardship of Maurice Rossel. Dated at Worcester, 31 March, 1374.

Certificate of the receipt of a commission from W., archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester to commit the administration of the goods of W., late bishop of Worcester, in the province of Canterbury, to masters Thomas Lexham, William Thirford, archdeacon of Gloucester, and Robert Wyke, executors named in the will, and Adam Fenrother, appointed by the Archbishop. Dated at Worcester, 3 April, 1374.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the Dean of Bristowe to cite Robert Perrault, rector of the church of Clyfton next Bristol, to appear before the prior to shew cause why he should not be deprived for absenting himself from his cure and not returning when called upon to do so. Dated at Worcester, 6 April, 1374.

Acquittance by the Prior of Worcester to the abbot and convent of Eyvesham for *4*li**, in the name of an indemnity to the Bishop of Worcester, when the See is filled, and to the prior during a vacancy, due by them at the Annunciation, for the church of Tettebury. Dated at Worcester, 4 April, 1374.

Declaration by brother William Power, deputy to the Prior of Worcester, of the deprivation of Henry, vicar of Wenrick, for not

residing in his parish, after due warning made in the cathedral church of Worcester on 22 April, 1374, in the presence of J. Segg', notary public.

Memorandum, that the Prior of Worcester on 4 April conferred upon Henry Machun the chantry of Rippel and Newynton, and the said Henry swore to observe and do all things incumbent. And the chaplain of the parish of Ripel' has letters for his induction.

Fol. 173. Sentence given by Robert de la More, commissary general of the Prior of Worcester, against Nicholas, vicar of the parish church of Wolvorde, for a debt of 4 marks due to the church of Worcester, and on account of his manifest offence in this behalf he is excommunicated and his church placed under an interdict, the fruits of the same being sequestered. Made in a certain chapel within the priory of Worcester, on 22 February, 1373[-4], before the prior, brothers R. Hambury and G. Hambury.

Certificate by the Bishop of Salisbury of the receipt of the Prior of Worcester's commission to him touching the exchange between Roger Belham (*sic*) and Richard Hackestone. Dated at the manor of Renmesbury, 3 April.

Appointment by Roger Belham of Master Richard Haxtone and Thomas Yngelby as his proctors, to swear canonical obedience to the official or administrator of the spiritualities of the diocese of Worcester for the church of Derham. Dated at Bristol, 12 April, 1374.

Memorandum, that on 13 April, Richard Haxton, proctor of Roger Belham, rector of Derham, in the diocese of Worcester, made canonical obedience to the Prior of Worcester. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to, to induct him.

Institution of William Gretham, priest, presented by the prior and convent of St. Sepulchre of Warwick to the church of Haseld, in the diocese of Worcester, on — April. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Commission from William, bishop of Hereford¹, to the Prior of Worcester, to expedite the business of the exchange between Thomas Kybbel, rector of the church of Nymdesfelde, in the diocese of Worcester, and William Maldon, chaplain of the chantry or chapel of Puryton, in the parish of Lydeneye, in the diocese of Hereford. Dated at the manor of Whyteborn, 1 May, 1374.

Certificate by the Prior of Worcester of the receipt of the above commission. Dated at Worcester, 8 May, 1374.

Institution of William Malden, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Gloucester to the church of Nymdesfeld, by reason of the above exchange on 8 May, 1374. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Fol. 173*d*. Institution of Oliver Glede, priest, to the parish church of Preston Bagot in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the resignation of Robert Barleston, the last rector, by reason of the exchange with the chantry in the chapel of Walton Devyle, presented by Baldwin Frevile, patron of the church of Preston. Dated at Ombresleye, 29 April, 1374.

Institution of Robert Barleston to the chantry of Walton Devyle.

Writ from Edward III. to the keepers of the spiritualities of the see of Worcester. Whereas at the convocation of the clergy in the church of St. Paul, London, there was granted a tenth of the benefices in aid of the expenses of the war and in defence of the kingdom and Church of England, the said keepers are ordered to appoint collectors of the same tenth. Dated at Westminster, 20 March, 48 Edward III.

Certificate by the Prior of Worcester that by virtue of the said writ he had appointed the abbot of Cirencester to levy the said tenth within the archdeaconry of Gloucester, and the abbot of Pershore within the archdeaconry of Worcester.

¹ William Courtenay, 1370—1375.

Appointment by the Prior of Worcester of the abbot and convent of Pershore, of the order of St. Benedict, to levy and receive the said tenth. Dated at Worcester, 12 April, 1374.

Certificate by the abbot and convent of Pershore of the receipt of the same appointment. Dated at Pershore, the feast of St. Vitalis the martyr.

Writ from Edward III. to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester. Whereas the church of St. Oswald of Gloucester, which was founded by the alms of the progenitors of the king, is a free chapel, exempt from all ordinary jurisdiction other than the Archbishop of York, and hearing that the Prior of Worcester intends to make visitation during the vacancy of the Archbishopric of York, the said prior is forbidden to do anything to the prejudice of the church of York. Dated at Westminster, 30 April, 48 Edward III.

Institution of John de Mortone, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Lanth', next Gloucester, to the vicarage of the church of Wynrych in the diocese of Worcester on 12 May, 1374. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Institution of Richard Braderuche, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Pershore to the portion of Chokenhull in the church of Legam in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of the exchange for the portion of the church of Kymenhale in the same church, on 19 May, 1374.

Institution of Thoma's Yevele, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Pershore to the portion of Kymenhale in the church of Legam in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of the above exchange, on 19 May.

Fol. 174. Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to the dean of Stowe to cite Henry, vicar of Wenrych, to show cause why he should not be deprived for non-residence and neglecting his parish. Dated at Worcester, Saturday before Passion Sunday, 1373[-4].

Certificate of the receipt of the above. Dated at Wenrych, 14 April, 1374.

Memorandum, that about 5 June, 1374, the Archbishop of Canterbury¹ died.

Institution of William Noble, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of St. Augustine next Bristol, to the vicarage of Almondesbury in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by exchange for the perpetual chantry of Overe in the same diocese, on 6 June, 1374. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Institution of Richard Middelmor, priest, presented by Katherine de Berkele, lady of Wotton, to the perpetual chantry of Overe in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the above exchange, by Hugh Hore, priest, his proctor, on 6 June, 1374. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Certificates to the writ against aliens holding benefices, &c., in England² :—

Brother John Maubert, monk of Couches³, occupies the monastery of Waweynes Wotton and resides there with another monk, and the true value of the said priory is estimated at 40 marks a year. And it is said that Roger Harewelle occupies the said priory by letters patent of the king, and receives the profits thereof, but whether in the name of the said aliens or other manner, and for what time, the commissioners know not.

Brother John, prior of Asteleye, monk of Couches, occupies the said priory and resides there with another monk. And the value of the said priory is estimated at 20*li.* a year.

The abbot of Lira⁴ is rector of Feckenham, and John Bonde of the same place occupies the said rectory. And the value is estimated at 20 marks a year.

The same abbot is rector of Hanleye and Eldresfeld, and the prior of Little Malvern has the same at fee farm, as it is said rendering yearly 20*li.* And the value of the churches aforesaid beyond the said rent, is estimated at 20*s.*

Peter Pouchefichet⁵, monk of St. Dennis in France, is prior

¹ William Whittelsey.

² See *ante*, p. 293.

³ A monastery in Normandy.

⁴ A monastery in the diocese of Lisieux.

⁵ Sic. (?) for Mountfichet.

of the priory of Durhurst¹. And the true value of the said priory in spiritualities and temporalities is estimated at 200 marks. And he resides in the same with two regulars, his fellows.

Brother John Fabri, prior of Newent, has the church of Beckeforde with the chapel of Ashton. The true value whereof is estimated yearly at 40 marks. He does not reside at the same, but in his priory of Newent.

The prior of Brymmesfeld has the church of the same place, the value whereof is estimated at 12 marks yearly, and he resides in the same.

Brother Robert, a regular canon of the house of St. Barbara, occupies the priory of Beckeforde, and resides in the same with one monk. And the priory is worth 40*li.* a year.

There are no more of such benefices in the said diocese.

Deed absolving Master John de Briene, rector of the church of Clyve Episcopi in the diocese of Worcester, from the care and rule of his church and parishioners. Dated at Worcester, 18 June, 1374.

Institution of John de Bryene, presented by the King to the church of Clyve (by reason of the vacancy of the See of Worcester) by John Balsam, his proctor, on 25 June. And the Dean of Wynchcomb is written to for his induction.

Institution of Master Edmund de Sancto Lando, presented by the prior and convent of Bath to the church of Elveston, in the person of John Forstall, his proctor, on 23 June. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Fol. 174*d.* Commission from the Bishop of St. David's to Walter, Prior of Worcester, to expedite the business of the exchange between Robert Harwode, rector of the church of Oxinwych of the diocese of St. David, in the patronage of John David, lord of Oxynwych, and Thomas Eme, vicar of the church of Chepyngkyngtone in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at the bishop's house in London, 13 June, 1374.

¹ Deerhurst was a cell of St. Denis, near Paris.

Certificate of the receipt of the above. Dated at Worcester, 19 June.

Institution of Robert Harewode, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Kenilleworthe to the vicarage of Chepyngkyngtone in accordance with the above exchange, on 19 June. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to Simon, bishop of London, to expedite the business of the exchange between Warine de Medbourne, rector of the church of Gyngge atte Stone¹ in the diocese of London, and John Wengrave, rector of the church of Iwele in the diocese of Worcester, in the patronage of the abbot and convent of Gloucester. Dated at Worcester, 24 June, 1374.

Similar commission directed to the Bishop of London for the exchange between Warrine de Medbourne, rector of Gyngge atte Stone in the diocese of London, and Richard Depedale, rector of Watcote in the diocese of Worcester. Dated 10 July, 1374.

Certificate of Thomas Crangle, to whom the Bishop of London committed the execution of the latter of the above commissions. Dated 3 September.

Fol. 175. Commission to expedite the presentation of John Lynne, priest, presented by the abess and convent of Elnystouwe² to the vicarage of Stonhouse.

Commission from Richard, prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, the See being vacant, to the Prior of Worcester to expedite the exchange between William Hanleye, rector of the parish church of Newetton in the deanery of Croydon, and John Wengrave, rector of the church of Iwele in the diocese of Worcester, the King being the patron of the said church of Newetton during the vacancy of the See of Canterbury. Dated at Godmersham, in the diocese of Canterbury, 8 August, 1374.

¹ (?) for Ingatestone.

² Probably the monastery of Elstow, in the county of Bedford.

Certificate by the Prior of Worcester of the receipt of the above commission, and that he had admitted the said John, by Nicholas Lichfeld, clerk, his proctor, to the church of Newnton. Dated at Worcester, 16 August, 1374.

Institution of William Hanley, rector of the church of Newynton in the deanery of Croydon, presented by the abbot and convent of Gloucester to the church of Iwele in accordance with the above exchange, on 16 August. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester has letters to induct him.

Institution of John de Harwode, priest and clerk, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick and lord of Gower, to the parish church of St. James of Warwick in the diocese of Worcester, on 22 August. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester has letters for his induction.

Institution of Robert Warde, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Persschore to the perpetual chantry erected in the conventual church of Persschore, on 16 August. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester has letters for his induction.

Institution of John Colle, clerk, presented by Hugh Hopewas, canon of the cathedral church of Lichfield, Henry Tymmore, clerk, and Simon de Sekynton to the church of Hampton Lovet, on 27 July, 1374.

Writ of *supersedeas* from Edward III. to the sheriff of Worcester touching the appeal of John Weoleye, the elder, of Campeden, excommunicated by the Prior of Worcester for contumacy. Dated at Westminster, 6 July, 43 Edward III.

Writ from Edward III. to the sheriff of Worcester to enforce the ecclesiastical censure against Thomas Gayrstang, parson of the church of Severnestok, and Robert Iddesbury, parson of the church of Twenyng, in the diocese of Worcester, for contumacy. Dated at Westminster, 2 July, 48 Edward III.

Similar writ touching John Weleye of Campeden. Dated 8 April, 43 Edward III.

Fol. 175*d*. Notification by the Prior of Worcester to the abbot and convent of Perschore of his intention to make visitation at their monastery on Monday after the feast of St. Vincent. Dated at Worcester, 3 January, 1373[-4].

Certificate of the receipt of the above. Dated at Pershore, 18 January.

Like notification to the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester of the Prior's intention to make visitation on Tuesday after the Epiphany.

Certificate of the receipt of the above. Dated at the chapter of Gloucester, 9 January.

Like notification to the abbot and convent of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Teukesbury of the Prior's intention to make visitation on Thursday after the Epiphany.

Certificate of the receipt of the above. Dated at Teukesbury.

Like notification and certificate as to the visitation of the monastery of Cirencester on Wednesday after the feast of St. Lucy.

Like notification and certificate as to the visitation of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol on Tuesday after Epiphany.

Fol. 176. Mandate to the dean of Bristol to cite the master and brethren of St. Mark of Buleswyk, the prior and monks of St. James of Bristol, and the religious women of the House of the Blessed Mary Magdalene and the hospital of St. Bartholomew to prepare for visitation on Tuesday after the feast of Epiphany.

Certificate of the receipt of the above. Dated at Bristol, 9 January.

Like notification and certificate as to the visitation of the priory of Lanthony next Gloucester on Tuesday after the Epiphany.

Like notification and certificate as to the visitation of the monastery of Alincestr', on Wednesday after the feast of St. Vincent

Like notification and certificate as to the visitation of the priory of Stodleye on Friday after the feast of St. Vincent.

Fol. 176*d*. The visitation began on Friday after the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, 1373.

Brother Walter, Prior of Worcester, on the same day visited the cathedral church and all the monks in the chapter-house.

On Saturday, in the same chapter-house, he visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Worcester.

On Monday he visited the churches, clergy, and people of the deanery of Poywyke in the parish church of Poywyke, and received in the name of a proxy 4 marks.

Master Robert de la More, clerk, commissary of the said prior, on Monday after the feast of St. Vincent visited the abbot and convent of Pershore in their chapter-house.

On Monday, in the church of St. Andrew of Pershore, the same master Robert visited the said church and the clergy and people of the deanery of Pershore.

On Thursday following, in the parish church of Wolvorde, he visited the same church and the clergy and people of the deanery of Kyngtone, and received in the name of a proxy 4 marks.

On the said Monday master J. Dunclent and brother J. Hatfeld, in the parish church of Kyderminster, visited the same church and the clergy and people of the deanery of Kyderminster and received from the church of Clent, in the name of a proxy, 20*s*.

On Tuesday following the same commissaries visited the church of Terdebygge and the clergy and people of the deanery of Wych', and received in the name of proxy 4 marks.

On Wednesday the same commissaries visited the monastery of Alincestr' and procured meat and drink.

On the same day the same commissaries visited the parish church of Alincestr', and the clergy and people of the deanery of Warwick.

On Thursday following, the same commissaries visited the church of Dodebroke and received 4 marks.

Fol. 177. Writ from Edward III. to the sheriff of Worcester for seizing the body of John Weleye of Campedene, the elder, excommunicated for contumacy. Dated at Westminster, 8 April, 43 Edward III.

Writ of *supersedeas* upon the said writ pending the appeal of the said John. Dated at Westminster, 6 June, 43 Edward III.

Writ from Edward III. to the sheriff of Worcester to seize the bodies of Thomas Gayrstang, parson of the church of Severnestoke, and Robert Iddebury, parson of the church of Twenyng, excommunicated for contumacy. Dated at Westminster, 2 June, 43 Edward III.

Commission by the Prior of Worcester to the dean of the collegiate church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick to ask for and receive clerks accused of crimes before the King's justices, stewards, and marshals. Dated at Worcester, 13 July, 1374.

Mandate from Richard, prior of Christ Church, Canterbury¹, and the chapter there, the See being vacant, to the Prior of Worcester, that whereas the executors of the will of William de Lenn, bishop of Worcester, desiring to pay all creditors and legatees, that proclamation be made in the cathedral church of Worcester and all the churches of the diocese on all Sundays and festivals between the celebrating of masses, that such creditors and legatees shall appear before the said Prior of Christ Church or his commissary, on the next law day after the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, in the church of Christ of Canterbury. Dated at Canterbury, the 4th of the Nones of July, 1374.

Fol. 177*d*. Certificate of the receipt of the above mandate. Dated at Worcester, 26 July.

Memorandum, on 20 September, 1374, John Keyte of Langevorde, Richard Herewartes of the same place, Peter Abyndon of Minchenhamptone, had letters dimissory to the order of acolyte.

¹ Richard Gillingham.

Memorandum, that on the 19th December, 1374, John Baron of Calewehonybourne, John Cros of Warwick, Thomas Chedde-worthe, Ralph Cokes, rector of the church of Quenynton, Master Robert Underhull, John Fremon of Honyngton, and William March of Indeberwe, had letters dimissory to the order of sub-deacon.

Memorandum, that on the 21st September, 1374, John Baron of Throkmortone, Nicholas Melewart of Byshampton, John Screvyn of Kemeseye, John Hale of Ilmyndon, Robert Haukynes of Wyl-lareseye, William Caddo of Quenynton, John Malverne, John Webbe of Watcote, John Hurel of Berkeleye, John Bokelonde of Etyndon, and John Hed of Langevorde, had letters dimissory for the order of deacon.

Memorandum, that on the 18th September, 1374, John Clopton of Stratforde, William Thordene, Robert Maudyt, hermit of Gib-beclyf, John de Kyngton, Thomas Turkedene of Northleche, John Cokes of Cirencester, John Cumbare of Cirencester, Robert Byschop of Berga, Robert Penne of Little Malvern, John Clyfford, William de Clyne, John Taylour of Fromlod, John Newemon of Pyllarton, Richard Wattes of Combrok, John Thommes of Kymenesforde, Robert Jolyf of Trinleye, and Walter Gerrard of Interbergh, had letters dimissory for the order of priest.

Memorandum, that on the 20th September, 1374, brothers Robert de Badmynton, William Boure, and Thomas de Marcheys had letters dimissory for the order of acolyte.

Memorandum, that on the same day, brothers William de Minis-treworthe and Hugh de Morton had letters dimissory for the order of sub-deacon.

Memorandum, that on the same day, brothers William de Aston and William Lodlowe, monks of Wynchcomb, had letters dimissory for the order of priest.

Commission from the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield to the keepers of the spiritualities of Worcester to confer the prebend of Gaia Minor upon John de Harewod, rector of the parish church

of St. James of Warwick, upon his exchange of the said parish church with Richard Colet, canon of Lichfield and prebendary of the prebend of Gaia Minor, and to induct the said John into the canonry, and, as brother of the said church of Lichfield, into a place in the chapter and stall in the choir. Dated at Heywod, the 4th of the Ides of September, 1374.

Certificate of the receipt of the above commission. Dated at Worcester, 12 September.

Fol. 178. Institution of Richard Colet, priest, by William Pycot, his proctor, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick and lord of Goher, to the parish church of St. James of Warwick, by reason of the above exchange and resignation of John Harewode, by Robert Endreby his proctor, on 12 September.

Institution of Nicholas Aleyn of Hog Norton, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Eynesham¹ in the diocese of Lincoln to the vicarage of Tettebury in the diocese of Worcester, on 5 September. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Institution of John Holgate, priest, presented by William Canyngns, mayor of the town of Bristol, to the chantry, called the second chantry of the brothers of the Kalendars, in the church of All Saints of Bristol in the diocese of Worcester, on 20 September. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Institution of William Fenere, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Evesham to the vicarage of the church of Ambresleye, upon his exchange for the vicarage of Beckeforde, which he now holds, on 3 October, 1374. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Institution of Thomas Sibille, priest, presented by Edward III. to the vicarage of the church of Beckeforde, by reason of the priory of Newent being in the king's hands as an alien priory, upon the

¹The monastery of Egnesham or Eynsham, in the county of Oxford.

above exchange. And the official of the Archdeacon is written to for his induction.

Institution of Roger Caunt, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Perschore to the vicarage of the church of St. Andrew of Perschore on 4 October. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Sentence of deprivation by Robert de la More, commissary of the Prior of Worcester, of John Perrau, rector of the church of Clyftone, next Bristol, for non-residence and neglect of his cure.

Confirmation of the said deprivation in the chapel of the Prior of Worcester, 23 October, 1374, in the presence of Master John Hale, rector of the church of St. Clement of Worcester, Thomas Pope, and William Halet, clerks.

Institution of William Poleeye, priest, presented by Sir John de Sancto Laudo, knight, to the church of Clyfton, next Bristol, vacant by reason of the said deprivation, on 23 October. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Institution of John Frankeleyn, priest, presented by Edward III. to the church of St. Andrew of Wych, by reason of the priory of Derhurste being in the king's hands on account of the war with France, and upon his exchange for the vicarage of Great Bernynton in the diocese of Worcester, on 17 October. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Institution of Matthew atte Zate, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Lanthon', next Gloucester, to the vicarage of the church of Great Bernynton, by reason of the above exchange, on 17 October. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Fol. 178*d*. On 25 September, a letter was sent to the Bishop of London to expedite the business of the exchange between the vicar of the church of Sabrychesworthe and the rector of the church of St. Swithin of the city of Worcester.

Certificate by Simon, Bishop of London, of the receipt of the above, and stating that he had instituted Thomas Legh to the parish church of St. Swithin of Worcester, and William Wylde to the church of Sabrechesworthe. Dated at Stepney, 30 September, 1374.

Further certificate as to the above commission.

Institution of Henry Mallerstange, clerk, presented by Roger de Clyfford, lord of Westmoreland, to the church of Somerstoke in the diocese of Worcester, on 20 November. And the official of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Institution of William Lyththorne, priest, presented to the chantry in the chapel of Waltone Devyle by the prior and convent of Kynylworthe, on 20 December. And the aforesaid official is written to for his induction.

Admission of Thomas de Maddyngle, clerk, by John Meere, his proxy, to the prebend which Richard Mychel, deceased, held in the collegiate church of Westbury in the diocese of Worcester, at the presentation of Edward III., by reason of the vacancy in the See of Worcester. And the dean of Westbury is written to for his induction after taking the oath of obedience.

Institution of William Lye, priest, presented to the vicarage of Beoleye by the abbot and convent of Alyncestr, on 1 December. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Fol. 179. Institution of Walter Morchote, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Eveshame to the church of Overswelle in the diocese of Worcester, on 26 November. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Indenture between Walter, prior of the cathedral church of Worcester, and John Neweman, citizen of Worcester, keeper of the prison of the palace of the Bishop of Worcester, witnessing the receipt by the said John of four clerks convicted of felonies before the king's justices. Dated at Worcester, 22 March, 49 Edward III.

Decree of the Prior of Worcester touching the dissension which lately arose in the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol, between the abbot of the said monastery and the convent there. First, that alms shall be made as are accustomed and as the resources of the monastery will allow. Item, that the prior, in the absence of the abbot, may grant licences. Item, that the canons being in the infirmary may take recreation while they are ill, and may be provided with more delicate victuals and other healthful things and physic, as their infirmity may require; and the infirmarer shall have 40s. of grace, as was accustomed. Item, that seven trustworthy canons shall have the custody of the common seal, and each of them shall have a key of the same, and the said keepers shall be appointed by the abbot. Item, that the canons shall go out honestly to their labour, according to the accustomed rule, and shall have their recreation after dinner in due places as time allows. Item, let it be provided as often as may be for the secular clerks to sing in the chapel of the Blessed Virgin, and let them be maintained there as was accustomed of old time. Item, as to the wax which ought to burn in the said chapel and the lamps in the church, let the sacristan provide at his own costs. Item, as to the lamps which ought to burn in the dormitory and infirmary, let the chamberlain provide them. Item, let five of the elder and more discreet canons of the house be elected when the abbot shall treat, with the advice of the elders, upon the more important business of the house, as may seem the better, without the advice of whom the corn of the monastery, above the sum of 10*li.*, shall not by any means be sold, and that these counsellors shall be elected by the abbot and convent; from which council also the officials of the monastery shall be appointed, who shall render an account of their administration every year or oftener, as shall seem to the abbot, who shall advise them, for their benefit. Item, as to the spiritualities of the convent for the disposal of the same and other things, two collectors and receivers shall be appointed by the abbot and convent, who shall faithfully levy and keep the monies in that behalf due and accustomed, and shall distribute the same amongst the convent by view of the abbot and the said five councillors, as is accustomed. Item, they shall take care of the bedding in the infirmary. Item, as to the secular officers serving in the infirmary and elsewhere, they shall be appointed by the abbot and

the said five councillors, which same officers shall swear that they ought not to divulge the secret counsels of the convent to any one, but shall faithfully conceal the same; and they will not maintain any matter of discord between the abbot and convent or between any persons of the said convent, but shall instil peace, love, and quiet between the same according as they are able; and if any be found guilty of anything to the contrary, that they be removed as well on behalf of the abbot as of the convent. As to the principal and better bedding of the canons dying, it shall be appointed for the infirmary for the use of the sick. Item, that there shall be had a messenger (*brevigerulus*), who shall do his office and receive the accustomed maintenance. Item, that the kitchener shall not have over him any secular in his office. Item, as to the receipt of the common money of the monastery, there shall be elected two of the more prudent of all the convent by the abbot and the said five councillors, and they shall have three keys of the chest in which the said money ought to be put by them, and each of them shall have one of the said keys, and by order of the abbot with the counsel of the said five, the said money shall be expended to the use of the said monastery as shall seem expedient. Item, they shall amend the bread and ale, and shall have both bread and ale of better quality in future than was accustomed. Item, as to the kitchen, the convent shall provide two kinds of meat in sufficient quantity according to the discretion of the abbot and said five counsellors, to the feast of St. Michael next to come, and from thence to the same feast following; and they shall do likewise on fish days and Saturdays that there be served to them fresh fish when opportunity shall offer, and two feasts of St. Michael being past the convent be served with all things from the kitchen as of old time was accustomed to be served, unless any misfortune should happen whereby it cannot be fulfilled, whereupon the decision of the said abbot and the said five counsellors shall stand. Item, as to the five marks which the convent prays for, which it says were assigned to it formerly from the manor of Bagerugge, the abbot wills and grants to the same convent six marks from Mersfeld, if so great a sum can be raised from the said place, otherwise from other profits of the monastery according as the abbot and five counsellors shall see fit. Item, as to the knives (*cuttellos*) to be mended yearly for the convent, that it be

provided as was accustomed to be done. Dated at the chapter-house in the year of the Incarnation of our Lord according to the course and computation of the Church of England, 1374, there being present masters John Scheppye, LL.D., Robert de la More, official of Worcester, and also John de Dunclent and John Segg', clerks, notaries public.

Fol. 179*d*. Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to the deans of Kynngton and Hampton Episcopi—hearing that John, perpetual vicar of the church of Alveston, has absented himself from the said vicarage and the cure of the souls of his parishioners, so that divine teaching is not had there, as it ought to be, that the parishioners die without the sacraments, and some also die without baptism, that the building of the said vicarage is ruinous, and that the said vicar receives and wastes the fruits of the said vicarage, and other scandals and perils of the soul are perpetrated there—that they shall enjoin the said John to go to the said vicarage and church and reside there, as he is bound, under pain of deprivation, and to sequester the profits of the said vicarage. Dated at Worcester, 16 December, 1374.

Certificate of the receipt of the above mandate, and the said deans find that John Bole of Alveston and John Jenkyn of Alveston have taken the fruits of the said vicarage, whom they have cited to appear before the prior or his commissary.

Fol. 180. On the 16th December a similar mandate was directed to the dean of Worcester to warn Thomas Feld, rector of the church of Warmedon, in like manner.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the archdeaconry of Worcester to warn all ecclesiastical persons of his archdeaconry to pay one halfpenny upon every mark of the value of their goods and benefices, and to call together the clergy of his archdeaconry in the church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester, and clearly make known to them the said mandate. Dated at Worcester, the 17th November.

Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to the dean of Campden, and all rectors, vicars, and parish priests of the said deanery, to

pronounce sentence of the greater excommunication against all those who fished in the fishery of the abbot and convent of Wynchecombe in their manor of Adelmynton. Dated at Worcester, 23 March, 1373-4.

Commission to the abbot of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Teukesbury, of the Benedictine order, to appoint a monk of his house fit for the purpose, to hear confessions and grant absolution and impose penance of and upon any persons; (violators of the rights and liberties of the church of Worcester only excepted). Dated at Grymel', 7 November.

Licence to Lady Elizabeth, countess of Kent, to have the divine offices celebrated in her chapels and oratories within the diocese by a fit priest. Dated at Worcester, 7 November.

A like licence to William Folyot for his oratory at Pyriton. Dated 8 December.

A like licence to Robert Crowenhale. Dated 10 August.

A like licence to Thomas, earl of Warwick, with the addition as well in his presence as in his absence, at Goderests. Dated 19 February.

Fol. 180*a*. Commission from the Prior of Worcester to William Wylde, rector of the church of St. Swithin of Worcester, to warn, induce, and, if need be, to force brother Thomas de Wyke, an apostate monk of Worcester, who has denied his habit, to return to the monastery.

Acknowledgment of the receipt of a mandate by the Prior of Worcester, dated 28 November, 1374, to the dean of Christianity of Warwick, Hugh, rector of the church of St. Nicholas of Warwick, and Robert Heremyte, priest, to cite master Alexander, rector of the church of Bodebrok, to appear before the prior or his deputy in the cathedral church of Worcester, on Tuesday after the feast of St. Lucy the Virgin, touching the vicarage of the church of Bodebrok, which on account of poverty cannot be maintained. And by authority of the said mandate the said dean and the others have sought the said Alexander but are unable to find him. Dated at Budforde, 18 December.

Commission by the Prior of Worcester to Robert, bishop of *Presineñ* (?)¹ to ordain certain persons of the diocese of Worcester who have exhibited sufficient titles. Dated 14 December.

Letters close directed to the Bishop of Hereford to confer holy orders upon John Kyderminster, deacon, John de Wigornia, and Thomas More, sub-deacons, monks of Worcester.

Form of superscription of the above. 'To our most reverend father in Christ and lord, the lord W., by the grace of God, bishop of Hereford.'

Mandate from Richard, the prior, and the chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury, the archiepiscopal See being vacant, to the Prior of Worcester, reciting letters from Bernard, bishop of Pampe-lona, Ralph, bishop of Senigaglia, and Giles (*Sancti Minnonis*), provost of the church of Valentinois (*ecclesiæ Valentinen*'), LL.D., papal nuncii, addressed to the archbishops, bishops, elects, abbots, priors, deans, provosts, archdeacons, chief priests, rural deans, rectors, and other prelates of churches and monasteries and their deputies, the chapters and convents of churches and monasteries and other ecclesiastical persons, secular and regular, exempt and not exempt, of the Cistercian, Cluniac, Premonstratensian, Camal-duline, Benedictine, Augustinian, and other orders, the masters, priors and preceptors of the houses and hospitals of St. John of Jerusalem and of the Teutonic knights (*Sanctæ Mariæ Theotoni-corum*) of Calatrava², and of the Humiliati (*Humiliatorum*), and other persons whomsoever reciting three letters from Pope Gregory. The first of which enjoins the payment of 12 florins of gold "*de camera*" a day, for the expenses of Bernard, bishop of Pampelona, nuncio of the Apostolic See to parts of Flanders, on account of certain matters concerning the prosperity of the Church; the second in like terms for the payment of 6 florins of gold "*de camera*" a day for Ralph, bishop of Senigaglia; and the third for the pay-ment of the same amount for Giles, *Sancti Minnonis*, provost of the church of Valentinois, LL.D. Order thereupon by the said prior and chapter of Christ Church for all ecclesiastical persons of the city and diocese of Worcester to pay one halfpenny on every

¹ See note on p. 294.

² A military order in Spain.

mark of the value of their goods and benefices within twenty-four days, to Robert, rector of the church of St. Gregory, next the church of St. Paul of London, and to Ralph, rector of the church of St. Botolph without Aldersgate, receivers of the same in the said church of St. Gregory. Dated at London, 3 September, 1374.

Fol. 182. Certificate by the Prior of Worcester of the receipt of the above mandate. Dated at Worcester, 15 October, 1374.

Mandate to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to execute the same within his archdeaconry. Dated at Worcester, 13 October.

Like mandate to the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Fol. 182*d*. Mandate from Richard, prior, and the chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury (*in like terms to the mandate on preceding page*), for the payment, by all ecclesiastical persons, of one farthing in every pound of the value of their goods and benefices for an allowance of twelve florins a day to Pileus, Archbishop of Ravenna, papal nuncio to France and England. To be paid to the same receivers as set out in the previous mandate. Dated at Canterbury, 5th of the Kalends of December.

Fol. 183. Similar mandate to levy a further farthing in the pound of the value of the goods and benefices of ecclesiastical persons in the city and diocese of Worcester, the said Bernard, bishop of Pampelona, Ralph, bishop of Senigaglia, and Giles (*Sancti Minnonis*), provost of the church of Valentinois, having remained longer in Flanders than was before allowed for. Dated at Canterbury, 5th of the Kalends of December.

Fol. 184. Order to the Archdeacon of Worcester to execute the above mandate.

Mandate to the dean of Pershore to sequester and sell the fruits of the parish church of Twenyng, because for a long time it has been destitute of the cure of a priest, and the buildings of the same, in a great part, have utterly collapsed, and the fruits of the said church placed in the barns of the same, which are

unroofed and delapidated, so that by the rain falling upon them the contents are wholly and from day to day damaged, and will be in a short time undoubtedly destroyed, unless some remedy be applied. Dated at Worcester, 20 January.

Fol. 184*d*. Mandate to the Archdeacon of Gloucester to execute the previous mandate as to the levying of halfpence and farthings upon the goods of ecclesiastical persons.

Further mandate from Richard, prior, and the chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester for levying another farthing in the mark of the value of the goods and benefices of ecclesiastical persons in the city and diocese of Worcester for a further allowance to the said Bernard, bishop of Pampelona, Ralph, bishop of Senigaglia, and Giles (*Sancti Minnonis*), provost of the church of Valentinois. Dated 2nd of the Ides of January, 1374-5.

Fol. 185*d*. Certificate of the receipt of the above mandate. Dated 6 February.

Institution of John Braddebury, priest, presented by William Horsley, warden of the church of Tormerton, to the vicarage of Acton Torville in the diocese of Worcester, on 19 February.

Institution of Richard Maddeleye, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Clyfford in Wales to the vicarage of the church of Frompton upon Severn, on 1 February.

Institution of William Wery, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Cirencester to the vicarage of the church of Preston, on 22 January.

Institution of John Buthe, priest, presented by Richard de la Mere, rector of the church of the Holy Trinity of Gloucester, Edmund Brugges and Thomas Styward of Gloucester, to the church of Little Sobbury by Richard Stotard, clerk, his proctor, on 25 February.

Fol. 186. Certificate by the Prior of Worcester of the receipt of the said mandate for levying a halfpenny in every mark of the value of the goods and benefices of ecclesiastical persons in the city and diocese of Worcester, of the publication of the same mandate, of the sending of letters certificatory by the abbot of Winchcomb, and the refusal of the receivers to take the amount collected except in one sum. Dated at Worcester, 6 February, 1374-5.

Like certificate of the receipt of the mandate for levying a farthing in every pound of the value of the goods and benefices of ecclesiastical persons. Dated at Worcester, 6 February.

Pleas of the Crown held before Walter Frompton, mayor of Bristol, Thomas Beaupyne, sheriff of the same town, and John Marscal, one of the coroners of the King in the town aforesaid, on Wednesday the feast of St. Valentine, 49 Edward III.

William Drake (*tonker*) appeals Philip Spence, sherman, because on Sunday after the feast of the Purification, 49 Edward III., he entered the close of the said William in the suburbs of Bristol, next Hundenlane, and stole 2 yards of cloth of bloody colour. William finds pledges to prosecute, namely, Walter Dybon and Philip Barwe. The case coming on later at the "Gihald" of Bristol, the jurors, namely, Peter Colston, Walter Payn, John Pay, John Stapelton, Henry Dunsterre, Thomas Lange, Walter Partrich, David Alisaundre, John Polgrym, William Not, John Pew, and Nicholas Pypercorn, say upon their oath that the said Philip Spence is guilty. And the said Philip acknowledges himself to be a clerk and claims the ecclesiastical court. Therefore he is committed to the ordinary of the Prior of Worcester.

Fol. 186*d*. Confirmation of the portions of the vicarage of Tettebury. Upon the representation of Nicholas Alyn, vicar of the parish church of Tettebury, that the said church was formerly appropriated to the abbot and convent of Eynesham in the diocese of Lincoln, and that the vicar received certain portions of tithes and other things for his maintenance, which he does not have,—inquisition was made by brother John Huntynghdon, monk of Worcester, and proctor of the prior, whereby it was found that the vicar of the same church for the time being and his successors had, and

ought to have, for their habitation the whole manse of the said church, in which the rectors of the same were accustomed to live together, with all buildings, &c., except two granges and one place or yard (*area*) joined to the same, which is inclosed between the said granges and a certain stone wall stretching from the gate of the said manse to the old grange, one of the aforesaid granges, which same granges, place or yard pertain to the aforesaid religious men for placing therein their tithes and other fruits of the same church. Also that the vicars should have the rents of the houses or burgages to the said church pertaining, in the town of Tettebury, and 90 acres of arable land and 4 acres of meadow to the said church belonging, and all the tithe of hay coming to the said parish church, together with pasture for six bulls with the bulls of the lord of the same town, which pertains to the aforesaid church. The same vicar should have a contribution of 12 quarters of corn due every year to the same church from the parish of the same, which same contribution is commonly called "chircheschottes," which the rectors of the said church formerly received. The same vicar should also have there all the tithe of wool, lambs, calves, young pigs, geese, milk, cheese, and all and singular lesser tithes, and also all mortuaries of parishioners and others dying there due to the said church, and all oblations coming to the said church. Which same portions, according to the affirmation and assertion of both the parties aforesaid, attain to the annual value of 40 marks. Out of which he should find one parish-priest to celebrate in the said church and should pay the stipend of one deacon 20s. yearly, and 2s. for sinodals; he should also maintain one little mortar¹ with nine holes to be filled with tallow (*unum mortariolum cum ix foraminibus de cepto implendis*), and find one lamp with sufficient oil and four processional candles to be made of eight pounds of wax, and one to celebrate mass and communicate the parishioners at the feast of Easter, and corn for making the Host and incense for the principal feasts, as is proper, he should pay also due and accustomed procuration to the archdeacon of the place, and also the tithes and other imposition for the tax of twelve marks. But all other tithes, profits and commodities of the said church except above expressed shall wholly belong to the said religious men.

¹ Mortar, a bowl filled with perfumed wax and oil in which a broad wick was kept burning at festivals and funerals.

Dated in the chapel of St. Nicholas next the great hall of the Prior of Worcester, on 17 February, 1374.

Fol. 187. Notarial certificate to the above confirmation.

Memorandum, that on 2 December, 1374, William Prossel of Wykewayne had letters dimissory to the first clerical tonsure, Henry Malerstang, rector of Severnestoke, acolyte, to all holy orders, Thomas atte Brugge of Haresfeld, William Stonhenge of Buscheleye, William de Prestebury, and John Kyng of Warwick to the order of acolyte.

On the same day John Bryth' of Aldryngton, John Toope, and John White of Gloucester had letters dimissory to the order of sub-deacon.

On the same day Thomas Hobbs of Utlicote, John Cros of Warwick, John Colyt of Yardcleye had letters dimissory to the order of deacon.

On the same day John Dalby of Bradeweie, Robert Hawkins of Wylareseye, John Hed of Longeborowe, John Clot of Gloucester, Thomas Gregory of the same place, Thomas Cokes of Cheltenham, and John de Malvern had letters dimissory for priest's orders.

The names of those ordained in the diocese of Lichfield by Robert, bishop of *Presineñ*¹, by commission of the Prior of Worcester.

Henry Slatter to the title of the house of Oseney, to all holy orders; John Tommes to the title of his patrimony; John Capeleye to the title of the house of Hayles, to all holy orders; William Scarp to the title of the house of Alyncestr', to all holy orders; John de Wotton, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald of Wyston [*sic qy. Wygorn*], to all holy orders; Thomas Skye to the title of the house of Stodleye, to all holy orders; John de Kent to the title of the house of Whitston, to all holy orders; as sub-deacons.

John Fremon of Honynton to the title of the house of Murynil; John Stowe to the title of his patrimony; John Wellar of Clopton to the title of his patrimony; William Luttes of Tradington to the title of the house of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester; Richard Tommes of Cheddeworth to the title of the hospital of St. J. of

¹ See note, p. 294, *ante*.

Bristol; William atte Church to the title of the house of Bordsley; Thomas Adrewyn to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald of Worcester; John Donynton to the title of the house of Colde-norton; and John Taylor of Bernynton to the title of the house of Bruera, to the order of deacon.

Richard Walker to the title of the house of Lythlade; John Hurel to the title of the house of St. Augustine of Bristol; John Ranyotes of Honybourne to the title of the house of Cokhulle; John Cors to the title of the house of Little Malvern; William Caddo to the title of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem; John Hale to the title of the house of Coldenorton; John, Baron of Throkmerton, and Nicholas Meleward, to the title of the house of Cokhulle, to priest's orders.

Fol. 187*d*. Acknowledgment of the receipt of a commission from Robert, bishop of Salisbury, to the Prior of Worcester to expedite the exchange between Henry de Stratton, vicar of the church of Lyttelton Drew, of the bishop's collation and in his diocese, with Joseph Southcote, perpetual chaplain of the fifth chantry of the Canons of Bristol in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, 10 February.

Institution of Henry Stratton, priest, presented by the Mayor of Bristol to the fifth chantry of the Canons, by reason of the above exchange. And the dean of Bristol is written to for his induction.

Acknowledgment of the receipt of a commission from Robert, bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, to the Prior of Worcester to expedite the exchange between John Populday, vicar of the church of Womburne in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, and John Snyg', vicar of Duddeleye in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, 15 February, 1374-5.

Fol. 188. Institution of John Populday, priest, presented to the vicarage of the church of Duddeleye by reason of the above exchange. Dated 15 February. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Institution of Alan de Newton, priest, presented by Edmund de Stonore to the church of Cundicote in the diocese of Worcester, on 13 March. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Indictment of John Bollay of Fowenhope before the king's justices for robbery—on a high road leading to Campedene, near the gallows by the Wood of Snydeleye—of two horses; of one horse belonging to John Nygletyngale of Swyndon, and of certain articles from Hugh Hallyng'.

Indictment of Thomas Wolrych of Lecampton for burglary at the house of Thomas Dounton, at Lecampton.

Writ from Edward III. to the keeper of the spiritualities of the Bishopric of Worcester to levy the arrears of the tenth granted to the Crown from the clergy, viz.:—5*s.* from the church of St. Stephen of Bristol, 12*d.* for the procuration of the abbot of Galston' in the same church, 3*s.* 4*d.* from the church of St. Michael of Bristol, 5*s.* from the church of Filton, 24*s.* from the church of Olveston, 6*s.* 2*d.* from the church of Rokampton, 12*s.* 8*d.* for the portion of the vicarage in the church of Berkeleye, 10*s.* from the church of Frompton, 7*s.* 4*d.* from the church of Dodynton, 27*s.* 4*d.* from the church of Buttone, 22*s.* 4*d.* from the church of Estmitton, 6*s.* 4*d.* from the church of Eggeworthe, 13*s.* 4*d.* from the church of Stok' Gyffard, 16*s.* from the church of Aston Magna, and 6*s.* 8*d.* from the prebend of Richard Michel in the church of Westbury. Dated at Westminster, 15 February, 49 Edward III.

Probate of the will of Baldwin de Frevell', granted by brother William Power, commissary of the Prior of Worcester, to Thomas de Morhalle and Henry Cayteawayte, executors of the said will. Dated at Worcester, 6 April, 1375.

Fol. 188*d.* Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to the dean of Durseley to sequester the fruits of the church of Slymbrugge, destitute of a rector. Dated at Worcester, 21 March, 1374-5.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to Thomas, perpetual vicar of St. Leonard's of Bristol, to collect and receive the fruits of the church of St. Stephen of Bristol.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the deans, rectors, vicars, and parish priests throughout the archdeaconry of Gloucester to publicly denounce John Basset, clerk, official of the archdeacon of Gloucester, to be excommunicated for contumacy in not coming before the said prior when cited. Dated at Worcester, 22 March, 1374-5.

Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to the dean of Fayreforde, and all rectors, vicars, and parish priests of the said deanery, that having put on their albs, with cross erect, having rung the bells, lit and extinguished the candles and thrown them to the ground, and with other requisite solemnities to denounce Stephen, prior of Lechelade, as excommunicated, citing him nevertheless to appear before the prior or his commissary in the cathedral church of Worcester to receive condign punishment for his demerits because he refused to fulfil the mandates and injunctions made by William, late Bishop of Worcester, at his visitation, for the better rule of his said house, and because he diminished the divine culture, wasted and defiled the goods of the priory, and led a dissolute life. Dated at Worcester, 22 March, 1374-5.

Fol. 189. Orders celebrated in the cathedral church of Worcester on Saturday the first week of Lent, that is to say, the 17th day of March, 1374-5, by Robert, bishop of *Presiñs*¹, by licence and commission of the prior of the cathedral church of Worcester.

PRIESTS.

William Mounfort, rector of the church of Ilmyndon.

William Cleve, to the title of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Freman of Honynton, to the title of the house of Miravall, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Pors, to the title of the prior and convent of the hospital of St. John of Lecchclade, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Stowe, to the title of his patrimony, of which he gave particulars and made oath.

Thomas Adrewyn of Wynchecomb, to the title of the house of St. Oswald of Worcester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William atte Church, to the title of the house of Bordesley, of which he gave particulars, &c.

¹ See note *ante*, p. 294.

John Cros of Warwick, to the title of the house of the hospital of St. Sepulchre of Warwick, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Clot of Gloucester, to the title of the house of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Richard Thommes of Cheddeworth, to the title of the house of the hospital of St. John of Bristol, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Taylor of Great Bermyngham, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John de Donyngton, to the title of the house of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Scotte of Teukesbury, to the title of the preceptor of St. Oswald of Witeston¹, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Colet of Yerdeley, to the title of the prior and convent of Cokhull, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Gregory of Gloucester, to the title of the prior and brothers of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Walter Kyng, to the title of the prior and convent of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Cokes, to the title of the prior of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas de Wynterton.

RELIGIOUS.

Brother Thomas Overton of Cirencester.

Brother John Monjoy of Lanthoni.

Brother Thomas de Cheltenham of Hayles.

Brother William Gloucester of Hayles.

Brother John Gloucester of Hayles.

Brother Thomas Walleforde, monk of the church of Coventry, by letters dimissory of the Bishop of Lichfield.

Brother Richard Braunsford of the order of St. Francis.

DEACONS.

Thomas Capel, rector of the church of Fylton.

John Brygh of Aldrynton, to the title of the abbot and convent of Hayles, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Kent, to the title of the house of Wiston, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

¹ See *ante*, p. 327.

Thomas Skye of Halforde, to the title of the house of Stodleye, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Robert Wattes of Rysyndon, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John White of Gloucester, to the title of the prior of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Geoffrey Hambury, to the title of the house of Stodleye, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Wotton, to the title of the house of St. Oswald of Whiteston.

John Toop, to the title of the prior of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Scharp, to the title of the house of Alcester, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Boclone of Etyndon, to the title of the abbot and convent of Stonl', of which he gave particulars, &c.

William de Conede, by sufficient letters dimissory by the Bishop of Lichfield, to the title of the house of St. Giles of Shrewsbury.

John Thommes, to the title of his patrimony, of which he gave particulars and made oath.

William Malle of Northlech, to the title of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Lechlade, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Botercram of the parish of Madeston, by sufficient letters dimissory by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to the title of St. John of Lechelade.

Henry Scfatter to the title of the house of Oseneye, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Capelare, to the title of the abbot and convent of Hayles, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Palmere of Bretforton, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Eveshamme, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, of which he gave particulars, &c.

DEACONS (Religious).

Brothers Thomas Bristoll and William Blontesdon, monks of Malmesbury.

Brother John Leych, monk of Cirencester.

Brother Thomas Lydiat, monk of Cirencester.

Brother Nicholas Conynges, monk of Stodleye.
 Brother John Wynchecombe, monk of Hayles.
 Brother John Dydebrokes, of the order of Friars Preachers.

SUB-DEACONS.

John Irische, to the title of the house of St. B. of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Maltyn, to the title of the house of the prioress and convent of Whiston, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Richard Test of Froucestr', to the title of the prior of the hospital of St. B. of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Dyam of Stowe, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Richard Holdre of Shenyingdon, to the title of the abbot and convent of Oseneye, to sub-deacon's order, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Stonhenge of the parish of Bysle, to the title of the prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, to all holy orders of which he gave particulars, &c.

Richard Heye, to the title of the prior and convent of Lanthony, next Gloucester, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars.

Simon Dittus of Brayles, to the title of the prior of the hospital of St. B. of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Borgeys of Payneswyke, to the title of the prior and convent of Lanthony, next Gloucester, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Kyngton of Warwick, to the title of the prior and convent of St. Sepulchre of Warwick, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Richard Priour of Chalforde, by letters dimissory of the Bishop of Lincoln, to all holy orders, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Henry Hulle of Bremesgrave, to the title of the prior and convent of Doddeford, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Robert Hobkyns of Derlescote, to the title of the prior and convent of Hayles, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Broun of Warwick, to the title of the prior and convent of St. Sepulchre of Warwick, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Ine, to the title of the prioress and convent of Pynleye, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Philip Grenles, by sufficient letters from the Bishop of St. David's, to the title of the prioress and convent of Brewode, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Colle, rector of the church of Hampton Lovett.

John Somory, to the title of his patrimony, of which he gave particulars and made oath.

William Grysleye, rector of the church of Kolsale in the diocese of Norwich, by letters dimissory of his diocesan remaining in the possession of the registrar, of which he gives his word.

Thomas Levenamie, to the title of his patrimony, of which he gave particulars and made oath.

SUB-DEACONS (Religious).

Brother John Teynton, monk of Teukesbury.

Brother Nicholas Glouc', monk of Teukesbury.

Brother Robert Badynton, monk of Gloucester.

Brother William Boure, monk of Gloucester.

Brother Thomas Marcle, monk of Gloucester.

Brother John Wotton, monk of Cirencester.

Brother John Myddelton, monk of Cirencester.

Brother William Teshale, monk of Stodleye.

Brother Thomas Walton of the order of Friars Preachers.

ACOLYTES.

Thomas Jakemon of Dorsynton.

William Huyrene of Preston upon Stower.

Thomas Whytenhurste of Okynton.

Thomas Chapman of Campeden.

John Fairkener of Lech Andrew.

John Willames of Dychforde.

Richard Stanforde of Fayrforde.

John Ongchrich of Cheltenham.

John Creekes of Ebryghton.

John Not of Teukesbury.

William Norton of Ikcombe.

Walter Canynges of Stratforde.

John Thommes of Merston Sicca.

Robert Strange of Evesham, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Eveshamme to all holy orders.
 William Gody of Gloucester.
 Henry Leone of Gloucester.
 John Danyel of Gloucester.
 Nicholas Shaulden of the diocese of Lichfield.
 William Thomas of Thyngden, by letters dimissory of the Bishop of Lincoln to all holy orders.
 Thomas Warner of Seynebury.
 John Staunsun of Salewarp.
 Richard Maydegod of Little Compton.
 Richard Farman of the diocese of Lichfield.
 Philip Toukes of Fekkenham.
 Nicholas Marteley of Upton.
 John Wodeward of Twenynges.
 John Calne of Fayrreford.
 John Kekeswych of Warwick.
 William Byrtton of the diocese of Lichfield.
 John Cotteys of Halforde.
 William Adkyns.
 Thomas Cokes of Ombresleye.
 John Gardyner of Ombresleye.
 Thomas Chalener of Durhurste.
 William Whyte of Clyve.
 John Clerkes of Bradewas.
 John Eyton of Holte.
 John Dekes of Severnestoke.
 John de Teukesbury.
 William Gerard of Morton.
 John Tryekes of Cirencester.
 Roger Aston of Severnestoke.
 Richard Stokes of Warwick.
 John Odam.
 William Colyns of Oventon.
 John Freylsel.
 John Trylon of Weston.
 Thomas Wyth of Longelalforde.
 Nicholas Fyfyhyde.
 Thomas Aleyn of Clyve Episcopi.

John Smyth of Avenynges.
 Thomas Bette of Teukesbury.
 Richard Broun of Ledebury.

ACOLYTES (Religious).

Brother Richard de Gloucester.
 Brother William Ouston.
 Brother Richard Staneworthe of the order of St. Francis.
 Brother Thomas Stanewey.
 Brother John Lemestre.
 Brother Richard Perschore of the order of St. Augustine.
 Brother John Hayston of Lanthony.
 Brother John Chaddesleye of the order of St. Augustine.
 Brother Thomas Ashton.
 Brother Thomas Dene.

CLERKS OF THE FIRST TONSURE.

Richard Cumpayn of Pupleton.
 Thomas Deysone of Evesham.
 Robert Hert of Ruppul.
 John Couper of Newton.
 Thomas Grym of Worcester.
 John Sprynges of Wolforton.
 William Byrtton of the diocese of Lichfield.
 Simon Giffard of Stodleye.
 John Huwet of Clive Episcopi.
 Richard Spelly of Aston Episcopi.
 Roger Croket of Sokkoleye.
 John Hayward of Newenton.
 Henry Kekes of Bydford.
 Richard Baker of Fleyford.
 John Bache of Worcester.
 Richard Wastel.
 John Brydly of Wolforton.
 Nicholvs Clercs of Ryppel.
 John de Leye.
 John Thorp of Newton.
 Thomas Huwes of Twenynges.
 Richard Penne.

Memorandum, that on the 24th of March, 1375, Thomas Whytenhurst, John Gardener of Ambresleye, John Eyton of Holte, William Gele of Prestebury, William Webbe of Lythorn', and John Stumsum of Salewarp, had letters dimissory for the order of sub-deacon.

Memorandum, that on the 24th of March, 1375, Simon Brayles of Admescote, Robert Hopkyne of Derlescote, John Kyngton of Warwick, John Maltyn, John Gardener of Ombresleye, William Prodom of Morton, and John Winter of Defford, Superior, had letters dimissory for the order of deacon.

Memorandum, that on the 24th of March, 1375, John Toope of Gloucester, Robert Hopkynes of Derlescote, and John Brounynges of Warwick had letters dimissory for the order of priest.

Commission from Simon¹, bishop of London, to the Prior of Worcester to expedite the exchange between William Waghen, rector of the church of Upton Waryn, in the diocese of Worcester, and John de Obedon, rector of the church of Pakelesham, in the diocese of London. Dated at London, 28 January, 1374-5.

Fol. 190*d*. Certificate of the receipt of the above commission. Dated at Worcester, 21 March, 1374-5.

Institution of John Obeden, priest, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick and Lord of Gower, to the church of Upton Waryn upon the above exchange on 21 March. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

John Caas, priest, presented by Beatrice Everard to the church or chapel of Sobbury Parva in the diocese of Worcester, for whom the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to, and he has not yet certified.

Institution of William Cheddeworth, priest, presented by the king to the vicarage of the church of Cheddeworthe in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of the temporalities of the abbot of Lyra, an alien, being in the king's hands on account of the war with France, on 24 April, 1375.

¹ Simon Sudbury, 1362—1375.

Institution of John Scarle, priest, presented by the king to the charnel chapel (*ad capellam carnariæ*) which master John Ware lately held in the city of Worcester, being in the king's gift by reason of the bishopric of Worcester being vacant, on 24 April.

Institution of William Taunton, clerk, presented by the prior and monks of Duddeleye of the Cluniac order, in the diocese of Lichfield, to the church of Northefelde in the diocese of Worcester, upon the resignation of Richard Gedynton, the late rector, on 28 April.

Commission by Walter, Prior of Worcester, to W., bishop of Hereford¹, to grant dispensation to Roger Goldhulle of Gloucester, priest, who omitted to receive the order of acolyte. Dated at Grymeleye, 1 May, 1375.

Writ from Edward III. to the keeper of the spiritualities of the bishopric of Worcester requiring and asking for the prayers of the clergy of the diocese of Worcester for the king, and the prosperous state of the kingdom and of the peers and magnates and all the people of the same, especially for the state and happiness of the expedition of the king's sons, Edmund, Earl of Cambridge, and John, Duke of Brittany, and of other lords, magnates, and faithful subjects whom the king had sent to parts beyond the sea for the safety of the right of the kingdom of England. Dated at Westminster, 8 May, 49 Edward III.

Fol. 191. Writ to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester for prayers to be said, as above, in his archdeaconry for the safety and happy return of the expedition to Brittany, in all conventual and parish churches on the fourth and sixth days of the week.

Presentation by King Edward III., on account of the See of Worcester being vacant, of Robert Gerlethorp, clerk, to the chapel or chantry of the charnel-house (*carnariæ*) in the churchyard of the cathedral church of Worcester, which master John de Ware, deceased, lately held. Dated at Westminster, 30 April, 49 Edward III.

¹ William Courtenay, 1370—1375.

Certificate by John Blauncharde, L.L.D., archdeacon of Worcester, of the receipt of a commission from the Prior of Worcester, dated 16 May, 1375, directing the said archdeacon to hear the cause of the resignation by John Scarle of the chantry of the charnel-house, and if it merits it to approve of the same and to admit and institute Robert Gerlethorp to the same chantry. Which commission the said archdeacon has executed and has approved of the said resignation, and afterwards admitted and instituted the said Robert Gerlethorpe to the said chantry. Dated 24 May.

Fol. 191*r*. Memorandum, that the said certificate was exhibited to the prior by William Asteleye, proctor of the said Robert Gerlethorp, on 29 May, on which day the said proctor made canonical obedience.

Induction of Robert Gerlethorpe to the chantry of the charnel-house of St. Thomas the Martyr in the churchyard of the church of Worcester.

Institution of William Blount, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of the monastery of St. Peter of Gloucester to the chapel of St. Margaret next Gloucester, by William Halyet, his sufficient proctor, on 15 May. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Institution of Henry Rose, presented by Edward III. to the chantry of the Virgin Mary in the church of Blockeleye, by reason of the vacancy in the See of Worcester, on 23 May. And the vicar of the church aforesaid is written to for his induction.

Institution of William Tykenhale, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Maxstoke to the vicarage of the parish church of Thoneworth, on 24 May. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Institution of John Bernard, acolyte, presented by the rector and convent of the house or monastery of Edyndon in the diocese of Salisbury to the church of Thormerton in the diocese of Worcester, on 31 May. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction.

Fol. 192. Letters dimissory for John de Stowell, John de Cheltenham, Gilbert Moyne, deacons, canons of the monastery of St. Augustine of Bristol in the diocese of Worcester, and Edward Bowyare, canon of the same monastery, sub-deacon. Dated at Worcester, 15 May, 1375.

Memorandum, that on 23 July, in the garden of the Prior of Worcester, very near the great gate, John Salewarp, rector of the church of Hambury, next Wych, came before J. Segg, notary public, and the Prior of Worcester, and swore that he would not from henceforth have carnal knowledge of a certain Margaret Joos, nor meet her in suspicious places, under a penalty of 10*li*.

Orders were celebrated in the cathedral church of Worcester on Saturday, the Vigil of the Holy Trinity, to wit 16 June, 1375, by the venerable father the lord Robert, Bishop of Prenestinus¹ (?), (*Prisenen'*), by licence and commission of the Prior of Worcester.

PRIESTS.

William Stonhenge of Bysleye, to the title of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Dycon of Stowe, to the title of the house of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Prodomme of Morton Hennemers, to the title of the house of Coldenorton, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Nicholes of Bretforton, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Eveshamme, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Breules, by letters dimissory of the Bishop of St. David's, to the title of the prior and convent of Brewode, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Maltyn, to the title of the prior and convent of Wiston, next Worcester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Borgeys of Payneswyke, to the title of the prior and convent of Lanthony, next Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Whyte of Gloucester, to the title of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester.

John Bokelonde of Etyndon, to the title of the abbot and

¹ Robert "Prissinensis," Suffragan of Worcester, 1373—1375.

convent of Stonleye, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Palmer of Bretforton, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Eveshamme, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Colle, rector of Hampton Lovett.

John Taylor of Wych, to the title of the hospital of St. John of Lich', of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Whittenhurst to the title of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Wynter of Dyfford, to the title of the house of Stonleye, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Skreneyn of Kemeseye, to the title of the house of the Holy Trinity of Bruggenorth, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Copelar, to the title of the abbot and convent of Hayles, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Richard Ombrisleye, to the title of the prior and convent [blank].

PRIESTS (Religious).

Thomas Upton, monk of Pershore.

John Paunteleye.

John Myddelton.

Philip Kenestar.

John Byshampton of the order of Friars Minor.

DEACONS.

Richard Maydengod of Little Comberton, to the title of the house of Coldenorton, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Pyper of Haresfelde, to the title of the prior and convent of Lanthony, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Richard Holder of Schenyndon, to the title of the abbot and convent of Oseneye, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Richard Heye of Staunton, to the title of the prior and convent of Lanthony, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Richard Test of Froucester, to the title of the prior and brethren of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Bele of Prestebury, to the title of the abbot and convent of Oseney, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Gardener of Ombresleye, to the title of the preceptor and brethren of the hospital of St. Wolstan of Worcester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Nicholas Salewy of Pyryton, to the title of the hospital of St. Wolstan of Worcester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Thomas Lovelaunce, to the title of his patrimony, of which he gave his word.

John Smyth of Avenynges, to the title of the prioress and convent of Kyngton Monialium, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Robert Strange of Evesham, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Eveshamme, to all holy orders, to the title of the prior and convent of Cochull, of which he gave particulars, &c.

DEACONS (Religious).

Brother Nicholas Gloucester, monk of Tewkesbury.

Brother John Teynton, monk of Tewkesbury.

Brother John Kemeys of the order of Friars Preachers.

Brother Robert de Overbury of the order of Friars Preachers.

Brother Robert Wynter of the order of St. Augustine.

Brother Robert Badnynton, monk of Gloucester.

Brother William Boure, monk of Gloucester.

Brother Thomas Marcle, monk of Gloucester.

Brother John Warrewyk of the order of St. Augustine.

SUB-DEACONS.

Thomas Haukynes of Etyndon, to the title of the prior and convent of St. Margaret of Poghleye, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Elias de Wydeforde, to the title of the master of the hospital of St. John the Baptist of Bristol, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Freebody of Duddeleye, to the title of the prior and convent of Wombrugg, of which he gave particulars, &c.

Henry Leve of Gloucester, to the title of the prior and convent of Lanthony, next Gloucester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

William Geffrayes of Shypston, to the title of the house of the hospital of St. Wolstan of Worcester, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Warrewyk of Bredon, to the title of his patrimony, of which he gave particulars and gave his word.

John Spicer, by sufficient letters dimissory from the bishop of Hereford, to the title of the prior and convent of St. Thomas the Martyr, next Stafford, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

John Wylles of Walton, to the title of the prior and convent of Little Malvern, to all holy orders, of which he gave particulars, &c.

SUB-DEACONS (Religious).

Brother William Ouston, monk of the church of Worcester.

Brother John Lemestre, monk of the church of Worcester.

Brother John Stretforde, monk of the church of Worcester.

Brother John Doddeleye, monk of the church of Worcester.

Brother Roger Porter, monk of Little Malvern.

Brother Richard Malvern, monk of Little Malvern.

Brother John Munpe, monk of Little Malvern.

Brother Hugh Penne, monk of Little Malvern.

Brother Richard Gloucester, monk of Teukesbury.

Brother Thomas Staneweye, monk of Teukesbury.

Brother Thomas Ashton, monk of Teukesbury.

Brother John Ashton, monk of Teukesbury.

Brother Thomas Monemouth, canon of Lanthony.

Brother Richard Perschore, of the order of St. Augustine.

ACOLYTES.

John Combe of Wotton.

Walter Brau of Payneswyk.

Thomas Upton of Everdon, by letters dimissory of the Bishop of London.

Robert Penne of Teukesbury.

John de Bristol.

Thomas Olynton of Hynton.

John Rolnes of Walton.

ACOLYTES (Religious).

Roger Kytlyngton of the orders of Friars Preachers.

Nicholas Swyndon of the order of Friars Preachers.

John Standych, canon of Lanthony.

William Elinor, canon of Lanthony.

Commission by John, Bishop of Lincoln¹, to the Prior of Worcester to expedite the exchange between David Michel, rector of the church of Dene, in the diocese of Lincoln, and John West, rector of the church of St. Peter of Upton upon Severn, in the diocese of Worcester. The said John West being presented to the said church of Dene by brother Robert Hales, prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England. Dated at the Old Temple, London, 6 June, 1375.

Fol. 193. Certificate of the receipt of the above commission, and in accordance therewith, the said Prior of Worcester has instituted and inducted the said John West into the church of Dene by John Hale, clerk, his proctor, substituted for Richard Benet, bachelor of laws, his original proctor. Dated at Worcester, 28 July.

Institution of David Michel, priest, presented by the king to the church of Upton upon Severn, upon the above exchange, by the same proctor, as above, on 28 July.

Institution of Adam Fyfyde, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Gloucester to the church of Dunteshoune Abbot, in the diocese of Worcester, on 16 June. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Memorandum, that the same Adam has a letter of repair (*litteram reparationis*) to the same official, dated 17 June.

Institution of Stephen Welwykes, priest, presented by King Edward III. to the vicarage of the church of Brynnesfeld, by reason of the temporalities of the priory of Brynnesfeld² being in the king's hands because of the war, on 27 June. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Institution of Clement Walshe, priest, presented by John Darundell, son of Richard, earl of Arundel, and Ralph de Farrariis, attorneys of E. le Despenser, lord of Glamorgan and Morgannok,

¹ John Bokyngham, 1363—1398.

² Brimsfield, co. Gloucester.

to the church of Staunton in Fosse in the diocese of Worcester, on 6 July. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Institution of John Huchyn, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Pershore to the vicarage of the church of Aldermeston in the diocese of Worcester, on 10 July. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Institution of William Seward, priest, presented by Sir Richard de Actone, knight, and Robert Cheddre, attorneys of Thomas de Berkeleye, lord of Berkeleye, to the church of Wottone under Hegge¹, in the diocese of Worcester, by Thomas Gelemyn, clerk, his proctor, on 28 July. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Institution of Thomas Goos, priest, presented by Walter de Frompton, mayor of the town of Bristol, to the second chantry of the fraternity of the Canons in the church of All Saints of Bristol, by resignation of John Holgate, on 11 July. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Fol. 193*d*. Institution of John Pollesworthe, priest, presented by King Edward III. to the church of St. Andrew of Wych' in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of the priory of Durhurste being in the king's hands because of the war with France, on 6 August. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to the dean and chapter of London to expedite the exchange between William de Stodleye, rector of the church of St. Benedict, next Pouleswharf, London, and William Greseleye, rector of the church of Bisshopeshampton in the diocese of Worcester. The patronage of the church of Bisshopeshampton being in the king's hands on account of the vacancy in the See of Worcester. Dated 18 July, 1375.

Certificate of the receipt of the above commission by the dean and chapter of London. Dated at London, at their chapter-house, 1 August.

¹ Wotton-under-Edge.

Memorandum, that on 5 August, Henry Peny, proctor of the aforesaid William Stodleye, made canonical obedience. And the Dean of Christianity of Warwick is written to for his induction.

Commission from John, Bishop of Lincoln¹, to the Prior of Worcester to expedite the exchange between William Lole, rector of the parish church of Rethurby in the diocese of Lincoln, and Robert Repyndon, vicar of the parish church of Kemseye, in the diocese of Worcester. The said Robert having been presented to the said church of Rethurby by the sub-prior and convent of the priory of Landa², the prior of the same being in foreign parts. Dated at Lydyngton, 2 August, 1375.

Fol. 194. Certificate of the receipt of the above commission, and that the said Prior of Worcester had admitted the said Robert, by William, rector or portioner in the church of Leye in the diocese of Worcester. Dated at Grymeleye, 7 August.

Institution of William Fysey, rector of the church of Rotherby in the diocese of Lincoln, presented by Roger, rector of the church of Kemeseye, to the vicarage of the same church, by reason of the exchange with the church of Rotherby, by the resignation of Robert Repyndon, the last vicar, and he is admitted to the same church by Richard, portioner or rector of the church of Chokenhulle, his sufficient proctor, on 7 August. And the rector of Kemeseye is written to for his induction.

Commission from Adam, Bishop of St. David's³, to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester, to expedite the exchange between William Wattes, rector of the church of Porthcragham in the diocese of St. David's, and David Thomas, rector of the church of Nywenton in the diocese of Worcester. The said David being presented to the said church of Prothcragham by King Edward III., by reason of the alien priory of Pembroke⁴ being in the King's hands on account of the war with France. Dated at St. David's, 26 July, 1375.

Certificate of the receipt of the above commission. Dated at Worcester, 9 August.

¹ John Bokyngham, 1363—1398.

² Laund in Leicestershire (?).

³ Adam Houghton, 1362—1389.

⁴ Pembroke was a Benedictine cell, belonging to the Abbey of Seez.

Institution of William Wattes, rector of the church of Portcragham in the diocese of St. David's, presented by King Edward III., by reason of the vacancy of the See of Worcester, to the church of Nywenton, by reason of the above exchange. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Fol. 194*d*. Institution of Alan de Newton, priest, presented by Edmund de Stonore to the church of Harnhull in the diocese of Worcester, on 12 August. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Institution of William de Blockeleye, priest, presented by Edmund de Stonore to the church of Cundicote, on 12 August. And the Dean of Blockeleye is written to for his induction.

Institution of John de Bradeleye, priest, presented by the prioress and convent of the Black Nuns of Brewode to the parish church of Brome in the diocese of Worcester, on 13 August. And the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester is written to for his induction.

Institution of John Wenrich', priest, presented by Thomas de Lodelowe, lord of the moiety of the town of Campeden, to the chapel of St. Katherine of Campeden in the diocese of Worcester, on 17 August. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Mandate to master John Hale, sequestrator general and dean of Stonhous, to sequester the fruits of the priory of Horseleye and of the parish churches of Horseleye and Whytehurst, on account of the absence of brother Richard Cary, prior of Horseleye and keeper of the churches aforesaid, and on account of the peril to souls, the withdrawal of hospitality, and the buildings of the priory having for a great part collapsed, and the profits having been wasted. Dated at Worcester, 30 July.

Revocation of the above mandate on account of the negligence of the sequestrator, and appointing the rector of the church of St. Ellen of Worcester in their place. Dated 16 August.

Mandate to the dean of Stonhous and chaplain of the parish churches of Horseleye and Whitenhurste to release the sequestration upon the said churches ; the said William Cary, prior of the priory of Horseleye, asserting that the fruits of the churches aforesaid belong to him. And to make proclamation that if there are any who wish to say anything against the releasing of the said sequestration, that they are to appear before the prior or his commissary in the cathedral church of Worcester on Saturday next after the feast of St. Bartholomew. Dated at Worcester, 17 August, 1375.

Fol. 195. Letter to the Bishop of Prenestinus (? *Prisenen'*) requesting him to go to the church of Stone in the diocese of Worcester to perform there the office of reconciliation, the churchyard of the same church having been polluted by the effusion of blood ; but before commencing the office he shall receive 100s. from the parishioners in the name of a procuration. After which he is requested to perform the office of reconciliation at the church of Hertlebury. Dated at Worcester, 17 August.

Commission to the same bishop granting him faculty to perform the same office. Dated at Worcester, 17 August.

Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to the deans of Kyderminster and Wych, that whereas the parish church of Hertlebury in the diocese of Worcester was lately polluted by the violent effusion of blood and the sounds of the divine voice are stayed ; on account of which the parishioners, who are answerable for the charges of reconciliation, if the chief malefactor does not pay, are admitted to the divine offices and sacraments of the church on Sundays and festivals in the neighbouring churches, wherefore although the said parishioners have been warned to satisfy the procuration due for reconciliation, they neglect to do so ; the said deans are therefore ordered to warn the rectors, vicars, and priests of neighbouring churches that they publicly proclaim before beginning the divine office that if any are in those churches from the parish of Hertlebury, that they depart, and none of the same clergy admit any of the same parishioners to any divine offices under pain of excommunication. Dated at Worcester, 17 August.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester, and all deans, rectors, and parish priests of the deanery of Worcester, Kyderminster, and Wych publicly and solemnly to denounce Richard Lekhull, son of Thomas Lekhull, who mortally wounded Hugh Fyscheyre of Trokeston in the parish church of Hertlebury, and was excommunicated for that cause, every Sunday and festival before the solemnization of mass being clothed in albs, with cross erect, having rung the bells and lit and extinguished the candles, and not to cease such denunciation until they have orders to do otherwise. Dated at Worcester, 25 August.

Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the dean of Bristol to denounce as excommunicated those persons in a schedule annexed¹ who had not paid the procuration for divers nuncii of the pope, and to take the ecclesiastical fruits of the same to the amount of the said procurations, and satisfy the prior of the same on the morrow of the Assumption of the Glorious Virgin in the cathedral church of Worcester.

Licence to the Bishop of Prenestinus(?) to reconcile the church of Hertlebury. Dated at Worcester, 24 August.

Commission from Thomas Baketon, LL.D., Vicar-general, &c., of Simon, archbishop of Canterbury², now in foreign parts, to Walter, Prior of Worcester, reciting the appointment by the said archbishop of master Thomas Yong, official of the court of Canterbury, John de Appelby, dean of the church of St. Paul's, London, and Thomas de Baketon, doctor of laws, his vicars general, with notarial certificates attached to the same appointment, committing to the same prior the custody and rule of the spiritualities of the See of Worcester. Dated 28 May.

Fol. 195*d*. Protestation made upon the admission of the said commission.

Proclamation of the said commission in the presence of witnesses.

Institution of Thomas Felde, rector of the parish church of Warmedon in the diocese of Worcester, presented by the Prior

¹ Schedule not given.

² Simon of Sudbury, 1375—1381.

and convent of Worcester to the church of St. Clement in the City of Worcester upon an exchange.

Fol. 196. Institution of John Hale, rector of the church of St. Clement of Worcester, presented by William Bracy of Warmedon, to the church of Warmedon in the diocese of Worcester, upon the exchange with the said church of St. Clement.

Institution of Philip Keys, priest, presented by Richard de Pyriton, canon of the collegiate church of the Blessed Mary of Warwick and prebendary of the prebend of Compton Mordake, to the church of Bodebrok, on 25 August.

Institution of Richard Vynt', priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Teukesbury to the church of Lech' Andrew in the diocese of Worcester, on 31 August.

Institution of John Poole, priest and canon of the monastery of Hales, presented by the abbot and convent of Hales to the vicarage of the church of Hales in the diocese of Worcester, on 2 September.

Institution of Reginald Pony, of the first clerical tonsure, presented by the abbot and convent of Abendon in the diocese of Salisbury, to the church of Dumbelton in the diocese of Worcester on 5 September.

Institution of William Blockeleye, priest, presented by King Edward III., by reason of the Wardship of the heir of Sir John Keynes, chivaler, to the church of Oxshelne in the diocese of Worcester, on 8 September.

Institution of John Morvyn, of the first clerical tonsure, presented by King Edward III. to the church of the Holy Trinity of Gloucester in the diocese of Worcester, by Henry atte Welle, chaplain, his proctor, on 7 September.

Institution of Henry Caytewayte, priest, presented by the abbess and convent of Pollesworth to the Church of Quynnton in the diocese of Worcester, on 24 September.

Institution of William de Goderyntone, priest, presented by King Edward III., the temporalities of the priory of Durhurste being in his hands, to the vicarage of the church of Trynley in the diocese of Worcester, on 25 September.

Institution of Walter Clerkes, priest, presented by Edmund de Stonore to the church of Cundicote in the diocese of Worcester, on 28 September.

Institution of John Lethyngburgh, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester in the diocese of Worcester to the church of Dutesbourne Abbas, on 30 September.

Institution of Richard Cole, presented by King Edward III., at the nomination of William Redeburgh, by reason of the temporalities of the priory of Durhurste being in the King's hands, to the chapel of Lega, next Durhurst, in the diocese of Worcester, on 28 September.

Memorandum, that on 4 October, the Prior of Worcester conferred upon Robert Brugge the chantry of Rippel' and Newynton, founded in the church of Rippel in the diocese of Worcester by John Saleman.

Fol. 196*d*. Mandate¹ from Simon, archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester to levy procurations for Pileus, archbishop of Ravenna, and William, bishop of Carpentras², papal nuncios to the kingdoms of England and France. Dated at Otford, the Nones of August, 1395.

Fol. 197*d*. Order to the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official to execute the above mandate. Dated at Worcester, 19 August, 1375.

Fol. 198. Certificate by the Prior of Worcester to Simon, archbishop of Canterbury, of the receipt of the above mandate, and stating that there are some alien priories in the diocese upon which nothing can be levied as they are in the hands of the King. Dated at Worcester, 23 September.

¹ In similar terms to that on fol. 180*d*. See *ante*, p. 322.

² Suffragan Archbishop of Avignon.

Letters dimissory for Thomas Bocharde of Schenyndon, Thomas Halforde of Heydon, Thomas Sturdy of Allere, Robert Coly of Brewardyn, and Elias de Whitheforde to the order of sub-deacon, on 14 September.

Letters dimissory for William Bele of Lythorne, John Frebody, Walter Braw of Payneswyke, John Stamimsun (?) of Salewarp, Thomas Bette, and John Willes to the order of deacon, on 14 September.

Letters dimissory for Thomas Whithyndon, Robert atte Grene, William Wele of Prestebury, Richard Maydegod of Compton, Richard Heye of Staunton, Richard Holder of Schenyndon, Thomas Hobbes of Utlycote, Thomas Skyl of Halforde, Thomas Capel, John Benge of Mayesmore, Thomas Pyper, Simon Bryan, clerk, of Tredyndon, John Smyth of Avenyngges, and John Egrochs to priests' orders, on 14 September, 1375.

Letters dimissory for Thomas Mose and John Chapman to all holy orders, on 14 September.

Institution of William Sampson, priest, presented by John de Sancto Laudo to the church of Clyfton, next Bristol, in the diocese of Worcester, on 3 October. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Institution of John Wodeward, acolyte, presented by Edmund Mortimer, Earl of March and Ulster, lord of Wigmore, Clare, and Connaught, and marshal of England, to the church of Wynston in the diocese of Worcester, on 4 October. And the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester is written to for his induction.

Presentation of John Wetton, priest, by the prior and monks of the priory of Duddeleye to the church of Northfeld in the diocese of Worcester, vacant, as they say; after which presentation the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to that he should inquire as to the vacancy.

Commission to master Robert, rector of the church of Haselore, official of the Archdeacon of Worcester, and William, rector of the church of St. Ellen of Worcester, to inquire as to the above presentation and vacancy. Dated at Worcester, 5 October, 1375.

Fol. 198*d*. Mandate from Simon, archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester, that having received letters from the lord Gregory, the pope, that he has provided Henry de Wakefeld, archdeacon of Canterbury, to the See of Worcester, the said prior shall permit the said elect to freely exercise the spiritualities in the city and diocese of Worcester, and deliver up the registers and seals and whatsoever concerns the spiritualities of the said city and diocese. Dated at Lamheth, 3 October, 1375.

Memorandum, that this mandate was shown to the same prior after the celebration of high mass on 8th October, 1375.

Vacancy on the death of Henry Wakefield, March 11, 1395, to the translation of Tideman de Winchcomb, Aug., 1395.

Fol. 199. Register of brother John Grene, prior of Worcester, of those things which were done during the vacancy of the See by the death of the lord Henry Wakefeld, Bishop of Worcester, who died on 11 March, 1394[-5].

Letter from John, prior, and the convent of Worcester, to Richard II., acquainting him with the death of Henry, late bishop of Worcester, and praying by their monks William Power and John Clyve, cellarer, licence to elect another bishop. Dated at the chapter-house, 12 March, 1394-5.

Congé d'elire to the Prior and chapter of Worcester, attested by Edmund, Duke of York, keeper of England, at Westminster, 3 April, 18 Richard II.

Letter from John, prior, and the chapter of Worcester, to William, archbishop of Canterbury¹, acquainting him with the death of their late bishop on 11 March, and praying for a commission to exercise spiritual jurisdiction during the vacancy of the See by the said prior,

¹ William Courtenay.

or during his absence by the sub-prior. Dated in the chapter of Worcester, 12 March, 1394-5.

Commission of the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Prior of Worcester to exercise all manner of ordinary jurisdiction in the city and diocese of Worcester, according to the form of the composition between Boniface, predecessor of the same archbishop, and the prior and chapter of Worcester. Dated at Maydenston, 17 March, 1394-5.

Fol. 199*d*. Notification by the Prior of Worcester to the sub-prior and chapter of Worcester of his intention to make visitation of the chapter of Worcester on Thursday, the feast of the Annunciation. Dated at Worcester, 19 March, "*anno domini millesimo ccc. nonagesimo quinto incipiente.*"

Acknowledgment of the receipt of the above notice stating that William Power, John Clyve, and John Fordam are absent on the business of the House, and Thomas Hay is a scholar at Oxford. Dated in the chapter of Worcester, 19 March, 1395.

Mandate by the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester notifying his intention to make visitation in the city and diocese of Worcester on certain days and at certain places in a schedule annexed¹, and enjoining the same archdeacon to cite all abbots, priors, deans, prebendaries, preceptors, portioners, masters of monasteries, priories, churches, colleges, and hospitals of the said archdeaconry, also rectors of churches, vicars, perpetual chaplains of parishes, rural chaplains, and three or four men from every parish in the archdeaconry to appear at the times and places before expressed. Dated 13 March, 1394[-5].

Fol. 200. Acknowledgment of the above mandate. Dated at Worcester, 25 March.

A like mandate to the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

¹ Schedule not given.

Letter from John, abbot of Wylbek, of the Premonstratensian order, to the Prior of Worcester, presenting brother John Pooele, canon of Halesouwen, as father and pastor of that church, and praying the same prior to cause the gift of benediction to be imparted to him. Dated at Hales, 21 June, 1395.

Fol. 200*d*. Orders celebrated in the cathedral church of Worcester on the Saturday on which is sung the office *Societas*, 1395, by William, bishop of Faro¹, by licence and commission of the Prior of Worcester.

PRIESTS.

John de Castr', rector of the church of Hanlegh, by letters dimissory of the Bishop of Lichfield, to the title of the house of St. Thomas the Martyr, next Stafford, of which he gave particulars and declared himself content.

John Trumpelyn, to the title of Andrew of Hamptonet, lord of Hamptonet, of which he gave particulars and declared himself content.

DEACONS.

Richard Buk', to the title of the abbot and convent of St. Augustine of Bristol, of which he gave particulars and declared himself content.

John Accres, by letters dimissory of the Bishop of Lichfield, to the title of the house of St. Thomas the Martyr, next Stafford, of which he gave particulars and declared himself content.

John Tailour, to the title of the prior and convent of Wroxton, of which he gave particulars and declared himself content.

SUB-DEACONS.

John Gode, by letters dimissory of the Bishop of Hereford, to the title of the prior and convent of St. Oswald of Gloucester, of which he gave particulars and declared himself content.

John Pachet, to the title of the prior and convent of Hales, of which he gave particulars and declared himself content.

ACOLYTE.

John Pachet.

¹ *Pharensis*, Faro in Portugal, a suffragan bishopric of Evora.

Fol. 201. Certificate by the preceptor and brethren of the Hospital of St. Wolstan, without the walls of Worcester, of the receipt of a notification from the Prior of Worcester, dated at Grymleye, 16 March, 1394-5, of his intention to make visitation at the same hospital on Friday after the feast of the Annunciation. Dated at the hospital, 26 March, 1395.

Commission by the Prior of Worcester to William, bishop of Faro, to celebrate holy and general orders in the city and diocese of Worcester during the vacancy of the episcopal see, and to confirm boys, until the same shall be revoked. Dated at Worcester, 25 March, 1395.

Commission by the Prior of Worcester to William, bishop of Faro, to dedicate churches and churchyards and to reconcile the same, if polluted; also to consecrate altars, bless chalices, vestments and other ecclesiastical ornaments, to celebrate holy orders, as well the greater as the lesser at due times, and to confirm boys, bestow the gift of benediction upon abbots, to consecrate virgins, and do other things which should be exercised by the episcopal order; also to hear confessions of any subjects of the said prior in the city and diocese of Worcester, wishing to be confessed by the said bishop, and to absolve them from the sins so to be confessed, and to enjoin salutary penance (violators of the rights and liberties of the said cathedral church, those judicially perjured in assizes or other thing done to the disinherison or death of a man, by apostolic command directed to us, specially reserved to us). Dated at Worcester, 28 March, 1395.

Indenture dated 28 March, 1395, between the Prior of Worcester and William, bishop of Faro, whereby the prior grants to the bishop power to exercise episcopal rights within the city and diocese of Worcester during the vacancy of the See; and it is decreed and declared that the bishop shall receive for his labour and expenses in dedicating or reconciling any church and churchyard, 20s. of the fee due and received by the prior. Item, that the same bishop shall not dedicate or reconcile any church or churchyard unless security shall be beforehand made to the prior for 100s. by those who shall procure such dedication or reconci-

liation. Item, the bishop for his labour and expenses in celebrating general orders within the city or diocese of Worcester upon a certain day and at a place to be assigned by the prior shall receive 20s. only, coming from the letters of orders to be celebrated by him. Item, the said bishop shall receive for his labour and expenses bestowed about the consecration of altars, a third part of the fee, and no altar shall be consecrated for a less sum than 6s. 8d. Item, the said bishop shall go round all the deaneries of the diocese of Worcester to confirm boys and infants before the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, at the expense of the said prior of three horses only. Item, the said bishop shall answer at his peril to the prior for all fees and emoluments pertaining and of right or custom due or bargained for such episcopal offices in the city and diocese of Worcester. Item, in the celebration of general orders, as is aforesaid, the said bishop shall have with him an examiner of clerks to be ordained, and a registrar to be named by the said prior. Item, the same bishop shall write, or cause to be written, in the absence of the registrar of the prior, a register of all dedications, consecrations, ordinations, and other things whatsoever by him exercised in such office, and shall deliver the same to the prior upon request. Item, the same bishop shall receive for conferring minor orders in his circuit through the diocese of Worcester out of the celebration of general orders all fees of old time accustomed, nevertheless no episcopal office shall be exercised in the city or diocese of Worcester in cases submitted to him, unless he shall have the express grant of the said prior to exercise such office, except any case shall newly arise in making his circuit.

Fol. 201*d*. Commission from the Prior of Worcester to William Ouston, monk of Worcester, and master John Derlton, bachelor in civil and canon law, to receive in the prior's name canonical obedience of all abbots, priors, deans, provosts, masters, ministers, chaplains, convents, and colleges of churches within the ambit of the archdeaconries of Worcester and Gloucester, and also portioners and pensioners, rectors, perpetual vicars of churches, parish priests, and others celebrating divine service within the said archdeaconries, and also to visit the clergy and people of the deanery of Worcester not yet visited, and the clergy and people of the deaneries of Poywick, Kyderminster, and Wych; to inquire also of crimes,

excesses, and defaults of the prior's subjects whomsoever in the said deaneries, and to punish and correct the same, and to ask for and receive procurations due by reason of such visitation. Dated at Worcester, 28 March, 1395.

Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Worcester, reciting a letter from master Thomas Stowe, doctor of laws, canon of London and vicar-general of Robert, bishop of London, in remote parts out of the city and diocese, dated at London, 18 March, 1394-5, reciting a mandate from William, archbishop of Canterbury, to the same vicar-general, dated at Maydenston, 4 March, 1394-5, reciting a bull of Pope Boniface to all ecclesiastical orders in England, dated at St. Peter's at Rome, the 4th of the Nones of August in the 5th year of his pontificate, that whereas Bartholomew de Navarre, doctor of civil and canon law and advocate of the apostolic consistory, is going to England upon the business of the Pope and the Roman church, the said ecclesiastics are enjoined to provide for his necessities, and thereupon the said archbishop commands that one halfpenny in the pound be levied in the name of a subsidy for the same. Dated at Worcester, 4 April, 1395.

Fol. 202. A like letter directed to the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official.

Fol. 203. Presentation of William Fleter of Wolston, priest, to the church of Stowell, by Anselm Gyse, John Hareffeld, Thomas Alford, rector of the church of Cowley, and Matthew Clyfford, lord of Stowell. Dated at Gloucester, on Sunday after the feast of St. Gregory, the Pope, 1394.

Certificate by the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester that he made an inquiry in the church of Northlech by Nicholas Staunton, John Hane, John Stratton, Richard Moyne, Simon Pyke, John Basse, rectors, and William Horsley, Thomas Toffeleye, John Bradbury, William Pyke, Richard Perkyns, Robert Blast, vicars of churches, inquisitors, who say that the church of Stowell began to be vacant on 13 February, when Richard Perkyns, the last rector, accepted the vicarage of the parish church of Staferton in the diocese

of Worcester; that Anselm Gyse, John Harffeld, Thomas Alford, rector of the parish church of Cowley, and Matthew Clyfford are true patrons of the same church, and have the right of presentation for this time, because a certain James Clyfford, late lord of Stowell and true patron of the same, by hereditary right, before going over to Ireland with the King, gave to the said Anselm, John, Thomas, and Matthew all his lordships, lands, and tenements, and the patronage of churches, and the said church is not in dispute nor a pensionary; also they say that the said church is a portionary of the vicarage of the church of Northlech, namely, from every acre sown in autumn time of the holdings of the tenants within the lordship of Stowell, one sheaf of corn; also that the presentee is of good and honest conversation, of the age of 24 years and more, holds no other benefice, and is in priests' orders. Dated at Northlech, 14th [24?] March, 1394-5.

Fol. 203*d*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to John Weston, bachelor of laws, reciting letters from John Maydenhyth, canon of Salisbury, vicar-general of the Bishop of Salisbury, to Henry, bishop of Worcester, acknowledging letters of expedition, dated at Blokleye, 10 March, 1394-5, from Henry, bishop of Worcester, to John, bishop of Salisbury, upon the exchange between Adam, son of Reginald, son of Adam de Kyngescote, rector of the parish church of Garesdon, and William Swyft, vicar of the parish church of Badmyngton Magna, of which the abbot and convent of Lilleshull are the true patrons, with mandate from the said prior to the said John Weston to do all that is required in the said matter and send certificate thereof. Dated at Worcester, 1 April.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to John Hatfeld, monk and precentor of Worcester, to visit the monasteries of St. Peter of Gloucester, of St. Augustine of Bristol, of Teukesbury, of Wynchcombe, of Persshore, and Lanthony next Gloucester. Dated at Worcester, 20 May, 1395.

Writ from Richard II. to the keepers of the spiritualities of the bishopric of Worcester to collect the tenth granted to the crown at the last Convocation for the province of Canterbury, held in

St. Paul's, London, on 5 February last past, poor nuns and religious women of whatsoever order not being included in the said grant. Dated at Westminster, 15 May, 18 Richard II.

Fol. 204. Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the abbot and convent of Hayles, of the Cistercian order, to levy and collect the said tenth in the archdeaconry of Gloucester. Dated at Worcester, 24 May, 1395.

A like mandate directed to the abbot of Bordesleye to levy and collect the same in the archdeaconry of Worcester.

Certificate by the Prior of Worcester to the treasurer and barons of the exchequer of the appointment of the above collectors. Dated at Worcester, 23 May.

Notarial certificate that on 12 January, 1394-5, in the choir of the hospital of St. Oswald without the walls of the city of Worcester, master Robert de la More, doctor of laws, official of Worcester and commissary of Henry, bishop of Worcester, called before him William Bysseleye, master of the said hospital, and the brethren of the same, and publicly read a commission from the same bishop sealed with green wax, dated at the bishop's castle of Hertlebury, 14 December, 1394, requiring him to punish and correct the crimes and excesses of the master and brethren of the same house or hospital, and to appoint another master or preceptor, absolving the same master from the care and rule of the same house. Which being read the said master Robert accused the said master of the dilapidation of the goods of the said hospital and other excesses committed by him, of all which things the said master made public confession. Whereupon after deliberation the said master was found guilty, and unfit and unable to have the care, rule, and administration of the said hospital, from which he was absolved, and it was decreed that he was removed. The certificate is subscribed by masters Richard Wycheckumb¹ and John Balle, notaries public for the dioceses of Worcester and Landaff, and John Chewe, clerk, notary public of the diocese of Bath and Wells.

¹ Sic.

Fol. 204*d*. Institution of David Burnard, brother of the hospital of St. Oswald, without the walls of the city of Worcester, as preceptor or master of the said hospital, upon the removal of William Bustheley, and upon the presentation of brother John Malverne, sacristan of the cathedral church of Worcester, the true patron, on 5 April, 1395. Dated at Worcester, on the same day and year.

Fol. 205. Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to John Malverne to induct the said David. Dated 5 April, 1395.

Institution of Richard Cook, presented by the Prior and convent of Lanthony next Gloucester to the parish church of Coulusburn, in the diocese of Worcester, on 30 March. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction.

Institution of Roger Tangeley, chaplain, presented by Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, to the wardenship or mastership of the chapel and chantry of the Castle of Elmeley in the diocese of Worcester, on 1 May. And the Archdeacon of Worcester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of Thomas Standon, presented by Richard II. to the prebend of Hembury in the collegiate church of Westbury, on 15 May. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of John Beer, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Teukesbury to the parish church of the Holy Trinity, Bristol, in the diocese of Worcester, on 21 May. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of Hugh Pontesbury, chaplain, presented by the Prior and Chapter of the cathedral church of Worcester to the parish church of Herforton in the diocese of Worcester, on 28 May. And the Archdeacon of Worcester or his official was written to for his induction.

Letter from the Prior of the cathedral church of Worcester to John Grene, priest, informing him of his institution to the perpetual chantry of the chapel of St. Margaret next Gloucester, in the diocese of Worcester, on 11 June, 1395.

Fol. 205*d*. Institution of John Grene, presented by the abbot and convent of Gloucester to the said chantry of St. Margaret on 11 June, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of John de Ufford, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Wynchecombe, of the order of St. Benedict, to the parish church of St. Alban the Martyr, in the city and diocese of Worcester, on 18 June, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of John Scot, priest, presented by Thomas de Berkeley, Lord Berkeley, to the parish church of Slymbrugge in the diocese of Worcester, on 20 June, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction¹.

Institution of John Grover, priest, presented by the principal and scholars of the college of Queen's Hall in the diocese of Lincoln to the vicarage of the parish church of Newbolt Pacy, in the diocese of Worcester, on 3 July, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Worcester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of brother Henry Frebody, canon of the monastery of Hales, presented by the abbot and convent of Hales, to the vicarage of the parish church of Halesoweyn, on 27 June, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Worcester or his official, or the dean of Kyderminster, was written to for his induction.

Institution of Thomas Compton, otherwise David, priest, presented by Peter Deyvyle, lord of Evenelode, to the parish church of Evenelode, on 24 July, 1395. And the dean of Blockley was written to for his induction.

Institution of John Tommus, priest, presented by the prior and chapter of the cathedral church to the parish church of Marston Sicca, in the diocese of Worcester, on 5 July, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

¹ See *post*, p. 365.

Institution of John Pebworth, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Friars Minor, Malvern, to the church of Cold Aston in the diocese of Worcester, on 20 July, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Fol. 206. Institution of Thomas Ginworth, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Bytlesdon to the parish church of Ebrygh-ton, in the diocese of Worcester, on 20 July, 1395. And the Dean of Gloucester or his official, or in their absence the dean of Campe-den, was written to for his induction.

Commission from John, bishop of Hereford¹, to the Prior of Worcester to expedite the exchange between Edward Crompe, rector of the church of Mordeford in the diocese of Hereford, and John Munton, rector of the church of Bladynton, in the diocese of Worcester, of which church of Mordeford the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester are patrons. Dated at Whytebourne, 2 April, 1395.

Certificate of the receipt of the above commission dated 4 April.

Institution of Edward Crompe, priest, rector of the parish church of Mordeford, presented by the abbot and convent of Winchcombe to the parish church of Bladynton in the diocese of Worcester, on 4 April, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of John Munton, rector of Bladynton, presented by the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester to the parish church of Mordeford in the diocese of Hereford, on 4 April, 1395.

Fol. 206*d*. Institution of William Malle, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Evesham to the parish church of Bradewell in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with the parish church of Aston-under-Edge, on 6 April, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of Robert Bratforton, clerk, presented by the Lady Matilda de Stafford to the parish church of Aston-under-Edge in

¹ If the date is right, 1395, the name of Bishop, 1375—1389, and Thomas Treve-
the Bishop is wrong. John Gilbert was nant, 1389—1404.

the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with the parish church of Bradewell, on 6 April, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of Walter Stonyng, priest, presented by Richard de Sancto Mauro, lord of Castle Cary, to the chantry of Bradeston in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with the parish church of Doynnton, on 24 April, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of John Grove, presented by the prior and convent of Lanthony next Gloucester to the parish church of Doynnton in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with the chantry of Bradeston, on 24 April, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Fol. 207. Commission from William, bishop of Winchester¹, to the keeper of the spiritualities of the bishopric of Worcester to expedite the exchange between John Chitterne, rector of the parish church of Olveston in the diocese of Worcester, and master John Mere, canon of the monastery of Wherewell and prebendary of the prebend of Godeworth, of which canonry and prebend the abbess and convent of Wherewell are patrons. Dated at the bishop's manor of Merewell, 21 March, 1394-5.

Certificate of the execution of the above commission. Dated 20 May, 1395.

Institution of John Mere, presented by the prior and convent of Bath to the parish church of Olveston in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with the canonry of the monastery of Wherewell and the prebend of Godeworth on 20 May, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of John Chitterne, presented by the abbess and convent of the monastery of Wherewell to the canonry of the monastery of Wherewell and the prebend of Godeworth in the diocese of Winchester, by reason of his exchange with the parish church of Olveston.

¹ William of Wykeham.

Fol. 207*d*. Institution of Nicholas Geyll, presented by Thomas de Berkeleye, lord of Berkeley, to the parish church of Slymbrugge, in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with the archdeaconry of Gloucester, on 1 July, 1395¹.

Institution of Richard Wynchecombe, presented by Richard II. to the archdeaconry of Gloucester, by reason of his exchange with the parish church of Slymbrugge, on 1 June, 1395.

Commission from Ralph, bishop of Bath and Wells², to the Prior of Worcester, to expedite the exchange between John Curteys, rector of the parish church of St. Mary of Shipton Solers in the diocese of Worcester, and Richard Spekynton, rector of the parish church of Thorlockeston in the diocese of Bath and Wells, of which the prior of Taunton is the true patron. Dated at the said bishop's manor of Windescombe, 26 May, 1395.

Certificate of the execution of the said commission. Dated 14 June.

Fol. 208. Institution of Richard Spekynton, presented by Richard Monemouth to the parish church of Shipton Solers in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with the parish church of Thorlokeston in the diocese of Bath and Wells, on 14 June, 1395. And the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official was written to for his induction.

Institution of John Curteys, presented by the prior of Stanton to the parish church of Thorlokeston, by reason of his exchange with the parish church of Shipton Solers, on 14 June, 1395.

Institution of Robert Bateman, presented by the abbot and convent of the monastery of St. Peter of Gloucester to the parish church of St. John of Gloucester, on 22 August, 1395.

~~X~~ Process of election of brother William Bradeley as abbot of the monastery of Wynchecombe by the prior and convent of the same monastery, A.D. 1395, the see of the bishopric of Worcester being vacant.

¹ See *ante*, p. 362.

² Ralph Erghum.

Letter from John Honybourne, prior of the monastery of Wynchecombe, and the convent of the same place to the Prior of Worcester acquainting him with the death of brother Walter de Wynferton, the last abbot, on 22 June, 1395, and that after the body had been buried a *congé d'elire* was asked for and obtained from the king. On 3 July the said prior of Wynchecomb, at the will and command of the convent or chapter, being congregated together in the chapter-house of Wynchecombe, fixed Tuesday then next following for the election of a future abbot. On which day having celebrated the mass of the Holy Spirit at the High Altar of the church of Wynchcombe, all who ought, could, and would be present at the election coming together into the chapter-house, the grace of the Holy Spirit was invoked by singing the hymn, *Veni Creator Spiritus*, and the constitution of the general council *Quia propter* was read, and likewise the royal letters of *congé d'elire*. Then brother John Honybourne, the prior, in the name of the said convent warned all excommunicated, suspended, and interdicted persons and others, if any by chance there were, who of right ought not to be present at such election, to retire from the said chapter-house. At length it was determined to proceed to the election by way of compromise, and power was committed to brothers John Honybourne, William Bradeley, Walter Wyrcester, Thomas Abyndon, John Abyndon, Richard Wych, and John Bryan, during the whole of the said Tuesday till sunset only to elect an abbot from themselves or others of the said monastery. And afterwards they sat in the refectory of the said monastery, and after long treaty they elected brother William Bradeley, monk and cellarer of the said monastery, as abbot. And afterwards they returned into the said chapter-house, and the said Walter Wyrcester, one of the compromisers, having full power committed to him, elected and provided the said William Bradeley as abbot of the said monastery. After reciting the foregoing proceedings, and declaring that the said William was a man wise and discreet, to be commended for his science in letters, in his life, and habits, professed in the regular order of St. Benedict in the said monastery in priests' orders, and of lawful age, insomuch as he exceeded the age of 36 years, of free birth, and begotten in lawful matrimony, very prudent in spiritual and temporal matters, and having no impediment which ought to prevent his election as abbot of the said monastery. Whereupon

singing the *Te Deum Laudamus*, they carried the same elect to the choir of the same monastery before the High Altar, according to custom. And afterwards the same Walter before the clergy and people publicly proclaimed the said election. Subsequently the said Walter Wyrcestre by mandate of the chapter asked the said elect to give his assent to the said election, to which the said elect said that he wished to deliberate for a time. And after the hour of vespers on the said Tuesday the same brother Walter Wyrcestre returned to the said elect and prayed his assent to the said election, and at length the said elect being unwilling to resist the divine will on the same day a little before sunset consented to the election. Whereupon the said John Honybourne, the prior of Wynchcombe, prays the Prior of Worcester to confirm the said election, and transmits a decree of the election by Richard Laurak, clerk of the diocese of Exeter, notary public. Dated in the chapter-house of Wynchcombe, 18 July, in the presence of Masters Robert de la More, LL.D., and Robert Preys, rector of the church of Rypple in the diocese of Worcester.

Fol. 210. Notarial certificate to the above of Richard Laurak, clerk of the diocese of Exeter.

Fol. 210*d*. Decree of the said election reciting all the foregoing proceedings, giving in addition the names of the prior, John de Honybourne, and eighteen monks of the monastery of Wynchcombe, viz.:—Thomas Alcestr', Nicholas Munstreworthe, Nicholas Bradeley, Walter Wyrcestr', William Bradeley, Thomas Abyndon, John Abyndon, Thomas Overbury, John Bruam, William Abyndon, Richard Wych, Philip Lodelowe, John Evesham, Henry Evesham, Thomas Honley, Robert Twenyng, Richard Gloucester, and William Chaddesley.

Fol. 212*d*. Notarial certificate of the said Richard Laurak.

Fol. 213. Appointment by the prior and convent of Wynchcombe of Walter Wyrcestre and John Bryan, monks of Wynchcombe, as their proctors, to seek confirmation of their election as above from the Prior of Worcester. Dated in the chapter-house of Wynchcombe, 18 July.

Appointment by Thomas Abyndon, sub-prior, and the convent of Wynchcombe, of John Honybourne and John Brian as instructors and special messengers to the Prior of Worcester upon the same matter. Dated 18 July, 1395.

Letter from Thomas Power, perpetual vicar of the parish church of Wynchcomb, acknowledging a commission from the Prior of Worcester, dated Friday after the Feast of St. Thomas-the-Martyr, 1395, to the dean of the deanery of Wych; and the said Thomas Power is ordered to cite any opposers of the election of William Bradeley as abbot of the monastery of Wynchcombe, to appear before the prior or his commissary in the parish church of Twenyng, on Monday after the Feast of St. Kenelm. In accordance with which mandate the said Thomas went to the conventual church of Wynchcomb, and made proclamation, in accordance with the said commission, before the whole convent and many secular persons, and no opposers to the said election appeared. Dated at Wynchcomb on Saturday.

Fol. 214. Declaration by John Honybourne, prior of the monastery of Wynchcombe, and the convent of the same place, that brother William Bradeley, brother of the same monastery, was professed in the regular order of St. Benedict in the aforesaid monastery before Walter de Wynferton, then abbot, on the feast of St. Benedict in March, 1366, and subsequently was promoted to sub-deacons' and deacons' orders, and served at the high altar and other altars of the church of Wynchcomb, and has lead a regular and modest life from the time of his profession, so far as the frailty of human nature permits, and is free and lawful. Dated in the chapter-house of Worcester, 18 July, 1395.

Oath of the abbot of Wynchcomb to the Prior of Worcester :—
 Jeo serra foial et loial et foie et loialte portera a nostre seignour le Roy Richard et ses heirs, Rois de Engleterre, de vie et de membre et de terien honour a vivre et morer contra toutz gentz et diligianment serray en tendant as busoignes nostre seigneur le Roi solonc mon seu et poair et le conseil nostre seigneur le Roy celera et loialment comisera fra (*sic*) les services dusz des temporaltes de ma abbacie de Wynchecombe, les queux je cleyme tenir de nostre

dit seigneur le Roy et les queux il me rent et a luy et a ses maun-
dementez en quantque moy actient pour mes temporaltez serra
obeisant si Dieu me eide et ses seintez.

Fol. 214*d*. Letter from William¹, archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester, that whereas he is informed by letters from Pope Boniface, that the said pope had translated Tideman², bishop of Landaff, to the See of Worcester, the said prior is to deliver up the spiritualities of the said bishopric, and all registers, seals, and other things concerning the same spiritualities. Dated at the priory of Merton, 21 August, 1395³.

Mandate from Robert, bishop of London, to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester, reciting a mandate from William, archbishop of Canterbury, to the same bishop, reciting a papal bull, dated at St. Peter's at Rome the 4th of the Nones of August, in the fifth year of his pontificate, addressed to all ecclesiastical persons in the kingdom of England, to make provision for Bartholomew de Navaria, papal nuncio to the kingdom of England, and order thereupon from the said Archbishop for the collection of one halfpenny in the pound in the name of a subsidy from every benefice throughout the province of Canterbury. Dated at London, 7 June.

Fol. 215*d*. Like mandate of Thomas Stowe, canon of London, commissary-general of the Bishop of London. Dated 18 March.

Fol. 216. Commission from William¹, archbishop of Canterbury, to Robert More, LL.D., to hear the account of the Prior of Worcester of the receipts of the bishopric of Worcester during the vacancy of the See. Dated at the Archbishop's manor of Charleton, 22 October, 1395.

Account of the Prior of Worcester for the administration of the spiritualities in the city and diocese of Worcester, from the time of the vacancy of the said See, heard by master Robert de la More at Batenhall, 13 November, 1395.

¹ William Courtenay.

² Tideman de Winchcomb.

³ This letter is out of its proper place.

It refers to the vacancy on the death of Henry Wakefield, when the Pope translated Tideman from Llandaff to Worcester.

PENSIONS.

From the church of Bibury, 4 marks, 12s.

From the church of Tettebury, 4 marks.

From the church of Thornebury, 26s. 8d.

From the church of Longedon, 20s.

From the church of Camms, 20s.

From the church of Downamoney, 4 marks.

Thereof received, 26s. 8d.

And so there are owed, 26s. 8d.

In the tithes of the church of Blockeley, 13*li.* 6s. 8d.

From the rent of two terms, 30s.

From certain acres of land put to money (*positis ad denar'*), 10s.

Sum, 15*li.* 6s. 8d.

Fol. 216d. From institutions and exchanges, 8*li.* 6s. 8d.

From letters dimissory, 4s.

From fines, wills, and perquisites, 8*li.* 4s. 6d.

From the account of the deans of the archdeaconries of
Gloucester and Worcester, 22*li.* 3s. 4d.

Sum total, 68*li.* 10s. 6d.

Whereof there is allowed a third part to the Prior of Worcester,
which is extended to 22*li.*

And so there remains for the Archbishop, 45*li.* 13s. 8d.

Whereof the prior paid Master N. Hereford, by mandate of the
Archbishop, 6*li.* 13s. 4d.

And so there remains to be paid to the Archbishop, 39*li.* 4d.

Memorandum, that the prior of Makstok owes of the pensions
for the churches of Aston Canlowe, Yredeley, and Tonworth,
66s. 8d. (they are paid).

Also the vicar of Downameney, 26s. 8d.

Warrant from [the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Prior of
Worcester] to pay to Master Nicholas Hereford 10 marks from
the revenues of the spiritualities of the bishopric of Worcester,
which will be allowed. Dated at Maydeisston, 6 May.

Receipt from Master Nicholas Herford to brother John Grene, Prior of Worcester, for the said 10 marks. Dated at Worcester, 26 May, 1395.

Memorandum, that the Archbishop of Canterbury challenged the said pensions due to the bishop, the See being full, and the fruits and profits of the church of Blockeleye, and threatened that he would rather be impleaded for them than give them up, because the chapter could by no means obtain a third part of them by virtue of the composition or otherwise, but with a moiety Master Robert de la More, auditor of the said account, had been satisfied, and the prior held and retained a third part of the same pensions and profits of the said church of Blockeleye, as the tenor of the composition directs.

Item, memorandum, that these indemnities in this vacancy were paid, that is to say,

- From the church of Fayreford, 5 marks.
- From the church of Wolford, 4 marks.
- From the church of Newbold Pacy, 20s.
- From the church of Dydebrokes, 4 marks.
- From the church of Poywyke, 4 marks.
- From the church of Budeford, 4 marks.
- From the church of Wykewan, 4 marks.
- From the church of Terdebygg', 4 marks.
- From the church of Waweyneswotton, 4 marks.
- From the church of Clent, 20s.
- From the church of Bodmynton, 40s.

PROCURATIONS.

- From the abbot of Cyrencestre, 4 marks.
- From the prior of Great Malvern, 40s.

Vacancy of the See from the death of Bishop Tideman de Winchcombe, 13th June, 1401, to the translation of Richard Clifford.

Fol. 217. Register of brother John Malvern, prior of Worcester, of those things which were done during the vacancy of the See by the death of the lord Tideman, bishop of Worcester, who died on 13th day of June, 1401, to the 17th of October, of the same year.

Letter from John, prior, and the chapter of Worcester to King Henry IV., acquainting him with the death of Tidman, bishop of Worcester, and sending Master John Duddleley, professor of holy writ (*pagine*), and John Clyve, precentor of the cathedral church of Worcester, to pray licence to elect another bishop. Dated in the chapter-house of Worcester, 15 June, 1401.

Letter from John, prior, and the chapter of Worcester to Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury¹, acquainting him with the death of Tidman, late bishop of Worcester, on 13 June, and praying for a commission to the prior, or, in his absence, the sub-prior, to exercise jurisdiction during the vacancy, according to the form of a certain composition. Dated in the chapter-house of Worcester, 15 June, 1401.

Congé d'elire from Henry IV. Dated at Westminster, 20 June, 2 Henry IV.

Commission from Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury¹, to the Prior of Worcester, or, in his absence, the sub-prior, to exercise jurisdiction during the vacancy of the See of Worcester. Dated at Lambeth, 22 June, 1401.

Fol. 217*d*. Letter from the Prior of Worcester to the sub-prior and chapter of Worcester declaring his intention to make visitation at the church of Worcester and the chapter on Thursday, the vigil of St. John the Baptist, and commanding that all the brethren and monks be cited to appear on the same day. Dated at Worcester, 15 June, 1401.

Certificate of the receipt of the above. Dated at Worcester, 22 June, 1401.

Proclamation that on 24 June, 1401, in the chapter-house of Worcester, in the presence of a notary public, at the time of the chapter of the same day, there appeared John Malvern, the prior, Robert Hambury, the sub-prior, Walter Froncestre, John Lyndesey, John Tredinton, Richard Worcestre, John Hatfeld, almoner, John Dudley, infirmarer, John Wyttheney, Thomas Dene, cellarer, Roger

¹ Thomas Arundel.

Schrouesbury, William Merston, shrine keeper (*tumbar'*), Richard Grafton, Walter Kyrkeby, hospitaller, John Wythchurch, Roger Evesham, John Upton, third prior, John Wyrcestre, master chaplain, Thomas More, chamberlain, John Bradfeld, John Fordam, Reginald Dyer, succentor, Thomas Hertellebury, sacristan, William Ouston, pittancer, John Lemestr', John Stretford, refectorer, John Olyve, precentor, Thomas Ruyding, kitchener, William Cropp, sub-sacristan, Richard Dudley, William Maysmore, Thomas Bitindeley, sub-cellarer, William Ydushale, Thomas Brotton, chaplain, Ralph Fylkyn, scholar, John Ston', sub-chamberlain, John Bye, fourth prior, John Hambury, deacon, John Wodeward, deacon, scholar, John Coulesdon, John Tendebury, Richard Glouc', Thomas Ledbury, deacon, and John Alyncestr', sub-deacon of the said church, monks and brethren, and ordained in holy orders, forming the chapter of the said church, who fixed Monday the 27th of the said month to celebrate the election of a future bishop in the chapter-house. On which day the monks and brothers aforesaid came together in the choir of the said church in the morning, the mass of the Holy Spirit being celebrated before them, and afterwards they went into the chapter-house for the said election, when brother John Duddeley, S.T.P., monk of the said church, expounded the Word of God before them, after which the prior and chapter caused the *congé d'elire* to be read, and then they sang the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus*. Whereupon Master Pavy asked the prior and convent whether all and singular the brethren and monks of the said cathedral church and any other who would, could, or should be at such election were present, and they answered, Yes. Then the prior read a protestation warning all excommunicated, suspended, and interdicted persons and those charged with crimes to retire; and the said prior and convent caused to be read the constitution of the general council, which begins *Quia propter*, by the said Master Pavy. And immediately afterwards, as if by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the same prior and all the monks and brethren, no one wholly dissenting, desired with one voice and in one spirit Master Richard Clifford, bachelor in both laws, elect of Bath and Wells, to be the bishop and pastor of the same church. And scarcely had they sung the psalm *Te Deum Laudamus*, according to custom, than proclamation was made by the said Master John Pavy before the high altar to the clergy and people. These things were done in the

presence of Master Richard Wynchecomb, archdeacon of Gloucester, Thomas Wybbe, canon of Wells, John Derlton, and Henry Grene, notaries public, William Wybbe and William Bracy, esquires, of the diocese of Worcester, and many other witnesses specially called.

Fol. 218*d*. Letter from the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to Pope Boniface reciting the foregoing proceedings of the election, and adding that after the election, as above set out, brothers William Ouston, pittancer, and John Olyve, precentor, were appointed proctors to go to the city of London to the house of the said Richard Clifford, where they arrived on the last day of June, to ask him to consent to such election, who, having had mature deliberation, on 1 July, in the chapel of his house, after the celebration of the Mass of the Holy Spirit, at length gave his consent, being unwilling to resist the divine will.

Fol. 219. Appointment of brothers William Ouston, pittancer, and John Olyve, precentor, proctors, as above. Dated in the chapter-house of Worcester, 28 June, 1401.

Fol. 219*d*. Notarial certificate to the foregoing proceedings by Masters Richard Wynch', archdeacon of Gloucester, John Chew, John Derlton, Henry Grene, notaries public, of the dioceses of Worcester, Bath and Wells, York, and Hereford, and before other witnesses.

Orders celebrated in the cathedral church of Worcester by licence and special commission of the Prior of Worcester by Nicholas, bishop of Dunkeld¹, on Saturday *quatuor temporum*, viz. :— 24 September, 1401.

PRIESTS (Religious).

John Wodeward, monk of Worcester.

John Clyve, monk of Wynchcombe.

Nicholas Wytistr', monk of Wynchecombe.

John Glastyngbury, canon of St. Augustine's, Bristol.

Peter Power, canon of St. Augustine's, Bristol.

John Erley, canon of St. Augustine's, Bristol.

Thomas Lacok, brother of the house of St. Mark, Bristol.

¹ Abbot of Pershore.

John Castelmartin of the order of Friars Preachers
 Alexander Kyngeley, of the order of Friars Preachers.
 John Swynbrok, of the order of Friars Minor.
 Nicholas Parys, of the order of Friars Minor.
 Thomas Berford, of the order of Friars Minor.

PRIESTS (Secular).

John Ferthynhal, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of Lanthony next Gloucester.

Thomas Balle, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bordesl'.

Richard Stowe, within the jurisdiction of Evesham, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Evesham, to the title of the abbot and convent of Alincestr'.

John Anger of Gloucester to the title of prior and convent of Lanthony next Gloucester and their house of Doteston.

Thomas Taylor, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the abbot and convent of Hayl'.

William Smyth, of the diocese of Salisbury, by letters dimissory, to the title of the hospital of St. John of Lechelade.

Roger Warde, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of his patrimony.

Thomas Bokelond, of the diocese of Salisbury, by letters dimissory, to the title of the hospital of St. John of Lechelade.

John Netheweys, of the diocese of Salisbury, to the title of the prior and convent of Lanthony next Gloucester.

DEACONS (Religious).

Thomas Brythwelton, monk of Wynchecomb.

Thomas Perschor, monk of Wynchecomb.

Lewis Sedewych, of the order of Friars Minor.

John de Gaudino, of the order of Friars Minor.

DEACONS (Secular).

Pryse ap Gryffrith, of the diocese of St. David, by letters dimissory, to the title of his patrimony.

John atte Neude, of the diocese of Salisbury, by letters dimissory, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bradenstok.

Philip Jackson, of the diocese of Hereford, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior and convent of Worcester.

Robert Farley, of the diocese of Hereford, to the title of the prior and convent of Little Malvern.

SUB-DEACONS (Regular).

John Gloucester, }
William Newynton, } monks of Perschore.

Richard Walke, to the same.

John Melle, of the diocese of St. David, to the title of Thomas Rede, paying 100s. yearly rent, by letters dimissory of his diocesan.

John Paradys, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior of Pulton.

John Onour, of the diocese of Lincoln, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior and convent of the hospital of St. Bartholomew, Gloucester.

William Lingeyn of Marteley, in the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the hospital of St. Wolstan, Worcester.

Gilbert Swyft, of the diocese of Norwich, to the title of the abbot and convent of Sybeton.

William Stacy, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the abbot and convent of Hayl'.

Robert Bengrove, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the hospital of St. Wolstan, Worcester.

John Mildenhall, of the diocese of Norwich, by letters dimissory to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera.

John Bengeworth, within the jurisdiction of Evesham, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Evesham, to the title of the abbot and convent of Alinchester.

John Plumer, within the jurisdiction of Evesham, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Evesham, to the title of the hospital of St. Wolstan of Worcester.

ACOLYTES (Religious).

Henry Stenynton, }
John Hoppewus, } of the order of Friars Minor.
John Nanney, }

ACOLYTES (Secular).

Richard Wode of Worcester.

Walter Perwer of the diocese of Worcester.

John Teynton of Teukesbury.

Robert Stanley of the diocese of Worcester.

John Plumer.

Fol. 220. Certificate by Henry, bishop of Lincoln¹, of the execution of the commission from Tidiman, bishop of Worcester, dated 8 June, 1401, to expedite the exchange between John Wayte of Wodehous, perpetual vicar of the church of the prebend of Sutton (*perpetuus vicarius ecclesiæ præbendæ de Sutton*) of the diocese of Lincoln, and Thomas Ymworth, perpetual vicar of the parish church of Ebrython of the diocese of Worcester, whereof the patronage belongs to the abbot and convent of Buttelesdene. Dated at Ledington, 11 June.

Fol. 220d. Memorandum of the induction of the said John Wayte to the church of Ebrython.

Institution of Thomas Cookes, chaplain, to the church of Shipton Solers, upon the presentation of Margaret Solers, lady of Shipton Solers, on 21 June.

Certificate by Robert, bishop of Chichester², of the execution of the commission from the Prior of Worcester to expedite the exchange between John Marchal, vicar of the parish church of New Shorham, of the diocese of Chichester, and John Clerk, vicar of the parish church of Dydebok, of the diocese of Worcester, whereof the abbot and convent of Hayles are patrons. Dated at Drungewyk, 29 June.

Memorandum of the induction of the said John Marchal to the vicarage of Dydebok.

Commission from Richard, bishop of Salisbury³, to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester to expedite the exchange between Sir Richard Mollyng, vicar of the church of Guytyng Inferior, of the diocese of Worcester, and Thomas Englyssh, perpetual vicar

¹ Henry Beaufort.

² Robert Reade.

³ Richard Mitford.

of the parish church of Sherston Magna of the diocese of Salisbury, whereof Master Henry Chichele, rector of the church of Sherston aforesaid, is patron. Dated 28 July, 1401.

Fol. 221. Certificate of the execution of the above commission. Dated 9 August.

Institution of Thomas Englyssh, presented by brother Walter Grendon, prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, to the vicarage of Guytyng Inferior.

Institution of Nicholas Aston, priest, to the parish church of Old Swyneford in the diocese of Worcester, upon the resignation of John Hulle, before Master William Neuport, notary public, and at the presentation of Sir Hugh Burnell, knight, on 15 August.

Institution of William Marchal, priest, to the church of Pebmore in the diocese of Worcester, upon the resignation of Nicholas de Aston, the last rector, and at the presentation of Richard Clodeshale, lord of Pebmore.

Exchange between Walter Nicholes, perpetual vicar of the parish church of Astleye in the diocese of Worcester, and John Bache, perpetual vicar of the parish church of la Holte in the same diocese, the said vicarage of la Holte being in the patronage of William Cookes, rector of the said church of la Holte, and the said vicarage of Asteleye being in the patronage of Sir Nicholas Lyllyng, knight, Thomas Aldebur', clerk, and John Onleye. Institutions thereupon on 4 August.

Fol. 221*d*. Commission from Robert, bishop of London¹, to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester to expedite the exchange between William Kydermynstr', rector of the parish church of Northcerney, in the diocese of Worcester, and John Claypole, rector of the parish church of St. Nicholas Acon, in the diocese of London, whereof the abbot and convent of Malmesbury are the patrons. Dated at the Bishop's palace at London, 1 July, 1401.

Certificate of the execution of the above commission. Dated at Worcester, 7 July.

¹ Robert Braybrook.

Institution of John Claypole, presented by Edmund, Earl of Stafford, to the church of Northcerneye.

Institution of William Brey, rector of the parish church of Specheleye in the diocese of Worcester, presented by the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to the parish church of St. Clement in the city of Worcester; and of Thomas Wylde, rector of the said church of St. Clement, presented by William Golafre and William Wyrhehalle, lords of Specheleye, to the said church of Specheleye on 10 August.

Institution of Peter Colyngnam, priest, presented to the parish church of Rysyndon Magna (vacant by the death of Thomas Lucas, the last rector) by Robert Lyle, on 15 July.

Institution of William Gerard, priest, presented by the prior and convent of Kenilworth to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Saltford in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the resignation of Richard Grffyn, the last vicar, on 23 September.

Institution of William Lilye, priest, to the perpetual vicarage of the church of Wenlond in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the resignation of John Otor, the last vicar, upon the presentation of the prior and convent of Little Malvern, on the same day. And the rector of Bredon was written to for his induction.

Fol. 222. Declaration of John, prior of Worcester, that he has examined the matter of the exchange between Thomas Huggeleye, rector of the parish church of St. Nicholas of Worcester, and William Rudepot, rector of the parish church of Salwarp, in the diocese of Worcester, whereof King Henry IV. is patron by reason of the minority of age of Richard, now Earl of Warwick, son and heir of Margaret, who was the wife of Thomas de Bello Campo, Earl of Warwick, deceased, and has found that the titles of both the aforesaid rectors are sufficient. Notarial certificate to the same by Master John de Dunclent, notary public. Dated at Worcester, 22 August, 1401, in the presence of brother Thomas Brocton, monk of Worcester, and Henry Chamberleyne, layman, of the diocese of Worcester.

Institution of John Alwerk, priest, presented by John the prior and the chapter of Worcester to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Clyve Prioris, vacant by the resignation of William Gerard, the last vicar, on 1 October.

On 29 June, Nicholas Burton, rector of the parish church of Culne Roger, was presented to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Holmer in the jurisdiction of the dean and chapter of Hereford; and John Palmer, perpetual vicar of the said church of Holmer, was presented by abbot and convent of Gloucester to the said church of Culne, by reason of an exchange between the said Nicholas and John.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to the dean of Hereford to expedite the same exchange.

Fol. 222*d*. Certificate by the dean of Hereford of the execution of the same commission.

Commission from Richard, bishop of Salisbury¹, to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester, to expedite the exchange between John Moryn, rector of the church of Quenyngton, in the diocese of Worcester, and John Chaundeler, rector of the parish church of Hamstede Marchal, in the diocese of Salisbury, whereof King Henry IV. is patron. Dated at the said bishop's castle of Shirebourne, 7 August, 1401.

Certificate of the execution of the said commission.

Institution of John Chaundeler to the church of Quenyngton upon the presentation of Walter Grendon, prior of the hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England, in accordance with the above exchange in the person of John Bryzt, clerk, proctor of the said John.

Fol. 223. On 18 August, Joan Burdon, lady of Oldebury, presented John Bache, priest, to the parish church of Oldebury.

On 29 August the said John Bache was instituted to the said church,

¹ Richard Mitford.

On 10 October the Prior of Worcester received a commission from the Bishop of Lincoln¹ to expedite the exchange between John Barewe, rector of the parish church of Eccleshale, in the diocese of Worcester, and William Sly, perpetual vicar of the parish church of Blacolnesley, in the diocese of Lincoln.

Certificate of the execution of the said commission stating that the said church of Blacolnesley was in the patronage of brother Walter Grendon, prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England. Dated at Bugden, 6 October, 1401.

Institution of William Sly, presented to the church of Eccleshale by the prior and convent of Kenilworth by reason of the above exchange.

On 10 October, John Palmer, rector of the church of Culne Roger in the diocese of Worcester, whereof the abbot and convent of St. Peter's of Gloucester are patrons, and Richard Shirebourne, vicar of the church of Whitenhurst in the same diocese, whereof brother John Seisham, prior of Bruton, in the diocese of Bath and Wells, is patron, upon the exchange made between them, were instituted.

Fol. 223*d*. Certificate from the Archdeacon of Worcester that he has received the mandate of the Prior of Worcester, dated at Worcester, 15 June, 1401, to make visitation in his archdeaconry, which on account of the shortness of the time and the distance of the places, he has been unable fully to execute, but as far as he could he has executed the same. Dated at Ippesleye, 21 June.

A like mandate was directed to the Archdeacon of Gloucester.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to John Clyve, precentor of the church of Worcester, and Thomas Whelere, vicar of the church of St. Peter of Worcester, and dean of Worcester, to ask the justices of the king for gaol delivery in the county of Worcester for Richard Medborne, who fled to the churchyard of the cathedral church of Worcester, and remained there from day to day till he was taken contrary to ecclesiastical liberties and

¹ Henry Beaufort.

the customs of old time used in the kingdom of England. Dated at Worcester, 21 July, 1401.

Fol. 224. Commission to brother John de Clyve, precentor of the church of Worcester, and the dean of Worcester, to warn those who took Richard Medborne, who with others fled from the King's prison within the castle of Worcester to the churchyard of the cathedral church of Worcester, to deliver the said Richard back to the said consecrated place.

Mandate to the Dean of Worcester and all rectors, vicars, and chaplains of the city of Worcester, to excommunicate the said persons, and cite them to appear before the said prior or his commissary.

Fol. 224*d*. Mandate from the Prior of Worcester to the official of the Archdeacon of Gloucester to cite the prior and convent of Lanthony next Gloucester, of the order of St. Augustine in the diocese of Worcester, to say wherefore they should not be removed from the perpetual vicarages of Payneswyk, Prestbur', and St. Owen of Gloucester, in which the perpetual vicars were wont to continually reside without canonical title.

Confirmation by the Prior of Worcester of the right of the prior and convent of Stodleye, of the order of St. Augustine in the diocese of Worcester, to the parish church of Aston Cantelowe, to which the said prior and convent of Stodleye had been required to shew their title.

Fol. 225. Visitation made in the archdeaconry of Worcester during the time of the vacancy.

The Prior of the cathedral church of Worcester visited the chapter of the same church, and the clergy and people of the city and deanery of Worcester, on 23 June, and received 40*s*. from the prior and convent of Great Malvern in the name of subjection (*subjectionis*) due from them to the cathedral church.

Item, the same prior visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Poywyk' in the parish church there on 25 June, and received from the prior of Malvern aforesaid 4 marks in the name of procuracy for the aforesaid church.

Master John Duddeley, monk and master in Theology, and master John Dunclet, clerk, commissaries of the same prior, visited the abbey of Perschor', on 4 July, and they were provided with meat and drink, and on the same day they visited the clergy and people of the same deanery in the church of St. Andrew of the same town.

Item, brother Thomas Brocton, monk of the same cathedral church, and John Stoke, clerk, commissaries of the same prior, visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Kyderminster on the said 4 July, and received from the abbot of Halys 20s., due to the prior of the cathedral church aforesaid, the See being vacant, from the church of Clent and chapel of Rouley.

Item, the aforesaid master Duddel' and John Stoke, clerk, commissaries of the same prior, visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Wych', in the parish church of Tardebygg, on 5 July, and received there by the hands of Master Thomas Wylbe, rector of the parish church of Hambur', in the name of a procuration 3 marks for the church of Tardebygg aforesaid.

Item, the same prior visited the Hospital of St. Wolfstan on the same 5th July, and was provided with meat and drink.

Item, on 6 July he visited the priory of Wyston and hospital of St. Oswald.

Item, the same commissaries visited the priory of Crokhull, the priory of Stodley, and the abbey of Alyncestr', on the same 6 July, and were provided with meat and drink.

Item, the same commissaries visited the priories of Wroxhal and Pynley on 9 July, and were provided with meat and drink.

And on the same day the same commissaries visited the college of the Blessed Thomas of Stratford upon Avon, and the clergy and people of the same town on 12 July.

And on the same day the same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Warwick in the parish church of Waweneswotton, and there received by the hands of master Thomas Wylbe in the name of a procuration 4 marks.

Item, the same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Kyngton in the parish church of Wolvord on 11 July, and received from the vicar there in the name of a procuration 4 marks.

Visitation made in the archdeaconry of Gloucester.

Brother John Hatfeld, monk of the cathedral church, and master John Pavy, clerk, commissaries of the said prior, visited the abbey of St. Peter of Gloucester on 4 July, and were provided with meat and drink, and received from the church of Holy Trinity there and from the church of the Blessed Mary before the gate there, 13s. 4*d.*, due to the prior.

On the same day the same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of the same town in the church of St. Nicholas there.

On the same day, after dinner, the same commissaries visited the prior of Lanthony next Gloucester, and were provided with food.

The same commissaries visited the abbey of St. Augustine, the house of St. Mark, and the priory of St. James of Bristol, on 6 July, and were provided with meat and drink.

On the same day the said commissaries visited the clergy and people of the same deanery.

Item, the aforesaid commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deaneries of Haukesbury and Button in the chapel of the town of Sobbury Market on 7 July, and there received 40s. from the church of Badmynton, due to the prior of the cathedral church, the See being vacant.

Item, the aforesaid commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Stonhouse in the parish church of Tettebury, on 8 July.

Item, the same commissaries visited the abbey of Cyrencestr' on 9 July, and received 4 marks in the name of a procuracy.

On the same day the same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of the same town in the parish church there, and moreover on the same day and in the same place visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Fayreford, and received from the same church 5 marks, due to the prior of the cathedral church.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Stowe in the parish church there on 11 July.

Item, the same commissaries visited the abbey of Wynchecomb on 12 July, and were provided with meat and drink. And on the same day they visited the clergy and people of the same deanery in the parish church there, and received from the church of Derhurste in the name of a procuracy 4 marks.

Item, the same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Campeden in the parish church of Wyke, Wor', on 13 July, and received in the name of a procuracy 4 marks by the hands of the said master Thomas Wylbe. And on the same day the same commissaries visited the church of Dydebok and received in the name of a procuracy 4 marks.

Fol. 226. Item, the same commissaries visited the abbey of Teukesbury on 14 July, and were provided with meat and drink.

Item, the same commissaries visited the priory of Little Malvern on 15 July, and were provided with meat and drink.

Item, master Richard Wynchecomb, archdeacon of Gloucester, commissary of the said prior, visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Deresley in the parish church there on 20 July.

Item, the same master Richard, commissary as above, visited the college of Westebury on 21 July, and was provided with meat and drink.

Item, the same prior visited the church of Asteley on 29 July.

Letter from Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury¹, to the Prior of Worcester, that whereas he is informed by apostolic letters that Pope Boniface IX. has translated the venerable man master Richard Clyfford, formerly elect of Bath and Wells, to the church of Worcester, he commands the said prior to deliver to the said master Richard the spiritualities, seals, registers and other things remaining in the prior's hands, which ought to be delivered. Dated at Totnam, in the diocese of London, on 5 October, 1401.

Institution of Thomas Baker, priest, presented to the vicarage of Old Sobbury in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the death of Philip Scherer, the last vicar, by brother Thomas Hertylbury, sacristan of the cathedral church, on 29 July.

Receipt from John, Prior of Worcester, to the prior and convent of Kenilworth, in the diocese of Lichfield, for 4 marks of silver due at Michaelmas last past for the payment every three years for the appropriation of the church of Budeford. Dated at Worcester, 5 October, 1401.

¹ Thomas Arundel.

Institution of brother Robert Bremulle, monk of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Kyngeswode of the Cistercian order, presented to the parish church of Charfeld, by John le Veel, on 20 September, 1401.

Fol. 226*d*. Commission from Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester and Master Richard Wynchecombe, archdeacon of Gloucester, to levy and collect certain pensions from divers persons in the diocese of Worcester during the vacancy of the See, and, if necessary, to compel the same persons to pay under canonical censure. Dated at Lambeth, 13 February, 1401.

Memorandum, that during this vacancy the provost and scholars of Queen's Hall, Oxford, refused to pay 20*s*. pension due to the prior and church of Worcester from the church of Newbold Pacy, appropriated to them, and payable every time the See of Worcester is vacant, desiring only to pay one mark and shewing two acquittances, by which it appears they paid only one mark, so that the Prior of Worcester proceeded against them by citations and excommunications; but at length it was agreed between the parties that the said provost and scholars should pay for this last vacancy 20*s*. to the Prior of Worcester, and should do likewise at every vacancy, and return to the prior the evidences which shewed the contrary.

Agreement made 13 June, 1402, between the Prior of Worcester and the provost and scholars of Queen's Hall, Oxford, by Master Thomas Borton, M.A., proctor and fellow of the said provost and scholars, and Master Richard Grafton, proctor of the said prior, at the house of Robert Stredforde in North Street, Oxford, between the inn commonly called "Kateryne Whele" and the North Gate, in the terms above recited. Witnesses, Master John Blew, D.C.L., John Forster and Thomas Rodborne, M.M.A., of the University of Oxford.

Vacancy from the translation of Richard Clifford to London to the appointment of Thomas Peverell.

Fol. 227*d*. Register of brother John Malvern, prior of the cathedral church of Worcester, of those things which were done during the vacancy of the See by the translation of the reverend father and lord, the lord Richard Clifford, late bishop of Worcester, to the bishopric of London, from 21 October, 1407, to 21 November of the same year.

Commission from Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury, to the Prior of Worcester, to exercise jurisdiction in the city and diocese of Worcester according to the composition made between Boniface, archbishop of Canterbury, and the prior and chapter of Worcester. Dated at Gloucester, 20 October, 1407.

Institution of Thomas Cross, priest, presented by William Rede, rector of the parish church of Martley, to the parish church of Arley, in the diocese of Worcester, on 22 October, 1407.

Institution of Richard Brompton, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Teukesbury to the parish church of St. Owen of Bristol, in the diocese of Worcester, on 22 October, 1407.

Institution of John Garsyngton, priest, presented by King Henry IV. to the parish church of Condycote, in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the resignation of William Curteys, the last parson, on 25 October, 1407. And the rector of Swell was written to for his induction because it is in the deanery of Blockel'.

Institution of William Salter, priest, presented by the prioress of the black nuns of Brewode to the parish church of Brome, in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the death of the last rector, on 25 October, 1407.

Institution of John Seman, priest, presented by Thomas Berkeley, lord of Berkeley, to the perpetual chantry of "Wotton under egge," in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the death of William Haselton, the last priest there, on 26 October, 1407.

Institution of John Machon, priest, presented by the abbot of the monastery of St. Peter of Gloucester to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Northlech, in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the exchange made by the rector of the parish church of Newton with the vicar of Northlech, on 26 October, 1407.

Institution of Thomas Bylley, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester to the parish church of Newton, in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the lawful exchange made by the vicar of the parish church of Northlech, on 26 October, 1407.

Institution of John Berston, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester to the perpetual chantry of St. Margaret next Gloucester, in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the death of the last chaplain, on 3 November, 1407.

Institution of Thomas Lucas, priest, presented by the prior and convent of the church of the Blessed Mary the Virgin and St. Michael the Archangel of Maxstoke to the parish church of Aston Cantelawe, in the diocese of Worcester, vacant by the exchange with the chantry founded in honour of St. Mary the Virgin, St. Thomas the Martyr, and All Saints at Lappoworth, at (*ad*) the parish church of Aston Cantelawe, on 15 November, 1407.

Fol. 228. Institution of John Aston, priest, presented by lady Rose de Monte Forti, lady of Codbarwe, to the perpetual chantry founded in honour of St. Mary the Virgin, St. Thomas the Martyr, and All Saints at Lappoworth, by an exchange made with the vicar of the parish church of Aston Cantelawe, on 15 November, 1407.

Visitations made in the archdeaconry of Worcester during the vacancy aforesaid.

The Prior of Worcester visited the chapter of the same on 24 October, and the clergy and people of the deanery of Poywyk on 25 October, in the parish church there, and received in the name of a procuration 4 marks from the aforesaid church.

The same prior visited the clergy and people of the city and deanery of Worcester, in the cathedral church of Worcester, on 26 October.

Also Master John Fordham, monk and clerk of the cathedral church of Worcester, and Richard Grafton, commissaries of the said prior, visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Kyderminster in the parish church there on 2 November, and there visited the parish church of Clent and Rouleye, and received from the church of Clent, by reason of the vacancy of the See, 20s.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Wych in the parish church of Terdebygg, on 3 November, and received in the name of a procuracy 4 marks.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Warrewyk in the parish church of Wawenneswotton, on 4 November, and received in the name of a procuracy 4 marks.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Stowe and Blocley in the parish church of Stowe on 7 November.

Visitation made in the archdeaconry of Gloucester in the time of the vacancy aforesaid.

Master John Hatfelde, monk of the cathedral church, and Master John Pany, clerk, commissaries of the Prior of Worcester, visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Pershore on 2 November.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Campeden in the parish church of Wykewone on 3 November, and received in the name of a procuracy 4 marks from the said church, and 4 marks from the church of Dydebrok.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Fryreford in the parish church there on 4 November, and received by reason of the vacancy of the See 5 marks.

The same commissaries visited the monastery of Cirencistr' in the chapter-house there on 5 November, and there received in the name of a procuracy 4 marks, and on the same day the same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of the same in the parish church there.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Hank' and Button on 7 November in the parish church of Market Sobbury, and there received from the abbot of Lylleshull 40s. for his church of Badmynton, by reason of the vacancy of the See.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Bristoll in the parish church of St. Augustine, on 8 November.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Duresley on 12 November in the parish church of Berkeley.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Stonhous in the parish church of Nun's Hampton on 13 November.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Gloucester in the church of St. Nicholas on 14 November.

The same commissaries visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Wynchecomb in the parish church of Cheltenham on 15 November.

Fol. 228*d*. Letter from Thomas, archbishop of Canterbury¹, to the Prior of Worcester. Whereas Pope Gregory XII. has translated Thomas, bishop of Llandaff², to the bishopric of Worcester, the said archbishop enjoins the said prior to deliver all registers and muniments concerning the spiritualities of the city and diocese of Worcester. Dated at Gloucester, 20 November, 1407.

Incomplete entry of the proceedings between John, prior of Worcester, and John Arnald, vicar of the church of Dydybrok, as to the payment of an annual pension of 4 marks claimed by the said prior to be payable by the said vicar during the vacancy of the See of Worcester.

*Vacancy from the death of Thomas Peverell on 1st March, 1418,
to the consecration of Philip Morgan, 3rd Dec., 1419.*

Fol. 229. Register of brother John Fordham, prior of Worcester, of those things which were done during the vacancy of the See by

¹ Thomas Arundel.

² Thomas Peverell.

the death of Thomas Peverell, bishop of Worcester, who died on 1 March, 1418 [19].

Letter from the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to Henry, archbishop of Canterbury¹, acquainting him with the death of Thomas, the late bishop, on 1 March, and praying for a commission to exercise spiritual jurisdiction in the city and diocese during the vacancy. Dated in the chapter at Worcester, 5 March, 1418 [19].

Letter from the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to King Henry V. acquainting him with the death of Thomas, the late bishop, and sending their monks, John Elene, sacristan, and John Hambury, cellarer, to pray license to elect another bishop. Dated at the chapter-house of Worcester, 9 March, 1418 [19].

Fol. 229*d*. Commission by William Lyndewode, doctor of both laws, official of the court of Canterbury during the absence of the Archbishop of Canterbury out of the kingdom, to John, prior of the cathedral church of the Blessed Mary of Worcester, or in his absence out of the kingdom to the sub-prior, giving him power to exercise spiritual jurisdiction in the city and diocese of Worcester. Dated at London, 9 March.

Congé d'elire from Henry V. Dated at York, 25 March, 7 Henry V.

Fol. 230. Orders celebrated in the cathedral church of Worcester on the Saturday on which is sung in churches the office *Sicientes*, 1419, by Nicholas, bishop of Dunkeld², by licence and commission of the Prior of Worcester.

ACOLYTES (Religious).

Richard Sthanton, of the order of Friars Preachers.

¹ Henry Chicheley.

Beoley and Belbroughton. He acted as

² Nicholas, abbot of Pershore, rector of suffragan of Worcester, 1392—1421.

ACOLYTES (Secular).

John Bradikote.	William Bachefore.
John Harrkes.	Richard Walle.
John Rokes.	John Andrewes.
David ap Jevan ap David.	Thomas Smyth.
William Hosyer.	John Wodeward.
John Colynnus.	Thomas Smallewode.
William Warde.	

SUB-DEACONS (Secular).

Richard Walle, to the title of St. Oswald of Worcester, of which, &c.

Thomas Darker, to the title of the house of the convent of Alyncester, of which, &c.

John Andrewes, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald next Worcester.

John Poole, to the title of the house of Teylesforde.

Thomas Schaunseys, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald next Worcester.

DEACONS (Religious).

William Evesham, monk of Worcester.

Thomas Lylleshull, monk of Worcester.

DEACONS (Secular).

John Davit, of the diocese of St. David, to the title of the canons of the church of Hereford.

Thomas Newbold, to the title of the house of St. Radegund of Teylesford.

Richard Hulle, to the title of the abbot of Bordesley, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Evesham.

Thomas Malle, to the title of his benefice.

PRIESTS (Religious).

John Sudbury, monk of Worcester.

William Sperman, monk of Tewkesbury.

FRIARS PREACHERS.

John ap Prys, priest.

PRIESTS (Secular).

John Hawte, to the title of the house of Teylesforde.

John Leddebury, to the title of his benefice.

Thomas Leynard, to the title of the dean and chapter of Hereford, by letters dimissory of the Archbishop of Dublin.

John Bawn, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bordesley, by letters dimissory of the abbot of Evesham.

Nicholas Grene, to the title of the prior of St. Sepulchre in the county of Warwick.

John Perschore, to the title of the abbot and convent of Alyncester.

Institution of Richard Haukeslowe, priest, presented by the abbess of Cokhull to the rectory of Spenor in the diocese of Worcester, and the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 20 April, 1419.

Institution of Richard Cooke, priest, presented by Sir John Berkeley, knight, to the rectory of Syde in the diocese of Worcester. Dated 6 May, 1419.

Institution of John Salisbury, priest, presented by the master of the college of Forderynghaye to the church of Suckeleye in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with John Mortemer of the church of Bradewell, and the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 10 June, 1419.

Fol. 230*d*. Orders celebrated in the parish church of Bromesgrove on the vigil of Easter, viz. on 15 April, 1419, by Nicholas, bishop of Dunkeld¹.

ACOLYTES (Secular).

Roger Stratford.

William Laython, monk of Bordesley.

Hugh Geley, by letters dimissory of the Bishop of St. Asaph.

¹ See *ante*, p. 391.

SUB-DEACONS (Secular).

Roger Stratford, of the diocese of Lincoln, to the title of the prior of Coldenorton.

William Layton, monk of Bordesley.

Robert Sele, of the diocese of Exeter, to the title of the abbot and convent of the monastery of Rewley.

John Haukes, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald next Worcester.

John Estmore, of the diocese of Bath, to the title of the abbot and convent of Schirborn of the order of St. Benedict.

DEACONS (Religious).

Henry Wyche, monk of St. Alban's, by letters dimissory, and licence of his abbot.

William Kidderminster, monk of Bordesley.

William Byrmycham, monk of Bordesley.

Walter Byrmycham, monk of Bordesley.

Richard Wode, monk of Bordesley.

DEACONS (Secular).

Thomas Darker, to the title of the abbot and convent of Alyncestr'.

Maurice Mewe, by letters dimissory of the diocese of St. David, to the title of the monastery of Comh'¹.

William Dowson, of the diocese of Lincoln, by letters dimissory, to the title of the priory of St. Fredeswythe, Oxford.

John Mewe, of the diocese of Lincoln, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior and convent of Kynton.

John Martyll, fellow of Oriel College in Oxford, of the diocese of Lincoln, to the title of the said college.

Noel Paul, of the diocese of Exeter, to the title of the priory of Bodmynne.

John Cryps, of the diocese of Salisbury, to the title of the abbess and convent of Warewell.

Richard Wall, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald next Worcester.

¹ Possibly Cwmhir in Radnorshire.

John Andrewes, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of St. Oswald next Worcester.

Thomas Schauseye, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of St. Oswald next Worcester.

PRIESTS (Religious).

John Bury, monk of Bury, by letters dimissory and licence of his superior.

PRIESTS (Secular).

William Calched, of the diocese of Chichester, by letters dimissory, to the title of Stodle.

Richard Hull, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bordesley.

Master William Trebell, to the title of his benefice, of the diocese of Exeter, by letters dimissory.

Master William Andrewe, of the diocese of Exeter, by letters dimissory, to the title of the monastery of Oseney.

Richard Purty, of the diocese of Hereford, by letters dimissory of the diocesan, to the title of the free chapels of Mounthe and Llezreth¹ in the county of Cardigan.

Master John Alleward, of the diocese of Exeter, by letters dimissory, to the title of the monastery of Hyda.

Alan Buckynham, of the diocese of Lincoln, by letters dimissory, to the title of the priory of Sandelford.

Master Richard Burnham, of the diocese of York, by letters dimissory, to the title of his benefice.

Roger Gune, of the diocese of Exeter, by letters dimissory, to the title of the priory of St. Stephen, Launceston.

Roger Wyresdale, of the diocese of York, by letters dimissory, to the title of the monastery of Holy Trinity, London.

John Davy, of the diocese of St. David, by letters dimissory, to the title of the dean and chapter of Hereford.

William Kingeot, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the house of Taylesford.

¹ Qy. Mout and Verwick. There is a parish of this name in Cardiganshire.

Fol. 231. Presentation by William, abbot, and the convent of Westminster, of William Causton, chaplain, to the vicarage of Longedon, vacant by the death of Richard Wat', the last vicar. Dated April, 1419.

Commission from the Prior of Worcester to brother Thomas Ledbury, bachelor of divinity, monk of Worcester, Master William Burdon, clerk, bachelor in both laws, Richard Grafton, bachelor in laws, and brother Thomas Musard, monk of Worcester, to make visitation throughout the diocese of Worcester to receive and prove wills, and to do all things touching such visitation. Dated at Worcester, 16 March, 1418[-19].

Fol. 231*d*. Appointment by John, Prior of Worcester, of Masters John Estcourt, Robert Ewebache, Walter London, and Richard Grafton, bachelors of law, as proctors in the matter of the refusal to pay a certain pension of 4 marks from the church of Dydebok, and certain other pensions from the parish churches of Aston Cauntelowe, Yardeley, and Tonworth, due to the said prior, the See being vacant by reason of visitation. Dated at Worcester, 24 May, 1419.

Fol. 232. Visitation made in the archdeaconry of Worcester in the time of the vacancy aforesaid.

The Prior of Worcester visited the chapter of Worcester on 16 March, 1418-9.

John Hatefelde, monk of the cathedral church of Worcester, and Master Richard Grafton, commissaries of the said prior, visited the priory of Wyston and hospital of St. Oswald on 17 March. On the same day they received 40s. from the prior and convent of Great Malvern in the name of subjection (*subjectionis*), from them to the cathedral church.

Master William Burdon and Thomas Musard visited the church of Asteley on 21 March.

Master Thomas Ledbury and Master Richard Grafton visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Poywyk on 21 March in the parish church there, and received in the name of a procuration 4 marks from the said church.

Master Ledbury and Master William Burdon visited the abbey of Pershor' on 22 March, and were provided with meat and drink.

On the same day Master Richard Grafton, commissary, visited the clergy and people of the same deanery in the church of St. Andrew in the same town.

Master Richard Grafton, commissary, visited the church of Bekford on 24 March and received 4 marks.

Master Richard Grafton and Thomas Musard visited the parish church of Tardybygg' and half the deanery of Wyche, on 27 March, and they received from the abbot of Bordesley for the aforesaid church 4 marks.

On the same day the commissaries visited the parish church of Bromsgrove and the other part of the deanery of Wych, and the clergy and people of the same, and were provided with meat and drink by the vicar there.

The same commissaries visited the parish church of Hales and the same church and the clergy and people of the deanery of Kydyrmynstr', and dined and remained the night with the vicar there, and received in the name of a procuration 20s.

On Wednesday after, the said commissioners visited the prior and convent of Stodeley, and dined and remained the night there.

On Thursday, they visited the abbot and convent of Alyncestr', and dined and remained the night there.

On Friday following, Master Richard Grafton and Thomas Musard visited the prioress and sisters of the priory of Cokehull, and dined at Alyncestr'.

On the same day, after dinner, they visited the parish churches of Alyncestr', and half the deanery of Christianity of Warwick, and the clergy and people of the same, and remained at the inn there for the night.

On the Saturday following, the same commissaries visited the parish churches of Waweyn Wotton, the same church and the other part of the deanery of Christianity of Warwick, and the clergy and people of the same, dined at Henley, and remained the night with the prior of St. Sepulchre of Warwick.

On Sunday before the feast of St. Ambrose, they visited the prior and convent of the same place and dined there. Also after dinner they visited the master and brethren of the hospital of St. John of Warwick, and spent the night there with the master.

On Monday before the same feast, about the first hour they visited the dean and chapter of the collegiate church of Warwick, and after dinner they visited the collegiate church aforesaid, and the clergy and people of the said town of Warwick, and spent the night there with the master of St. John's.

On Tuesday, the feast of St. Ambrose, in the morning, they visited the prioress of Wroxale and her sisters, and dined and spent the night there.

On Wednesday after the same feast, they visited the prioress of Pynley and her sisters, and afterwards visited the collegiate church of Stretford, half the deanery of Kyngton, and dined with the warden, and spent the night at Blackwell at the manor of the Prior of Worcester.

On Thursday after the same feast, they visited in the morning the parish church of Wolford, and the other part of the deanery of Kyngton, and dined there with the farmer, and received from the vicar of Wolford four marks. About the hour of vespers they visited the parish church of Blockley, and the clergy and people of the same deanery, and spent the night at an inn at Campedene.

On Friday after the same feast, they visited in the morning the church of Campedene and half the deanery, and dined at an inn there; and immediately after dinner they visited the church of Wykewane, and the clergy and parishioners, and received four marks. And about the hour of vespers they visited the church of Didbrocke, and spent the night at the abbey of Wynchecumb.

On Saturday after the same feast, they visited the abbot and convent of Wynchecombe, and spent the night at Overbury, at the manor of the Prior of Worcester.

Fol. 232*d*. Visitation made in the archdeaconry of Gloucester.

On Tuesday after the feast of St. Edward, Thomas Ledbury, bachelor of divinity, and master Richard Grafton, bachelor of laws, visited the whole deanery of Poywyche, in the parish church of Poywyche:

On Monday after the feast of the Annunciation, Thomas Ledbury and master William Burden visited the abbot and convent of Teukusbury and dined there, and immediately after dinner they visited the parish church of Teukesbury and the whole deanery of Wynchecumbe, and spent the night with the abbot there.

On Tuesday after the same feast, in the morning, they visited the parish church of Durhurst, with the chapel and the clergy and people, and dined with the abbot of Gloucester. After dinner they visited the abbot and convent of Gloucester, and spent the night there with the abbot.

On Wednesday after the same feast, they visited, in the morning, the parish church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester, the whole deanery, and the clergy and people of the same. They dined with the prior of Lanthony, and immediately after dinner visited the prior and convent there, and afterwards one of the commissaries visited the prior and brethren of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, and they spent the night with the prior of Lanthony.

On Thursday after the same feast, they visited the parish church of Stanley Monachorum, half the deanery of Stonehurst, and dined and spent the night with the prior there.

On Friday following, they visited the parish church of Wotton-under-Egge, the whole deanery of Dursley, and the clergy and people of the same, and dined at an inn there and spent the night at Thornbury at an inn.

On Saturday following, they visited in the morning the collegiate church of Westbury, and dined with the abbot of St. Augustine of Bristol, and spent the whole of Sunday there.

On Monday after the feast of St. Ambrose, they visited the parish church of St. Augustine the Less of Bristol, half the deanery of Bristol, and the clergy and people of the same. They dined with the master of St. Mark, and after dinner visited the other part of the deanery of Bristol, the parish church of St. James of Bristol, and spent the night with the prior there.

On Tuesday, the feast of St. Ambrose, they visited in the chapel of Market Sobbury all the deanery of Haukesbury and Button, and the people and clergy of the same, and dined and spent the night there at an inn.

On Wednesday after the same feast, they visited the parish church of Tetebury, the other part of the deanery of Stonhurst, the clergy and people of the same, and dined there.

On Thursday following, they visited the abbot and convent of Cirencester, and dined at an inn there and received four marks. Immediately after dinner they visited the parish church of Ciren-

cester, the whole deanery of Cirencester, and the clergy and people of the same.

On the Friday following, they visited the parish church of Fayrford and the whole deanery of Fayrford, and the clergy and people of the same, and dined at an inn there, and spent the night at Northleache at an inn.

On Saturday following, they visited the parish church of Stowe, the whole deanery of Stowe, and the clergy and people of the same, and dined there and spent the night at Overbury.

Fol. 233. Commission from the Prior of Worcester to the Archdeacon of Gloucester or his official to induct John Rouland, priest, into the parish church of Dorsyngton, upon the presentation of Lady Alice Drayton, lady of Dorsyngton, by the resignation of William Brode, the last rector, by reason of an exchange with the vicar of the parish church of Ambursden in the diocese of Lincoln. Dated at Worcester, 10 March, 1418-19.

Institution of Richard Haukuslowe, priest, presented by the prioress of Cokehull to the rectory of Spernare in the diocese of Worcester.

Letters dimissory for Thomas Clive to receive holy orders from any Catholic bishop. Dated at Worcester, 9 March, 1418-19.

Licence to Giles Fililode, dwelling at Kydyrington, to have divine service performed in his oratory by fit priests. Dated at Worcester, 12 March, 1418-19.

Notification by the Prior of Worcester to the abbot of Pershore of his intention to exercise the office of visitation at the monastery of Pershore. Dated 8 March, 1418-19.

Fol. 233*d*. Institution of Robert Brey, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Gloucester to the vicarage of Urylingham, 16 March, 1418-19.

Institution of Richard Dene, priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Gloucester to the parish church of St. John the Baptist, Gloucester, on the same day.

Notification by the Prior of Worcester to the Sub-prior and Chapter of Worcester of his intention to exercise the office of visitation at the monastery of Worcester. Dated at Worcester, 8 March, 1418-19.

Mandate to the dean of Wych' and his apparitor to cite certain persons (names are not given) to appear before the prior or his deputy in the parish church of Doderhull, to undergo visitation.

Institution of Walter Crompt', priest, presented by the abbot and convent of Malmesbury to the church of Luttelton upon Severn in the diocese of Worcester, upon an exchange with John Collyng', and institution of the said John to the vicarage of Donnanmeney in the same diocese, on 26 March, 1419.

Fol. 234. Certificate from the preceptor of the hospital of St. Wolstan next Worcester of the receipt of a letter from the Prior of Worcester, dated, 10 March, 1418-19, notifying the prior's intention to visit the same hospital. Dated at Worcester, 12 April.

Receipt from John, prior of Worcester, to John Bokeland, master of the college of Foderynghey, and his fellows, for 4 marks in the name of a procuration. Dated 18 May, 1419.

Fol. 234*d*. Orders celebrated in the cathedral church of Worcester on the vigil of Holy Trinity, 1419, by Nicholas, bishop of Dunkeld¹, by licence and commission of the prior of the said church.

ACOLYTES (Secular).

William Oldebury.

John More.

Thomas Holder.

SUB-DEACONS (Secular).

Thomas Holder, to the title of the monastery of the abbot and convent of Haleys Oweyn.

John Ode, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald next Worcester.

¹ Abbot of Pershore.

DEACONS (Secular).

Roger Stratford, by letters dimissory of Philip, bishop of Lincoln¹, to the title of the prior and convent of Oldenorton.

John Pole, to the title of the house of Telysford.

John Hawkes, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald next Worcester.

PRIESTS (Secular).

John Andrewes, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald next Worcester.

Richard Walle, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald next Worcester.

John Kyngman, by letters dimissory of Philip, bishop of Lincoln, [to the title of] the house of St. John of Lechelade, in the diocese of Worcester.

William Doweson, by letters dimissory of Philip, bishop of Lincoln, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton.

Thomas Chaunseys, by letters dimissory of Henry, bishop of York², to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald next Worcester.

Thomas Newbold, to the title of the house of Pynley.

SUB-DEACONS (Religious).

John Carpenter, of Lanthony.

Robert Cole, of Lanthony.

DEACONS (Religious).

Brother William Norton, canon of the monastery of Keynsham and of the diocese of Wells, by letters dimissory.

Brother Thomas Welle, canon of the monastery of Keynsham and of the diocese of Wells, by letters dimissory.

Brother William Leyzton, monk of Bordesley, of the diocese of Worcester.

PRIESTS (Religious).

Brother John Wythynton.

Brother Nicholas Poys, canon of Keynsham, by letters dimissory of the diocese of Bath and Wells³.

Brother Nicholas Russell, of the order of Friars Minor.

¹ Philip Ripingdon, 1405—1420.

² Henry Bowet, 1407—1426.

³ Nicholas Bubwith, 1407—1425, was the Bishop.

Fol. 235. Suggestion or petition against the decree by James Cole, proctor of the Prior of Worcester, declaring Agnes Porter, of Hayles, contumacious in not appearing to answer a charge of committing fornication with Robert Alcestre, abbot of the monastery of Hayles. Dated at London, 9th of the Kalends of July, 1419. *Entry unfinished*¹.

Fol. 235*d*. Mandate from Henry, archbishop of Canterbury², to John, prior of the church of Worcester, to cite William Wotton, vicar of the church of Dydebroke, to appear before the Archbishop to answer a charge of having performed divine service in the church of Dydebroke after having been suspended for not paying procurations at the prior's visitation. Dated 1 September, 1419³.

Fol. 236. Institution of William Porter, priest, presented by William Spechesley, Esq., lord of Spechesley, to the rectory of Spechesley in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with Thomas Nelme, of the vicarage of Snetfeld in the said diocese. Dated 12 May, 1419.

Institution of John Clerk, priest, presented by the Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, to the rectory of Madrisfeld in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with John Harpetre. Dated 30 June, 1419.

Institution of Master Gregory Newport, priest, presented by Thomas Blount, Esq., lord of Hampton Lovet, to the rectory of Hampton Lovet, in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with John Norton, of the vicarage of Eccleshale. Dated 8 May, 1419.

Institution of Thomas Stoke, priest, presented by Margaret Seebroke, to the rectory of Fylton in the diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with John Neucastall of the vicarage of Holt in the said diocese. Dated 29 April, 1419.

Institution of William Attemyllene, priest, presented by the Archdeacon of Worcester to the vicarage of Claverden in the

¹ See *post*, p. 404.

² Henry Chicheley, 1414—1443.

³ This entry should be placed after the order on p. 404.

diocese of Worcester, by reason of his exchange with John Ryne-
love of the vicarage of Dodyngton in the diocese of Lincoln. Dated
26 June, 1419.

Institution of Thomas Crosse, priest, presented by John Boden-
ham, Esq., lord of Wormynton, to the rectory of Wormynton, by
reason of his exchange with Peter Braunche. Dated 6 July, 1419.

Fol. 237. Mandate from the official of the Court of Canterbury
to John Vampage, Richard Clebury, Nicholas Porter, John Glou-
cester, and John Rofford, clerks of the diocese of Worcester, to cite
the Prior of Worcester to appear in the church of St. Mary-le-bow,
London, on the fourth lawday after the Translation of St. Swithin,
to answer touching the appeal or suggestion of Agnes Porter, de-
clared contumacious in not appearing to answer the charge of com-
mitting fornication with the abbot of Hayles. Dated at London,
the 9th of the Kalends of July, 1419¹.

Fol. 237*d*. Proclamation by William Lyndewode, doctor of
both laws, official of the Archbishop of Canterbury, injoining all
rectors, vicars, chaplains, having cures and not having cures, and
notaries public and clerks whomsoever, throughout the province
of Canterbury, to pay all procurations, pensions, portions and other
rights and emoluments due during the vacancy of the See of Wor-
cester to the churches of Canterbury and Worcester, to the Prior
of Worcester, under pain of excommunication. Dated at London,
the 3rd of the Kalends of June, 1419.

Fol. 238*d*. Letter from the official of the Court of Canterbury
to the Prior of Worcester to do what is necessary for the correction
of the soul of Agnes Porter by reason of her crime of fornication
with Robert Alcester, abbot of Hayles, notwithstanding the in-
hibition of the 9th of the Kalends of July directed to John Vampage
and others. Dated at London, the 12th of the Kalends of August¹.

Fol. 239. Certificate by the apparitor of the Dean of Campe-
dene that he had cited Agnes Porter to appear before the prior.
Dated at Bokeland, 24 May, 1419¹.

¹ See *ante*, p. 403.

Mandate from Richard Grafton, clerk, bachelor of laws, commissary of John, prior of Worcester, to the Dean of Campedene and rectors of the parish churches of Somerfeldeshafton and Dombulton, to proclaim in church that Agnes Porter is suspended from entering the said churches, and to cite the said Agnes to appear before the prior or the said Richard in the cathedral church of Worcester on Saturday after the feast of Corpus Christi. Dated at Worcester, 17 June, 1419.

Fol. 239*d*. Mandate to the Dean of Campedene to cite the said Agnes to appear before the prior or his commissary in the cathedral church of the Blessed Mary of Worcester on Saturday after the feast of the Ascension. Dated at Worcester, 21 May, 1419.

Fol. 240. An Instrument¹ setting out that on 24 April, 1419, John Fordham, prior of Worcester, and the monks of Worcester,—in the presence of Richard Grafton, bachelor of laws, notary public, Sir John Brewer, chaplain, and William Drawer, clerk of the diocese of Worcester, witnesses appointed by the said prior and monks,—assembled in the chapter-house of Worcester, at the capitular hour, for the purpose of fixing a day for treating of the election of a bishop of the said church of Worcester, destitute by the death of the lord Thomas Peverell, the last bishop, who died on 2nd March last past, at his manor of Hanbury in the Salt Marsh (*in Salso Marisco*). And the aforesaid John Fordham, the prior, by consent of the brethren, appointed Monday, 24th April, for treating of the said election. On which day, in the presence of the said notary public, William Burdon, bachelor of laws, and John Ledbury, John Stokes, and John Swynerton, notaries public, the said John Fordham, the prior, and other the monks, came together into the said church, when the Mass of the Holy Spirit was celebrated by one of the monks at the High Altar; and after the celebration of the said Mass, and before the tenth hour of the day, the said prior and all the monks forming the chapter, appeared in the chapter-house; and brother Thomas Ledbury, bachelor of theology, monk of Worcester, expounded the Word of God. And his sermon being ended, John, the prior, caused the royal licence to elect a new

¹ Printed at length by Thomas, Appendix, 130.

bishop, dated 25 March, 7 Henry V., to be publicly read by brother John Clyve, sacristan of the said church. Immediately after which the constitution of the General Council which begins *Quia propter ut, &c.*, was read and explained in the Latin tongue. Then the prior, in the name of the chapter, made a monition and protestation in writing, warning all excommunicated, suspended, and interdicted persons and others, who by chance might be there who ought not by right or custom to be present, to depart and to permit the prior and other the monks freely to elect. Whereupon the said notaries public protested that they had no right to be present, and wished to retire unless their presence was specially asked; therefore they were specially asked to be present. Then Master Richard Grafton, director (*regulator*) of the election, asked whether the business of the election was to be proceeded with by way of scrutiny, compromise, or by the Holy Spirit, and it was decided by the said prior and monks assembled in chapter to proceed by way of the Holy Spirit, and, as it appeared to the notary public, no human instigation intervening, the aforesaid prior, being inspired by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and so all the monks of the said church, with one voice and in one spirit, no one disagreeing, elected the venerable man, Master Philip Morgan, doctor of both laws, a fit and discreet man, commendable in life and habits, in priests' orders, of lawful age, begotten in lawful matrimony, and very circumspect in spiritual and temporal matters. After which election they proceeded, solemnly singing the *Te Deum*, to the High Altar, and the singing being finished, the prior and monks asked the said Master William Burdon to publish the said election, which he did in the mother tongue in a high and intelligible voice before a multitude of people. After which the said prior and monks departed whithersoever they wished. Which things above written were done in the year 1419, in the presence of Masters Richard Grafton, and William Burdon, bachelors of law, and Masters John Ledbury, John Stokes, and John Swynerton, clerks, notaries public.

Fol. 241. Notarial certificate to the foregoing by John Stokes, clerk of the diocese of Worcester¹.

¹ Printed by Thomas, Appendix, 133.

Fol. 242. Letter¹ from the Prior and Chapter of Worcester to Pope Martin V. reciting that whereas the church of Worcester being vacant by the death of the lord Thomas Peverell, the last bishop, who died on 2 March, 1418-19, and whose body was afterwards buried in the church of the Carmelite Friars next the University of Oxford, within the diocese of Lincoln, brothers John Fordham, prior, John Dudley, sub-prior, John Hatfeld, almoner, Roger Evesham, John Wyrceetre, chamberlain, Thomas Hertulbury, hostiller, Thomas Rudyng, kitchener, William Croppethorne, infirmarer, John Clyve, sacristan, Thomas Ledbury, bachelor of theology, Ralph Fylkyn, shrine keeper (? *tumbarius*), John Stone, John Lye, rectorer, John Hambury, cellarer, John Cowlesdon, master of the chapel, John Temedebury, precentor, John Alcestr', sub-chamberlain, Richard Wyrceetr', succentor, Thomas Colwell, third prior, Richard Cowerne, pittancer, Thomas Aldurton, Richard Tyburton, sub-cellarer, Robert Lawerne, William Brokton, Thomas Musard, chaplain, Richard Stoolton, William Hodynton, sub-sacristan, Thomas Blakwell, fourth prior, Richard Barndesley, scholar at Oxford, John George, John Esbury, John Whytynton, Richard Lychefeld, Robert Schrovesbury, William Hertulbury, John Sudbury, John Stodley, William Evesham, Thomas Lylleshull and John Stafford, monks professed in the rule of St. Benedict in the cathedral church of Worcester or its monastery, and ordained in holy orders, forming the chapter of the same church, being assembled on 14 April, fixed the 24th of the same month for the election of a new bishop. On which latter day all the monks being come together and the Mass of the Holy Spirit being celebrated in the choir at the High Altar, and afterwards the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* being solemnly sung in the chapter, the royal licence was read, the monition by the prior made. (The remainder of the proceedings of the election are recited in the same terms as in the instrument on p. 405.) The said prior and chapter therefore pray for the pope's confirmation of such election. Dated 26 April, 1419. Master Richard Grafton and William Burdon, notaries public, being witness.

Fol. 243. Notarial certificate to the above by Richard Lanrake, clerk.

¹ Printed by Thomas, Appendix, 134.

Fol. 244. REGISTER OF THE LORD JOHN¹, PRIOR OF
THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF WORCESTER,

By authority of the Court of Canterbury, official and administrator of the spiritualities in the city and diocese of Worcester, the See of the bishopric there being vacant by the death of Thomas, late bishop of Worcester², who died on the vigil of St. Bartholomew, to wit, 23 August, 1433, and the death of the same bishop was first heard of by the said John, the prior, on 25 September in the same year, to the 5th May, 1435.

Commission by Henry, archbishop of Canterbury³, to the Prior of Worcester to exercise jurisdiction in the city and diocese of Worcester, according to the composition made between the predecessors of the same archbishop and the predecessors of the same prior. Dated at Slyndon, 2 October, 1433.

Fol. 244*d*. Institution of John Aylewyn, chaplain, presented by William Somervyle, Esq., of Aston Somervyle, to the rectory of the parish church of Kyngton, void by the death of John Roode. Dated 14 October, 1434.

Induction of the above John Aylewyn to the said church on 14 April, 1434.

Institution of John Perschore, priest, presented by John Spechisley to the rectory of the parish church of Spechisley, Thomas Heynys having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 31 October, 1433.

Institution of John Bokelond, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of Evesham to the rectory of the parish church of Upper Swell, void by the death of Hugh Catour. Dated 5 October, 1433.

Institution of Richard Mountfort, deacon, presented by Sir William Mountfort, knight, lord of Ilmyndon, to the rectory of the parish church of Ilmyndon, John Hathewey having resigned the same. Dated 13 October, 1433.

¹ John Fordham.

² Thomas Polton.

³ Henry Chicheley, 1414—1443.

Institution of David Glyn, clerk, presented by the abbot and convent of the Blessed Mary of Tewkesbury to the rectory of the parish church of Lech St. Andrew in the diocese of Worcester, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 28 Nov. 1433.

Institution of Thomas Facumberg, chaplain, presented by Thomas, abbot of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Kenilworth, to the rectory of the parish church of Eccleshale, William Chapman having resigned the same. Dated 29 November, 1433.

Institution in the prior's manor of Bathenhale, of Robert Hasyll, chaplain, presented by Sir Thomas Blount, knight, to the perpetual chantry of St. Anne in the church of Hampton Lovet, Henry Amys having resigned the same. Dated 5 November, 1433.

Fol. 245*d*. Institution of Thomas Whyte, presented by Katherine Beauchamp, lady of the manor of Donnehathirley, to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Donnehathirley, John Gutta having resigned the same. Dated 9 November, 1433.

Institution of John Hawkyngs, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of Evesham to the parish church of Willeberow, John Hasull having resigned the same. Dated 18 November, 1433.

Institution of John Gunne, chaplain, presented by Thomas Erdyngton and Sybill his wife to the parish church of Berston, void by the death of John Stark. Dated 18 November, 1433.

Institution of Robert Whyte, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of Wynchcombe to the vicarage of the parish church of Twenyng, Thomas Berd having resigned the same. Dated 16 December, 1433.

Fol. 246. Commission by John¹, bishop of Bath and Wells, to the Prior of Worcester, to expedite the exchange between William Woky, rector of Alludeford in the diocese of Bath and Wells, and Henry Hallyng, rector of Staunton in the diocese of Worcester; the said Henry being presented to the rectory of Alludeford by Simon Ralyghe, Esquire. Dated 2 December, 1433.

¹ John Stafford, 1425-1443.

Certificate of the receipt of the above and institution made accordingly. Dated 17 December, 1433.

Fol. 246*d*. Certificate by William Wylly, chaplain, keeper of the jurisdiction of Steynyng, neither mediately nor immediately belonging to the Roman court (*ad curia Romana nullo medio pertinent*), of the execution of the commission from John, prior of Worcester, to expedite the exchange between Henry More, rector of the church of Bradwell in the diocese of Worcester, and Richard Papy, vicar of Steynyng, of which church of Bradwell the abbot and convent of Evesham, immediately subject to the church of Rome (*ecclesie Romane immediate subject*¹), are the true patrons. Dated at Steynyng, 9 November, 1433.

Fol. 247. Institution of John Browne, presented by John Throkmerton, William Wolaschull, John Woode, and John Schyngey, patrons by virtue of a feoffment lately made of the manor of Schesyncote, with the advowson of the church, to the parish church of Schesyncote, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 22 December, 1433.

Institution of Thomas Chaworthe, clerk, presented by Henry VI. to the parish church of Hertilbury, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 31 November, 1433.

Institution of Thomas Hamell by Thomas Simon, his proctor, presented by the prior of the Blessed Mary of Perschor to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Hawkesbury, void by the death of Richard Maidegod, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 23 December, 1433.

Fol. 247*d*. Institution of John Wolstone, presented by Giles Brugge, Esq., to the parish church of Cuberley, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 30 December, 1433.

Institution of Brother Richard War', canon, and professed in the hospital of St. John, Warwick, presented by the prior of St. Sepulchre, Warwick, to the rectory of Hareley, Ralph, the last

¹ Evesham was exempt from Episcopal visitation, except by a Legate from Rome.

rector, having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 10 January, 1433-4.

Institution of Thomas Oldebury, presented by Thomas Erdyngton and Sybill his wife to the parish church of Berston, John Gunne having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 15 January, 1433-4.

Institution of John Godston, acolyte, by John Burnell, his proctor, presented by John Kemys, Esq., to the parish church of Derham, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 28 January, 1433-4.

Institution of Thomas Wheton, chaplain, presented by the abbot of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Tewkesbury to the parish church of St. John, Bristol, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 3 February, 1433-4.

Institution of Richard Hawkeslow, presented by the prioress and sisters of Cokeshulle to the parish church of Spenor, of an exchange made with Thomas Evesham of Weston-on-Avon, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 10 February, 1433-4. And on the same day and at the same place the said Thomas was instituted to the perpetual vicarage of Weston-on-Avon, presented by the prioress and sisters of Whistons next Worcester, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction.

Fol. 248. Institution of Benedict Burgh¹, chaplain, of the diocese of Lincoln, presented by Anne¹, Countess of Stafford, Buckingham, Hereford and Northampton, and lady of Brecon and Holderness, to the rectory of Rendecombe, John Peton, chaplain, having resigned the same. Dated 31 January, 1433-4.

Institution of Nicholas Eliot, chaplain, presented by the abbot of St. Peter's, Gloucester, to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Cowley, Thomas Hooke having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 4 February, 1433-4.

¹ Anne, daughter of the Earl of Stafford, and widow of Edmund, 5th Earl of March.

Composition whereby Thomas Hook, priest, perpetual vicar of the parish church of Cowley, who resigned the said vicarage, and in whose place Nicholas Eliot, chaplain, was instituted at the presentation of the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester, should have an annuity of 4*li.* out of the fruits of the said vicarage towards his maintenance. Dated in the priory of Worcester, 18 February, 1433.

Fol. 248*d.* Institution of Hugh Crownynge, clerk, presented by the Prior and Convent of Worcester to the rectory of the parish church of Herforton, void by the death of William Longfeld, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 11 December, 1433.

Fol. 249. Institution of Richard Hulle, chaplain, presented by Robert Russell, Esq., to the rectory of Pypilton, void by the death of William Hedy, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 20 March, 1433-4.

Institution of William Lymeryk, clerk, by Thomas Sampson his proctor, presented by Richard, Duke of York, Earl of March, and Ulster, and Lord of Wygmore and of Clare, to the rectory of Wynston, John Lee having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 18 February, 1433-4.

Institution of John Fort, chaplain, presented by Sir Thomas Beaumont, knight, to the rectory of Weston Britte, William Flaxman having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 23 March, 1433-4.

Institution of Thomas Daddy of Querndon, in the diocese of Lincoln, chaplain, presented by Sir Thomas Burdet, knight, to the rectory of Arow, Thomas Motlow having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 4 April, 1434.

Institution of John Langdon, chaplain, presented by the prior and convent of Little Malvern, of the order of St. Benedict, to the

perpetual vicarage of Eldresfeld, void by the death of John Kydymist', and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 10 April, 1434.

Institution of Richard Edrygge, chaplain, presented by the prior and convent of Little Malvern to the perpetual vicarage of Hanley, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 7 April, 1434.

Fol. 249*v*. Institution of Robert Bandy, chaplain, presented by Thomas, prior, and the convent of Kenilleworth, of the order of St. Augustine, to the perpetual vicarage of the parish church of Braylye, void by the death of John Bentham, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 2 April, 1434.

Institution of Henry Astwode, chaplain, presented by Richard, Duke of York, Earl of March and Ulster, and Lord of Wygmore and of Clare, to the perpetual vicarage of Lychclade, John Bedhampton having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 17 April, 1434.

Institution of John Russell, chaplain, presented by the prior and convent of Lanthony next Gloucester to the perpetual vicarage of Haresfeld, John Clot having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 23 April, 1434.

Commission from Robert, bishop of Salisbury¹, to John, prior of Worcester, to expedite the exchange between Robert Jankyns, rector of the parish church of Brytzwalton in the diocese of Salisbury, and John Seygar, warden or chaplain of the perpetual chantry of Wynterborn in the diocese of Worcester, the said John Seygar being presented to the church of Brytzwalton by the abbot and convent of Bello. Dated at Ramsbury, 5 January, 1433-4.

Fol. 250. Certificate of the execution of the above and of the institution of Robert Jankyns, presented by Thomas Bradston, Esq., to the perpetual chantry in the parish church of Wynterborn.

¹ Robert Neville, 1427—1438.

Commission from William, bishop of Lincoln¹, to the Prior of Worcester to expedite the exchange between William Colle, rector of the parish church of Sucley in the diocese of Worcester, and Nicholas Colman, rector of the parish church of Arthyngworth of the diocese of Lincoln. The said William being presented to the said church of Arthyngworth by the prior and convent of Landa. Dated 22 February, 1433-4.

Fol. 250*d*. Institution of Adam Moleyns, presented by King Henry VI. to the parish church of Kemsey. Dated November, 1434.

Institution of Robert Tunstall, chaplain, presented by the abbess and nuns of Godstow to the rectory of Daglyngworth, void by the death of Thomas Droys, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 13 May, 1434.

Institution of Robert Hepkyns, clerk, presented by John Greville, Esq., to the free chapel or church of Lascheberew, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 3 April, 1434.

Institution of Master Ralph Paret, presented by the Warden and Scholars of Merton College, Oxon, to the parish church of Lappworth, void by the resignation of Richard Peyntour, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 13 May, 1434.

Fol. 251. Institution of John Campion, chaplain, presented by Sir William Bisshopesdon, Sir Humphrey Stafford, knights, John Bray, the younger, John Lenche, Richard Parmynter, chaplain, and Peter Cassy of Wyche, to the rectory of the parish church of Doverdale, John Foster having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 9 June, 1434.

Certificate by John Arnold, rector of the parish church of St. Michael of Gloucester, that in accordance with a commission received from the Prior of Worcester, he had made inquisition touching the free chapel of Lascheverugh in the diocese of Worcester,

¹ William Gray, 1431—1436.

to which John Grevill, Esq., had presented Robert Hepkyns, clerk. Which inquisition was taken by Philip Talgard, rector of the parish church of Nimysfeld, Richard Totty, Nicholas Eliot, and Ralph Benet, vicars of the churches of Byseley, Cowley, and Horsley, Thomas Bulke, chaplain of the chantry of Cambrugg', Robert Wlpen, John Wolpen of Wolpen, John Rodleydom of Kyngyscote, William Kyngyscote, Robert Wollerygge of Nymmysfeld, John Butte of Lascheverow, and Nicholas Tuffeley of Stanley, in the parish church of Nymmysfeld on 5 April, who say that the said chapel was vacant, because the last chaplain could not hold it, having accepted the parish church of Buston Deverell in the diocese of Salisbury, and it began to be vacant about four months previously; and they say that John Grevill is true patron by right and by virtue of his manor of Lasscheverow, and he who was presented had a chapel in the churchyard of Biseley worth 40s. or thereabouts, and the said church of Lascheverow is not litigious, a pensionary or a portionary. Afterwards they say that he who was presented is of good fame, a free man, fit and honest, having the first tonsure. And the said John Arnold further certifies he has admitted and instituted the presentee to the said chapel. Dated Nymmesfeld.

Fol. 251*d*. Institution of Henry Payn, chaplain, presented by William Tracy, lord of Doyngton and of Todyngton, to the perpetual chantry of Doyngton, void by the death of Walter de Doyngton, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 24 June, 1434.

Fol. 252. Certificate by John Hogel, rector of the parish church of Duntlesborne Abbatis and dean of Cirencester, that he received a commission from the Prior of Worcester, dated 30 March, 1434, reciting that whereas Sir James Berkeley, knight, lord of the manor of Daglyngworth, presented Master Simon Barton, clappain, M.A., to the parish church of Daglyngworth, vacant by the death of Thomas Droys, the last rector, as it is asserted, and whereupon Master John Tumbrell, perpetual vicar of the parish church of Berkeley, was commissioned to make inquisition upon the usual articles and return a full certificate, and whereas now pending these things, the abbess and convent of Godstow in the diocese of Lincoln,

have presented Robert Tunstall, chaplain, pretending they are true patrons of the same church, and thereupon the commission issued to the said Master John Tumbrell was revoked; whereupon the said John Hogel was commissioned to inquire as to the vacancy of the said church and the claims to the patronage thereof. The said John Hogel, therefore, now certifies that on Saturday, 24 April, an inquisition was held in the parish church of Cirencester, within which deanery the said church is situated, by the rectors, vicars, and old and faithful men of the said deanery, to wit, John Fynch, rector of the church of Stratton, William Netherton, rector of the church of Sodyngton Mary, William Gryce, rector of the church of Harewell, Richard Wyntyre, rector of the church of Cotes, Thomas Adonet, rector of the church of Hampton, Thomas Wapole, rector of the church of Colne Denis, John Rowlow, rector of the church of Colne Roger, John Maiesmore, vicar of the church of Cheddworth, William Yong, vicar of the church of Preston, William Yong (*sic*), vicar of the church of Sowthfarnay, and John Down, John Grey of Cirencester, Walter Hogges of Bagyndon, John Edmond of Daglyngworth, old and faithful men, who say by virtue of their oath that the parish church of D. was vacant by the death of Master Thomas Droys, the last rector, and the vacancy began on Wednesday, 17 March last past, when the aforesaid Master Thomas Droys, rector of the church of D., died. Of the right, title, or possession of the aforesaid Sir James B. to present the aforesaid Master Simon to the aforesaid church they know nothing to depose, because neither he nor any of his progenitors time out of mind ever presented or ought to have presented, but of the right, title, and possession of the aforesaid abbess and convent of Godstow, now presenting the aforesaid Robert Tunstall to the said church of D., they say that the aforesaid abbess and convent are true patrons of the same church of D., and last presented and always ought to present to the same, as they hear and learn from faithful men their progenitors and predecessors; and the same abbess and convent presented the said Master Thomas Droys, and had the right of presentation by gift and fine levied in the Common Pleas before the Justices of the Lord the King, by the progenitors of the aforesaid Sir James. They say also that the said church is not litigious, nor a portionary, but is a pensionary, for which pension the said abbess paid the royal tenth when it happened to be collected. And he who was presented by the said

abbess and convent is of good life and honest conversation and ordained in priests' orders, holding another ecclesiastical benefice, to wit, the parish church of Merston Bygot in the diocese of Bath and Wells, which latter benefice he will in rightful time, as he asserts, resign. Dated at Cirencester, 24 April.

Fol. 253. Institution of Richard Parkhous, chaplain, presented by the abbot of St. Augustine's, Bristol, to the perpetual vicarage of All Saints', Bristol, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 6 July, 1434.

Fol. 253*d*. General Orders celebrated in the charnel chapel within the churchyard of the cathedral church of Worcester on Saturday *quatuor temporum*, to wit, 19 December, 1433, by the reverend father in Christ the Bishop of Emly¹ (*Imelacensis*), by authority of John, keeper of the spiritualities of the bishopric of Worcester, the See being vacant.

Commission to Robert, bishop of Emly, to dedicate churches, celebrate orders, &c.² Dated at Worcester, 17 December, 1433.

ACOLYTES (Religious).

Fol. 254. Brother Robert Wotton, of the order of St. Augustine, of the house of St. Sepulchre, Warwick.

ACOLYTES (Secular).

Thomas Mumford, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first clerical tonsure, ordained acolyte.

John Suggdon, of the diocese of Hereford, by sufficient letters dimissory of his diocesan, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

William Stawnton, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

¹ An ancient Irish bishopric, Emly, in co. Tipperary. Robert Windel, the Bishop here mentioned, seems to have had permanent duty in England as a suffragan—at

Norwich, 1424; Sarum, 1434—1441; Worcester, 1433.

² In same terms as commissions entered on fol. 201 of MS., *ante*, p. 356.

Richard Kynman, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

Simon Walker, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

Thomas George, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

Richard Muchell, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

SUB-DEACONS (Religious).

Brother Robert Framees, of the order of Friars Minor of Worcester, ordained sub-deacon.

Brother John Burges, of the order of Friars Minor of Worcester, ordained sub-deacon.

Brother Robert Wotton, of the order of St. Augustine of the house of St. Sepulchre, Warwick, ordained sub-deacon.

SUB-DEACONS (Secular).

William Barton, acolyte, of the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, by sufficient letters dimissory, to the title of brother John, Ministr' of the house of St. Radegund of Telisford, of the order of the Holy Trinity and the convent of the same, to all holy orders granted to him, ordained sub-deacon.

John Suggdon, acolyte, of the diocese of Hereford, by sufficient letters dimissory, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald in the suburbs of the city of Worcester, to all holy orders granted to him, ordained sub-deacon.

John Merston, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of St. Oswald's in the suburbs of the city of Worcester, to all holy orders granted to him, ordained sub-deacon.

John Gardyner, rector of the parish church of Madresfeld, by sufficient letters dimissory of the Bishop of Hereford, to the title of his benefice, ordained sub-deacon.

John Cokeshale, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of the abbot and convent of St. Mary Bruera, to all holy orders granted to him, of which he says he is content, ordained sub-deacon.

DEACONS (Religious).

Brother Hugh Knyghton, monk of the cathedral church of Worcester, sub-deacon, ordained deacon.

Brother Thomas Garstang, of the order of Friars Minor, ordained deacon.

DEACONS (Secular).

Robert Fynche, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the prioress and convent of Westwode, to all holy orders granted to him, of which he says he is content, ordained deacon.

Fol. 254*d*. William Wyllys, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the prioress and convent of Cokehulle, to all holy orders granted to him, of which he is content, ordained deacon.

John Bruggemon, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the prior and brethren of St. Bartholomew, Gloucester, of which he is content, ordained deacon.

PRIESTS.

Thomas Jannes, of the diocese of Worcester, deacon, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, of which he is content, ordained priest.

John Waferton, of the diocese of Ely, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior and convent of Bernewelle, to all holy orders, ordained priest.

Henry Yate, of the diocese of Worcester, deacon, to the title of the preceptor of St. Oswald of Worcester, to all holy orders, ordained priest.

William Curteys, of the diocese of York, deacon, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior of St. Oswald, Gloucester, to all holy orders, ordained priest.

Orders celebrated in the chapel aforesaid on Saturday *quatuor temporum* of the first week of Lent, the 20th of February, by the said reverend father Robert¹.

¹ Bishop of Emly.

ACOLYTES (Religious).

Brother John Bryzt, of the order of Preachers of the house of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

Brother Denis Cavrane, of the order of Preachers of the house of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

ACOLYTES (Secular).

John Harryes, of Tewkesbury, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

Thomas Arch, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

Robert Chabunor, of the diocese of Worcester, ordained acolyte.

SUB-DEACONS (Religious).

Brother Denis Cavrane, acolyte, friar of the house of Preachers, Worcester, ordained sub-deacon.

Brother Robert Vere, friar of the house of Preachers, Worcester, acolyte, ordained sub-deacon.

SUB-DEACONS (Secular).

John Lewis, of the diocese of Llandaff, acolyte, by sufficient letters dimissory, to the title of the house or hospital of St. Oswald in the suburbs of the city of Worcester, to all holy orders granted to him, of which he is content, ordained sub-deacon.

Geoffrey Hunt, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of William, the prior of Holy Trinity, London, and the convent of the same, to all holy orders granted to him, of which he is content, ordained sub-deacon.

John Porrey, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of Robert, prior of Stodley, and the convent of the same, ordained sub-deacon.

Thomas Stevenes, of Bradwey, in the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior of the hospital of St. Bartholomew, Gloucester, to all holy orders granted to him, of which he is content, ordained sub-deacon.

Fol. 255. Richard Fyscher, of Seynbery, acolyte, to the title of William, abbot of the monastery of the Blessed Mary of Bruera, and the convent of the same, of the order of Cistercians in the

diocese of Lincoln, to all holy orders granted to him, of which he is content, ordained sub-deacon.

John Bost, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of the prior of Derehurst and the convent of the same, ordained sub-deacon.

John Simonds, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of the preceptor of the hospital of St. Oswald without Worcester, to all holy orders, &c., ordained sub-deacon.

William Hall, of the diocese of Salisbury, acolyte, by letters dimissory from his diocesan, to the title of Edmund Dautesey, Esq., lord of the manor of Larkestone, to all holy orders granted to him, ordained sub-deacon.

Thomas Maryner, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of the prior and convent of Polton in the diocese of Salisbury, ordained sub-deacon.

James Kyrton, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of the hospital of St. John the Baptist of Warwick, ordained sub-deacon.

Richard Muchell, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of the preceptor and brethren of the hospital of St. Wolstan in the suburbs of the city of Worcester, to all holy orders granted to him, of which he is content, ordained sub-deacon.

DEACONS.

John Stevenys, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the prioress and sisters of the house of Pynley, ordained deacon.

John Salewey, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the prioress and convent of Cokehulle in the same diocese, ordained deacon.

John Suggdun, of the diocese of Hereford, sub-deacon, to the title of the preceptor of St. Oswald without Worcester, ordained deacon.

William Barton, of the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, sub-deacon, by letters dimissory, to the title of Brother John, minister of the house of St. Radegund of Telysford and the convent of the same, of the order of the Holy Trinity, ordained deacon.

John Merston, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the preceptor of St. Oswald without Worcester, ordained deacon.

John Gardyner, of the diocese of Hereford, sub-deacon, rector of the parish church of Madresfeld, to the title of the said church, ordained deacon.

William Barton, of the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, sub-deacon, to the title of the minister of St. Radegund of Telisford, ordained deacon.

Thomas Lye, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon and monk of Great Malvern, ordained deacon.

John Cokkeshale, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the abbot and convent of St. Mary Bruera, ordained deacon.

PRIESTS (Religious and Secular).

William Woland, of the diocese of Lincoln, deacon, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior and convent of Lychelade, ordained priest.

Robert Fynche, of the diocese of Worcester, deacon, to the title of the prior and convent of Westewode, to all holy orders granted to him, ordained priest.

Brother Richard Upton, monk of the monastery of St. Peter of Gloucester, deacon, ordained priest.

Brother David Anker, friar of the house of Preachers of Worcester, ordained priest.

Brother Michael Bary, friar of the house of Preachers of Worcester, ordained priest.

Brother William Sucley, monk of Great Malvern, deacon, ordained priest.

Brother John Stoke, monk of Tewkesbury, deacon, ordained priest.

Brother John Lache, monk of Tewkesbury, deacon, ordained priest.

Brother John Boys, monk of Tewkesbury, deacon, ordained priest.

John Bruggeman, of the diocese of Worcester, deacon, to the title of the prior and brethren of the house of St. Bartholomew of Gloucester, ordained priest.

Fol. 255*d*. Institution of Thomas Eburton, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of Perschor to the portion commonly called Chokynhall, in the parish church of Lyghe, Richard Paine having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 8 September, 1434.

Institution of Thomas Wheton, presented by the abbot and convent of Tewkesbury to the parish church of St. John of Bristol, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 4 December, 1434.

Institution of John Stevenes, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of Tewkesbury to the vicarage of the parish church of St. Peter of Stonwey. Dated 8 September, 1434.

Institution of Richard Parker, chaplain, presented by John Whysham, Esq., to the rectory of the parish church of Holt, John Eburton having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 24 September, 1434.

Institution of William Pykeryng, chaplain, presented by John Kemys to the rectory of the parish church of Cyston, Alan Olyver having resigned the same, and the Archdeacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 5 October, 1434.

Institution of Walter Baker, chaplain, presented by Robert Russell, Esq., to the rectory of the parish church of Streynysham, void by the death of Robert Wykeham, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 21 October, 1434.

Institution of John Lampert, chaplain, presented by Roger Capes, Esq., and Margaret his wife, to the parish church of Rodmerton. Dated 20 November, 1434.

Institution of Edmund Stopp', chaplain, presented by Richard de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, to the parish church of Wolverdinton, for which he exchanged the church of Estangmaryng' in the diocese of Chichester, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 22 November, 1434.

Fol. 256. Institution of Thomas Hardy, chaplain, presented by John Celmsrde, master of the College of the Holy Trinity of Arundell and the chaplains of the same, to the parish church of Estangmaryng, for which he exchanged by authority of a commission from Simon, bishop of Chichester¹, the church of Wolverdynton. Dated 22 November, 1434.

Institution of William Stokes, chaplain, presented by the prior and convent of Lanthony next Gloucester to the vicarage of the parish church of Wynryche. Dated 15 December, 1434.

Institution of John Langedon, chaplain, presented by the prior and convent of Little Malvern to the vicarage of the parish church of Eldresfeld, and the Archdeacon of Worcester was written to for his induction. Dated 19 November, 1434.

Institution of Robert Tunstall, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of the monastery of St. Peter of Gloucester to the parish church of Hatheropp, by reason of an exchange. Dated 9 November, 1434.

Institution of Robert Tolle, chaplain, presented by the abbess and nuns of Godstow, in the diocese of Lincoln, to the parish church of Daggelyngworth, for which he exchanged the church of Hatheropp. Dated 9 November, 1434.

Institution of John Langdon, the elder, presented by Guy Whyntington to the parish church of Stawnton, void by the death of John Rodenhurst. Dated 8 November, 1434.

Institution of Thomas Brogham, chaplain, presented by the warden of the collegiate church of Stratteford-upon-Avon, to the under-keepership or under-wardenship of the said church. Dated 5 December, 1434.

Institution of Stephen Ladernge, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of Malmesbury to the church of Luttelton-upon-Severn. Dated 20 January, 1434-5.

¹ Simon Sydenham, 1431—1438.

Institution of William Delew, chaplain, presented by the prioress and sisters of Usk to the vicarage of Beggeworth, and the Arch-deacon of Gloucester was written to for his induction. Dated 20 January, 1434-5.

Fol. 256*d*. Institution of Hugh ap Jevan ap Howell, presented by Richard, Duke of York, Earl of March and Ulster, and Lord of Wyggemore and of Clare, to the parish church of Great Troy in the diocese of Llandaff. Dated 20 January, 1434-5.

Institution of Thomas Wodeford, clerk, by John Swynerton, his proctor, presented by Richard Abitot, Esq., to the free chapel of Crombe Abitot. Dated 25 January, 1434-5.

Institution of Thomas Hanwell, clerk, collated by Robert, bishop of Salisbury, to the parish church of Wyneford in the diocese of Salisbury. Dated 25 January, 1434-5.

Institution of John Tymmes, chaplain, presented by John, the prior, and the monks of Cokehull, to the parish church of Alincester. Dated 5 February, 1434-5.

Institution of John Coklys, clerk, presented by Henry VI., by reason of the temporalities of the bishopric being in his hands, to the rectory of Kynwarton, John Tymmes having resigned the same. Dated 11 February, 1434-5.

Institution of John Gardynner, acolyte, presented by William Bracy, Esq., to the parish church of Madresfeld. Dated 26 October, 1433.

Institution of John Bonyngton, presented by John Bylbury and Thomas Lane, chaplains of the perpetual chantry of the Holy Trinity in the parish church of Cirencester, to the parish church of Bageden; and institution of Walter Stonyng to the vicarage of Yabbeton in the diocese of Chichester. Dated 23 April, 1434.

Institution of Thomas Lyde, presented by the prior and convent of Little Malvern to the vicarage of Hanley, with the charge of

residence. And the said Thomas is to pay a pension of four marks yearly to Richard Edryche, his predecessor, resigned by reason of old age, assigned by the Prior of Worcester. Dated 21 October, 1434.

Fol. 257. Institution by Robert Pevesey, bachelor of both laws, of Thomas Dale, chaplain, presented by the sub-dean and chapter of Wells to the vicarage of Pochulchurche. Dated 28 September, 1434.

Institution of John Marschall, presented by Thomas Dykyns to the parish church of Churchehull in the deanery of Kyderminster. Dated 16 September, 1434.

Institution of Thomas Tiry, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of St. Augustine of Bristol to the vicarage of Wappeley. Dated 19 November, 1434.

Institution of John Sutton, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of St. Peter of Gloucester to the vicarage of Kemesford. Dated 29 May, 1434.

Institution of John Byrmycham, presented by the chapter of the cathedral church of Worcester to the vicarage of the parish church of Clyve Prior. Dated 31 July, 1434.

Institution of John Sybson, presented by John Grevyll to the parish church of Tortheworth. Dated 22 March, 1434-5.

Institution of Robert Rose, presented by the abbot and convent of Gloucester to the vicarage of the parish church of South Cerney, William Yonge having resigned the same. Dated 5 March, 1434-5.

Institution of David Dewe, presented by Richard Beauchamp to the rectory of Schraveley, Walter Baker having resigned the same. Dated 13 January, 1434-5.

Institution of Roger Newton, presented by Thomas, rector of Edynton, to the parish church of Thormerton. Dated 24 February, 1434-5.

Institution of Richard Hyde, presented by the prior and convent of Little Malvern to the vicarage of Hanley, Thomas Luyde having resigned the same. Dated 15 March, 1434-5.

Institution of Robert Wymbysch, presented by Richard Le-strange, lord of Knokyn and Mohun, and his wife Constance, to the church of Wycheford, void by the death of William Thommes. Dated 14 April, 1435.

Institution of Thomas Fletham, chaplain, presented by the prioress and convent of Cokehull to the parish church of Spenor. Dated 27 April, 1435.

Institution of Thomas Creek of Crek in Salicibus, presented by John Beauchamp, lord of Bergevenny, to the parish church of Kemerton, void by the death of William Crek of Herpoll in the diocese of Lincoln. Dated 1 March, 1435.

Institution of John Lucas, presented by the prior and convent of Derehurst to the vicarage of St. John the Baptist of Stauerton. Dated 3 May, 1435.

Institution of John Walron, presented by the abbot and convent of Perschor to the vicarage of St. Andrew of Perschor. Dated 21 April, 1435.

Institution of William Stapyll, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of Perschor to the vicarage of Hawkesbury. Dated 19 April, 1435.

Institution of Thomas Yongge, presented by the abbot and convent of Tewkesbury to the vicarage of Ammeney Holy Cross. Dated 1 May, 1435.

Institution of Thomas Ball, chaplain, presented by the prior and convent of Stodley to the perpetual vicarage of Coghton. Dated 8 October, 1434.

Institution of Richard Gyldeford, presented by the prior and convent of Lanthony to the parish church of All Saints', Gloucester, John Bradford having resigned the same. Dated 26 August, 1434.

Institution of William Berkeswell, chaplain, presented by the Earl of Warwick to the chapel or hospital of St. Michael the Archangel in the suburbs of Warwick. Dated 8 February, 1434-5.

Institution of Richard Vernon, chaplain, presented by the abbot and convent of Eveshame to the parish church of St. Alban, Worcester. Dated 19 November, 1434.

Decision by John Buvymour and Richard Grafton, clerks, of the diocese of Worcester, arbitrators in a dispute between the abbot of Perschore and master Henry Grene, vicar of Hawkesbury, as to the repair of the chancel of the parish church of Hawkesbury, reciting that the said abbot and convent produced a document which on account of its prolixity was not inserted, and the said master Henry alleged that all the vicars time out of mind had been free from the repair of the said chancel. The said master Henry, upon the word of a priest (*in verbo sacerdotii*), making the sign of the cross with his right hand on his breast, made a corporal oath, and the said abbot and convent in like manner giving security, submitted themselves to the said arbitrators, who declared that the repairs of the said chancel ought to be done by the said vicar and his successors. Dated 5 November, 1420. Confirmation of the same by the Prior of Worcester, 11 November, 1420.

Fol. 259. Visitation exercised by the Prior of Worcester and his commissaries during the vacancy of the See in 1433, in the archdeaconry of Worcester.

Memorandum, that the Prior began his visitation in his cathedral church on Monday, 12 October, and on the same day in his proper person visited the clergy and people of the city of Worcester in the parish church of St. Ellen, in the said city.

On Tuesday following, to wit, 13 October, the Prior, in his proper person, visited the Hospital of St. Wolfstan.

On Monday after the feast of St. Luke the Evangelist, to wit, 19 October, master Thomas Ledbury, S.T.P., and master John Swynerton, notary public, commissaries of the said prior, visited a moiety of the deanery of Kydyrmystyr' in the parish church there, and spent the night there.

On Tuesday following, the said commissaries visited the other moiety of the same deanery in the parish church of Halysoweyn, and remained the night with the abbot there.

On Wednesday, 21 October, they visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Wyche in the parish church of Bromesgrove.

On the same day, after dinner, they visited the parish church of Tardebyg', and spent the night at Bordesley.

On Thursday, 22 October, one commissary visited the priory of Stodley, and the other the prioress of Cokelull, and they had dinner at Stodley.

On the same day, after dinner, they visited the monastery of Alincester, and spent the night there with the abbot.

On Friday, 23 October, the same commissaries visited a moiety of the clergy and people of the deanery of Christianity of Warwick, in the parish church of Alyncestr', dined at the inn there, and spent the night at Henley at the inn.

On Saturday, 24 October, they visited the other moiety of the said deanery in the parish church of Wawenwotton, and dined there. And after dinner one of the commissaries visited the priory of Pynley, and the other the priory of Wroxhale, and spent the night at Warwick, at the inn there.

On Sunday, 25 October, before dinner, they visited the master of St. John there, and after dinner the priory of St. Sepulchre there.

On Monday, 26 October, they visited the dean and college of Warwick, and spent the night at Stratford at the inn there.

On Tuesday, 27 October, they visited the college of Stratford, and a moiety of the deanery of Kyngton, before dinner, and they had dinner at the inn there, and spent the night at Schipston.

On Wednesday, 28 October, they visited the parish church and a moiety of the deanery of Kyngton in the parish church of Wolford', and spent the night at Evesham at the inn.

On Thursday, 29 October, they visited the deanery of Perschor in the parish church of St. Andrew, and on the same day visited the monastery of Perschor' and dined with the abbot.

Visitation made by the Prior of Worcester in the archdeaconry of Gloucester by William Hertilbury and master John Skeffington, commissaries of the same prior, A.D. 1433.

On Monday, the morrow of St. Luke the Evangelist, to wit, 19 October, the said commissaries visited the monastery of Wynchecombe before dinner, and after dinner, the clergy and people of the same deanery in the parish church there, and spent the night in the monastery there.

On Tuesday, 20 October, they visited the monastery of Tewsbury, and spent the night there.

On Wednesday, 21 October, they visited the parish church of Derehurst with the chapel annexed, and on the same day the monastery of St. Peter of Gloucester, and dined there.

On Thursday, 22 October, they visited before dinner the clergy and people of the deanery of Gloucester in the church of St. Nicholas there, and after dinner, on the same day, one of the said commissaries visited the priory of St. Bartholomew and the house of St. Margaret and Magdalene in the same town.

On Friday, 23 October, they visited the priory of Lanthon' next Gloucester, and spent the night there.

On Saturday, 24 October, they visited the deanery of Doreslegh in the parish church there.

On Sunday, 25 October, they dined with the abbot of St. Augustine of Bristol.

On Monday, 26 October, they visited the monastery there before dinner, and after dinner they visited the master of St. Mark and the brethren there.

On Tuesday, 27 October, before dinner, they visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Bristol in the church of St. Augustine.

On the same day, after dinner, they visited the prior of St. James there and the dean and chapter of Westbury.

On Wednesday, 28 October, they visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Hawkesbury in the church or chapel of Sobbery, and spent the night at the inn there.

On Thursday following, they visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Stonhous in the parish church of Tettebury, and spent the night there.

On Friday, 30 October, they visited the monastery of Cirencestre, and dined and spent the night there.

On Saturday, 31 October, they visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Cirencester in the church of St. John there.

On Sunday, 1 November, they were at the monastery there.

On Monday, 2 November, the feast of All Saints, they visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Feyrford in the parish church there, and spent the night at Northleche with the vicar there.

On Tuesday, 3 November, they visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Stowe in the parish church there, and spent the night at the inn there.

On Wednesday, 4 November, they visited the parish church of Langeberew before dinner, and on the same day, after dinner, they visited the clergy and people of the deanery of Campden in the same church, and spent the night there.

On Thursday following, in the morning they visited the parish churches of Wykwom¹ and Dudbrok, before dinner.

On the same day, after dinner, they visited the parish church of Becford, and spent the night at the inn at Perschor'.

Fol. 260. *Congé d'elire* to the prior and chapter of St. Mary of Worcester to elect a bishop in the place of Thomas, the late bishop of Worcester². Dated at Westminster, 16 November, 12 Henry VI.

The last day but two of the month of November, 1433, was chosen for fixing a day for the election of a future bishop, there being then present master John Swynerton, notary public, Nicholas Hambury and William Meysy, esquires, of the diocese of Worcester, witnesses.

On the last day but two of the month of November, the prior and convent being assembled in chapter, fixed the 9 December, 1433, to proceed to the business of such election.

Letter from brother John Fordham, prior, and the convent of the cathedral church of Worcester to Pope Eugenius IV., stating that the See of Worcester had become vacant by the death of Thomas Polton, the last bishop, who died at the Council of Basle, the news of whose death reached the said prior and convent on 25 September last, and having obtained licence from King Henry VI. to elect a new bishop, the said prior and convent on the last day but two of November fixed Wednesday, 9 December, to elect a future bishop. Upon which Wednesday, having celebrated the

¹ *Sic.* Qy. for Wickwar.

² Thomas Polton.

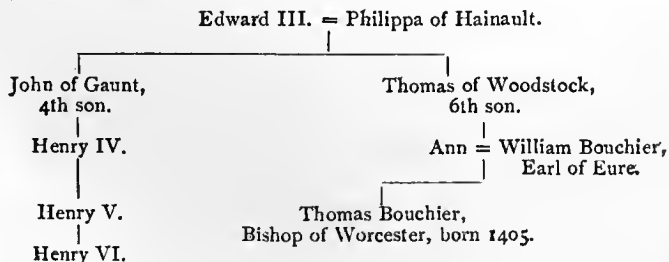
Mass of the Holy Spirit at the High Altar of the cathedral church, and the bell having been rung for the assembling of the chapter, as is accustomed, John Fordham, prior, Thomas Musard, sub-prior, Thomas Ledbury, S.T.P., Roger Evesham, William Cropthorn, John Clyve, Thomas Collewelle, Richard Cowarn, Thomas Alderton, Richard Tiburton, John Stafford, William Hodynton, Thomas Blacwell, Richard Barnsley, William Hertilbury, John Whytynton, John George, Richard Lychefeld, John Sudbury, John Stodley, Thomas Lylshull, Richard Wellys, John Hanley, John Malvern, William Lodlow, John Clyfton, Walter Evyace, Giles Holiwel, Giles Kydyrmystre, William Blount, John Morton, John Bokynhull, John Hertilbury, John Worcestr', John Longley, John Evesham, Hugh Leyntwardyn, Richard Tendebury, John Webley, John Broghton, Thomas Welford, priests, and John Lawarn, Iysaac (*sic*) Ledbury, Thomas Wyche, deacons, and Hugh Knyghton, sub-deacon, monks and brethren of the said cathedral church, professed in the order of St. Benedict, and of sufficient and lawful age, there being no others who had right or voice in such election, who ought to be present, being assembled together, one of the brethren having expounded the Word of God, having sung the hymn, *Veni Creator Spiritus*, and humbly invoked the grace of the Holy Spirit, the said prior made and publicly read a protestation warning all excommunicated, suspended and interdicted persons, and whosoever by chance was present who ought not of right or custom to be there, to depart and permit the monks freely to elect. Which protestation being made, none but the above forty-five monks and brethren remained in the chapter-house, except John Hody, chancellor of the cathedral church of Wells, John Stokys, LL.D., Adam Moleyns, John Cokkys, LL.B., John Skeffyngton, Robert Kent, Robert Dunnygg', and Thomas Litolbury, notaries public, which said John Hody and John Stokys were to direct and give information as to the forms of the election, and Robert Kent, Robert Dunnygg, and Thomas Litolbury were to reduce into writing the acts and instruments of such election, and the said Adam Moleyns, John Cokkys, and John Skeffyngton were to testify to the truth of such acts. The *congé d'elire* and a schedule containing the names of the monks and brethren being read, and Master John Stokys having read the chapter *Quia propter*, the prior and other the monks unanimously elected Master Thomas

Bourgchier, M.A., begotten in lawful matrimony, a careful and discreet man, knowing in letters, commendable for his life and habits, ordained in priests' orders, circumspect in spiritual and temporal matters, wishing to preserve the rights of the said cathedral church, and, as they are informed, although not fully, the defect in his age¹ to hold the dignity of a bishopric had been sufficiently dispensed by the Apostolic See. Whereupon Master Thomas Ledbury publicly elected, and, on account of the probable doubt of the dispensation aforesaid, demanded (*postulaverunt*) from the pope the said Thomas Bourgchier as Bishop of Worcester. The postulation follows setting out that the prior and monks declare that the said Master Thomas Bourgchier was a free and lawful man and begotten in lawful matrimony, &c., as above, and whereas they are certified by faithful persons that the same Master Thomas Bourgchier had received dispensation as to the defect in his age from the Apostolic See, but of such dispensation or the certainty of his age they are not sufficiently informed, and also the same Master Thomas Bourgchier was very useful to the cathedral church of Worcester, and to all the English Church, and very necessary for expelling and extirpating the errors and heresies which are daily exercised in divers parts of the diocese of Worcester, and to correct the oppression of the churches and invasions and usurpations of the jurisdictions, liberties, and rights of ecclesiastical matters and persons which by the secular power are exercised in these days more than usual, and to reform these things according to the exigencies of divine and human law as it is hoped, bearing in mind the birth, discretion and power of the same being born of the noble blood of the kings of England². And these things being

¹ A man could not be a bishop till he was thirty years of age. Bouchier was now about 28. It is not stated here what he was, but at this time he was Chancellor of

Oxford, and Dean of St. Martin's, London. See the reference to his being in the dean's chamber on the next page.

² His descent was as follows:—



done, the said prior and convent solemnly singing the *Te Deum Laudamus*, came to the High Altar of the cathedral church, where the aforesaid Thomas Ledbury publicly proclaimed the said election and postulation, as is aforesaid, to a great multitude of clergy and people. After which the said prior and convent returning to the chapter-house, appointed brothers Thomas Ledbury and William Hertilbury, proctors on their behalf, to notify to the said Master Thomas Bourghier the election and postulation aforesaid, and ask his assent to the same. Afterwards, on 15 December, in a certain high chamber in the house (*hospicium*) of the bishop of Coventry and Lichfield, in the suburb of the city of London, the aforesaid Thomas Ledbury and William Hertilbury notified to the aforesaid Thomas Bourghier the election and postulation aforesaid, and asked his consent to the same, to which he answered that he wished to deliberate thereupon. And after midday of the same day, about the fifth hour, the same proctors went to the aforesaid Master Thomas Bourghier in a high chamber of the dean of the king's free chapel of St. Martin le Grand of the city of London, within the precincts of the said chapel, and asked him earnestly and often to give his consent to the said election and postulation. To which he replied that he had not had sufficient deliberation to give an answer. Consequently on 18 December, the said proctors in the same chamber, in the presence of Master John Stokys, Adam Moleyns, Henry Hamond, Benedict Stokys, and Roger Malmesbury, witnesses, again asked the said Master Thomas Bourghier to consent to the said election and postulation without further delay. At length the said Master Thomas Bourghier, as to the said postulation made of himself, neither consented nor dissented, but submitted himself to the will and pleasure of Pope Eugenius, and retired from the said form of election in a form set out, which states that being elected and demanded as bishop of Worcester, by the prior and convent of Worcester, they being ignorant whether the defect in his age might be dispensed, he had neither consented or dissented to the same election and postulation, but submitted the matter to the Pope. In witness of all which Master Robert Kent and Thomas Lytilbury, notaries public, have appended their seals. Dated 27 December ¹.

¹ This account of Bishop Bouchier's election is printed in full by Thomas, p. 260, No. 124.

Fol. 263. Notarial certificate to the above of Robert Kent, clerk, of the diocese of Canterbury.

A like certificate of Thomas Litolbury, clerk, of the diocese of Lincoln.

Appointment of Master Andrew Huls, William Swan, Robert Sutton, clerks, at the Roman Court, and Adam Moleyns and Thomas Duffeld, bachelor of both laws, as proctors to the Pope, touching the business of the said election and postulation, reciting the various dangers by land and sea to those going to the Holy See, on account of the wars between Henry, King of England, and his adversaries.

Fol. 264. Appointment of Thomas Ledbury, S.T.P., and William Hertlbury, S.T.B., to acquaint Thomas Bourghier with his election and postulation, and ask his consent to the same. Dated 10 December, 1433.

Fol. 264*d*. Presentation by John Fordham, prior, and the convent of Worcester, through Master Thomas Ledbury and William Hertlbury, their proctors, of Master Thomas Bourghier, elect of Worcester, to the king. Dated at Worcester, 10 December, 1433.

Fol. 265. Appointment by Thomas Bourchier, elect and confirmed of the See of Worcester, of John Stokys, LL.D., and John Harnham, bachelor of both laws, his proctors, giving them power to appear in his place before any judges, to present and exhibit bulls, apostolic letters, and muniments, &c., to obtain portions, pensions, services, jurisdictions, and rights due to him by reason of the church of Worcester, and to defend the same, &c. Sealed under the seal of the chancery of Oxford and dated at Oxford, 29 April, 1435.

Fol. 265*d*. Account of Master John Fordam, prior of Worcester, of the issues and profits of the spiritualities of the bishopric of Worcester, the See being vacant by the death of Thomas Heton¹, last bishop, from 2 October, 1433, to 5 May, 1435.

¹ This is an error for Polton, who died 22nd August, 1433. Bouchier was consecrated 15th May, 1435.

An account is rendered of 100*s.* 4*d.* received from the rents of the rectory of Blockley for the seven terms falling within the time of this account, every term 14*s.* 4*d.* And of 25*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* received of the tithes of corn of the said rectory. Sum, 30*li.* 7*s.*

Of 22*li.* of the procurations of divers churches in the archdeaconry of Gloucester by reason of visitations. And of 33*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.* received of the procurations of churches appropriate in the archdeaconry of Worcester. Sum, 50*li.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

And of 33*li.* 14*s.* received from the pensions of divers churches as well in the archdeaconry of Worcester as of Gloucester, payable for two terms of Michaelmas falling within the time of this account. And of 39*li.* 4*s.* received of the pensions of divers churches in the said archdeaconries, payable for two terms of the Annunciation falling within the time of this account, every term 19*li.* 12*s.* And of 13*s.* 4*d.* received from the pension of the church of Quynnton, payable at the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist only. Sum, 73*li.* 11*s.* 4*d.*

And of 12*li.* 19*s.* 8*d.* received from synodal moneys in the archdeaconry of Gloucester for two terms of St. Michael falling within the time of this account, every term 6*li.* 9*s.* 10*d.* And of 114*s.* 8*d.* received from synodals in the archdeaconry of Worcester falling at the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist within the time of this account. Sum, 18*li.* 14*s.* 4*d.*

And of 100*s.* 8*d.* received from pentecostal money in the archdeaconry of Gloucester for one term of Pentecost falling within the time of this account and payable at the same feast. And from pentecostal money in the archdeaconry of Worcester nothing here, because it pertains to the office of sacristan of Worcester of old time used and appropriated. Sum, 110*s.* 8*d.*

And of 15*li.* 10*s.* received from institutions and other things by way of exchange falling within the time of this account. Sum, 15*li.* 10*s.*

Fol. 266. And of *4li.* received from the fines of wills and corrections falling and received within the time of this account. And so less on account of the scarcity of wills, because the court of the Marches¹ in the archdeaconries aforesaid, by their ministers, disturbed as well divers religious persons as beneficed ecclesiastics by their executions that such emoluments and profits were almost of no value. Sum *4li.*

Sum total of the rental, *203li.*

From which the said accountant prays allowance for the procurations of divers churches in the archdeaconries aforesaid, which he was unable to levy for divers causes, as well by reason of payments to the prior and the scarceness of money as by reason of letters of royal protection and by other means detained, that is to say, from the churches of Langeberowe, *26s. 8d.*; Dudbrok, *26s. 8d.*; Campeden, *53s. 4d.*; St. Mark of Bristol, *26s. 8d.*; Asteley, *53s. 4d.*, because it is in the hands of the lady of Bergevenny; Wolford, *53s. 4d.*; St. Sepulchre of Warwick, *53s. 4d.*; Wroxhale, *53s. 4d.*; Alcester, *53s. 4d.*; Stratford, *26s. 8d.* Sum, *21li. 6s. 8d.* And also the same accountant prays allowance for synodal money payable in the township of Fulbrok, retained and denied on account of poverty, *13s. 4d.* Also for part of the annual pension of the church of Down Ameney, by reason of poverty, for two terms, *13s. 4d.* Sum, *22li. 13s. 4d.*

And there remains beyond the allowances as appears by the account, *178li. 10s.*

And there is allowed to the same prior accounting for the issues and profits above charged, a third part of the same due to him and his successors by composition, *60li. 2s. 2½d.*

The same accountant delivered to the Archbishop of Canterbury, by four acquittances, *86li. 13s. 4d.* And to the same archbishop, by the hands of the rector of Avenyngge, for a third part of the institution of the same rector, *6s. 8d.* And to the same archbishop, by the hands of Hugh Palyser, keeper of the prison of the palace

¹ This is the court of the Marches of all Worcestershire, down certainly to the Wales, then lately created, which claimed Civil War. and occasionally exercised jurisdiction over

of the bishop, for his stipend of 12*d.* a week for a year, 52*s.* And to the same archbishop by the hands of the said Hugh for thirty-six weeks, as above, 36*s.* And to the same archbishop, by the hands of the same Hugh, for iron chains and other things for the safe keeping of the said prison, 9*s.* Sum, 91*li.* 17*s.*

Sum total with the allowances and deliveries, 174*li.* 12*s.* 6½*d.*

And so there are owed to the archbishop, 28*li.* 7*s.* 5½*d.*, which are paid upon the audit, as appears by an acquittance. And so he is quit.

Fol. 266*d.* Orders celebrated in the charnel chapel within the churchyard of the cathedral church of Worcester, by Robert, bishop of Emly¹, by authority of the prior.

ACOLYTES (Religious and Secular).

John Lye, regular canon of the monastery of Osney, of the diocese of Lincoln, ordained acolyte.

John Quenynton, regular canon of the monastery of Osney, of the diocese of Lincoln, ordained acolyte.

John Newman, having the first tonsure, by letters dimissory of his diocesan, ordained acolyte.

Thomas Browne, having the first tonsure, by letters dimissory, ordained acolyte.

SUB-DEACONS.

John Lye, regular canon of Osney, ordained sub-deacon.

John Quenynton, regular canon of Osney, ordained sub-deacon.

John Hodleston, rector of the parish church of Averham, in the diocese of York, acolyte, to the title of his benefice, ordained sub-deacon.

Thomas Weston, of the diocese of Bath and Wells, by letters dimissory, to the title of the abbot and convent of Hathelney, of which he is content, ordained sub-deacon.

John Hawton, of the diocese of Durham, acolyte, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior and convent of St. Frideswide, Oxford, ordained sub-deacon.

John Colady, of the diocese of Lincoln, acolyte, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior and convent of the hospital of St. John the Baptist, Lychelade, ordained sub-deacon.

¹ See *ante*, p. 417.

DEACONS (Religious and Secular).

James Kyrton, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the master of the hospital of St. John the Baptist, Warwick, of which he is content, ordained deacon.

Fol. 267. William Halle, of the diocese of Salisbury, by letters dimissory, to the title of Edward Dautesey, lord of the manor of Larkestoke, of which he is content, ordained deacon.

Thomas Stevenes, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the prior of the hospital of St. Bartholomew, Gloucester, of which he is content, ordained deacon.

Geoffrey Hunte, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the house of the Holy Trinity, London, and the convent of the same, ordained deacon.

Robert Spaynell, of the diocese of York, sub-deacon, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior and convent of Wyrkesopp, of which he is content, ordained deacon.

William Hertewill, canon of Oseney, of the diocese of Lincoln, by letters dimissory, ordained deacon.

John Walton, canon of Oseney, of the diocese of Lincoln, by letters dimissory, ordained deacon.

Richard Fysscher, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, in the diocese of Lincoln, by letters dimissory.

William Kyrkarth, of the diocese of York, by letters dimissory, to the title of the monastery of Osney, in the diocese of Lincoln, ordained deacon.

John Porrey, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of Stodley, ordained deacon.

John Symondes, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the preceptor and brethren of the hospital of St. Oswald without Worcester, ordained deacon.

Thomas Thornell, of the diocese of York, by letters dimissory, to the title of the abbot and convent of Osney, ordained deacon.

Richard Muchell, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the preceptor and brethren of St. Wolstan's without Worcester, ordained deacon.

PRIESTS (Religious and Secular).

John Stevenes, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prioress and convent of Pynley, ordained priest.

Brother Giles de Flamalia, friar, of the order of Preachers, ordained priest.

Brother William Warrawik, friar, of the order of Preachers, Worcester, ordained priest.

John Sugdon, of the diocese of Hereford, deacon, by letters dimissory, to the title of the house of the preceptor and brethren of St. Oswald's without Worcester, ordained priest.

John Salewey, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prioress and convent of Cokehull, ordained priest.

William Barton, of the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield, deacon, by letters dimissory, of the house of St. Redegund of Teylesford, of the Trinitarian order.

John Cokeshale, of the diocese of Worcester, deacon, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, ordained priest.

William Willys, of the diocese of Worcester, deacon, to the title of the prioress and convent of Cokehull, ordained priest.

John Gardyner, of the diocese of Worcester, rector of the parish church of Madresfeld, to the title of his benefice, ordained priest.

Orders celebrated in the chapel aforesaid, by the aforesaid bishop, on the vigil of Easter, 27 March, 1434.

ACOLYTES (Secular).

John Trafford, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

SUB-DEACONS.

John Willey, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of the preceptor and brethren of St. Oswald's without Worcester, ordained sub-deacon.

William Cowpere, otherwise Reysand, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of the master or warden and convent of the hospital of Holy Trinity of Bruggenorth, to all holy orders granted to him, of which he is content, ordained sub-deacon.

Fol. 267*d*. John Trafford, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of the abbot and convent of Alyncestre, ordained sub-deacon.

Philip Hopkyns, of the diocese of Worcester, acolyte, to the title of the abbess and convent of Cokehull, ordained sub-deacon.

DEACONS.

Thomas Weston, of the diocese of Bath and Wells, sub-deacon, by letters dimissory, to the title of the abbot and convent of Athelney, ordained deacon.

John Calday, of the diocese of Lincoln, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John the Baptist, Lychelade.

PRIESTS.

John Porrey, of the diocese of Worcester, deacon, to the title of the prior and convent of Stodley, ordained priest.

Robert Spaynell, of the diocese of York, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior and convent of Wyrkesopp, ordained priest.

Thomas Thornell, of the diocese of York, deacon, by letters dimissory, to the title of the abbot and convent of Osney, ordained priest.

William Hall, of the diocese of Salisbury, deacon, by letters dimissory, to the title of Edmund Dauntsey, Esq., lord of the manor of Larkestoake, of which he is content, ordained priest.

Thomas Stevenys, of the diocese of Worcester, deacon, to the title of the prior of the hospital of St. Bartholomew, Gloucester.

James Kyrton, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the master and brethren of the hospital of St. John the Baptist of Warwick.

Goffrey Hunte, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of the house of the Holy Trinity, London.

Orders celebrated by the aforesaid bishop in the chapel aforesaid on Saturday *quatuor temporum*, 18 September, 1434.

ACOLYTES (Secular).

John Colle, of Perschore, ordained acolyte.

Richard Ferby, of Braylye in the diocese of Worcester, ordained acolyte.

SUB-DEACONS (Secular).

Master John Nichollys, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera.

Robert Hawkeslowe, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prioress and convent of Whytston in the diocese of Worcester.

Robert Schypper, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the abbot and convent of Kynggeswode.

Thomas Brown, of the diocese of Carlisle, by letters dimissory, to the title of the preceptor and brethren of St. Oswald without Worcester.

Richard Ferby, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera.

DEACONS (Secular).

John Willey, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the preceptor and brethren of St. Oswald without Worcester, ordained deacon.

John Knyzt, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of Polton of Sympringham in the diocese of Salisbury, ordained deacon.

Fol. 268. John Reson, of the diocese of Lincoln, to the title of the abbot and convent of Osney, by letters dimissory, ordained deacon.

William Bartram, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of Polton of Sympringham in the diocese of Salisbury.

John Lewys, of the diocese of Llandaff, to the title of the hospital of St. Oswald without Worcester, by letters dimissory.

SUB-DEACONS (Religious).

Brother John Eyton, of the order of Friars Minor of Worcester.

Brother John Syllull, canon of Stodley, ordained sub-deacon.

Brother John Morton, canon of Stodley, ordained sub-deacon.

Brother William Selston, canon of Stodley, ordained sub-deacon.

DEACONS (Religious).

Brother Richard Brenner, of the order of Friars Preachers, Worcester, ordained deacon.

Brother John Sylull, canon of Stodley in the diocese of Worcester, of the order of St. Augustine.

Brother John Morton, canon of Stodley, of the order of St. Augustine.

Brother William Selston, canon of Stodley, of the order of St. Augustine.

PRIESTS (Secular).

John Trafford, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the abbot and convent of Alyncester.

John Hawton, of the diocese of Durham, by letters dimissory, to the title of the house of St. Fredeswide, Oxford, ordained priest.

John Bost, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of Durhurst in the diocese of Worcester, ordained priest.

PRIESTS (Religious).

Brother John Lawarn, deacon and monk of Worcester, ordained priest.

Brother Isaac Ledbury, deacon and monk of Worcester, ordained priest.

Brother Thomas Wyche, deacon and monk of Worcester, ordained priest.

Brother John Davy, of the order of Friars Minor, Worcester, ordained priest.

Brother Thomas Lye, monk of Great Malvern in the diocese of Worcester, ordained priest.

Orders celebrated in the chapel aforesaid on the vigil of Holy Trinity *quatuor temporum*, on 21 May, in the week of Pentecost, 1434.

ACOLYTES (Religious and Secular).

Thomas French, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

Thomas Parlor, otherwise Hosyntre, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

Robert Clyve, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

Robert Pete, otherwise Molton, of the diocese of Worcester, having the first tonsure, ordained acolyte.

SUB-DEACONS.

Walter Bartram, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of Polton, of the order of St. Gilbert of Sympringham, ordained sub-deacon.

John Knyzt, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of Polton aforesaid, ordained sub-deacon.

DEACONS.

Fol. 268*d*. John Bost, of the diocese of Worcester, sub-deacon, to the title of the prior and convent of Durhurst, ordained deacon.

PRIESTS (Religious and Secular).

Brother William Payne, monk of the monastery of Durhurst, ordained priest.

John Person, of the diocese of Bath and Wells, by letters dimissory, to the title of the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John the Baptist, of Wells, ordained priest.

Richard Muchell, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the preceptor and brethren of St. Wolstan without Worcester, ordained priest.

Orders celebrated in the said chapel by the aforesaid bishop on Saturday *quatuor temporum*, 18 December, 1434.

ACOLYTES.

William Rollys, of the diocese of Worcester.

Richard Wirlock, of the diocese of Worcester.

John Pery, of Longney, in the diocese of Worcester.

John Taylor, of Gloucester, in the diocese of Worcester, by letters dimissory.

William Harrys, of Odyngley, by letters dimissory.

Lewis Subdon, of the diocese of Hereford, by letters dimissory.

Richard Rys, of the diocese of Worcester.

William Frebarn, ordained acolyte.

SUB-DEACONS (Religious and Secular).

Nicholas Whitebill, acolyte, to the title of the prior and convent of Coldenorton, by letters dimissory of the bishop of Lincoln.

Morgan Henmer, rector of Little Pakynton, in the diocese of Chester, to the title of his benefice, ordained sub-deacon.

DEACONS (Religious and Secular).

John Brugg, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of Longbryge.

John Collys, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prioress and convent of Cokehull.

Thomas Maryner, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of Polton, in the diocese of Salisbury.

Richard Ferby, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera.

Thomas Browne, of the diocese of Carlisle, by letters dimissory, to the title of the preceptor and brethren of St. Oswald without Worcester.

Brother Robert Veer, of the order of Friars Preachers of Worcester.

Brother Richard Hanley, monk of St. Peter of Gloucester.

Brother John Stevenes, monk of St. Peter of Gloucester.

Brother John Beynam, monk of St. Peter of Gloucester.

PRIESTS (Religious and Secular).

John Reson, of the diocese of Lincoln, by letters dimissory, to the title of the abbot and convent of Osney.

William Bartram, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of Polton.

John Knyzt, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the prior and convent of Polton.

John Lewys, of the diocese of Worcester, deacon, to the title of the master of the hospital of St. Oswald without Worcester.

Richard Fyscher, of the diocese of Worcester, to the title of the abbot and convent of Bruera, in the diocese of Lincoln.

Folio 269 blank.

Fol. 269*d*. Certificate by John Arnold, bachelor of theology, rector of the parish church of St. Michael of Gloucester, of the receipt of the prior's mandate, dated 3 September, 1434, to him and John Mulle, bachelor of laws, to make inquiry touching the presentation by John Grevill, esquire, of Robert Hepkyns, clerk, to the free chapel of Lascheberow, in the diocese of Worcester¹.
Rest of entry missing.

¹ See *ante*, fol. 251, p. 414.

INDEX.

THE arduous task of writing out the names for this Index was kindly undertaken by Miss I. SOUTHALL, a member of the Society, to whose painstaking work its completeness is due.

Names are for the most part indexed as they occur in the text. "De" is usually left out.

When no proper name of an Officer is given in the text, the office will be found in the Index of Places.

Names occurring in any of the Introductions are not given in this Index.

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BY

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1301—1435.

From the Death of Bishop Giffard to the Enthronement of Bishop Bouchier.



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GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

THE completion of a calendar of the contents of the *Registrum Sede Vacante* of the Diocese of Worcester has for the first time rendered this manuscript accessible to the local historian. Extracts from it have been made by Thomas, Nash, and others, but no complete account of its contents has hitherto appeared. Its importance in County History cannot be over-rated. It contains the official account of the ecclesiastical administration of the diocese at different and irregular intervals between 1301 and 1435. These intervals were the times between the death or translation of a bishop and the new bishop taking over the administration of the spiritualities of the See. Sometimes they lasted for one or two years, as in the case of the first from 1301 to 1303, in others only a few months. But whether long or short, all these intervals contain entries of matters that have an important bearing on County history, not only that of Worcestershire but also of Warwickshire and Gloucestershire, and in some few cases on the general History of England.

The volume is a folio of 14" x 10" bound in oak boards, which were formerly ornamented with brass, but the ornaments have disappeared. It consists of 271 pages of vellum, for the most part written on both sides, referred to in this calendar as 1 and 1*ᵃ*. In some places, as on p. 146, part has been torn out, and in other places, as on p. 200, the leaf has been deliberately cut. On p. 130 there is a large stain of blood, but on the whole the MS. is in most excellent preservation. Opposite several of the entries there are marginal notes, some cotemporary with the body of the book, others of a later date, and some, as on p. 112, in a modern hand, probably Dr. Thomas, who is known to have largely studied the MS. Some of the writing is beautifully done, for instance, a small document inserted on p. 105. The Register is of necessity of various dates. A specimen of the earliest page was published in Part I.

There is but little, if any, attempt at arrangement. In several places documents are bound up with the MS. having no relation

to the text. The MS. has been rebound at some time, and the leaves have not been replaced in chronological order, as, for instance, the entries on the vacancy in 1349 precede those on the one in 1338.

The possessions and emoluments of an English Bishoprick in the 13th century were of two kinds, the temporalities, the rents and profits from the estates of the See, the spiritualities, the revenue derived from the performance of any ecclesiastical function. On reference to the celebrated 13th century assessment of the English Church, the Valor of Pope Nicholas IV., this division will be clearly seen; the two kinds of revenue were separately taxed, but there the division is somewhat different, as the spiritualities were not the varying sums received from fees but the fixed sums received from the benefices. In the case of Worcester the total amount given in the Valor of the spiritual revenue was £4,793 2s. 10d., of the temporal £1,295 5s. 6½d. This, however, does not include the revenue mentioned in this Register, as the spiritualities in the Valor do not include the annual sums derived from fees which were of far less amount than the revenue from benefices.

Whenever a vacancy occurred in the See, as the Bishop was the King's feudal tenant of the temporalities, a default of a tenant arose, so they escheated to the King as lord and remained in his hands until granted to a new tenant, the new Bishop, which was not made until he had done homage on his appointment. It was, therefore, to the interest of the Crown to keep the See vacant as long as possible, as thereby it received the revenues. One of the complaints against William Rufus was that he kept the Bishopricks vacant for this purpose. The accounts of what the temporalities produced and the administration of the estates do not in any way appear in this volume, except for a casual entry here and there, where the Prior's officers are forbidden to commit waste on the lands of the See. This register is confined to the other side of the receipts. These the spiritualities, the revenue arising from the ecclesiastical work done by ecclesiastics, went to the See of Canterbury, according to the Anglican view, as the Metropolitan See of the Province; or according to the Roman view, as the Papal representative. Some one had to collect the monies arising from the spiritualities on behalf of Canterbury. This person, who was the *custos* or guardian on behalf of that See, received the revenues and was allowed to retain a percentage for collecting them when he passed

his accounts. There seems to have been a good deal of friction between the archiepiscopal authorities and the local authorities as to the collection of these monies; a stranger could not get as much as a local man, a local man might not act so fairly to Canterbury as an official of its own. It was not only in the Worcester diocese that these difficulties arose. In the adjoining Diocese of Lincoln there was the same trouble springing from the same cause, and in 1262 Archbishop Boniface settled it by a formal agreement that the Prior or Sub-prior should act as collector and be allowed a fixed portion of the monies collected. The sentence of excommunication on persons breaking the Lincoln agreement is set out in full in the Register¹ of the Priory of Worcester, doubtless as forming a precedent of the agreement with Archbishop Boniface which the Prior and convent of Worcester made in 1268 on the same lines was broken. By it on a vacancy in the See of Worcester the Canterbury official appointed the Prior or Sub-prior of Worcester Keeper of the Spiritualities, the Prior exercised all the Archbishop's powers as bishop during the vacancy, and on its termination he accounted for what he received. Out of the monies accounted for two-thirds were to be paid to Canterbury and one-third retained by the Prior. It is important to bear this in mind, for it seems probable that the Prior's pecuniary interest in the monies received led him to enforce his rights and compel payments in a way he might not otherwise have done. The title of the Prior, when acting for the See of Canterbury on these occasions, is given in the Register thus:—"Prior of the Cathedral Church of Worcester by authority of the Court of Canterbury, Official and Administrator of the Spiritualities in the City and Diocese of Worcester, the See being vacant²." But although very often referred to, the agreement with the Archbishop is nowhere set out *in extenso*. The Worcester agreement, as has been said, differs in some of its details from that of Lincoln. It was more favourable to the monastery. One of the differences deserves notice, as it may have given rise to some of the disputes that occurred in the Worcester Diocese. In the Lincoln agreement the power of the Prior to visit the monasteries was limited to visiting two in each Archdeaconry. In the Worcester agreement no such

¹ Hale's edition of Register of Priory of Worcester, published for Camden Society, 1865, p. 172a.

² p. 134.

limitation was imposed, and it may well be that the great monasteries that refused to allow the Prior to visit them knew of the agreement in the adjoining diocese, and did not see why they should be in a worse position than the houses of their order in the next diocese. If Gloucester and Tewkesbury were visited, why should Winchcomb and Cirencester also have to undergo visitation? If they had been only a few miles to the east they would have been free from the Prior and all his works.

The sums that were received from Spiritualities arose from various sources—fees on visitation, fees on conferring orders, fees for consecrating or reconciling churches, fees on institution to benefices, fees for licences, or letters dimissory, fees for wills, and cases in the ecclesiastical courts, in fact, fees for everything for which an ecclesiastical lawyer could invent fees. At the close of the vacancy, or if it lasted a longer time, at the end of a year, the Prior accounted with the Archbishop. The register contains several of these accounts; they are worth careful examination, as they shew the nature of the work the Prior did and furnish the key to a great deal of what appears in the Register, which was in fact the history of the Prior's administration as collector or keeper for the See of Canterbury.

The next point to consider is the area over which this jurisdiction was exercised. This will be best understood by reference to the map prefixed to this book. It will be there seen that the Diocese of Worcester at the time of the Register, 1301—1435, consisted of the County of Worcester, part of the County of Warwick, including Warwick itself, but excluding Leamington and Kenilworth (roughly the part that now lies to the west of the Great Western Railway from Birmingham to Oxford), and all Gloucestershire east of the Severn. This area was divided into two Archdeaconries, Worcester and Gloucester; Worcester including Worcestershire and the part of Warwickshire in the diocese, Gloucester the part of Gloucestershire within it. The Worcester Archdeaconry was divided into 9 deaneries, Worcester, Powick, Pershore, Wych, Kidderminster, Evesham, Blockley, Warwick, and Kington. The Gloucester into 12 deaneries, Winchcomb, Gloucester, Stonehouse, Dursley, Bristol, Bolton, Hawkesbury, Cirencester, Fairford, Stow, and Campden, and the jurisdiction of Bibury. Over all this area, except the Deanery of Evesham and the jurisdiction of Bibury, the Prior as the officer

of the Archbishop exercised jurisdiction during the vacancy of the See. Each of these deaneries within the Prior's jurisdiction was "visited" from time to time by the Prior, and each of the deans acted as the officer during the vacancy to carry out the Prior's mandate in any matters arising in the deaneries.

The record of the Prior's jurisdiction over this area extends from 1301, the death of Bishop Godfrey Giffard, to 1435, the consecration of Bishop Bourchier. During these 134 years there were no less than 20 bishops, or rather 19 vacancies, and it is the proceedings during some of these vacancies which the Register describes. Unfortunately the Register is not complete. Out of the 19 vacancies, in no less than 5 there is no record of what was done. The following Table will shew exactly what the Register contains. When the bishops' names are printed in italics there is no record of anything done during the vacancy. The names of the Priors are added for facility of reference.

<i>Bishops.</i>		<i>Priors.</i>	<i>Pages.</i>
Giffard	}	John de la Wyke	1—80
to			
Ginsborough	}	John de la Wyke	80—136
Ginsborough			
to	}	John de la Wyke	137—177
Reynolds			
Reynolds	}	John de la Wyke	177—191
to			
Maydeston	}	John de la Wyke	No entry.
Maydeston			
to	}	Wolstan de Bransford	"
Cobham			
<i>Cobham</i>	}	Wolstan de Bransford	"
to			
<i>Orleton</i>	}	Wolstan de Bransford	"
<i>Orleton</i>			
to	}	Wolstan de Bransford	"
<i>Montacute</i>			
<i>Montacute</i>	}	Wolstan de Bransford	"
to			
<i>Heminghamale</i>			

<i>Bishops.</i>		<i>Priors.</i>	<i>Pages.</i>
Heminghale	} 21st Dec. 1338	Wolstan de Bransford	256—282
to		to	
Bransford	} April, 1339		
Bransford		6th Aug. 1349	John de Evesham
to	} 1350	to	
Thoresby		1352	John de Evesham
Thoresby	} to		
to		1353	
Brian	} 10th Dec. 1361	John de Evesham	202—216
Brian		to	
Barnet	} 10th Mar. 1364		
Barnet		1st April, 1364	John de Evesham
to	} to		
Whittelsey		2nd July, 1364	
Whittelsey	} Oct. 1368	John de Evesham	No entry.
to		to	
Lynn	} May, 1369		
Lynn		18th Nov. 1373	Walter Leigh
to	} to		
Wakefield		28th Oct. 1375	
Wakefield	} 11th Mar. 1395	John de Malvern	353—371
to		to	
Winchcombe	} Aug. 1395		
Winchcombe		13th June, 1401	John de Malvern
to	} to		
Clifford		17th Oct. 1401	
Clifford	} 21st Oct. 1407	John de Malvern	387—390
to		to	
Peverell	} 21st Nov. 1407		
Peverell		1st Mar. 1418	John de Malvern
to	} to		
Morgan		3rd Dec. 1419	
<i>Morgan</i>	} 1425	John Fordham	No record.
to		to	
<i>Polton</i>	} 1426		
Polton		23rd Aug. 1433	John Fordham
to	} to		
Bourchier		5th May, 1435	

It will thus be seen that except from 1327—1338, the time covered by the episcopates of Orleton and Montacute, the 9 years of Whittelsey and Lynn, and the 6 years of Morgan and Polton, the Register covers the period 1301—1435. It is to be regretted that we have not the details of some of these vacancies, especially that of Orleton.

The names of the Priors have been given, so that it may be seen at a glance who was the person who acted at each vacancy. In the Appendix a further Table has been added shewing who were the Popes, the Archbishops of Canterbury, and the Archdeacons during the period. So it will be readily seen who were the persons whose acts are recorded.

Before considering the administrations of the six different Priors who presided over the Worcester Monastery during the time covered by the Register, it will be well to say one word as to the election of the different bishops. In theory the Worcester monks on obtaining the King's leave to elect, selected the person they thought best qualified for the post. He was, it is true, subject to the approval of the King, and it would appear that the Archbishop of Canterbury claimed the right of approving or disapproving of the bishop elect. The Pope also claimed the same right, although, strictly speaking, he had only a voice in the matter as the appellate judge if a dispute arose; this was the strict theoretical rule, the practice was very different. The Register gives a period in which there were 20 elections. The following Table will shew how far the right of election really belonged to the Worcester monks.

<i>Name of person elected by Monks.</i>	<i>Name of the Bishop.</i>	<i>Action of Pope.</i>
1. John de Sancto Germano	William Ginsborough	app. by Pope
2. Walter Reynolds	Walter Reynolds	confirmed
3. Thomas Cobham	Walter Maydeston	app. by Pope
4. No election	Thomas Cobham	app. by Pope
5. Wolston de Bransford	Adam Orleton	app. by Pope
6.	Simon de Montacute	app. by Pope
7. Wolstan de Bransford	Thomas Heminghale	app. by Pope
8. Wolstan de Bransford	Wolstan de Bransford	confirmed
9.	John de Thorsby	app. by Pope
10.	Reginald Brian	app. by Pope
11.	William Whittlesey	app. by Pope
12.	William Lynn	app. by Pope

<i>Name of person elected by Monks.</i>	<i>Name of the Bishop.</i>	<i>Action of Pope.</i>
13. William Leigh	Henry Wakefield	app. by Pope
14.	Tideman de Winchcombe	app. by Pope
15. Richard Clifford	Richard Clifford	app. by Pope
16.	Thomas Peverell	app. by Pope
17. Philip Morgan	Philip Morgan	confirmed
18.	Thomas Polton	app. by Pope
19. Thomas Bouchier	Thomas Bouchier	confirmed

It will thus be seen how rarely the elected of the monks really became bishop. What with having "provided" some one else with the bishoprick, or with translating one of his favourites, or with giving it to his own nominee, the Pope usually filled up the See. It was quite the exception that the elected candidate should become anything more. Wolstan de Bransford, the Prior, was on three several occasions elected, and although recommended by both the King and the Archbishop, was set aside by the Pope for one of his own nominees; it often happened that the new Bishop was quite unknown to those over whom he had to preside.

There are entered in the register a number of royal letters on different matters, some having relation to matters in the Register, others having no connection at all with any business. They are, however, of some interest, and at least one of some public importance; they are some half-dozen in number, and the most remarkable are:—

1. One in 1302¹ from Edward I. to the Prior. Hearing that the Prior was committing waste and destruction in the lands of the Bishoprick, the King orders him to wholly desist from doing so.

Clearly the Prior had no right whatever to interfere with the temporalities of the See, and it was probably only "a try on."

2. A Letter from Edward I. to the Pope, 8 Aug., 1302, in favour of John de Sancto Germano², whom the monks had elected bishop.

3. A Letter, 4 Feb., 31 Ed. I., from Edward I.³ to the Prior and Convent asking them to give a corrody to his servant, John of Bromsgrove, Le Traior, the bearer, who has well and faithfully served him.

4. A Letter, 30 Oct., 1 Ed. II.⁴, from Edward II. to the Prior and Convent of Worcester. Having granted them leave to elect

¹ p. 3.² p. 15.³ p. 39.⁴ p. 104.

a Bishop and hearing they delay proceeding to an election, whereby great loss may occur to them and their church, he commands them that without further delay they proceed to the election of the future Bishop. The King also sent further letters on behalf of Walter Reynolds, and a very important paper giving reasons why the King ordered the election to be hastened, after stating that cathedrals had the right of free election, but the King had always retained the right to allow an election and to approve of the elected, for otherwise he may have a traitor, or an alien, or an enemy of the King or his realm on his Council, lays down that the Pope cannot confer English Bishopricks, nor make any reservation of them, nor interfere with lay patronage.

The document is a remarkable one, the more so as it proceeds from Edward II., and it seems to put the position of the English bishops on their true footing: that they are subjects of the English Crown first and bishops afterwards—royal officials, and not the nominees of any "foreign Prince, State, or Potentate." The renunciation of Papal jurisdiction and the right to reject "provisions" made by the Pope is very important.

5. Letter from Edward II.¹, 30 Oct., 1 Ed. II., to the Prior requiring him to cause funeral services with the chanting of masses and other ecclesiastical suffrages to be celebrated for the soul of his father by all religious persons and other clergy of the diocese, that by their prayers he might be able the quicker to enter the celestial kingdom and eternal blessedness.

This letter preceded a writ ordering prayers to be offered up for the preservation of the kingdom, and other lands subject to the King, in prosperity and peace, and that the King may, under God, rule and defend the same by the commands of God, to the honour, profit and quiet of himself, the kingdom and lands. The writ was followed by an order for the Prior to have prayers offered up every day, especially on Sundays and festivals, but it does not appear from the Register that any notice was taken of the letter.

6. A letter², 5 Sept., 23 Ed. III. 13, from the King setting out the ingratitude and wickedness of the country, and the great calamity, the Black Death, that has fallen on it, the necessity for prayer and fastings, orders the Prior to have recourse to prayer and

¹ p. 127.

² p. 241.

sacrifices, repentance, fastings and exercises of holiness, to turn away the plague and sickness and to cast out the scourge of the air.

7. A letter¹ from Edward III. to the Archbishop of Canterbury, 24 Dec., 47 Ed. III. informing him that with his license the Sub-prior and Convent had elected William Leigh, the Prior, Bishop, that the King assents to it, and requested the Archbishop to do whatever pertained to him in the matter. Notwithstanding this, Leigh was set aside, and the Pope appointed Wakefield bishop.

There are also several letters entered on the Register relating to public matters but not directly affecting the diocese or the Worcester House ; such are—

A letter², 1301, from Pope Boniface VIII. to Philip IV. of France, telling him that the collation of no benefices or prebends belong to him, and that the Pope reserves the fruits during a vacancy for the successor, and if any one thinks otherwise the Pope will consider him a heretic. It is difficult to see how this letter came into the possession of the Worcester monks.

In 1307³ there is a letter from Pope Clement V. to the Archbishop of Canterbury (Winchelsey), which states that the Pope inclining to the petition of the Archbishop and being unwilling to impede him in his office at the King's coronation, has revoked all letters he may have sent to any one touching the matter.

Another letter of the same date⁴ from the Pope to the Arch-deacon of Arenns (W. Testa) states that the Pope having suspended the Archbishop of Canterbury from administering the spiritualities and temporalities of the See of Canterbury, has now restored the Archbishop to the administration of the same.

Although the accounts of the monies received by the Prior profess to shew the total amount of the spiritualities during the time the account covers, it would not be right to infer they represent in any way the spiritualities of the See as usually understood. They only represent fees and payments, and what their real value was is a matter on which it is most difficult to get any really accurate information. They could not have been a very large sum, nothing like the value of the spiritualities and temporalities of the See in 1291, as mentioned in Pope Nicholas' Valor, but even that would be under the real value, for the value as being taken for taxation it

¹ p. 283.

² p. 6.

³ p. 96.

⁴ p. 97.

was something like a modern valuation for probate, well within the real sum. That this was well recognised is shewn by the King's direction as to how the alien abbeys were to be valued, not as for taxation but as by the last extent¹. The Valor includes as spiritualities the profits of the different benefices and not what is dealt with here, the receipts from fees for performing ecclesiastical duties, which is the other meaning of the term. There were also sums such as Peter's pence² which the Bishop received yearly, and which the Prior entered in his account with the Archbishop.

The first account the Register gives is that of these Peter's Pence. We have no clear statement as to the basis on which they were assessed; a certain sum was raised from each Archdeaconry subject to a number of exemptions. The account is thus stated :—

	£	s.	d.
In the deanery of Worcester - - -	-	40	0
In the deanery of Powick - - -	-	29	6½
In the deanery of Wych' - - -	-	24	10
In the deanery of Kydermestr'- - -	-	26	0
In the deanery of Persor - - -	-	24	4½
In the deanery of Warwyk - - -	-	7	10 5½
		<hr/>	
Total	£14	15	8½

Exemptions of the same Archdeanery.	s.	d.
In the deanery of Blockel' - - -	6	0
In the deanery of Tredington - - -	6	0
In the deanery of Hamton - - -	3	0
In the deanery of Stratford - - -	6	0
In the deanery of Alnechyrch - - -	3	0
In the deanery of Hertlebur' - - -	2	0
In the deanery of Fladbur' - - -	3	0
In the deanery of Aston Episcopi - - -	0	7
	<hr/>	
Sum of exenptions of the Archdeanery of Worcester	39	7

¹ p. 293.² p. 33.

Deanery of the Blessed Peter of the Archdeanery of Gloucester.

			<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
In the deanery of Gloucester	-	-	35	0
In the deanery of Stonhyng'	-	-	39	0
In the deanery of Wynchcombe	-	-	54	0
In the deanery of Campedem	-	-	37	0
In the deanery of Stonwa	-	-	36	11
In the deanery of Fayreford	-	-	33	6
In the deanery of Cyrencestr'	-	-	31	0
In the deanery of Darsl'	-	-	47	2
Whereof 40 <i>s.</i> is paid by the hands of Lord T. de Werkes				
In the deanery of Hanekes	-	-	33	6½
In the deanery of Bucton'	-	-	17	11
In the deanery of Bristoll	-	-	10	2
And 1 <i>d.</i> is uncertain on account of the borough				
Total			<u>£17</u>	<u>15 3</u>

Exemptions of the same Archdeanery.			<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
In the deanery of Westbur'	-	-	3	0
In the deanery of Wythyndon	-	-	3	0
In the deanery of Bebur'	-	-	6	0
In the deanery of Clyve	-	-	2	0
Sum of exemptions of the Archdeanery of Gloucester			<u>14</u>	<u>0</u>

"Sum of the sums total of Peter's Pence in the Bishoprick of Worcester £34 2*s.* 7½*d.*, whereof the Bishop pays to the Court of Rome yearly £10 5*s.*, and there accrues to the Bishop every year from the same Peter's Pence of his diocese £24 7*s.* 7½*d.*"¹

The first point the list suggests is that the division of the diocese must for this collection have been very different to what it was for any other purpose. Deaneries are mentioned that have long ago ceased to exist, for instance, Hartlebury and Fladbury, and the deaneries do not correspond with those mentioned either in the Register or in Pope Nicholas' Valor. The next is the difference in the amounts raised. The 6 deaneries in the Archdeanery of Worcester

raised £14 15s. 8½*d.*, of which a little more than half came from one, the deanery of Warwick. 11 deaneries in the Archdeanery of Gloucester only contributed £17 15s. 3*d.*, none of them yielding anything like the sum paid by Warwick. In Dursley out of the 47*s.* 2*d.* one person paid 40*s.* It would be extremely interesting, if possible, to find out the reason for these inequalities. It is also worth notice that although the sum raised from the diocese was £34 2*s.* 7½*d.* the cost of collecting by the Bishop was no less than £24 7*s.* 7½*d.* so that the exact sum the Pope received was only £9 15*s.*

The next account is of the Prior's receipts of the spiritualities of the See for the year from 2nd Feb., 1301, to 2nd Feb. 1302¹. The receipts are divided for some reason into two accounts, summer and winter.

	£	s.	d.
Deaneries of Warwick and Kynton.			
Summer - - - -	8	3	4
Winter - - - -	4	17	4
Deanery of Powick.			
Summer account - - -	2	11	4
Winter account - - -	2	9	0
Deanery of Kyderminster.			
Summer account - - -	3	7	4
Winter account - - -	1	19	0
Deanery of Wych.			
Summer account - - -	3	14	8
Winter account - - -	1	17	4
Deanery of Pershore.			
Summer account - - -	3	12	10
Winter account - - -	2	3	4
Deanery of Worcester.			
Summer account - - -	1	18	8
Winter account - - -	0	15	10
	<hr/>		
Total	£37	10	0
	<hr/> <hr/>		

¹ p. 39.

Deanery of Dursley.				<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Summer account	-	-	-	2	10	10
Winter account	-	-	-	1	13	8
Deanery of Campden.						
Summer account	-	-	-	3	17	2
Winter account	-	-	-	2	11	0
Deanery of Wynhecumb.						
Summer account	-	-	-	3	18	8
Winter account	-	-	-	1	14	0
Deanery of Cirencester.						
Summer account	-	-	-	2	18	0
Winter account	-	-	-	1	14	0
Deanery of Stonehouse.						
Summer account	-	-	-	2	16	4
Winter account	-	-	-	2	2	0
Deanery of Stowe.						
Summer account	-	-	-	2	11	0
Winter account	-	-	-	2	7	8
Deanery of Hawkesbury and Bictton.						
Summer account	-	-	-	2	16	8
Winter account	-	-	-	2	8	4
Deanery of Bristol.						
Summer account	-	-	-	1	19	4
Winter account	-	-	-	1	19	8
Deanery of Feyreford.						
Summer account	-	-	-	1	19	6
Winter account	-	-	-	1	6	6
Deanery of Gloucester.						
Summer account	-	-	-	2	4	4
Winter account	-	-	-	0	19	6
			Total	<u>£</u> 46	8	<u>10</u>

“And from the Church of Douameneye in part of four marks, 40s. The remainder, 5s. 4*d.*, is paid as the tenth of these four marks granted as a subsidy to the Church of Rome.

“From the Church of Bebury 48s. in part of 4 marks, the remainder as tenth aforesaid.

“From corrections and profits in the sum total £4 16s., visitation £12 5s. 8d.

“From various emoluments and profits, £13 7s. 5d. Total £25 13s. 1d.”

The grand total then would be :			£	s.	d.
Archdeaconry of Worcester	-	-	37	10	0
Archdeaconry of Gloucester	-	-	46	8	10
Church of Douameneye	-	-	2	0	0
Church of Bibury	-	-	2	8	0
Corrections and profits in the total	-	-	4	16	0
Visitations	-	-	12	5	8
Emoluments and profits	-	-	13	7	5
Total			<u>£118 15 11</u>		

Of this the Prior and convent retained one third, and the See of Canterbury were paid two thirds under the composition. It cannot, however, be supposed that a little over £118 a year represented the whole of the yearly value of these spiritualities of the See, there are obviously some items of receipts omitted.

The next account is in 1308¹, when the Archbishop called on the Prior to appear and render an account of his administration of the spiritualities of the See. The Prior appointed John de Sancto Briavelo, one of his monks, his proctor ; the following is his account. In it the receipts of the Archdeaconry are not given by deaneries but by subjects, so no comparison can be formed with the last ; the period over which they extend was about 15 months, from September, 1307, to December, 1308.

“Account of Brother J. de Wyk’ :²—

Receipts of the Archdeaconry of Worcester.

Dean of Warwick.				£	s.	d.
Perquisites	-	-	-	5	14	4
Dean of Powick.						
Synodals	-	-	-		6	0
Perquisites	-	-	-	1	13	4
Dean of Wych.						
Perquisites	-	-	-	2	9	6

¹ p. 132.

² p. 133.

Dean of Kidderminster.				£	s.	d.
Perquisites	-	-	-	1	16	0
Dean of Worcester.						
Perquisites	-	-	-	1	12	0
Dean of Pershore.						
Perquisites	-	-	-	2	18	8
			Total	<u>£ 16 9 10</u>		

Receipts of the Archdeaconry of Gloucester.

Dean of Dursley.				£	s.	d.
Perquisites	-	-	-		7	8
Synodals -	-	-	-	1	0	0
Dean of Hawkesbury.						
Perquisites	-	-	-		10	8
Synodals -	-	-	-		10	0
Dean of Bicton.						
Perquisites	-	-	-		10	8
Synodals -	-	-	-		4	8
Dean of Campden.						
Perquisites	-	-	-	1	8	0
Synodals -	-	-	-		17	4
Dean of Bristol.						
Perquisites	-	-	-		19	4
Synodals -	-	-	-		9	4
Dean of Stowe.						
Perquisites	-	-	-	1	4	0
Synodals -	-	-	-		13	4
Dean of Stonehouse.						
Perquisites	-	-	-		18	0
Synodals -	-	-	-		13	8
Dean of Winchcomb.						
Perquisites	-	-	-		15	4
Synodals -	-	-	-		7	4
Dean of Fairford.						
Perquisites	-	-	-		12	0
Synodals -	-	-	-		7	4
Dean of Cirencester.						
Perquisites	-	-	-		16	0
Synodals -	-	-	-		13	4

Dean of Gloucester.				£	s.	d.
Perquisites	-	-	-		1	9
Synodals	-	-	-		12	8
			Total	£	15	13 5 ¹
<hr/>						
Receipts from Probate of Wills.					s.	d.
Probate of Will of Wife of Richard de Hagley	-	-	-		1	6
of Will of Edith de Oseleye	-	-	-		1	11
of Will of W. Binnington	-	-	-		1	0
of Will of Master Henry Wag	-	-	-		1	6
			Total		5	11
<hr/>						
"Of Probate of Wills, corrections in visitations and other emoluments and perquisites of all the jurisdiction for the aforesaid time, £27 4s. 3d."						
The total will therefore be				£	s.	d.
Archdeaconry of Worcester	-	-	-	16	9	10
Archdeaconry of Gloucester	-	-	-	15	13	5
Probate of Wills	-	-	-		5	11
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	27	4	3
			Total	£	59	13 5
<hr/>						

This list is more puzzling than the previous one: there for a year the receipts from spiritualities was £118 15s. 11d., now for 15 months it is about half, £59 13s. 5d. All that can be said is the list is obviously incomplete. It is for only a part of the Worcester Archdeaconry, several deaneries, including the large and rich one of Warwick, being left out. Synodals are only mentioned in one case, that of Powick; the receipts in the Gloucester Archdeaconry are absurdly small. These receipts had previously exceeded those of Worcester; here, with only a part, the Worcester receipts exceed Gloucester. It is clear that the return is not, for some reason, a complete one of all the receipts for spiritualities in the 15 months.

Still more fragmentary is the next account in 1364². For the Archdeaconry of Worcester the Synodals are alone given, and not the Perquisites; for Gloucester, the Synodals and Pentecostals.

¹ *See* in Register.

² p. 222.

“Sum of the Synodals in the Deaneries of the Archdeaconry of Worcester:—

	£	s.	d.
Deanery of Worcester - - -	1	0	0
Deanery of Powick - - -		13	0
Deanery of Pershore - - -	1	19	0
Deanery of Wych - - -	1	7	0
Deanery of Kidderminster - - -	1	4	0
Deanery of Warwick - - -	1	6	0
Deanery of Kineton - - -	1	5	0
	<hr/>		
Total	£8	14	0
Sum of Synodals and Pentecostals in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester - - -		9	17 0
	<hr/>		
Grand total	£18	11	0

This is the only account given. It is true it was for a much shorter term than any of the previous ones, being only for three months from 1st April to 1st July, 1364, but even then it falls very much below the account for 1302.

The next account given in the Register¹ is for the vacancy between the death of Bishop Wakefield on 11 March, 1395, and the enthroning of Bishop Tideman de Winchcombe in August, 1395. This account is fuller but is still puzzling. Archbishop Courtenay appointed Robert More to hear the account of the Prior of the receipts of the Bishopruck during the vacancy of the See. The Prior's account for the administration of the spiritualities in the City and Diocese of Worcester for the time of the vacancy of the See was heard by Dr. More at Battenhall on the 13th November, 1395.

The first item was Pensions,—	£	s.	d.
From the Church of Bibury 4 marks - - -		12	0
From the Church of Tetbury 4 marks - - -		12	0
From the Church of Thornbury - - -	1	6	8
From the Church of Longdon - - -	1	0	0
From the Church of Cam - - -	1	0	0
From the Church of Downamoney, 4 marks -		12	0
	<hr/>		
	£5	2	8

¹ p. 369.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Thereof received - - -	-	1	6	8		
and so there are owed - - -	-	1	6	8		
In the tithes of the Church of Blockley -				13	6	8
From the rent of two terms - - -				1	10	0
From certain acres of land let (<i>positis ad denar'</i>) -				10	0	
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
				£15	6	8
From institutions and exchanges - - -				8	6	8
From letters dimissory - - -				4	0	
From fines, wills, and perquisites - - -				8	4	6
From the account of the Deans of the Archdeaconries of Gloucester and Worcester - - -				22	3	4
				<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Sum total				£68	10	6
Whereof there is allowed one third part to the Prior which is extended to - - -				22	0	0
And so there remains for the Archbishop - - -				45	13	8
Whereof the Prior paid Master N. Hereford by man- date of the Archbishop - - -				6	13	4
And there remains to be paid to the Archbishop -				39	0	4
The Prior of Makstok owes of the pensions for the churches of Aston Cantilow, Yardley, and Tonworth (They are paid.)				3	6	8
Also the Vicar of Downamcney - - -				1	6	8
The Archbishop's warrant to the Prior to pay Master Nicholas Hereford 10 marks was produced with the receipt of Hereford to the Prior for it, 26 May, 1395.						

The Archbishop challenged the pensions due to the Bishop, the See being full, and the fruits and profits of the Church of Blockley, and threatened he would rather be sued for them than give them up, as the Chapter could by no means obtain a third part of them by virtue of the composition or otherwise, but with a moiety the auditor was satisfied, and the Prior held and retained a third part of the pension and profits of the Church of Blockley as the composition directs.

These indemnities were paid in this vacancy :

From the Church of Fairford - - -	-	-	5	marks
From the Church of Wolford - - -	-	-	4	marks

From the Church of Newbold Pacy	-	-	20 shillings
From the Church of Dydebroke	-	-	4 marks
From the Church of Powick	-	-	4 marks
From the Church of Bideford	-	-	4 marks
From the Church of Wickwar	-	-	4 marks
From the Church of Tardebygge	-	-	4 marks
From the Church of Waynes Wotton	-	-	4 marks
From the Church of Clent	-	-	20 shillings
From the Church of Bodmynton	-	-	40 shillings

Procurations:

From the Abbot of Cirencester	-	-	4 marks
From the Prior of Great Malvern	-	-	40 shillings

These indemnities¹ are the same as those mentioned in the Register of the priory as due to the priory, and should not be taken into account in arriving at the figures £68. That figure, £68, represents the revenue for spiritualities for 4 months; it is about £16 a month, or at the rate of £192 a year. The previous accounts give £105 8s. 6d. for a year, £59 13s. 5d. for 15 months; the difficulty in reconciling these figures seems insuperable. These accounts are misleading in one matter, the fees charged on letters dimissory; the total sum entered under that head is 4s. No letters dimissory are entered in the Register for the vacancy.

The final account² in the Register is that of the Prior for the issues and profits of the spiritualities of the Bishopric during the vacancy of the See from the death of Polton on the 22nd August, 1433, to the consecration of Bourelhier, 15 May, 1435; the date of the account is the 5th May, or about 18 months.

For the rent of the rectory of Blockley for the 7 terms		£	s.	d.
falling in the account, each term 14s. 4d.	-		5	0 4
For the tithes of corn of the Rectory	-		25	6 8
			<hr/>	
			30	7 0
For procurations of divers churches in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester by reason of visitations	-		22	0 0
For procurations appropriate in the Archdeaconry of Worcester	-		33	6 8
			<hr/>	
	(sic)		50	6 8

¹ See, *ibid.*, p. xxvii.² p. 435.

Pensions from divers churches in both Archdeaconries	£	s.	d.
for two terms of Michaelmas - - -	33	14	0
Pensions of divers churches in the two Archdeaconries			
for two terms, of Lady Day each term £19 12s. -	39	4	0
From the Church of Quinton, pensions payable at Mid-			
summer only - - - -		13	4
		<hr/>	
	£73	11	4
Synodals for the Archdeaconry of Gloucester for two			
terms, each term £6 9s. 10d. - - -	12	19	8
Synodals for the Archdeaconry of Worcester, payable			
at Midsummer - - - -	5	14	8
		<hr/>	
	£18	14	4
Pentecostals in Archdeaconry of Gloucester, one term -	5	8	0
For the Archdeaconry of Worcester nothing, as they			
belong to the Sacristan.		<hr/>	
	£5	8	0
Institutions and other things by way of exchange -	15	10	0
From fines of wills and corrections - -	4	0	0
		<hr/>	
Total	£203	0	0
		<hr/> <hr/>	

The Prior asked for allowance for the procuration of churches, which he could not levy for various causes—payments to the Prior, scarceness of money, letters of Royal Protection and by other means detained, namely,—

	£	s.	d.
The Church of Langeberow - - -	1	6	8
Dudbrok - - -	1	6	8
Campden - - -	2	13	4
St. Mark's, Bristol - - -	1	6	8
Astley - - -	2	13	4
(It was in Lady Abergavenny's hands.)			
Wolford - - -	2	13	4
St. Sepulchre's, Warwick - - -	2	13	4
Wroxhale - - -	2	13	4
Alcester - - -	2	13	4
Stratford - - -	1	6	8
		<hr/>	
	£21	6	8

Allowance for Synodals in the township of Fullbrook denied on account of poverty - - -	£ s. d. 13 4
Part of the pension of the church of Down Ameney by reason of poverty, two terms - - -	13 4
	<u>£22 13 4</u>

So beyond the allowance there remains £178 10s.

There is allowed to the Prior one third, £60 2s. 2½*d.*

The balance was paid to the Archbishop by four receipts amounting to £86 13s. 4*d.*

The rector of Avenyngge paid a third part of the fees on institution, 6s. 8*d.*

Hugh Palyser, the keeper of the prison, for his stipend, 1s. a week ; for the year, £2 12s. ; for 36 weeks, £1 16s.

For iron chains and other things for safe keeping the prison, 9s., making the total with allowance and deliveries, £174 12s. 6½*d.*

The balance due to the Archbishop was £28 7s. 5½*d.*, which was paid and a receipt given.

In the entry as to wills in the account, there is a note that the small receipts are due less to the scarcity of wills, than because the court of the Marches of Wales by their ministers disturbed divers religious persons, as beneficed ecclesiastics, by their executions that such emoluments and profits were almost of no value. The court of the Welsh Marches, then lately instituted, claimed a vague jurisdiction over various matters and over a doubtful area. Bewdley was admittedly within the limits of its jurisdiction, but there are great doubts if any part of the east bank of the Severn was, and whether it was not confined to that part of the county of Worcester as lay within the Hereford diocese. Yet the court continually tried to bring the whole county into its jurisdiction, and to some extent succeeded. In Elizabeth's reign Whitgift was Bishop of Worcester, he was Vice-President of the court, when he so endeavoured to widen the area of its jurisdiction, that among the Worcestershire Sessions papers there are cases in the time of James I. of writs from this court removing cases from the Worcestershire Quarter Sessions to the court of the Lord Marchers at Ludlow. Here it is implied that the court exercised jurisdiction not only over Worcestershire but over Gloucestershire as well.

This account is the last there is in the Register. It does not help very much in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion as to what was the revenue of the See from spiritualities; from the last account it would seem to be about £10 a month, but as this was taken just before Midsummer, a good deal that was due was not payable till then. Thus there was only one payment of Synodals for the Worcester Archdeaconry instead of two.

A comparison of the accounts gives the following figures :

1302	1308	1395	1435
for 12 months	for 15 months	for 4 months	for 18 months
£118 15s. 11d.	£59 13s. 5d.	£68 10s. 6d.	£203 0s. 0d.

It may fairly be said that the gross income from Spiritualities varied from £12 to £15 a month in the money of that time. It is unfortunate that it is impossible to get the different items, such as the fees paid on ordination, the fees on proving wills. But it is clear that, having regard to the value of money, the fees must have been if they were fixed, which is doubtful, very high. Perhaps the best way to estimate the amount is to compare it with other sums, for instance, the tithes by Pope Nicholas' Valor for all the Spiritualities, that is the revenues of the benefices of the Archdeaconry of Worcester, amounted to almost the same sum as the revenue derived from fees by the Prior: the tithe was £207 0s. 4d., and the fees £203 0s. 0d.; or in another way, the total sum the Worcester House received from Rectories and Pensions as an annual income is given in the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* as £332 10s. 5d., derived from 4 churches in the city and 9 in the county of Worcester.

In the Register of the Priory¹ of Worcester at the back of the title-page there is the following entry :—

Indemnitates debitæ capitulo Wygorniaē sede vacante².

De ecclesia de Fayreford	-	-	x marc.
De ecclesia de Wolford	-	-	iiij marc.
De ecclesia de Newbold Pacy	-	-	j marc.
De ecclesia de Dodebrok	-	-	iiij marc.
De ecclesia de Powyk	-	-	iiij marc.
De ecclesia de Budeford	-	-	iiij marc.

¹ Published by the Camden Society, 1865 edition, by Archdeacon Hale.

² See *ante*, p. xxiii.

De ecclesia de Wycwon	-	-	iiij marc.
De ecclesia de Terdebygge	-	-	iiij marc.
De ecclesia de Wavvennes Wotton	-	-	iiij marc.
De ecclesia de Clent	-	-	xxs.
De ecclesia de Pyllardynton	-	-	vjs. viij <i>l</i> .
De ecclesia de Badmynton	-	-	xis.

Procuraciones debitæ eidem ecclesiæ sede vacante ratione visitationis.

Abbata Cirencestriæ	-	-	-	iiij marc.
Priori Majoris Malverne	xls.	quos ipse vel unus nomiue		
	suo infra xv dies post notam vacationem ponet super			
	magnum altare.			

This is followed by a long list of pensions payable yearly at different times, such as Lady Day, Midsummer, and Michaelmas, to the Worcester House. It suggests two things: (1) That the Prior received certain pensions on a vacancy in the See in his own right, not as part of the spiritualities of the See, and so was not bound to account for them; and, secondly, it also suggests by the mention of only two houses as paying procurations the idea that an attempt was made to enforce the Lincoln rule in the Worcester diocese; but that can hardly be so, as Malvern and Cirencester are not in the same but in different archdeaconries, and the Lincoln rule was two houses in each archdeaconry. Altogether, although the Sede Vacante Register gives a good deal of information on the monies received on a vacancy of the See, it leaves a number of points that require to be cleared up.

The taxes on the clergy and the different ways in which money was raised, by the Crown, by the Pope, and by the Church, are shewn by various entries in the Register.

A tithe for three years to be levied upon all religious persons¹ in England in aid of the Roman Church was payable in 1302. Richard de Gravesend, Bishop of London, was appointed collector, but his acting collector was one of the canons of St. Paul's, Bartholomew de Ferentino. An agent or sub-collector was appointed in each diocese; for Worcester the abbot of Gloucester. Ferentino wrote to him on the 7th May, 1302, stating that whereas he had ordered the collection of the tithes to be delayed, it was

¹ p. 5.

now to be proceeded with. Thereupon the abbot John de Gamages demanded from the Prior of Worcester the title of the temporalities of the Priory. It does not appear from the Register what the amount demanded was. From Pope Nicholas' Valor, upon which in all probability the assessment was made, the temporalities of the monastery were of an annual value of £42 12s. 8d., and the title was £4 5s. 3d.

In 1288¹ Pope Nicholas IV. granted to Edward I. a tenth of the profits of all ecclesiastical benefices for six years, towards the cost of an expedition to the Holy Land. In order to get as much as possible out of the grant, Edward, by writ to the bishops of Winchester and Lincoln, directed a taxation to be made of all ecclesiastical benefices in the kingdom. This taxation was begun in 1288, and finished as to the Province of Canterbury in 1291, and for the Province of York in 1292. From these dates until 1535, 26 Hen. VIII., all taxes raised on the clergy, whether levied by the King or by the Pope, were regulated by it. This taxation is usually called Pope Nicholas' Valor. In June, 1302, the accounts as to the levy had not been completed, and the Bishop of Lincoln being dead, the Dean of St. Paul's became the chief collector of the tax or obvention. The Prior of Worcester had been the local collector for the dioceses of Worcester and Lichfield, and he now appointed a Worcester monk, Gilbert de Maddelya, as his Proctor to settle matters with the Dean of St. Paul's.

The next instance is that of a very common custom in the Middle Ages. The monks of a house wanted money for some purpose connected with the house, and to raise it sent out some of their body to beg, or as it is put more politely, "to collect the alms of the faithful" for the purpose. The Hospital of St. Anthony in the diocese of Vienne being in need of money sent out collectors. The Archbishop of Canterbury approved of their mission, and the Prior as his officer for the diocese of Worcester ordered all abbots, priors, exempts or not exempts, archdeacons, deans, rectors, vicars, and chaplains of parish churches, and others to allow these monks to get what they could in the Worcester diocese².

The subject of these collections was by no means confined to objects abroad; local matters were also dealt with. In 1313³ the Prior wrote to all archdeacons, deans, and others throughout the

¹ p. 7.² p. 12.³ p. 150.

diocese, that when the proctor for the Great Bridge over the Severn at Worcester, or his substitute, should come to beg the alms of the faithful, they be admitted kindly, and without contradiction, and whatever should be collected handed to them, and if any impede the proctor in collecting the alms of the faithful, that they be restrained by ecclesiastical censure and cited to appear before the Prior.

In 1302¹, Pope Boniface VIII. directed a subsidy to be raised in England; the nuns of Churchill alleged to the collectors, the Bishop of London and Canon de Ferentino, they were too poor to pay; they had to get some evidence of this, and the Worcester Prior certified to the poverty of these religious women.

The Peter's Pence, which were collected by the Bishop, have already been mentioned²; they seem to have been an annual charge on the See, and disputes arose between the Bishop and the Pope as to whether the Bishop had settled up for what he received. In one case, that of Bishop Heminghale³, the Pope's agent desired to seize the goods of the late Bishop, in order to satisfy the balance of Peter's Pence which he said were due to the Pope, and the seizure was only averted by the Bishop's goods having already been seized on the King's behalf.

In 1303⁴ the Archbishop of Canterbury (Robert Winchelsey) wrote to the Prior of Worcester as to a tenth which had been given to Edward I. towards the Scotch War. The Bishop of Worcester (Godfrey Giffard) had appointed one Robert de Sutton the collector of the tenth; the Prior and convent of Kenilworth alleged that they had paid Sutton £8 of the tithe and held his receipt, but although he had been repeatedly asked for it, he refused to pay it over. The Prior of Worcester was therefore ordered by the Archbishop to compel Sutton to pay it over, and if necessary to use ecclesiastical censure.

The continued imposition of taxes⁵ seems at last to have produced a murmur, if not more. In 1302 the Abbot of Evesham wrote to the Worcester Prior that the King had issued an edict to tax the goods of temporal and ecclesiastical persons, which it was not lawful to pay, on account of the Apostolic prohibition, the ordinaries forbidding it, and excommunicating those paying. The Evesham abbot therefore requested the Prior's advice. The Prior

¹ p. 20.² p. 33.³ p. 266.⁴ p. 46.⁵ p. 75.

did not fall into the trap; in his reply he says¹, "The higher prelates and other religious persons of the Province of Canterbury having refused to pay the fifteenth to the King, we have hitherto abstained from paying, and intend to abstain, until it seems expedient to do otherwise."

In 1307², William Testa, Archdeacon of Arenns, and papal nuncio, wrote to the Prior ordering him to warn all ecclesiastical, religious and secular persons, chapters, colleges, and convents, exempt or not, in the City and Diocese of Worcester, to pay up their proxies due to the nuncio before the 30th November, under pain of interdict and excommunication.

In December, 1307, Edward II. sent a writ³ to the Prior reciting that the prelates and clergy had presented him with one-fifteenth of their goods, and ordered the Prior to elect collectors in the Diocese of Worcester, so that the collectors may be able to pay over one moiety into the exchequer at Lady Day and the other at Midsummer. The Prior at once issued an order warning all abbots, priors, masters, and preceptors, exempt or not exempt, of whatever order they might be, and all rectors, vicars, portioners, and other of the clergy, to pay one moiety of the fifteenth granted to the King according to the taxation of the tithe now current at the Cathedral at Worcester before the 24th Feb., St. Matthias' Day, and appointed two of his monks, John de St. Briavel and John de Stratford, to collect it. This was in June; in March the Prior issued an order warning all those who had neglected to pay the moiety of the fifteenth to pay the same before the Sunday after the feast of St. Gregory. The King followed this up by a writ to the Prior, alleging that on account of the war with Scotland and other matters the collectors of the fifteenth should be warned effectually to collect the same if necessary by ecclesiastical censure, so that one moiety may be paid at Lady Day without difficulty or delay. The Prior made a return to the writ that he had warned the collectors to do as required under pain of excommunication, and also ordered the Archdeacon to excommunicate and lay under interdict the churches of those abbots, priors, and others who had not paid the fifteenth. This was followed by a letter from Walter Reynolds, the bishop-elect of Worcester, July, 1308⁴, to the Prior empowering him to use ecclesiastical censure to compel the payment of the fifteenth. The

¹ p. 76.² p. 83.³ p. 129.⁴ p. 131.

Prior, as collector, wrote to his sub-collectors¹ empowering them to collect, levy and take charge of the money of the fifteenth, and appointed them his attorneys and proctors for the purpose. In August the Prior wrote to the official² of the Worcester Archdeacon warning him that under pain of ecclesiastical censure the 2nd moiety of the fifteenth must be paid. This does not seem to have brought in all the arrears, for in November the Prior wrote the official of the Worcester Archdeacon, ordering him to publish the excommunication and lay under interdict the churches of those who had not paid the fifteenth. In December the Bishop wrote to his official, enclosing for execution a writ he has had from the King, which recited that the Prior had been ordered to appoint persons to collect the fifteenth, being the one granted to the King by the bishops and clergy at the Parliament at Northampton, and to pay the same on certain days long past, and as a large sum of the fifteenth was still in arrear, the King directed the collectors to be distrained by their benefices for the arrears. In Feb., 1308, the Prior followed this up by ordering the Archdeacon's official to publish with due solemnity the excommunication of those who had not paid the fifteenth. The Prior further issued a commission authorising John de Stratford to absolve in form of right those who had been excommunicated for not paying the fifteenth. Still the money for the tax did not come in, and in 1311³ a writ was received from the King to distrain the Prior and convent, the collectors of the fifteenth granted by the Clergy in the Parliament at Northampton, to appear before the Barons of the Exchequer and render an account of the fifteenth. This seems to have had its effect; on the morrow of St. Margaret the Virgin, one of the Worcester monks, John de Stratford, rendered an account of the fifteenth for the Diocese of Worcester before the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer. The total of the account was £490 12s. 2d.; he was allowed £10 for the trouble of collecting it, and this was entered on the great Roll of the Exchequer. This seems to have finished the dispute as to this fifteenth, but the account of it is of interest as an instance to shew how the payment of taxes was enforced in the 14th century, and the difficulties that arose in enforcing payment.

In 1313⁴ a tenth was ordered to be collected for six years. Walter Reynolds, the Bishop, who was the chief collector for his

¹ p. 130.

² p. 131.

³ p. 132.

⁴ p. 174.

diocese, appointed the Prior and convent of Worcester his sub-collectors for the Archdeaconry of Worcester, and commanded them by virtue of their obedience to collect it. The reason for imposing the tenth was that at the Council of Vienne, in 1312, the Pope, Clement V., brought the state of Palestine before the Council. He says our Redeemer so loved Syon, that is to say, the Holy Land, that He chose it to Himself as an inheritance and patrimony, adorned it with His presence, being clothed in the apparel of our flesh, and consecrated it by the shedding of His most precious blood. It is to be grievously lamented and bewailed that it has become the property of aliens, confounded by the fury of the Babylonish persecutor, occupied by the most filthy Saracens. At this Council the Pope's entreaty was considered by the brothers of the Holy Roman Church, the cardinals, patriarchs, archbishops, with other clergy, and Philip of France and Louis of Navarre, and many others, and it was determined to give a subsidy of one-tenth of all ecclesiastical rents and profits throughout the world, except only from the order of St. John of Jerusalem and other military orders, from January, 1302. The Pope therefore directed the tithe to be collected at certain fixed times under pain of ecclesiastical censure¹. The Bishop of Worcester thereupon appointed the Prior to collect it, and the Prior in August ordered the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to cite all ecclesiastical persons to appear at the Priory on the 15th September, the morrow of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, concerning the moiety of the said tithe for the first term of the year under pain, as to persons, of the greater excommunication, as to churches, of interdiction. This seems very-awful, but it had not the desired effect, for it appears that many persons, at the peril of their souls, failed to attend. The official was therefore ordered to denounce them as excommunicated and their churches as under interdict until they received the benefit of absolution or were released from the interdict. The Prior went on collecting; in November, 1313, he received £133 6s. 8d. as part of the tithe from the Archdeaconry of Gloucester. The Bishop ordered the Prior to report within ten days after every term how much of the tenth he had got in. The Prior wrote that last term he got in 100s.² The Prior wrote again to the Bishop asking if the usual rule was in this

¹ p. 175.² p. 176.

case to be followed, that persons with slender means taxed at 6 marks, or less, were to be excused payment. It does not appear how the Bishop decided this. The Prior required the collectors for the Gloucester Archdeaconry to pay over what they had collected for the present and preceding term, and also all arrears, and ordered the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester that although the greater part of the first year's tithe had been collected, yet as there were still arrears outstanding, and the collection of the tithe for the second year had been delayed for certain causes, the tithe and arrears were to be collected at once, and the money paid at the priory at Worcester on the morrow of St. Hilary, under pain of the greater excommunication, and that the persons mentioned in the order as not having paid were to be denounced as excommunicated¹.

This account of the attempt to collect money for the Holy Land and the difficulty of doing it, shews clearly that the enthusiasm for the Crusades had passed away. It appears that it was only by using all the combined power of excommunication and interdict that any money could be got in, and even with them there was the greatest difficulty. Clearly the Crusading spirit at the Council of Vienne differed greatly from that at the Council of Clermont.

In 1374², Convocation granted the King a tenth of all ecclesiastical benefices in aid of the expense of the war and in defence of the Kingdom and Church of England. On the 20th March the King's writ went to the Prior ordering him to appoint collectors of this tenth; he accordingly appointed the Abbot of Pershore in the Archdeaconry of Worcester, and the Abbot of Cirencester in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester, on St. Vitalis' Day, 1374. The Abbot of Pershore acknowledged the receipt of the appointment.

In November, 1374³, there is a singular order from the Worcester Prior to the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester. It appears very like an attempt by the Worcester Prior to tax the clergy. The order directs the official to warn all ecclesiastical persons in his archdeaconry to pay a halfpenny on every mark of the value of their goods and benefices, and to call together the clergy of his archdeaconry in the church of St. Nicholas of Gloucester, and clearly

¹ p. 177. ² p. 305. Convocation was summoned by writ tested Oct. 4, 1373, to grant "a competent aid."

³ p. 320.

make known to them the said mandate. It is curious that the Prior should have directed the Worcester official to cite his clergy to attend not only at a place where he had no jurisdiction, but also outside their own archdeaconry. It rather points to the fact that there must be some mistake in the entry.

Another form¹ of tax on the clergy were the contributions to the support of Papal Nuncios. In 1374 three high Spanish ecclesiastics, the Bishop of Pampeluna, the Bishop of Senigaglia, and the Provost of Valentinois, Nuncios of the Apostolic See, were sent to Flanders on account of certain matters concerning the prosperity of the Church. The Pope, Gregory XI., ordered the payment of 12 florins of gold a day to the Bishop of Pampeluna, and 6 florins of gold to each of the other two. The See of Canterbury was then vacant by the death of Archbishop Whittelsey, so the Prior and Chapter of Christ Church, Canterbury, took up the matter and ordered all ecclesiastical persons of the City and Diocese of Worcester to pay within 24 days one halfpenny on every mark of the value of their goods and benefices to the Rector of St. Gregory next St. Paul, London, and the Rector of St. Botolph, the receivers of the contribution. This order was issued on the 3rd September. In December of the same year another order was issued to levy a further farthing, as the Nuncios had stayed in Flanders longer than was expected. The Prior ordered the officials of the Archdeacon of Worcester and Gloucester to execute these orders of the Prior of Christ Church and make the levy². But matters did not rest here; another Papal Nuncio, Pileus, Archbishop of Ravenna, was sent to France and England; an allowance of 12 florins a day was given him, so to provide for it a levy of another farthing in the pound of the value of the goods and benefices of ecclesiastical persons was ordered². The three Nuncios in Flanders do not seem to have hastened their business, for in January, 1374³, a further levy was ordered for them of a farthing in each mark of the value of the goods and benefices². The Prior published the order of the Canterbury house, and sent by the Abbot of Winchcomb the money he had collected, but the receiver refused to take it unless all was paid at once and in one sum³.

In February, 1374⁴, a writ from the King came to the Prior

¹ p. 322.

² p. 323.

³ p. 325.

⁴ p. 329.

ordering the levy of the arrears of the tenth granted to the King by the clergy in 1374, which were the following :—

	£	s.	d.
From the Church of St. Stephen, Bristol - -		5	0
From the procuration of the Abbot of Galston' -		1	0
From the Church of St. Michael, Bristol - . -		3	4
From the Church of Filton - - -		5	0
From the Church of Olveston - - -	1	4	0
From the Church of Rokhampton - - -		6	2
For the portion of the vicarage of Berkely - -		12	8
From the Church of Frompton - - -		10	0
From the Church of Dodynton - - -		7	4
From the Church of Buttone - - -	1	7	4
From the Church of East Mitton - - -	1	2	4
From the Church of Eggworth - - -		6	4
From the Church of Stoke Giffard - - -		13	4
From the Church of Aston Magna - - -		16	0
From the prebend of Richard Michel in the Church of Westbury - - - -		6	8

or a total of £6 5s. 8d., a large sum if the value of money then and now is taken into account.

It does not appear that all these demands, even when accompanied by the threats of interdict and excommunication, made people pay, so the Prior had to proceed to extremities. He directed the Dean of Bristol to denounce as excommunicated the persons who had not paid the procuration for divers Nuncii of the Pope, and ordered the Dean to take the ecclesiastical fruits of their livings, to pay the amount of the procuration, and to satisfy the Prior of the same on the morrow of the Assumption in the Cathedral Church of Worcester¹. What further took place does not appear.

In 1375², the Archbishop of Canterbury ordered the Prior of Worcester to levy procurations for Pileus, Archbishop of Ravenna, and William, Bishop of Carpentras, Papal Nuncii to the Kingdom of England and France. The Prior promptly ordered the official of the Gloucester Archdeacon to execute the mandate. He also certified the Archbishop of its receipt, and informed him that there were some alien priories in his Diocese on which nothing could be levied as they were in the King's hands.

¹ p. 349.

² p. 351.

In 1359, there was a further levy¹. Bartholomew de Navarre, advocate of the Apostolic Consistory, came to England upon the business of the Pope and the Roman Church. The Pope ordered the ecclesiastics to provide for his necessities, and to do this the Archbishop ordered a halfpenny in the pound to be levied by way of a subsidy.

In 1395, Convocation granted the Crown a tenth, but excepted out of the grant poor nuns and religious women of any order². Richard II. ordered the Prior to collect the tenth, and the Prior in May appointed the Abbot of Bordesley to collect for the Worcester Archdeaconry, and the Abbot of Hayles for the Gloucester Archdeaconry. Both the abbots were Cistercians. The Prior certified the Treasurer and Baron of the Exchequer of the appointment.

In 1401, the Archbishop ordered the Prior of Worcester and the Archdeacon of Gloucester to levy and collect certain pensions from divers persons during the vacancy of the See, and if necessary to compel the person to pay under canonical censure³.

In 1419, the official of the Archbishop ordered by proclamation⁴ all Rectors, Vicars, Chaplains, having cures and not having cures, notaries public and clerks whatever, throughout the Province of Canterbury, to pay all procurations, pensions, portions and other rights and emoluments due during the vacancy of the See of Worcester to the churches of Canterbury and Worcester to the Prior of Worcester under pain of excommunication.

This account of the taxation of the diocese for both imperial and ecclesiastical purposes enables us to understand, better than any number of theological treatises, how it was that the English were so ready for the Reformation. It was bad enough to pay imperial taxes, it was bad enough to pay money for local purposes, but to have to support any Roman officials who came to this country or to France or Flanders, must have stirred the English wrath against ecclesiastical taxation. The wonderful thing is the length of time the English submitted to these demands.

Taxation implied representation. There are several entries in the Register relating to the summons of representatives of the clergy to Convocation, and in some cases, as in 1338, to Parliament.

¹ p. 358.² p. 360.³ p. 386.⁴ p. 404.

The first is the record of the appointment, in 1301¹, by the convent of Worcester of A. de B. as their proctor at the convocation of prelates and clerks to be held before the Archbishop of Canterbury in the church of St. Paul's, London, on the Sunday on which is sung *Lætare Jerosulyma*².

In 1302³, the Bishop of London wrote to the keeper of the spiritualities of Worcester reciting a letter from the Archbishop, dated Mortlake, April, 1302, commanding the Bishop to summon all deans, precentors, chancellors, treasurers, archdeacons, priors of cathedral churches in all dioceses in the Province of Canterbury, and other clerics, to appear by two proctors, except Welsh Chapters, which were to appear by one, at the New Temple, London, on the morrow of the Ascension to consult upon divers matters.

It is not quite clear what this assembly was. It was clearly not a Parliament, and it does not seem to have been a Convocation—the writ is not in the usual form of a writ of summons to Convocation; it would rather appear as if it was a special summons by the Bishop of London, at the Archbishop's direction, to the clergy to attend an ecclesiastical council to debate on ecclesiastical matters, and had nothing whatever to do with the crown or government.

In 1338, the Prior and Archdeacons of Worcester were summoned to appear personally at a parliament to be held at Westminster⁴ on June, 1339, the morrow of St. Hilary. The writ summoning them directed their personal appearance, and ordered the Chapter of Worcester to appear by one proctor and the clergy by two proctors. This was the parliament called when Edward III. began his French war, when he was about to undertake "*guerram fortissimam*," and incur "*profluvium expensarum*." It was attended by "the Cardinals sent by the Pope." On receipt of the writ⁵, the Prior ordered the official of the Archdeacon of Worcester to cite the Archdeacon to be present at the parliament, it is here said to be held on the morrow of the Purification, as it was, not on the morrow of St. Hilary, and to cite the clergy of the Archdeaconry of Worcester to assemble at the cathedral church to elect two proctors to be sent for them to the said parliament. So far as the Register goes, there

¹ p. 6.

² This occurs on the 4th Sunday after Quadragesima. See Westminster Missal, I.

180. Henry Bradshaw Society.

⁴ p. 258.

⁵ p. 266.

³ p. 74.

does not appear to have been any direction to the Archdeacon of Gloucester to attend Parliament, nor for the clergy of that archdeaconry to elect proctors. If the object was to spread the net so as to make the area of taxation as wide as possible, it is difficult to see why only the Worcester Archdeacon, the Worcester Chapter, and the Worcester Archdeaconry should be represented, and the larger area of the Gloucester Archdeaconry omitted. But here, as in some other cases, it may be that in rebinding or otherwise some of the documents making up the Register have been lost.

One of the most important parts of the Prior's duty during his administration of the spiritualities on the vacancy of the See, was that which related to the provision of a due supply of persons qualified to exercise sacerdotal functions in the diocese. Here, as elsewhere, the question of money arises, because it is clear that the Prior had to pay the Bishop who conferred Holy Orders, and the Prior received fees from the applicants for orders, or for letters dimissory, and for institution. There is a good deal on these points that requires further light, but this Register proves that certainly in one case the Prior procured a Bishop to execute episcopal functions at a fixed charge, and that the fees payable over and above what the Prior agreed to pay the Bishop went to the Prior as part of the spiritualities. This is clear from some entries in 1395. On the previous vacancy in 1374 the Bishop employed had been the Bishop of Pressinensis; on the death of Bishop Wakefield, in 1395, William, Bishop of Faro, was engaged. In the Register there is no mention of a general commission to the Bishop of Pressinensis, but he seems to have had a special commission made out for him whenever any act arose for which he was required, e.g. conferring orders or reconciling churches. But in the case of the Bishop of Faro a different course was followed, at first he had only a special commission to ordain and confirm. Then it would seem that an arrangement was made between him and the Prior, and a general commission¹ authorizing him to dedicate churches and churchyards, to reconcile the same if polluted; to consecrate altars, bless chalices, vestments and other ecclesiastical ornaments; celebrate orders as well the greater and the lesser at due times; to confirm boys and bestow the gift of benediction upon abbots; to consecrate virgins, and do such other things as

¹ p. 356.

should be exercised by the episcopal order, was issued to him. This commission is dated the 28th March, 1395. On the same day a formal deed was executed between the Prior and the Bishop, whereby, in consideration of the Prior having granted to the Bishop power to exercise episcopal rights within the city and diocese of Worcester during the vacancy of the See, it was agreed that out of the fee due for reconciling any church the Bishop should receive 20s. The Bishop agreed not to reconcile any church or churchyard unless security was given for 100s. beforehand. For celebrating orders at a fixed day and place, the Bishop was to receive 20s.; the Prior the rest. For consecrating altars a third of the fee, the Bishop agreeing that he would never charge less than 6s. 8d. The Bishop agreed to go round the diocese and confirm boys at the Prior's cost, but of three horses only, and that he would account to the Prior for all fees and emoluments received. From this document it is clear that the Bishop got merely a share of the fees and the Prior the rest. It would also seem that the Bishop was not over well paid; the fee for reconciling a churchyard was 100s., but the Bishop only got 20s. If the rule was 20 per cent. on the gross takings, in other matters as well as in this, the Prior did not make a bad bargain with this bishop. The arrangement seems to prove that the Prior tried to reduce the outgoings for bishops' fee to the lowest possible limit.

That the fees payable on ordination, letters dimissory, and institution to benefices were one of the great sources of revenue during the vacancy of the See is plain from the Register being so full of entries as to them. The story of the negotiations with different bishops to perform episcopal functions in the diocese during a vacancy, as told in the Register, is very interesting and instructive. The first case occurred in 1302; the then Prior, John de Wyke, wrote to the Bishop of Landaff (John of Monmouth) asking if he would ordain at Worcester on the Sunday on which is sung *Scientes*¹. To this the Bishop replied he was willing to do what they asked, if it could be done without prejudice to any one, but the document shewing the Prior's authority to invite bishops was not signed, and he thinks it might be an interference with the rights of the Bishop to be elected. Probably Landaff was chosen

¹ p. 79. "*Scientes*" occurs in the office for Advent Sunday.

as being one of the adjoining dioceses. The system of bishops *in partibus*, consecrated to help diocesan bishops, and who were available wherever a bishop was needed, a system which became so common after the middle of the 14th century, had hardly come into use at the beginning of that century. It is not easy to say why the Bishop of Landaff should be selected instead of Hereford or Lichfield, unless on the score of economy on the idea he might possibly charge less. Further letters passed, the Bishop consented to act if it pleased the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Prior replied that the Bishop's expenses would be paid, and that the consent of the Archbishop was not wanted. So far as money went the Bishop was satisfied; he wrote he would be at Worcester at the time mentioned, but as he did not like to offend the Archbishop, he had without prejudice to the Prior's rights consulted with him¹. Finding that the Archbishop had no objection, the Bishop wrote again to say, that understanding it was the wish of the Archbishop he would come to perform ordinations at Worcester *ad proximum diem quatuor temporum*². The Prior acknowledged the receipt of the letter, and ordered the two Archdeacons of Worcester and Gloucester to cite all rectors and vicars who had not received the orders the cure of their benefice required, to come and be ordained. The result was, that no less than 249 persons attended, and received orders; for some reasons no acolytes were ordained, only sub-deacons, deacons, and priests.

The Bishop of Landaff does not appear to have ordained again during any vacancy of the See, although he did so in 1308³, in the place of Bishop Reynolds, in the Church of the Friars Minors at Gloucester. Why the Bishop of Llandaff was not employed to ordain at the next vacancy when Reynolds was translated to Canterbury it is hard to say, unless it was money; some negotiation seems to have gone on with him. In his place an Irish suffragan Bishop, Gilbert of Enaghduin (*Enachdunensis*), who also acted as suffragan of Winchester³ was selected; unfortunately there is no correspondence or anything to shew the terms of his engagement. He held an ordination in Lent, 1313, and ordained 370 persons, 77 acolytes, 132 sub-deacons, 82 deacons, and 79 priests.

The Register contains no further record of any ordination until 1373, when a Bishop *in partibus*, Robert of *Pressinensis*, who had

¹ p. 15.² p. 18.³ p. 153.

been a suffragan at Hereford, by license and commission of the Prior held an ordination in the first week of Lent ; at this ordination 130 persons, 36 acolytes, 39 sub-deacons, 27 deacons, and 28 priests, were ordained¹.

The same Bishop held another ordination in the Lent of 1374, when he ordained 141 persons, and also 22 clerks of first tonsure, 63 acolytes, 29 sub-deacons, 24 deacons, and 25 priests²; and another in June, 1375, when 75 persons, 11 acolytes, 22 sub-deacons, 20 deacons, and 22 priests, were ordained³.

No further ordination is recorded until 1395, when the Prior employed a William Northbrugge, Bishop of Faro (*Pharensis*), who had acted as suffragan in the adjoining Diocese of Lichfield. He only ordained 8 persons, 1 acolyte, 2 sub-deacons, 3 deacons, and 2 priests. But as has been stated, the engagement of the Bishop is very important, as the terms on which he agreed to act are entered in the Register⁴ in the simoniacal arrangement already mentioned. a document which shews clearly the relations between Prior and Bishop during the vacancy of the See, and probably furnishes the reason why it was that suffragans were usually employed by the Prior to exercise episcopal functions ; that they were glad to get work and ready to do it at a lower rate than any English Bishop, even if any English Bishop would have been party to such an arrangement as to hire himself out to consecrate altars and reconcile churches, and at so much a piece, provided he did not go below a fixed minimum, to confer orders at so much a day ; to confirm on being supplied with horses to go round the diocese.

In September, 1401, the next ordination is recorded in the Register⁵. The Prior this time had a suffragan ready to hand, Nicholas, Abbot of Pershore ; he was something of a pluralist. He held with his abbacy the Rectories of Beoley and Belbroughton, as well as being suffragan Bishop of Dunkeld, and he was the person the Prior specially commissioned to celebrate orders. Unfortunately there is no memorandum as to the terms on which he acted. On this occasion 50 persons, namely, 8 acolytes, 13 sub-deacons, 8 deacons, and 21 priests, were ordained. The Bishop of Dunkeld held another ordination in 1419, when he ordained 14 acolytes, 7 sub-deacons, 6 deacons, and 9 priests, a total of 36 persons⁶. Another at Easter, of the same year, when he ordained 36 persons,

¹ p. 294.² p. 330.³ p. 340.⁴ p. 356.⁵ p. 374.⁶ p. 391.

3 acolytes, 5 sub-deacons, 15 deacons, and 13 priests¹; and another at Trinity, 1419, when 22 persons were ordained: 3 acolytes, 4 sub-deacons, 6 deacons, and 9 priests².

The next ordination the Register records is in 1433, when John Fordham, the Prior of Worcester, authorised another suffragan, the Bishop of Emly, to celebrate orders. Emly (*Imelacensis*) is an ancient Irish Bishoprick; but this Bishop, Robert Windel, seems to have acted almost permanently as a suffragan in England. He was at Norwich in 1424, Salisbury from 1435 to 1441, and Worcester in 1433. Although there is no memorandum stating the precise terms on which he was employed, they were probably favourable, as he acted on several occasions, and held a general, not a special, commission from the Prior in terms similar to those in the Commission given to the Bishop of Faro. At his first ordination in 1433, the Bishop of Emly ordained 25 persons, 8 acolytes, 8 sub-deacons, 5 deacons, and 4 priests³. He ordained again at Lent 37 persons, 5 acolytes, 13 sub-deacons, 9 deacons, and 10 priests⁴. At his next ordination, 32 persons were ordained, 4 acolytes, 6 sub-deacons, 13 deacons, and 9 priests⁵. He held another ordination at Easter, 1434, when he ordained 1 acolyte, 4 sub-deacons, 2 deacons, and 7 priests, or 14 persons⁶. Another at Trinity, 1434, when he ordained 4 acolytes, 2 sub-deacons, 1 deacon, and 3 priests, or 10 persons⁷. He ordained again in September, 28 persons, 2 acolytes, 9 sub-deacons, 9 deacons, and 8 priests⁸, and he held the last ordination recorded in this Register at Christmas, 1434, when he ordained 24 persons, 8 acolytes, 2 sub-deacons, 9 deacons, and 5 priests⁹. All the ordinations that the Bishop of Emly celebrated were held at the Cathedral in the Chapel of the *carnarie*. This part of the Cathedral has long ago been destroyed, but although there are frequent references to the chapel in various documents, this seems to be the earliest that gives any idea of its size and importance. A chapel in which 30 persons would be ordained is a far larger building than the usual accounts give of the Charnel House, or *carnarie* of Worcester. Why the Prior specially at this time selected it for this purpose does not appear, but there must have been some special reason why all the ordinations were celebrated in the Charnel House Chapel, within the churchyard of the Cathedral.

¹ p. 393.² p. 401.³ p. 417.⁴ p. 419.⁵ p. 438.⁶ p. 440.⁷ p. 443.⁸ p. 441.⁹ p. 444.

Reference.	Vacancy.	Acolytes.			Sub-deacons.			Deacons.			Priests.			Total.
		R.	S.	Total.	R.	S.	Total.	R.	S.	Total.	R.	S.	Total.	
Bishop of Pressinen'	Lynn to Wakefield													
„ P. 294	1373-75.	2	34	36	2	37	39			27	4	24	28	130
„ P. 330		10	53	63	9	20	29	6	18	24	7	18	25	141
„ P. 340		4	7	11	14	8	22	9	11	20	5	17	22	75
Bishop of Faro	Wakefield to Winchcomb													
p. 355	Mar. to Aug. 1395			1			2			3			2	8
Bishop of Dunkeld	Winchcomb to Clifford													
„ P. 374	1401—1407	3	5	8			13	4	4	8	12	9	21	50
	Clifford to Peverell													
	1407													
	21 Oct. to 21 Nov.													
„ P. 391	Peverell to Morgan	1	13	14	2	5	7	2	4	6	3	6	9	36
„ P. 393			3	3		5	5	5	10	15	1	12	13	36
„ P. 401	1418—1419		3	3	2	2	4	3	3	6	3	6	9	22
	Morgan to Polton													
Bishop of Emly	Polton to Bouchier													
„ P. 417		1	7	8	3	5	8	2	3	5			4	25
„ P. 419		2	3	5	2	11	13			9			10	37
„ P. 438				4			6			13			9	32
„ P. 440			1	1			4			2			7	14
„ P. 441			2	2	4	5	9	4	5	9	5	3	8	28
„ P. 443				4			2			1			3	10
„ P. 444				8			2			9			5	24

These records of ordinations are clearly incomplete. Other ordinations, it appears, were held, the particulars of which have not survived, but the Register raises another question whether in some of the vacancies, as in that between the death of Bransford in 1349 and the translation of Thoresby in 1350, when there is no record of any ordination being held in the diocese, another mode was not used for obtaining ordination for candidates by granting letters dimissory? There is, on this occasion, the entry of grants of a very large number of letters dimissory¹ for the dif-

¹ p. 247.

ferent orders—so large that it would seem that instead of holding an ordination the Prior substituted letters dimissory. That there was a fee payable on the issue of these letters is clear, for it forms one of the items in the Prior's accounts with the See of Canterbury, but it does not appear what the fee was. Can it be that having regard to the pecuniary interests of his Chapter the Prior found it more profitable not to hold ordinations but to issue letters dimissory, and so get the whole of the fees, instead of engaging a bishop to hold an ordination, who was paid out of the fees, leaving the Prior with only the balance? It seems fairly clear that letters dimissory were in this case used as a substitute for ordination, but it is difficult to say why, as if the pecuniary view is the right one, why was it not employed by some other Prior?

It may be that when a Bishop could be had on such reasonable terms as the Bishop of Faro, it was better and more profitable to hold ordinations, but if this could not be done it was more profitable to issue letters dimissory.

In order to get a fair view of this matter it will be well to consider the number of Persons ordained, the number of Letters Dimissory on each vacancy, and the number of Institutions. This is attempted in the following Table:—

Bishops.	Number ordained.	Number of Letters Dimissory.	Institutions.
Giffard to Ginsborough	249	6	27
Ginsborough to Reynolds	No record	2	19
Reynolds to Maydeston	370	8	16
Maydeston to Cobham	No record	20	14
Cobham to Orleton	"	No record	No record
Orleton to Montacute	"	"	"
Montacute to Heminghale	"	"	"
Heminghale to Bransford	"	2	8
Bransford to Thoresby	"	173	96
Thoresby to Brian	"	8	8
Brian to Barnet	"	0	58
Barnet to Whittelsey	"	4	10
Whittelsey to Lynn	"	"	"
Lynn to Wakefield	345	195	91
Wakefield to Winchcomb	8	0	28
Winchcomb to Clifford	50	12	14
Clifford to Peverell	"	0	10
Peverell to Morgan	94	22	13
Morgan to Polton	No record	No record	No record
Polton to Bourchier	181	42	85

From this every one can draw his own conclusions ; it does not, however, quite answer the question as to whether ordinations or letters dimissory were most profitable to the Prior, for in the ordinations, especially in the later ones, at Worcester a number of persons were ordained who had letters dimissory from other dioceses. Unless ordinations were held the fees for these would be lost to the Prior, and the ordinations may, as was the case, have been more frequent in order to catch these strangers.

The lists of persons on whom orders were conferred at these different ordinations deserve most careful study, as they throw a good deal of light on the social position and character of the clergy, and the changes that took place between the beginning of the 14th and the middle of the 15th centuries. The first ordination here recorded is in 1302, the last in 1434. Between those dates it seems from this Register that the English clergy had undergone an entire change in their social status. In the first list the majority of the clergy were ordained to the title of their patrimony, that is, they had sufficient property to keep themselves. It was the exception for either a person who belonged to a religious order, or for a person who had to rely on any one else for a title, to be ordained. If the Bishop ordained a person not having sufficient to support himself, the Bishop had to keep him¹; probably this rule did not apply to a Bishop ordaining when the See was vacant, or if it did, the Bishop might possibly have insisted upon the Prior undertaking the maintenance of those ordained at the Prior's request. It may also be a reason why suffragan Bishops were so largely employed to ordain during vacancies of the Sees, as they would have nothing wherewith to satisfy such liability if it arose. The record of the first ordination out of 249 persons ordained gives 35 who were ordained to the title of patrimony, that is, were able to keep themselves, and several of them were sworn to the fact that they had such patrimony. Some were ordained to a yearly rent, one to a yearly rent of 5 marks, which seems to be about the lowest sum upon which a person would be ordained. Some are said to be ordained to a sufficient title, others to a competent title. One is said to be ordained to the title of two virgates of land. One said to be ordained to the title of the Chapel of Cirencester², another to the title of the parish of Lechlade, another to a title

¹ Decree of Lateran Council, 1179.

² p. 23.

of a pensionary. The impression left on the mind after reading this list is, that the men who composed it were drawn from what we should now call the yeoman class, what would then probably be the free tenants; men having a bare competency, but nothing more. But the most instructive part of the list is the fact that the number of secular clergy so largely preponderates over the regular; Landaff, Llanthony, Lechlade, Malmesbury, and Worcester are the only names of religious houses whose monks were ordained among the sub-deacons. The titles to orders are only given with the sub-deacons; the subsequent bestowal of superior orders is not supposed to necessitate any further title than the person had when first ordained. One of the deacons is said to be a monk of Worcester; one of the priests to belong to the Hospital of St. Wolstan, Worcester, but with these exceptions we are told nothing at all about them. The clergy from this list were what we should expect them to be, drawn from the middle classes.

Eleven years elapsed to 1313 before the next list¹. Here 370 persons were ordained, and it is from the sub-deacons again that anything is to be learnt as to the class of men; here the same state of things prevails as in 1302, but it may be the men are slightly better off. When the value of the patrimony on which a man is ordained is stated it is usually 40s. It will be remembered that long afterwards this was the sum fixed on as the qualification to entitle a man to vote for a member of Parliament². The amount of rents, however, varies from 30 to 50s. Out of the 84 sub-deacons the lowest is the case of Lucas Cosyn, who was ordained to a patrimony of 2 marks, of which he gave particulars, and stated himself satisfied therewith. Although the sub-deacons are divided into two classes, sub-deacons and sub-deacons of religious orders, yet in the first there are some that are evidently connected with religious houses or ordained on their titles; for instance, one John Partrich is on the presentation of the Worcester Priory, another from the abbot and convent of Alcester, and a third from the house of the Holy Trinity, Telefford, a fourth from the priory of Cricklade. A large number of the candidates had their qualifications attested by the seal of the Archdeacon of Worcester. The sub-deacons of the religious orders consist of 3 Worcester, and 3 Llanthony monks, 2 Cistercians from Bordesley, 1 Minorite and

¹ p. 153.

² Stat.

1 Carmelite Friar. This is the first trace of the Friars in this Register. There is also a second batch of secular sub-deacons with all their patrimony and titles set out, but there is nothing to distinguish it from the preceding one. In the list of deacons the title is given, the majority being ordained on titles of patrimony. There are a considerable number, far more than in the preceding list, of persons connected with monasteries, and it would seem persons from all parts of this and other dioceses, Coldnorton, St. Bartholomew, Gloucester, Lechlade, Cyrencester, Cricklade, Alcester, Evesham, St. Frideswyde, were included. The titles of the priests are also given; here again the chief one is patrimony. No title is given in the case of the acolytes. On the whole the persons ordained at this ordination, while apparently of about the same social standing as those at the previous ordination, appear to be slightly better off than those whose ordination was previously recorded.

An interval of over 50 years took place before the next ordination, Lent, 1373¹. The priests were then divided into religious and seculars. The religious were 5 in number, a monk of Winchcombe, 2 of Alcester, 1 of the Augustine canons of Wych, and a Minor Friar. But among the seculars there were a large number who were connected with monasteries; out of no less than 24, 20 were either nominated by a monastic official or ordained to a monastic title. The same thing is observable among the deacons, but to a greater extent, as almost all the 26, except 2 Minorites and 1 Friar Preacher, are ordained either to monastic titles or by letters from monasteries. Among the subdeacons the same thing is observable, of the acolytes, two were of the order of Friars Preachers, nothing is told us of the rest. The great change, therefore, that these 50 years shew, if it is fair to judge by the record of this ordination, is the way the secular clergy were disappearing before the monastic, who almost monopolized the ordination. It may or may not have been a good and desirable thing to have taken place, but it is clear that so far as the clergy were concerned these lists shew that the monastic clergy were becoming more and more numerous. This fact should be borne in mind as it is opposed to the usually expressed ideas. We are told that for centuries before the Reformation the monasteries were sinking into decay, becoming less and less active, more and more the nests

¹ p. 294.

of drones and idlers; but these ordination lists go to prove the contrary, to shew that in the 14th century one of the great features of the clerical life was the increase of the number of clergy connected with monasteries, the decrease of those who were not.

In the next year, 1374¹, the same thing is found at the Lent ordination; out of 25 priests, 7 were avowedly monks, 1 Franciscan, 3 Cistercians, a canon and 2 Benedictines; of the other 18, 15 were ordained to monastic titles; one was the rector of a church, one had the title of patrimony, and the remaining one is not said to have had any title at all. Out of 25 deacons, 7 were avowedly religious and 15 were ordained to religious titles. Of the 29 sub-deacons, 9 were admittedly monks, 16 had monastic titles. Out of 63 acolytes, 10 belonged to the class, religious.

The ordination at Trinity, 1375², gives the same results. Out of 22 priests, 5 were religious and 16 were ordained to monastic titles. Of 20 deacons, 9 were religious and 10 ordained to monastic titles. Out of 22 sub-deacons, 14 were avowedly religious and 7 ordained to monastic titles. Out of 11 acolytes two were Friars Preachers, and two canons of Llanthony.

In 1395³, out of 8 persons ordained priests, deacons, sub-deacons, and an acolyte, all, with two exceptions, were ordained to monastic titles. The acolyte's title is not given. The other, a priest, was ordained to the title of a lay lord.

In 1401⁴, in September, 21 priests were ordained. 12 were avowedly religious, 8 of the remaining 9 were to monastic titles, only one to his patrimony. Out of the 8 deacons, 4 were religious, one of the seculars ordained by letters dismissory had the title of his patrimony, the rest were to monastic titles. All the 13 sub-deacons, though described as seculars, were ordained to monastic titles. Out of the 8 acolytes 3 were Minorites.

In 1419⁵ there were 33 persons ordained. One of the acolytes was of the order of Friars Preachers; no description is given of the other 13; of the remainder, one priest was ordained to the title of his benefice, but all the others to monastic titles.

At Easter, 1419⁶, of the 3 secular acolytes, one was a Cistercian monk. Of the 5 religious deacons, 4 were Cistercians and one a Benedictine. One of the secular sub-deacons was a Cistercian

¹ p. 330.

² p. 340.

³ p. 355.

⁴ p. 374.

⁵ p. 391.

⁶ p. 393.

and the remainder were all ordained to monastic titles. Of the 9 secular deacons all had monastic titles but one, and he was a fellow of Oriel ordained to the title of the College. Of the 13 priests, one was a monk of Bury St. Edmund's, and 7 had monastic titles.

At Trinity, 1419¹, 22 persons were ordained. 3 were said to be secular acolytes, all the others were either monks or were ordained to monastic titles.

At Christmas, 1433², 25 persons were ordained; 6 were avowedly religious. The secular acolytes are only described as having had the first tonsure; of the rest all but one, who was ordained as Rector of Madresfield, were to monastic titles.

At the Lent ordination 40 were ordained. Nothing is said about the one secular acolyte. One secular sub-deacon was ordained to the lay title of rector of the Parish Church of Madresfield³. Two deacons were ordained to lay titles, all the rest were either ordained as monks or to monastic titles.

The next ordination⁴ gives the same results. 32 persons were ordained; the lay titles, including the cases where no title is mentioned, are only 6, and several of these are cases where sub-deacons ordained to full lay titles had become deacons, and deacons priests.

Easter, 1434⁵, tells the same story. The title of the one acolyte with the first tonsure is not given. But he and the Priest who ordained to the title of the Lord of Larkestokey are the only lay titles out of the 14 persons ordained.

In September, 1434⁶, the two acolytes are not described, but all the other persons ordained were either monks or ordained to religious titles. So at the Whitsun⁷ ordination the acolytes have all the first tonsure. All the others are monks or ordained to monastic titles. No lay title appears.

The last ordination in the Register is Christmas, 1434⁸; 24 persons are ordained; 8 are acolytes with no titles; of the remaining 16 a sub-deacon is ordained to the only lay title, that of his benefice, the others are all monks or ordained to monastic titles.

This record of ordinations, therefore, points clearly to the conclusion already stated. At the beginning of the 14th century the

¹ p. 401.² p. 417.³ p. 419.⁴ p. 438.⁵ p. 440.⁶ p. 441.⁷ p. 443.⁸ p. 444.

vast majority of persons who took orders were ordained to lay titles ; during that century the number of persons ordained to lay titles fell off, until at its close it was the exception to find any one ordained to such a title. Little by little the persons who were ordained were either monks or else were ordained to monastic titles, such as the title of the Prior of A. or the Abbot of B. It follows, that at least in the Worcester Diocese the clergy were becoming more and more identified with, or under the influence of, the monasteries ; the whole of the religious life of the diocese was becoming under the control of the monasteries. Whether this was or was not a good thing is a point on which there may be great differences of opinion, which it is not necessary to consider ; here only the fact has to be emphasised that the monastic bodies killed the independence of the parochial clergy. Whether this was from benefices being more and more appropriated to the monasteries, or from some other cause, is a matter of doubt. The patronage of the benefices mentioned in the Register, while it shews a large number of livings in the hands of the monasteries, also shews a large number in lay hands, and it is a matter of uncertainty where the clergy were ordained who held the benefices that were in lay patronage. It may be that after the French War and the Wars of the Roses the number of men available for orders was greatly diminished, and that the monasteries got the first call, through their tenants, on such as there were. Various other reasons can be put forward, all more or less plausible. It is, however, enough here to state that the Worcester Register shews that within a century of the Reformation the monks and the clergy connected with the monasteries had quite supplanted the parochial clergy ordained to other than monastic titles.

This increase of the power of the Monasteries makes it important to consider the subject that occupies the greatest space in the Register, Institutions. On each of the vacancies a certain number of them are recorded ; they are of importance as shewing to whom the ecclesiastical patronage in the country belonged. As would be expected, a very large part was in the hands of the religious houses, they and the Crown, to a great extent, monopolized it. It is curious to find that so little was in the hands of bishops and other ecclesiastical dignitaries. A Table is appended to this Introduction shewing the Patrons of the different

benefices mentioned in the Register, distinguishing those of which the patrons were laymen, and those of which the patrons were ecclesiastics.

To give the results concisely, the following Table is prepared to shew the Number of Institutions on each Vacancy and the Patronage of each :—

<i>Vacancy.</i>	<i>Number of Institutions.</i>	<i>Lay Patrons.</i>	<i>Ecclesiastical.</i>
I. 1301—1303	28	13	15
II. 1307—1308	9	3	6
III. Oct. 1314—April, 1314	18	10	8
IV. March to Nov. 1317	13	1	12
V. 1327	No	record	
VI. 1334	"	"	
VII. 1337	"	"	
VIII. Dec. 1338—April, 1329			
IX. 1349—1350			
X. 1352—1353			
XI. 1361—136 $\frac{1}{2}$			
XII. April, 1364—July, 1364			
XIII. 1368			
XIV. 1373—1375			
XV. March to Aug. 1395			
XVI. June to Oct. 1401	9	3	6
XVII. Oct. to Nov. 1407	10	2	8
XVIII. 1418—1419	14	4	10
XIX. 1426	No	record	
XX. 1433—1435	87	39	48

Judged by these figures, the proportion seems to be on the side of the lay rather than the ecclesiastical patron. The table, however, only gives one view of the case ; it shews that the appropriation of the churches was no longer going on, and possibly that those who were ordained to any monastic title were required for other duties than serving a parish church. The general drift of ecclesiastical patronage was from laymen to ecclesiastics, but it had not proceeded so far as to be seen in any very startling way, nothing that bore any proportion to the change that had taken place in the titles of those ordained.

After ordinations and institutions, the greater part of the Register is taken up with details of Visitations. It is hardly to

be wondered that there was considerable jealousy among the great Benedictine Houses at having the head of a neighbouring Benedictine house not more important nor more powerful, even if it was as important and powerful as themselves, visiting their houses, inquiring into the details of their management, finding out their weak places and laying down rules for their reform; other religious orders might possibly not resent so much the visits of the Worcester Prior,¹ but that Benedictine houses, which had undergone the visitation of the general Chapter of the Benedictine Order, had satisfied the abbots of Malmesbury and Westminster, had appeared to the Bishop of Worcester all that could be desired, should be asked to submit to the orders of the Prior of another Benedictine House was too vexatious. It is not to be wondered that they resisted. The wonderful thing is that the Worcester Prior was able to overcome the resistance, so as at last to make the visitation merely a formal matter. It must also be borne in mind that a visitation was for the monastery visited a somewhat costly proceeding; besides the payments to the visitors, they and their suite had to be entertained, and the house might well grudge the cost when they knew that the object of the visitation was merely the Prior's pride, to shew his power to increase his income.

As soon as the Prior obtained the Archbishop's commission to administer the spiritualities of the See during the vacancy, almost the first, if not the first step he took was to issue notices for a visitation. Originally the Prior seems to have made most of the visitations personally, afterwards he appointed commissaries to visit for him. The terms of their appointment give the best idea of what was done or could be done on a visitation. The Prior's commissaries were ordered 'To visit the clergy and people of the whole diocese¹, abbeys, priories, hospitals, monasteries, parish churches, chapels, oratories, and other collegiate places not yet visited by the Prior; to enquire concerning the state of all persons; correct, punish and reform defaults, excesses and crimes, if they shall find any not corrected; institute, displace, appoint and remove beneficed clerks; receive canonical obedience; examine, confirm and invalidate elections; commit the administration of spiritual and temporal

¹ p. 265.

affairs to those confirmed; to proceed in all causes pending or already commenced in the consistory court and without, and bring them to a due end; to demand clerks arraigned before the King's Justices, and retain them safe in custody; to canonically free those shut up in the episcopal gaol, grant letters dimissory, admit resignations of benefices, authorize changes of ecclesiastical benefices, and to do all other things which by the authority of the court of Canterbury, the See being vacant, it was competent for the Prior to do.' Can it be wondered that the heads of rival religious houses did not look with favour on the visits, often the not very friendly visits, of the persons possessed of these very wide powers? The Register gives particulars of some eleven visitations made by the Prior or his commissaries, and the details give some idea of the diocese as it then was.

The following is a Table of the Visitations recorded :—

	1301	1307	1313	1338	1349	1364	1373	1401	1407	1418	1433
ARCHDEACONRY OF WORCESTER.											
<i>Deaneries.</i>											
Worcester					I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Powick				I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Pershore				I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Wych				I		I	I	I	I	I	I
Kidderminster				I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
Blockley									I	I	
Warwick				I	I	I	I	I	I	I	
Kineton					I	I	I	I		I	I
ARCHDEACONRY OF GLOUCESTER.											
<i>Deaneries.</i>											
Gloucester				I	I	I		I	I	I	I
Stonehouse											
Dursley		I		I	I			I	I	I	I
Bristol				I	I		I	I	I	I	I
Bitton											
Haukesbury											
Cirencester											
Fairford											
Stow											
Winchcombe											
Campden			I	I	I	I			I	I	I

	1301	1307	1313	1338	1349	1364	1373	1401	1407	1418	1433
ARCHDEACONRY OF WORCESTER.											
<i>Religious Houses.</i>											
Worcester		I			I	I	I	I	I	I	
Little Malvern		I		I	I			I		I	
Pershore				I	I	I	I			I	I
Alcester				I	I	I		I		I	I
Studley		I		I	I	I		I		I	I
Churchill											
Warwick, St. Sepulchre				I	I	I				I	I
<i>Nunneries.</i>											
Worcester, Whiston				I				I		I	
Wroxhale				I						I	I
Pynley				I						I	I
<i>Hospitals.</i>											
Worcester											
St. Wolstan				I				I			I
St. Oswald				I						I	
St. Mary next Wych											
Warwick											
St. John										I	I
St. Martin						I				I	
<i>Colleges.</i>											
Stratford								I		I	I
ARCHDEACONRY OF GLOUCESTER.											
Tewkesbury	R ¹	I		I	I	I				I	I
Llanthony	I			I	I	I		I			I
Gloucester, St. Peter	R	R	R	I	I	I		I		I	I
Bristol											
St. Augustine		R		I	I	I					
St. Bartholomew		I		I				I		I	I
St. Mark, Byleswyk				I	I			I			I
St. James				I	I			I			I
Cirencester	R										
Winchcombe											
<i>Nunneries.</i>											
Bristol											
St. Mary Magdalen		I		I							
<i>Hospitals.</i>											
Gloucester											
St. Bartholomew		I		I							
Bristol											
St. Bartholomew											
Lechlade											
St. John											
<i>Colleges.</i>											
Westbury											

¹ R signifies that the Prior or his commissaries were refused admittance.

This Table brings out two things very clearly, first, that notwithstanding the importance the Prior always attached to visitations, yet in none of those recorded did he ever make a really complete visitation of all the deaneries and all the religious houses. There seems to have been a regular round followed, and although at times variations were made from it, yet for some reason, on none of the visitations recorded was every place visited that the Prior could visit. It may be that in the case of the deaneries there was so little to get, the game was not worth the candle, and as to the smaller religious houses they were so poor, that out of consideration for their poverty the Prior abstained from a visitation. It will be remembered that he certified as to the poverty of the Churchill house; so he could not, unless there was some special reason for it, put them to the cost of receiving him and his party. Some of the houses were very poor, having under 6 marks annual revenue. If the great monasteries like Cirencester and Gloucester called out against visitations on the ground of the cost, what would not a poor little house with an income barely sufficient to keep body and soul together say if they had to receive the Prior and his retinue? So far as appears by the Register all the houses the Prior had a right to visit are mentioned in the above list, but it must not be supposed the list represents all the houses in the diocese. For various reasons several houses were exempt from visitation. The cells of other houses could be visited only by the mother-house. All Cistercian abbeys were exempt from any visitation but by the Pope or his legates; certain abbeys, e.g., Evesham, were exempt from any visitation but that of the Crown or the Archbishop of Canterbury as the representative of the Pope.

The usual course of procedure adopted was as follows: On the vacancy occurring the Prior wrote off at once to the Archbishop of Canterbury informing him of the vacancy, and asking for a commission to enable the Prior and convent to exercise spiritual jurisdiction during the vacancy of the See. On receipt of the commission the Prior at once began a visitation of the deaneries and the religious houses in the diocese, or rather such religious houses as the Bishop had a right to visit. At that time the diocese was divided into two archdeaconries, Worcester and Gloucester, and 19 rural deaneries, 8 in Worcestershire, and 11 in Gloucestershire. The Prior caused letters to be written to each Archdeacon, requiring him

to order the deans of the various rural-deaneries to summon their clergy and laity at the place in the deanery where the visitation was to be held, and the Prior wrote to the head of each religious house that he proposed to visit, ordering them to prepare the house for visitation. The places were usually visited in the following order. The Archdeaconry of Worcester was first taken; the Prior visited the Worcester Chapter, and his commissaries the city and deanery of Worcester at the Cathedral. The deanery of Powick at Powick. The monastery of Pershore in the Chapter-house, and the deanery of Pershore in the church of St. Andrew. The deanery of Wych at Tardebigge. The deanery of Kidderminster at Kidderminster; the detached part of the deanery which included Halesowen and Clent at Halesowen. The deanery of Warwick at Wanes Wotton, or the collegiate church of Warwick, and the houses of Alcester, Studley, and St. Sepulchre's, Warwick, in their Chapter-houses. The deanery of Kington at Welford. The deanery of Blockley at the parish church of Blockley or at Stow. They also visited the hospitals of St. Wolstan and St. Oswald in Worcester, and the monastery of Little Malvern. This as a rule completed the Worcester Archdeaconry.

The Gloucester Archdeaconry usually began with the Tewkesbury monastery, then the deanery of Gloucester at St. Nicholas, Gloucester, and the monasteries of St. Peter, Gloucester, and Llanthony, in their Chapter-house. The deanery of Bristol in the church of St. Augustine of Bristol. The house of St. Augustine, Bristol, St. James, St. Mary Magdalene, and St. Bartholomew, Bristol, and the house of St. Mark of Byleswyk, in their Chapter-house. The deaneries of Bitton and Hawkesbury at Chipping or Market Sodbury. The deanery of Dursley at Dursley. The deanery of Stonehouse at Byseleye. The deanery of Cirencester at the parish church, Cirencester; the abbey of Cirencester, in their Chapter-house. The deanery of Fairford at Fairford. The deanery of Wynchcombe at Wynchcombe; the monastery of Wynchcombe in their Chapter-house, and the clergy of the deanery of Campden at Wicwar. On looking at the map of the diocese it will be seen that there were two divisions not visited—the rural-deanery of Evesham and the jurisdiction of Bibury. The reason as to Evesham is curious. A dispute arose between the abbey of Evesham and the Bishop as to his right to visit the abbey and the churches in the deanery; the

abbey said they belonged to it and were its property, and could not be visited by the Bishop, being exempted from his visitation by charters and Bulls. On this question, after a good deal of controversy, the abbey appealed to Rome, and the Pope decided that the Bishop had no right to visit the abbey, that right being reserved to the Pope and his legate. As to the churches the case was still under consideration when Pope Innocent III., in the course of his quarrel with John, placed the kingdom under an interdict, the result of which was to suspend the prosecution of the appeal. When the interdict was taken off neither side seems to have been inclined to revive the appeal. The Pope had given to the abbey the right to the churches until the appeal was decided, and as nothing was done, that right continued until the Reformation, when the abbey and all its possessions were seized by the Crown, some of which passed to Christ Church. They remained exempt from any visitation until 1851, when an order in Council, dated the 18th Feb., made under the Act 6 and 7 William IV. c. 77, gave the Bishop of Worcester the right to visit all the churches in the diocese.

It is difficult to trace how the district of Bibury became exempt from episcopal jurisdiction, and so far no satisfactory reason can be given, but the fact that it was so is clear.

The Prior had not the right to visit any alien houses in the diocese; these were almost invariably the daughter-houses of foreign monasteries, and could only be visited by them. To make up for this the Prior was most constant in visiting the churches which belonged to the alien houses. He could not visit the Deerhurst house, Deerhurst being a cell to St. Denis, but he could and did with great regularity visit the parish church of Deerhurst, which belonged to it.

It is somewhat difficult to see on what principle the church in which the visitation was held was selected; it was usually, but not always, the same church in which the visitation had been held before. In some deaneries, such as Powick, the custom to hold the visitation in the parish church seems invariable, but in others, such as Kidderminster, the place varied; sometimes it was held at Kidderminster and at other times at Bromsgrove. The religious houses were all visited in their Chapter-house; usually the Prior or his commissaries were provided with meat and drink, and it would

seem that one of the reasons why the Prior and Monastery of Worcester attached so much importance to the right of visitation, was quite as much on account of the fees they received on the visitation as it was for enforcing the authority of the See over the religious houses in it. It must not be supposed that the religious houses submitted to the jurisdiction of the Prior and convent without a struggle, the early entries in this Register conclusively prove this. Gloucester flatly refused the Prior admittance in 1301, and, although warned and admonished, persisted in their refusal. The Prior thereupon excommunicated them; they appealed against the excommunication. In the course of the appeal proceedings the Worcester Prior wanted to interrogate the Abbot as to his contempt and disobedience; as the Abbot very wisely refused to answer the somewhat searching interrogatories of the Prior, he was declared to be contumacious. But the Archbishop's official seemed to be of opinion that the Prior was pressing matters too far, for he promptly inhibited the Prior from going on with the action, and cited him to appear in the church of the Blessed Mary the Virgin of Bow. The example of Gloucester was followed by Tewkesbury. They refused to admit the Prior, and, as nothing seemed to affect them, the Prior promptly excommunicated them. Against this sentence Tewkesbury appealed. Cirencester also resisted, but admitted the Prior's right to visit them, alleging the inexpediency of any visitation then, as they had within the last two years been visited by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of Worcester, and twice a year was too often for a visitation. In 1307, the Bristol Abbey of St. Augustine also resisted; long litigation followed, including appeals to Canterbury and Rome. The Bristol Abbot was successful, but not on the main question, as to his freedom from visitation. It was held he was justified in his resistance on that occasion as the Prior should have come himself and not sent his deputies. Most of the houses admitted the Prior and paid their fees in the visitation of 1307, except Gloucester, which contested the Prior's right of visitation on three grounds:—(1) That by special privilege they could only be visited by the Pope's legate, the Archbishop of the Province, or the Bishop of the diocese; (2) that two years had not elapsed since the last visitation; and (3) that at the time the Prior tried to visit his right had ceased, because the See was then full. The Arch-

bishop finally decided in favour of the Prior. For some time the resistance to the Prior visiting the house went on, but at last it died out and the right was exercised without question. It is not quite clear why such a resistance was made; it could hardly have been the cost, although it is often placed on that ground. It is more probable that at the beginning of the 14th century visitation was not a mere dry form but something real and substantial, but as time went on the visitation only meant a good dinner, and was otherwise a matter of form, and so was not resisted. It is also a curious point that the fight as to the visitation of religious houses took place almost wholly in the Archdeaconry of Gloucester; the Worcester Archdeaconry seems to have given but little trouble; possibly this was from the fact that the great Worcestershire Houses from one cause or another were mostly exempt from visitation. Or it may be that the Gloucester Archdeaconry adjoined the Lincoln diocese, where the right to visit *sede vacante* was restricted to two Houses in each archdeaconry, but this was not the case in the Lichfield diocese, which adjoined the Worcester Archdeaconry.

It may be asked what was the net result of all this visitation? The first and obvious answer is that it led to an increase in the revenue of the Worcester Prior and, in a greater degree, to the increase of the revenue of the See of Canterbury. But in addition to that, it certainly served, in some degree, to preserve and enforce discipline. It may well be that the Prior or his deputies were not careful to see all they might have seen, that they passed over a good deal. The terms of the agreement under which the Prior's right to visit the Abbey at Cirencester was settled certainly support this view¹. The Prior was not to expound the Word of God unless the monks wished it. He was not to require the monks to answer on oath, and he was only to enquire into two things:— (1) Was the Mass of the Virgin daily celebrated; (2) Was the Chapter daily held for the correction of manners and regular observances? For the visitation the Prior received 4 marks, and it must be obvious that under this agreement, for all real purposes of visitation the Prior might have stayed at Worcester and sent for the money. Such a document as this regularly entered in the books of the Worcester House raises the doubt as to the efficacy and reality of the Prior's visitation, and whether he did

¹ p. 254.

not really regard the profits, and perhaps the entertainment consequent on the visitation, as the most important parts of the function. Yet it was not always so; the Register contains not only the Cirencester agreement but also entries shewing that there were cases in which the visitation was a reality; for instance, in the visitation, in 1307, at Studley, the Prior found various matters requiring correction. The brothers gave away the remains of their food; they did not strictly keep the hours of service; they did not keep silence according to the rule of St. Augustine. Another case is mentioned which some years later, in 1338¹, occurred in the Nunnery of Wroxhale. The nuns talked more than the rule allowed. They were guilty of brawling and bad language; they spoke reproachfully of one of the nuns the Prior had to correct; they went out too much and stayed out too late; two young sisters went out together; strange men came in; the nuns went on foot to Coventry and Warwick, and the convent was not shut up as it should be at curfew. These irregularities are only what would be expected, to us they hardly seem crimes at all. It is obvious that if the convents were to do their duty such scandals should be put down with a strong hand, for, as the Prior said in the Studley case, "the lukewarmness of the discipline increased the grounds for dissolution."

In addition to the question of visitation the Register sheds some light on the life in the monasteries.

First as to the number of monks in the different houses, probably in all cases the number was smaller than is usually supposed. To take three instances:—

In 1307², at Cirencester, there were 20 monks. This was a Benedictine House; it appears that no less than 17 were priests.

In 1353³, in the House of St. Augustine, Bristol, a house of the Augustine Canons, all were in orders, and the number of Regular Canons appears to have been 17.

In 1395⁴, at Winchcombe, another Benedictine House, the number of monks appears to have been 19. While at Worcester, in 1401, another Benedictine House⁵, the number was 43, all of whom are stated to have been in Orders. In 1419⁶ there were 40, and it may be taken that this was about the full number of the House.

¹ p. 275.

² p. 100.

³ p. 197.

⁴ p. 367.

⁵ p. 373.

⁶ p. 407.

There is some indication that the number depended very much on the revenue of the monastery. There is a letter from the Prior¹ to the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1302, reminding the Archbishop of the promise to help the monastery, which at his visitation he found so oppressed by debt that they had scarcely enough food, and in a letter from the Prior to the King it is said that they intend to have three more monks when the King carries out his promises to them. The King probably did so, as in the Worcester House² shortly afterwards 4 monks made their profession before the Prior on the feast of St. Agatha, 1302, in the Chapel of the Virgin.

The form of the Profession of a Benedictine nun is given in the Register³. Helen, daughter of Sir William de Ryons, of Gloucester, made her profession in this manner :—

“ Ego, soror Helena promitto stabilitatem et conversionem morum meorum et obedientiam secundum regulam Sancti Benedicti coram Deo et Sanctis ejus et domina Agnete, priorissa in hoc monasterio, quod constructum est in honore Beatae Mariæ Magdalenæ in præsentia domini Johannis, Prioris ecclesiæ cathedralis Wigorniensis, auctoritate curiæ Cantuariensis officialis et administratoris spiritualium in civitate et diocese Wygornienne sede vacante ; ita, quod per hoc non sim arcata ab esu carnum abstinere.”

The form is remarkable as setting out the exact position of the Prior in the matter, and the lady's reservation of her liberty in the matter of food is not undeserving of notice.

But the great incident that gives information as to the interior of a monastery is the dispute that arose in the Bristol House in 1374⁴, and which was referred to the Prior of Worcester to settle. It appears that the monastery of St. Augustine was a House of Augustine Canons. If any one was sick and in the infirmary the abbot would not allow him to take recreation. The monks also wanted to be provided with more delicate victuals, more healthful things, and physic while in the infirmary. They wanted to be allowed recreation after dinner. Then came the question who was to pay for the wax burnt in the chapel of the Virgin and in the church lamps—was the House to provide it or the sacristan? who should provide the lights in the dormitory and infirmary, the House or the chamberlain? Could the abbot sell the corn of the monastery as he pleased without consulting the monks? Who was to

¹ p. 44.² p. 37.³ p. 96.⁴ p. 318.

take charge of the bedding in the infirmary? What was to become of the principal and better bedding of any of the Canons who died? Should any secular monk be put over the kitchener in his office? Was the bread and ale the brethren had of a sufficiently good quality? Were they to have two kinds of meat? Were they to have fresh fish? These and a number of other questions that arose between the Bristol abbot and his monks the Worcester Prior had to settle.

Even in those days, 1373¹, it seems that sometimes monks left their houses. The Prior sent William Wylde, the Rector of St. Swithin, Worcester, to Brother Thomas de Wyke, an apostate monk of the Worcester monastery who had denied his habit, "to warn, induce, and if need be, to force him to return" to the monastery.

The Prior had many duties to do. For instance, he gave a commission to the Monastery of Tewkesbury to appoint a monk of the house fit for the purpose to hear confessions, grant absolution, and impose penances upon any persons except those who violated the rights and liberties of the Church of Worcester¹.

During the great war with France, the King being in want of money, came down on the alien priories in the country. In 1374² a writ was sent to the Prior ordering him to certify what benefices within the diocese were in the hands of aliens, and the value of such benefices. In pursuance of this the Prior made a return giving the list of aliens. These were—

The monastery of Waweynes Wotton³, which two monks from the monastery of Couches in the diocese of Lissieux occupied.

Two other monks of the same monastery occupied the priory of Astley.

Feckenham had for a rector the Norman abbot of Lyra, and he discharged the duties of the living by a monk of his monastery, who occupied the rectory and acted as curate. The abbot of Lyra was also rector of Hanley Castle and Eldersfield. He leased then to the Prior of Little Malvern, who, after paying the rent made an annual profit of 20s. A monk of the abbey of St. Denis was prior of Deerhurst; he and two other monks were the occupants of the priory.

The Prior of Newent was an alien, and from his name, John

¹ p. 321.

² p. 293.

³ p. 307.

Fabri, an Italian. He was vicar of Beckford with the chapel of Ashton. He did not reside at the vicarage but at Newent.

The Prior of Brymsfield was an alien and had the church of Brymsfield.

The Priory at Beckford was occupied by two monks, the Prior being a regular canon of the House of St. Barbara.

These were, according to the Worcester Prior's certificate, all the ecclesiastical offices held by aliens in the diocese. A mistake occurs in the certificate as to Astley; it appears from other entries in the Register that Astley belonged to St. Taurinus, not to Couches. The King does not seem to have turned the aliens out, but to have treated them as if they were non-existent. When any benefice belonging to any of the aliens fell vacant, the King at once presented to it; except this, so far as appears from the Register, they do not seem to have been interfered with.

The exact position will be best understood if two instances are cited. In 1349, the abbot of St. Denis presented a monk of his monastery to the cure of the parish church of Deerhurst, and the Prior admitted him in accordance with an agreement between the Bishop of Worcester and the St. Denis House. In 1375¹, Richard Cole was presented by the King, Edward III., to the chapel of Lega next Deerhurst in the diocese of Worcester, the temporalities of the priory of Deerhurst being in the King's hands.

An important part of the monastic life was the election of the Head of the House. The Register gives various instances of elections, and by comparing the election of the head of a monastery with the election of a bishop, a very fair idea of what took place on these occasions can be obtained. The monks, assembled in the Chapter-house to elect, the election was conducted by one of three ways:—

(1) *By inspiration*, when they were unanimous and agreed at once on the election of some person.

(2) *By scrutiny*, when each monk voted for his own candidate.

(3) *By compromise*, when the monks delegated to one individual, as in the case of the election of Reynolds, or to several, as in the case of the election of Ginsborough, the right to nominate a person whom they agreed to accept as the Bishop.

Before proceeding with the election the electors had to fix on which

¹ p. 351.

of these three ways they would act. Examples of each are found in the Register, that of compromise seems to have been the favourite.

On the death of the bishop or abbot, the first step to take was to obtain leave to elect a successor. In the case of a bishop, the King's leave was necessary, and it will be found that in the account of any vacancy, almost the first thing done was to write to the King informing him of the vacancy in the See, and asking for his leave to elect a new bishop; this usually was given almost as a matter of course, as will be seen from the following instances which are given merely as examples.

Letter, nones of Feb., 1301, to King as to death of Giffard; *cong  d'elire* to elect successor dated 20th Feb.¹ On the death of Maydeston, the Prior's letter asking leave was dated the 5th of the Ides of April², the King's letter granting the *cong  d'elire* was the 19th April. On the death of Bishop Lynn³, on the 18th November, 1373, the Prior wrote at once to the King, and the *cong  d'elire* was issued on the 28th November.

In one instance, the case of Reynolds, a very curious difficulty arose. The King had given his *cong  d'elire* on the 17th October, 1307⁴, and sent the *cong  d'elire* by Sir Hugh le Despencer to Worcester with a letter on behalf of Walter Reynolds, the King's treasurer, whom the King recommended for the Bishoprick. A memorandum appears on the Register that a little time after the license from the King to elect, there came persons to say the Pope had reserved to himself the provision to the See. This was followed by a letter from the Pope, Clement V., reserving to himself the ordination and provision of a fit person to the See of Worcester. Edward II., on learning this, fearing, says the Register, that the reservation and inhibition might be made in the future to the prejudice of his rights in the English Church, directed his writ to the aforesaid Prior and convent to hasten the election before the notification of the Papal election, if any there was. The writ was followed by a letter to the Prior in which the King states that having granted them leave to elect, and hearing they delayed the election, whereby grave loss might occur to them and the church, he commands them without further delay to proceed to the election of the future bishop. Still further, to hasten the matter, on the 6th November, the King sent another letter to them on behalf of

¹ p. 2.² p. 179.³ p. 282.⁴ p. 104.

Reynolds, and also a statement of the reasons why the election should be hastened. These reasons are remarkable as setting forth the legal and constitutional position of the English Bishops. This seems to have produced the desired effect: a chapter was called, the monks agreed to proceed to election "by way of compromise," and left it to the Prior to say who should be bishop. It is needless to say that although the account in the Register¹ says the Prior "with due devotion and thoughtful spirit deliberated as by his acts appeared," his choice was the King's treasurer, Walter Reynolds; the Prior at once wrote to the King informing him what they had done². The Register then contains this note³: "That having sought the consent of the said elect (Walter Reynolds), for fear of the reservation and inhibition aforesaid, the business of the election was not further proceeded with. The King, however, wrote to the Apostolic See on behalf of the said elect, and at the King's instance the said elect was made Bishop of Worcester by the Pope." The Pope then issued two Bulls, one to Reynolds³ stating that although the Pope had been led to reserve the Bishoprick of Worcester, intending to provide thereto a fit person, yet as the elect had refused his consent, expecting to be certified concerning the said reservation, and as the King had written on his behalf, and as the elect appeared to be a fit person, the Pope made him Bishop and pastor of the church of Worcester. The other Bull was directed to the Prior and Chapter of Worcester, and stated that notwithstanding the reservation, the Pope had made Reynolds Bishop of Worcester, and commanded the Prior and Chapter to be attendant and obedient, and exhibit due reverence to the said Walter Reynolds. The two Bulls were published in the cathedral church of Worcester.

This election of Reynolds is a very instructive piece of ecclesiastical history. Both the King and the Prior knew their legal rights, that they were acting strictly within them in electing as Bishop the person they thought fittest, and not regarding the Pope's nominee, yet so afraid were they of the Pope, and so great was his power, that both King and Prior tried to fill up the See before they could get any formal notification of the Pope's action, his illegal action, in the matter. Although Edward II. could put forward reasons so strong as to the rights of the King of Eng-

¹ p. 108.

² p. 110.

³ p. 111.

land as are given in his paper, yet he preferred not to rely on his reasons, but if possible, get his nominee elected by a side wind or a compromise. Another point worthy of notice is the wonderful way the Pope was served in the matter of information as to what was going on in England. Although the news of the vacancy had to go to Rome and word of what was done there sent back to England, yet the English King, the English Archbishop, and the Worcester monks were obviously afraid the Pope would forestall their action, as he actually did on a subsequent occasion.

Edward II. has never been looked upon as one of the strong men among the Plantagenets. Edward III., on the contrary, has had that reputation, yet in the matter of the election to bishopricks, Edward II. comes out far better than Edward III. On the vacancy in 1361¹, the Prior applied for and obtained the usual *congé d'elire*, but directly afterwards the King revoked it on the ground that the Pope had already elected and confirmed a bishop to Worcester. The facts were peculiar. The Pope translated Brian to Ely, but before Brian, who was then at Alvechurch, one of the residences of the Worcester bishops, knew anything of it he caught the plague and died. The Pope when he translated Brian had also taken care at once to fill up the See of Worcester by appointing Barnet to it. There was therefore never any real vacancy that the King or the Worcester monks could deal with, and this may be the reason why Edward III. submitted so tamely to having the legally elected Bishop set aside for the Papal nominee. This again shews how complete was the Pope's rule over the English bishops. He actually appointed a bishop of an English See before the fact that there was any vacancy was known to the legal electors, and when the English King heard what was done, he put it out of the power of those electors even to protest by taking from them the opportunity of electing.

In the case of a religious house the leave to be obtained was not necessarily that of the King but that of the Patron. In the Register it is recorded that of the House of St. Augustine at Bristol², Queen Phillipa was the Patron, so her leave had to be obtained before the monks could proceed to an election. Tewkesbury was founded by the Clares, Earls of Gloucester, who were its patrons. On the death at Bannockburn of Gilbert de Clare, the last Earl

¹ p. 203.

² p. 192.

of Gloucester, in 1313, one of his sisters, and coheiresses, married the celebrated Hugh de Spenser, who became in her right Patron of Tewkesbury, and his grandson, Edward de Spenser, was Patron in 1361. On the death of the abbot in 1361, the monks before they could proceed to an election had to obtain their Patron's consent¹, which consent is duly recorded in the Register. If the King was Patron, or if there was no Patron, the *congé d'elire* was obtained from the King. Having obtained leave to elect, a day was fixed for the monks to meet and determine the day of election, on which all the monks were summoned to attend. On this day the Mass of the Holy Ghost was first sung in the church of the house, whether cathedral or abbey church. The monks then went to the Chapter-house. The hymn *Veni Creator* was sung, and in all Benedictine houses the constitution *Quia propter* was read; then the presiding monk ordered all strangers and all who were excommunicated, suspended, or interdicted to leave. The question was then asked the monks in which of the three ways should the election proceed: (1) by compromise; (2) by scrutiny; (3) by inspiration. On this being determined, the election was then carried out in the selected way, and the presiding monk announced the result.

If the monk elected was present he was at once carried into the church, the monks singing the *Te Deum*, and the election was then publicly proclaimed from the high altar. A formal account of the proceedings was drawn up and sent to the King or the Patron, as the case might be, and to the Archbishop, if the election was that of a bishop, or if of an abbot to the Bishop, or in the case of a vacancy in the See to the Prior of the Worcester House. Messengers were sent to obtain the consent of the person proposed to be elected if he was not present, and on the consent being recorded, the election was complete. The election had to be confirmed in the case of a bishop by the King and Archbishop. In the case of an abbot by the King or the Patron, and the Bishop or the Prior on a vacancy. It frequently happened that the Pope set aside the election of a bishop, and appointed his own nominee, or declared he had "provided" some one with the bishoprick. The number of monastic elections contained in the Register is seven; all of these were confirmed, in some cases only after some

¹ p. 213.

demur ; for instance, the Cirencester abbot in 1301 had refused to allow the Worcester Prior to visit his house. In 1307 the Cirencester abbot died ; the monks elected a new one, and the election came before the Worcester Prior for confirmation. He made the monks strictly prove every detail of the election ; when that had been done, so far as appears from the Register, the election had been perfectly in order. But the Prior would not agree, so after hearing the case out he gave this decision¹. That the power of making, electing, or providing an abbot for the monastery of Cirencester belonged to him, so he declared the election of abbot to be invalid and void ; but after considering the matter with certain prudent men, and understanding that the monk elected was a discreet man, esteemed for his learning and virtuous habits and actions, of lawful age, a priest, and born of lawful marriage, professed on the order of the rule of St. Augustine in the monastery of Cirencester, and circumspect in spiritual and temporal matters, he made and provided him as abbot of the said monastery.

The procedure on one election seems very similar to the procedure on another. But the elections mentioned are all those either of Benedictine monks or of Augustine canons. There is, however, one that is neither, but which is worth notice, as shewing what the Prior would do when opportunity offered. One of the great Premonstratensian houses in this country was Halesowen ; it was a daughter-house to Welbeck, so the Prior of Welbeck was its proper visitor. So far as this Register goes, it does not appear the Worcester Prior disputed this or ever tried to visit or exercise jurisdiction over Halesowen. All that he seems to have done was when the living became vacant, he instituted the nominee of the Prior of Welbeck, the head of the Premonstratensians in England. A cell to Halesowen existed at Dodford, between Bromsgrove and Kidderminster, and over this house the Worcester Prior had not, and does not seem to have even claimed to have had, any jurisdiction whatever.

In 1361² the Prior of Dodford died ; two of the monks from there came to the Worcester Prior, told him the facts, dwelt upon the evils of a long vacancy, and that there was no way or form of election in the Priory. On this the Worcester Prior appointed as Prior of Dodford one of the two Premonstratensian

¹ p. 102.

² p. 209.

monks. What further took place does not appear, but this was a most extraordinary stretch of jurisdiction by the Prior. It was quite true the Priory had no way or form of election, as, being a cell to Halesowen, the Halesowen House or the Welbeck House would nominate the Prior, but for the Worcester Prior to take upon himself to do this in the case of a house outside his authority shews that he was not nervous in extending his jurisdiction. Unfortunately we get no intimation of what was the result of the Worcester Prior's action, or how the Welbeck and Halesowen monks regarded it. The only other entry as to Dodford is a letter¹ by one of his predecessors to the Prior and Convent there, asking them to grant the bearer of the letter the habit of their order.

Another act of the Worcester Prior² may be mentioned as being of a more graceful character. One William de Doveria had rendered services to the Worcester Priory—what they were is not stated. He became incapacitated by old age, and the Prior granted him a pension of £10. Having regard to the value of money, this must have been a most handsome allowance.

The instances already mentioned are where the Prior interfered in the case of a monastery. An instance of his action in the case of a nunnery is not less interesting. In the year 1308 the Prior was called on to take part in the election of a head to a religious house, the house being a Cistercian nunnery, that of the Blessed Mary Magdalene of Whiston near Worcester, whose Prioress, Agnes de Bromwych, had died during the vacancy of the See. The peculiarity in this case being that a bishop, Walter Reynolds, had been elected by the Worcester monks, but had not been enthroned, yet he seems to have acted as bishop in this case. On receiving a notice from the Sub-prioress of the death of the late Prioress, the Bishop gave leave to elect, but as the patronage belonged to the Bishop, without prejudice to the Church of Worcester and without making it a custom³, the form of election appears very like the one at Cirencester, except that of the three modes of election the nuns selected that of inspiration, and Alice de la Flagge was chosen unanimously; she assented to the election, and application was made to the Bishop elect to confirm it. On this followed a very curious correspondence. It would seem that on

¹ p. 7.² p. 19.³ p. 112.

the election of a Prioress fees had to be paid, and it may have been this that led the Worcester Prior to be so keen as he was in the matter of elections. Here, as a Bishop had been elected and not enthroned, whether the fees went to the Bishop or the Monastery may be doubtful; probably to the former, as otherwise it is not likely, at least the presumption is against it, that the Prior would have been inclined to remit fees that were due to his house.

The Convent writes to the Bishop :—

“Considering the smallness of their possessions they were formerly compelled to beg, to the scandal of womanhood and discredit of religion, so for the honour of religion and the frailness of the female sex, the Bishop is asked to confirm the election¹.” It is difficult quite to see what this means: one interpretation which the expression, “the frailness of the female sex,” might suggest is clearly impossible in the 14th century, if it ever was possible in England. The bishops were not loved, but if a case had ever occurred of the nuns of a religious house having to rely on their frailty to pay their fees, it would have been used against them with terrible force. Probably it is only an instance of the exaggerated language usually used in ecclesiastical matters, language which when taken literally has often caused charges to be made against the Church, charges which only rest on the high-flown statements of the day, and had never any existence in fact. Probably the fees went to the Bishop, as the Prior wrote to the Rector of Hartlebury asking him to testify to the Bishop the poverty of the nuns. The Bishop appointed the Prior and the Rector of Hartlebury, his commissaries, to inquire into the election and confirm it, which was done.

Another important item in the receipts for spiritualities was that arising from *wills*; at first it seems that there were very few wills indeed, but the number gradually increased until they became a very important part of the spiritualities.

In 1302 the Prior wrote to the Bishop of Lincoln² as to the will of Dyonis de Hoddesak, who died in the diocese of Worcester.

In 1302 there is a grant³ of administration by the Prior of the goods of Geoffery de la Hoo of Kidderminster, who died intestate to Agnes his wife and Adam Cissor.

In 1303 a writ⁴ was issued by William de Wodeston against

¹ p. 112.

² p. 17.

³ p. 19.

⁴ p. 44.

the Prior of Worcester for £100; Wodeston had become surety to the King for £100 for Ralph de Bulmere, the late parson of Toneworth, who was executor of Ela de Lungesper. The Prior, as diocesan, on Ralph's death intestate, had taken possession of his goods, and written to Sir Peter de Leycestria¹, one of the Barons of the Exchequer, asking to be allowed to administer the said Ralph's goods, they being of small value and having come to the Prior's hands as ordinary, on the Rector's death intestate, Sir Peter having hitherto hindered the administration.

A good deal of dispute arose over the goods of Bishop Ginsborough². In 1307 the administrator of the Archbishop of Canterbury ordered the late Bishop's goods to be seized until it appeared whether he had left a will. The Prior then ordered the Dean of Blockley to sequester the goods of the late Bishop for dilapidations and debts due to the church, as the executors of the Bishop's will lived in parts remote from the diocese. This was followed up by a writ from the executors against the Prior; they having given security, administration was granted to them by the Archbishop, and the Prior having unjustly sequestered the Bishop's goods, was ordered to release the sequestration. The Archdeacon of Arenns and Peter, canon of Bordeaux, chaplains and nuncios of the Pope and administrators of the Archbishop, then came on the scene and ordered the Prior to release the sequestration of the goods of the late Bishop under pain of excommunication. The Prior thereupon wrote a letter—the name to whom it is sent is left blank—asking advice whether, notwithstanding the sequestration on the Bishop's goods was to be released by the order of the King and the Keeper of the spiritualities of the Archbishop, there were not sufficient grounds for sequestration³. What reply he got does not appear, but the Prior made an order releasing the Bishop's goods from sequestration and permitting the executor to administer.

In 1307⁴ the Prior wrote to the Dean of Warwick that he heard Henry, called le Warner, of the parish of Toneworth, had died leaving much movable property, which came to divers persons who had disposed of it not in accordance with the deceased's will. The dean is ordered to ascertain if there are executors, and to cite those who have administered the goods to appear before the Prior to answer certain articles. In the same year Amice, the widow of Sir Eustace

¹ p. 47.² p. 82.³ p. 83.⁴ p. 95.

de Hacche, Knight, and executor of his will, appointed her co-executor as her proctor¹ to make an inventory of her husband's goods in the Dioceses of Lincoln and Worcester, the will having been proved before the Archdeacon of London, as the deceased died in London.

Two commissaries of the Prior² brought an action against John de Feckenham, John Lony, Richard Shep, and Alina, widow of John le Carecter, the executors of the will of the said John for refusing to execute his will and detaining his goods.

The Prior granted on account of poverty a release to Emma, the widow of Nicholas le Hopare, from rendering an account of the goods of her husband who had died intestate².

In 1313³ the Prior granted to Sir P. de B. the administration of the goods of his squire, Robert de Bello Campo, who had died intestate.

In 1317⁴ the Archbishop of Canterbury ordered the Prior to cite the executors of the will of Bishop Maydeston, who died in parts beyond the sea, to appear before the Archbishop to prove the will, and to undertake the administration of the goods included in it. This was followed by an order to cite three of the executors, who had received the late Bishop's goods and had administered them, to appear before the Archbishop and answer touching their administration; "and that the goods of the said deceased might be faithfully preserved for his soul as was becoming," the Prior was ordered to sequester all the goods of the deceased at the time of his departure, and to keep them safely in a chest, so that no one can lay hands upon them until the Prior has further orders, and that he take an inventory of the said goods.

In 1349⁵ the Commissary of the Bishop of Hereford wrote to the Dean of Powick asking him to cite Matilda Fleming, formerly the wife of Robert Fleming, of Upton-on-Severn, his executor, to appear at Hereford and answer in a testamentary suit.

The official of Worcester wrote to the Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1338⁶, in reply to an order to sequester the goods of the late Bishop Heminghale, that the King had already sequestered them for a debt due to himself.

In 1387⁷ a new official made his appearance,—the official administrator of estates. Sir Walter Huwet, Knight, died. The

¹ p. 95. ² p. 96. ³ p. 147. ⁴ p. 187. ⁵ p. 245. ⁶ p. 259. ⁷ p. 287.

executors named in his will refused to take out administration, so probate was granted to John Jocu, priest, official administrator.

In 1374¹, after the death of Bishop Lynn, the Archbishop of Canterbury sent an order to the Worcester Prior to grant administration of the goods of the Bishop, not merely in the Diocese of Worcester but within the Province of Canterbury, to the executors named in his will. A curious form of notice to creditors was given by the executors of the Bishop². The See of Canterbury being vacant, the Prior of Canterbury ordered the Prior of Worcester that as the Bishop's executors desired to pay all creditors and legatees, to make proclamation in the Cathedral at Worcester, and in all churches of the Diocese on Sundays and festivals between the celebrating of Masses, that such creditors and legatees should appear before the Prior of Christ Church on the next law-day after the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, in the Church of Christ Church, Canterbury.

Not only did the ecclesiastical courts exercise jurisdiction over wills, the Register furnishes traces of jurisdiction over matrimonial causes³. The Bishop of Winchester, the Judge of the Holy Roman Church delegated by the Pope, ordered the Worcester Prior, under canonical pain, to cite Isabella de Clare, the daughter of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, to appear in a cause between Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Isabella de Clare, touching the marriage between the said Guy and Isabella, they being within the third degree of consanguinity.

In 1317⁴ the Prior ordered the Rector of the Church of St. Clement, Worcester, to proceed and bring to a due end the matter of the divorce between Adam Foliot and Isabella de Underwode.

In the same year⁵ a writ from the King directed the Prior to inquire whether Joan, widow of Robert de Sherteleye, was ever lawfully married to him. She claimed dower in the King's Court, and the tenants resisted her right on the ground she was never lawfully married to the said Robert. The Prior was ordered to inquire touching the same, as it was an ecclesiastical matter.

In 1307⁶ a matrimonial cause came before the Prior between Margaret de Twychene and Richard, son of John Allot of Wych. The said Richard alleged that long before any contract of marriage

¹ p. 303.² p. 313.³ p. 9.⁴ p. 187.⁵ p. 190.⁶ p. 90.

between him and Margaret she was contracted *per verba de præsenti* with a certain Simon, called le Cok of Horneworth.

In addition to the matters that have already been mentioned, and which were the more important sources of the spiritualities, there were other minor matters that are to us quite as interesting, if not more so, as throwing light on the social life of the time, than the great disputes between the great ecclesiastics of those days; for instance, the Prior wrote to the Abbot of Tewkesbury¹ about a Cistercian monk who proposed, on account of the fruit of a better life as he asserted, to lead a solitary life in the Chapel of St. Brendun, near Bristol, if the canonical sanctions permit, sufficient maintenance being assigned to him. It would be instructive to know if it was usual for a hermit, before leading a solitary life, to secure a fixed income.

The Rector of the Church of Stratton on Fosse obtained from his Bishop certain letters in some way—how does not appear. He is said to have made a false and scandalous use of these letters, and so was imprisoned². He was at last let out on giving a bond to come up for sentence in the Church of Worcester on the Saturday before Ascension Day.

Evidently the Prior and convent were not considered as above paying their debts in light money; it would not be fair to say they were suspected of clipping the coin, but in 1302 they borrowed £40 from one Richard de la Lynde³ and gave him a bond for its repayment. He was careful to stipulate in his bond that the money the Prior should repay should be "good, round, and lawful."

The Prior borrowed from the Abbot of Evesham⁴ a book upon Luke the Evangelist, and evidently, like other people who borrow books, forgot to return it. He wrote to the Abbot explaining that he had retained the book beyond the time stipulated on account of the illness of the scribe.

In the commission which the Prior granted to the Suffragan or other Bishop, that he got in to exercise episcopal functions during the vacancy of the See, one of the duties mentioned was "reconciling churches⁵;" that is, if blood had been shed in a church or churchyard it was deemed polluted, and could not again be used for any divine service until a special office had been held; in fact the shedding of blood defiled and profaned the place, and

¹ p. 147.² p. 5.³ p. 78.⁴ p. 59.⁵ p. 356.

that defilement and profanation had to be done away with before the church was again fit for use for the divine office.

In 1375¹, when the Bishop of Pressinensis was acting as suffragan, there seems to have been some affray from which bloodshed followed, in the churchyard of Stone and also in the church of Hartlebury. What the details of the bloodshed were do not appear, beyond the fact that Richard Lekhull mortally wounded Hugh Fyscherye of Trokeston in the parish church of Hartlebury. In consequence of this the church of Hartlebury was closed, or as the Prior puts it, "the sounds of the divine voice were stayed." In order to get the church reconciled a fee was payable, and it seems that the parishioners of Hartlebury did not care to pay the fee, but instead of paying, preferred to allow their church to be closed, going on Sundays and festivals to the neighbouring churches. The Prior saw that if this was allowed, his chance of getting any fees for reconciling churches during the vacancy of the See was but small. To compel the Hartlebury people to have the church reconciled, that is, to pay their fees, as the bishop would not reconcile without payment, the Prior ordered the rural-deans of Wych and Kidderminster to warn the rectors, vicars, and priests of the neighbouring churches to publicly proclaim before beginning divine service, that if there was any person in church from the parish of Hartlebury he should depart. The Prior went on to order the archdeacons to signify to the same clergy, that if any of them admitted any person from Hartlebury to any service excommunication would follow.

Whether this produced the desired effect does not appear. The offender committing the offence was the person who ought to have paid in the first instance, and the fee was considerable; it was 100s. for a churchyard, probably more for a church, and it would in those days have been a good deal for the parish to raise. The Prior, however, tried to put pressure on the offender, Richard Lekhull, to pay; he ordered all deans, rectors and parish priests in the deaneries of Worcester, Kidderminster, and Wych publicly and solemnly to denounce every Sunday and festival before solemnization of the Mass, with the albs on, crosses erect, candles lit and extinguished, bells rung, Richard Lekhull as excommunicate, and to continue to do this until otherwise ordered². Probably this produced all that was necessary, for on the 17th August the Bishop

¹ p. 348.

² p. 349.

was ordered to go to Stone, and reconcile the churchyard; but before he did it, he was to get the fees; having done this at Stone he was to go on to Hartlebury, and reconcile the church there¹.

This is a good instance of the power of the Church, and the way pressure could be brought to frustrate any attempt to evade it. Whatever may have been the Prior's motive, it is impossible not to admire the way he brought the Hartlebury people to their senses.

In 1402, a dispute arose as to the payment of pensions between the Prior and Queen's Hall, Oxford². The Provost and scholars were the appropriators of the church of Newbold Pacy, and on each vacancy of the See of Worcester they had to make a payment to the Prior of a pension, and the question as to the amount gave rise to a controversy. The Prior alleged it was 20s., and the Provost alleged it was only a mark, and produced a receipt, by which it appeared one mark only was paid. The Prior, therefore, began his usual procedure for enforcing his rights, citation and excommunication. This seems to have brought the college to reason, for a formal agreement was arrived at between Thomas Borton as proctor for the college, and Richard Grafton as proctor for the Prior, that the college should pay 20s. for this last vacancy, and pay the same on any future vacancy, and return to the Prior the receipt which shewed a less payment. This surrender by the college is curious, and would lead to a doubt as to the genuineness of the alleged receipt for the smaller sum, if it was not for the fact that in the Register of the Priory, where the list of Pensions is given in the Prior's own book, Newbold Pacy appears not for 20s. but for a mark³.

During the vacancy in 1374 some rather exceptional entries occur: 4 licenses were granted by the Prior, acting as Bishop⁴, to different persons to have services in their private chapels. Archbishop Stratford (1333—1349) had forbidden bishops to grant licenses for the celebration of Mass in oratories or chapels not consecrated, to any but great men and nobles, and only to those if in far distant places, or on account of bodily infirmity. Any one who chose might build an oratory, which could be used for the purpose of prayer, but no celebration of any divine office could take place in it without the Bishop's license, and even if that license was granted,

¹ p. 348.² p. 386.³ See *ante*, p. xxvii.⁴ p. 321.

by the constitution of Othobon, in 1268, it could only be so on the terms of saving the rights of the mother church; that is, the chaplain should pay over the whole of the oblations, and all that would have gone to the mother church if the chapel had not been there. Two of the persons here licensed, Elizabeth, Countess of Kent, and Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, certainly came within the exception of great men and nobles; William Foliot for his oratory at Pirton and Robert Crowenhale do not, so far as we know, come in the same class. The Countess of Kent was to have the divine office celebrated not only in one chapel, but in all her chapels and oratories within the diocese by a fit priest. Where these were is not clear. The Earl of Warwick was limited to his chapel at Goderests, but a special clause was inserted in his favour that the divine offices were to be celebrated not only in his presence but also if he was absent, thereby converting the chapel into a regular place for the performance of divine service.

In 1418¹, a like license was given to Giles Fililode, dwelling at Kydyrington, to have divine service performed in his oratory by fit priests.

There are but few entries as to anniversaries; there is one stating that the executors of Bishop Giffard intend to hold a solemn anniversary of his death. The reason probably was that a regular anniversary required endowments, and the piety of the executors or heirs was not always sufficient for this. In the list of anniversaries given in the Register of the Priory, the endowments of each anniversary that had been established were fully set out. The chief ones were for Alexander, abbot of Cirencester; for Radulf, the Prior, who had a mark from the fulling-mill at Overbury; William, the Prior, who may have been William Norman, William de Bedford, or William of Cirencester; and Bishop William de Blois, who had a mark from the church of Solbury. What was ultimately done as to Bishop Giffard does not appear.

One item of ecclesiastical revenue that gave rise to a good deal of friction between clergy and laity is scarcely mentioned in the Register Mortuaries. The only instance² is a case in the parish of Pedmore in 1352: Katherine, the widow of Philip de Litteleye, deceased, was cited to appear before the Prior in the cathedral at

¹ p. 400.

² p. 191.

Worcester, on a day to be appointed by the rector of the church of Oldswinford, to answer touching the matter of a mortuary.

The Register mentions several corodies as either applied for or granted out of the property of the Worcester monastery; for instance: In 1302¹ a corody was granted to Adam de Pyrye, citizen of Worcester, and Gunhilda his wife, or the survivor of them, from the cellarer of the Priory of Worcester, one loaf of the monks, two flagons of the better ale, and from the kitchen, as well on meat days and fish days, one dish of the monks. Another corody was granted to Robert de Humelton, citizen of Worcester, and Agnes his wife, and the survivor of them, as the buyer (*eptor*) of the monastery of Worcester was accustomed to receive¹.

In 1302² Edward I. wrote to the Prior and Convent of Worcester asking them to give a corody to his servant, John of Bromsgrove, le Traior, the bearer, who had well and faithfully served him, and accordingly the Prior and Convent granted the said John a corody of one loaf of a monk's, and one draught of good ale daily³.

In 1309⁴ the Prior wrote to Benedict de Paston, the bishop's agent, presenting to him Nicholas atte Zales of Humelton, acolyte, ordained to the title of a corody of King John, the collation whereof belongs to the Prior's office, and praying that the said Nicholas may be promoted to sub-deacon's orders.

A special item of revenue was granted to the Prior by the King. In 1302⁵ a writ from Edward I. to Humphrey de Waldene, keeper of the Bishoprick of Worcester, the See being vacant, directed him to deliver over to the Prior and Convent of Worcester the oblations made at the shrine of St. Wulstan, and at his tomb in the church of the Blessed Mary of Worcester, which the King had granted to the Prior and Convent whenever a vacancy should happen.

The King's grant to the Prior and Convent of these oblations⁶, made at the shrine and tomb of St. Wulstan in the church of the Blessed Mary of Worcester, is also entered on the Register. What was the money value of such a grant wholly depended on the fame of the Saint, so neither the Worcester nor any other

¹ p. 34.

² p. 39.

³ p. 43. There is nothing to shew what

was the size of the loaf of a monk or whether it was enough for a meal.

⁴ p. 89.

⁵ p. 3.

⁶ p. 11.

monks ever lost an opportunity of advertising their Patron. As an instance of this, a letter from the Prior and Convent of Worcester to Edward I., which is entered in this Register, may be given. They write wishing him success in his campaign against the enemies of the country; "he cannot fail having the help of St. Wulstan, their Patron Saint." If the King succeeded it would be so much to St. Wulstan's credit; if he failed, it would be his, not the Saint's fault.

But the Worcester monks were not the only ones who were fond of advertising their Saint. Another entry in the Register gives an instance of how they did these things at Hereford.

Thomas de Cantilupe was Bishop of Hereford from 1275—1282. One of his great acts was his quarrel with Archbishop Peckham on a question of testamentary jurisdiction. It is not easy to say who was right. The Archbishop obviously thought he was, for he excommunicated his suffragan, and not content with that, denounced him in no measured language for his cunning and disobedience. At last, Cantilupe went to Rome, and as Pope Martin IV. decided all matters in his favour, he set out in triumph on his return to Hereford, but died on the journey near Orvieto. For a time he was buried near Florence, but afterwards he was taken up and boiled; his flesh having then been got off his bones, the cleansed bones were sent to Hereford, and on their arrival there, were deposited in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral. Very soon the bones began to work miracles, or rather miracles followed from visits to their tomb. Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, came to look at the bones, they at once began to bleed. Sick persons were cured in numbers, dead persons were restored to life. Edward I. sent a favourite sick falcon to the tomb, it returned cured. Another time the falcon seems to have been too precious to be sent, so the falconer went alone and made an oblation to the value of 6*d.*; this naturally had no effect on the Saint's bones. Edward then caused a wax model of the bird to be made and sent; this also had no effect: finally he sent the bird itself, and the falconer then spent 1*s.* 6*d.* in offerings. The result is not stated; but it was probably satisfactory as the Bishop's tomb became a source of great profit, and the votive candles an important part of the income of the officials.. It was felt if the Saint was moved

^r p. 47.

to a spot where more votive candles could be placed, a greater revenue would accrue from this source ; so all was got ready to translate the Saint's bones to the Chapel of St. Katherine in the Cathedral. To advertise the Saint as largely as possible, a grand translation ceremony was to be held ; to this the Bishop and the Dean and Chapter of Hereford invited the Bishop of Worcester, or the Keeper of the Spiritualities of the See for the time being. This invitation is entered in the Register, and is a fine example of the art of ecclesiastical advertising¹ :—

“Desiring to glorify the Lord in His Saints, and especially in the holy confessor the blessed Thomas, formerly Bishop of Hereford, their special patron and protector, praying for their people, their city, and for the English nation, the merits of whose life having brought about miracles, the lord John the Pope² added him to the catalogue of twenty-two holy confessors ; they are disposed to translate his body, and to raise it above the ground, and to exalt it as a precious pearl hidden in the heart of the earth ; which translation was much desired in times past, now evils multiplying on all sides the people attempt this solemnity with the hope of divine pleasure and mercy. Therefore that a light of such brightness be not hidden underground, they propose for the honour they believe of God and health of the faithful, as they hope speedily to reveal him, that by his intercession the Lord may purge the whole world from errors, allay diseases, drive away famine, give peace, remove all harmful things, and grant all things in time to come, appointing for this the 8th of the Kalends of November, to wit the 25th October. They therefore pray that the same may be notified to all parishioners and others of the Worcester diocese. They have requested indulgences from the Treasury of Worcester that to an office of so great solemnity a multitude of Christian people may flock together, and that the Bishop or Keeper will deign to adorn their church by his presence.” What was done on this letter is not stated, but the Hereford cleric who was transformed into this Saint became the great Saint of that part of the country. His Coat of Arms were adopted as those of the See of Hereford ; his relics are still extant at the College of Stonyhurst, probably the only genuine relics of an English mediæval Saint.

The offerings at the shrines at Worcester were presumably large,

¹ p. 245.

² John XXII., 1316—1334.

for they formed one of the items in a dispute between the Bishop and Prior as to their respective rights in them when a vacancy arose in the office of Prior. This dispute was settled by Archbishop Langton, who decided that half should go to the Bishop and half to the monastery, but the monastery should appoint honest clerks or monks to collect them. The Bishop's half on the See becoming vacant would go to the Crown, and this was what the King granted to the monks. The use of the word *shrines* here in the plural might imply that they were two, and that the way the division was made was that the Bishop took the offerings made at his portion of the relics and the monastery the offerings at theirs.

While the Prior did his best to enforce his rights of visitation, he had himself to submit to the same process from the heads of his order. In 1302¹ he was cited by the Abbots of Westminster and Malmesbury to attend a general Chapter of the Benedictine Order for the Province of Canterbury in the Chapter-house of Bermondsey. It does not appear whether the Prior attended, but the Abbots who presided at the general Chapter of the Benedictine Order², for the Province of Canterbury, wrote to the Abbots of Winchcombe and Pershore, ordering them to warn the Prior and Convent of Worcester to re-admit as a monk of his Church, Brother John de Dumbleton. He was to be admitted to a stall in the choir, a place in the chapter, dormitory, and refectory, and the Prior, sub-prior, cellarer, sacristan, chamberlain, precentor, and kitchener were all warned that if they neglected to admit him they would incur the penalty of the greater excommunication. John de Dumbleton had long been a source of annoyance to the Prior. At the election of a bishop on Giffard's death he raised questions about his right to vote, and renounced any such right because he had been translated to Malvern, and made Prior there³. To give the Prior something to consider, at Giffard's death Dumbleton remained at the Schools at Oxford, at the cost of the Worcester House, until the Presidents of the Chapter of the Benedictines for the Province of Canterbury decided whether a Worcester monk should dwell at Malvern, or where or what should he do. They seem to have settled this matter by sending Dumbleton back to Worcester.

The two Abbots of Westminster and Malmesbury⁴ were evi-

¹ p. 13.

² p. 35.

³ p. 2.

⁴ p. 78.

dently determined to see that their orders were carried out, for they followed up this direction to the Worcester Prior to restore Dumbleton, by directing the Prior of Shrewsbury and the Sub-Prior of Bath to write to the Worcester Prior, informing him that the two abbots, as the visitors of the Benedictine Order for the Diocese of Worcester, intended to visit his monastery in April, 1302. The notice they gave was short, and it is clear they did not intend to be trifled with, but we have not unfortunately any record of what took place on their visitation. But whatever it was, Dumbleton was reinstated in his position of monk at Worcester.

The question of residence seems to have been one that caused a good deal of trouble, if the entries in the Register give a fair account of what took place. A clerk on institution to a benefice was sworn to reside there; if he absented himself without leave it was a ground for deprivation. At first the obligation to reside was evaded by means of license to study. In 1302¹ the Prior gave a letter of dispensation to the Rector of Longdon, William de Brun, a sub-deacon, to absent himself from his duties for the purpose of study, so that he provides that his church is served during his absence. There seems to have been no limit as to time or place in this license, but the Prior soon became more careful, and the next license² to the Rector of the Church of Alinton was only for three years, to study canon law and theology, and meanwhile to let his church to farm to any honest and literate man.

The Rector of Overbury³ was allowed to absent himself from his church, and the lights of the Blessed Peter and Paul, to visit the Roman Court. The Abbot of Pershore⁴ requested the Prior to allow the Rector of St. Peter the Great, Worcester, to absent himself for purpose of study. The Rector of Little Compton⁵ was allowed to absent himself from his church for two years, for purpose of study, and a like license was given for seven years to the Rector of Daylesford⁶. The Rector of Preston-on-Stour⁷ was allowed to be absent for study as long as the See should be vacant. The Rector of Preston Bagot was given dispensation for study, from the Annunciation, 1302, to Christmas, 1304. The Rector of Codeham⁸

¹ p. 20.² p. 26.³ p. 27.⁴ p. 28.⁵ p. 31.⁶ p. 34.⁷ p. 62.⁸ p. 70.

was allowed to go away; generally no time was fixed, and he was also allowed to let his church to farm. A general leave was also given the Rector of Hanbury¹. The Rector of Synesbury² was given five years' absence for study, and allowed to let his church, the term of absence granted him by the late Bishop having expired. The Rector of Aston Cantilow, in 1313³, was allowed to absent himself for two years from his church, provided he deputed a fit chaplain for the cure of souls and the services of the church during his absence. A new form of excuse for absence was adopted about this date, pilgrimage. The Rector of Morton Bagot was allowed to be absent from the Feast of St. Barnabas (June 11th) to Christmas⁴, for the purpose of a pilgrimage or other lawful matter, and to receive the fruits of his church, provided the church was properly served; and in 1349 the Prior of Horseleye⁵ was allowed to absent himself to make the pilgrimage of the Apostles Peter and Paul, having obtained the consent of the Prior of Burton. After this the licenses for non-residence are very few, but the practice continued.

In 1338⁶ the Prior of Studley complained of the non-residence by the Vicar of the Church of Cokton; the Archdeacon's official was sent to enjoin him in his own and the neighbouring churches to return to his vicarage and bring with him his companion, a monk, and reside, or to cite him to appear before the Prior and shew why he should not be removed.

In 1374⁷ the Vicar of Clifton next Bristol was ordered to appear before the Prior and shew cause why he should not be deprived, for absenting himself from his cure and not returning when called upon.

In 1373⁸ the Vicar of Wenrych was ordered to shew cause why he should not be deprived for non-residence and neglecting his parish; and in 1374⁹ the deacons of Kinton⁸ and Hampton Episcopi were ordered by the Prior to go to Alveston and sequestrate the profits of the vicarage, as the vicar had absented himself from his vicarage and the cure of souls of his parishioners, so that divine teaching was not had there as it ought to be; that the parishioners died without the sacraments, and that some also died without baptism; that the building of the vicarage was ruinous and the vicar received and wasted the fruits of the vicarage, and

¹ p. 73.² p. 87.³ p. 152.⁴ p. 180.⁵ p. 245.⁶ p. 258.⁷ p. 303.⁸ p. 306.⁹ p. 320.

that other scandals and perils of the soul were perpetrated there. The vicar was to be enjoined to return and reside at his vicarage and church under pain of deprivation.

This last case brings up another subject that greatly troubled the Prior, waste and dilapidation.

In 1313¹ the Prior ordered the Archdeacon of Gloucester to enquire into the condition of the church of Pinnocshire; the new Vicar complained of the numerous defects in the chancel, and that the books, ornaments, houses and manse remained unamended by default of the late vicar.

In 1329² the Archdeacon of Worcester was ordered to enquire into a complaint of the Rector of Whitton next Wych of the numerous defects in the chancel of the church, and in the books, ornaments, houses and the manse of the rectory, through default of the deceased rector.

In 1374³ the Dean of Pershore is ordered to sequester and sell the fruits of the parish church of Twining, as it had been for a long time destitute of the care of a priest; and as the buildings of the same in a great part had utterly collapsed, the fruits of the church were placed in the barns of the same, which were unroofed and dilapidated, so that by the rain falling on them they were wholly and daily damaged, and would, in a short time, be undoubtedly destroyed.

The Dean of Fairford⁴ in 1374 was ordered to require all the rectors, vicars, and priests in the deanery, with all requisite solemnities, to denounce the Prior of Lechlade as excommunicate, and to cite him to appear before the Worcester Prior to receive condign punishment, because he refused to obey the order of the late Bishop of Worcester for the better rule of his house, and because he diminished the divine culture, wasted and defiled the goods of the priory, and led a dissolute life.

In 1375⁵ the Dean of Stonehouse was ordered to sequester the fruits of the Priory of Horseleye and of the parish churches of Horseleye and Whytehurst, on account of the Prior's absence and the consequent perils to souls, and withdrawal of hospitality, the buildings of the Priory also having, to a great extent, collapsed, the profits were wasted.

These instances shew that dilapidations were, even at that date,

¹ p. 149.

² p. 228.

³ p. 323.

⁴ p. 330.

⁵ p. 347.

a difficulty, and that the ecclesiastical officials had to be strict with regard to them. Sometimes disputes arose as to who was to keep the chancel of the church in repair. In 1420 there was a dispute between the Abbot of Pershore¹ and the Vicar of Hawkesbury as to the repair of the chancel of Hawkesbury church. The Abbot alleged the usual rule applied, and curiously enough produced a long document to prove it—so long that it was not inserted in the Register on account of its prolixity! If the usual rule prevailed it is hard to see why any document at all was required. The Vicar alleged that the Vicars had never repaired the chancel. The matter was referred to two clergymen as arbitrators. The Vicar, on the word of a priest, making the sign of the Cross with his right hand on his breast, took his corporal oath, and the Abbot gave security to submit to the arbitrators. They found that the usual rule prevailed that the Vicar was liable for repairs.

On a somewhat similar matter a curious dispute arose. The Vicar is *prima facie* not only liable to keep the chancel in repair, but the churchyard is vested in him. This would presumably give him the right to all that was in the churchyard, including the trees. To prevent the Vicars cutting the trees down an Act of Parliament, 35 Ed. I., stat. 2, was passed, "*Ne Rector prosternat arbores*," which forbade Rectors cutting down any trees in the churchyard except for repairing the chancel. The parishioners of Bromsgrove and some of the neighbouring parishes set up a claim that the parishioners were entitled to cut down the trees in the churchyard; a more unfounded claim probably never was made. In his visitation of the deanery of Wych this came to the Prior's notice,² and he at once ordered the Vicar of Bromsgrove to declare in his church and in the other churches of the Deanery of Wych on Sundays and festivals, between the service of Mass when the greater number of parishioners are present, that the alleged custom was illegal, that those who practise it incur the greater excommunication and are decreed sacrilegious, and to admonish them all to abstain from such damnable presumption, and make satisfaction for what they have done within 15 days, and if they did not, to publicly and solemnly proclaim them excommunicated.

Excommunication was the Prior's great resource in all cases of discipline; if excommunication failed to produce the required result,

¹ p. 428.

² p. 270.

as it sometimes did, the next step was—in the case of any one holding any ecclesiastical office—deprivation. It seems that then, as now, the ecclesiastical authorities, while ready enough to excommunicate, were rather chary of depriving. In 1338 the Vicar of Great Malvern had been deprived and another clerk applied to be instituted, but the Prior¹ was cautious to get an indemnity from the new vicar against any proceedings of the old one.

One mode of deprivation was by formal sentence, but it would seem there was another, a formal deed absolving the Rector from the care and rule of his church and parishioners. An instance of this took place in 1374, when the Rector of Bishop's Clive was absolved from the care and rule of his parish².

In 1374 the Vicar of Clifton next Bristol was deprived, and the Patron presented a clerk and filled up the vacancy³.

In 1394 the master of the Hospital of St. Oswald's, Worcester, was ordered by the Bishop, as visitor, to punish and correct the crimes and excesses of the master and brethren, and the Prior to appoint another master, absolving the present one from the care and rule of the house. The master admitted dilapidation of the hospital and other excesses, so it was agreed to absolve him from his duties, which was done, and by a decree of the Prior he was removed, and a brother of the hospital was shortly after appointed master.

If the Prior was unwilling to proceed to extremities and deprive, he seems to have sequestered the profits of an office or benefice without hesitation, and to have excommunicated persons with a light heart. Cases of each class may be cited. On the complaint of the Rector of Risindon Magna, and, as far as it appears, on nothing more⁴, the Prior ordered the sequestration⁴ of the ecclesiastical goods of the late Rector to the value of the defects in the chancel, books, ornaments, buildings, and the dwelling-house of the rectory; and in the case of Twining, already mentioned, the Prior ordered the church and the fruits thereof to be sequestered for the repairs of the church, made necessary by the Rector's neglect.

Cases of excommunication abound in the Register. This punishment was inflicted for all kinds of cases, for instance, on all persons who had laid violent hands on a clerk⁵, on the Abbot and convent of St. Peter, Gloucester⁶, because they would not admit the

¹ p. 263.² p. 308.³ p. 316.⁴ p. 271.⁵ p. 10.⁶ p. 11.

Prior to visit the House. All those who defamed A. B.¹ All those who pursued a certain Richard called Kaye, a clerk seeking the immunity of an ecclesiastical liberty, into the crypt of the cathedral. The prior, sub-prior, sacristan, precentor, cellarer, kitchener, chamberlain, hostilar, and infirmarer of Teukesbury² for not admitting the Prior. All those detaining debts due to the late bishop³; two Welshmen for fighting in a temper at Gloucester³; those sons of iniquity who remove and conceal tithes³, cutting off the ears and tail of a palfrey³, the property of the Church; those who interfere with the rights and liberties of the Prior at Bromesgrove⁴, disobeying the mandates and monitions of the Prior, not paying a debt due to the Church⁵; fishing in the fishery of the Abbot and Convent of Winchcomb in the manor of Adelminton; all these and many more were declared to be excommunicated. If the sentence was intended to have any other than a mere ecclesiastical effect, the King's permission had to be obtained, and the sheriff had to enforce it. Thus in 1373⁶, 47 Edward III., the Prior wrote to the King saying he had invoked the greater excommunication on Gyles Braban for 40 days for disobeying mandates and monitions of the Prior, and prayed the King to restrain Giles according to the custom of England. In 1374, 48 Edward III., a writ was sent to the Sheriff of Worcester⁷ to enforce the ecclesiastical censure against the Parson of the Church of Twining for contumacy.

There are various instances of manumission of serfs entered on the Register. The first is at Overbury in 1302⁷. In the same year William, son of Guy de Crophorn⁸, was manumitted by Simon Beauchamp; Richard le Wyte of Tedyngton⁹, by John de Hely; Robert of Shepston by W. de Stok, and Henry of Cliva Prioris by J. de Dumbleton¹⁰. The Prior seems to have manumitted a serf at Dormston, and in 1303 one is recorded as manumitted at Overbury, two at Grimley in 1304¹¹, Richard de Monkwood in 1305, and Simon, son of John Partrich, in 1306¹². The form of a manumission by the Prior is given. "I manumit and from every yoke of servitude¹³ of our own or our successors absolutely and freely dismiss P. de H. and all his family and goods, the said P. having sworn that he would not be cognizant of any loss or injury to the church of Worcester, or to ourselves, or any people, by himself or any one

¹ p. 32. ² p. 62. ³ pp. 72, 90, 186, 223. ⁴ p. 246. ⁵ p. 304. ⁶ p. 285.
⁷ p. 310. ⁸ pp. 13, 29. ⁹ p. 31. ¹⁰ p. 38. ¹¹ p. 76. ¹² p. 77. ¹³ p. 75.

else, and if he should be convicted of doing anything to the contrary the present deed of manumission should lose all virtue and effect, and the said P. should lose all his liberty and return to his former servile state."

The Register gives some interesting details as to the way in which the revenue of a benefice was divided between the patrons, the religious houses, and the priest in charge of the benefice. The Vicarage of Tetbury was appropriated to the Abbot and Convent of Eynsham, and a dispute arose between the Abbot and the Vicar¹ as to what each was entitled to receive. Tetbury appears to have been a portionist vicarage. The Prior of Worcester had to determine the rights of the parties, and he sent one of his monks as his Proctor to make enquiries. It was found that the vicar should have for his habitation the whole manse in which the rectors of the same were accustomed to live together. The vicar was to have all the buildings except two granges and one yard joined to them, which the rectors were to have for placing their tithes and other fruits of the church. The vicar took the rents of the houses in Tetbury, of 90 acres of arable land, and 4 of meadow, the tithes of hay, pasture for 6 bulls, and 12 quarters of corn every year from the parish which is called "Chircheschottes." The Vicar had also the tithes of wool, lambs, calves, young pigs, geese, milk, cheese, and all lesser tithes, all mortuaries and all oblations, all of which were worth 40 marks; out of this the vicar paid a priest to celebrate in the church, the stipend of one deacon 20s. yearly, and 2s. for synodals. The vicars maintained a mortar (a large bowl filled with perfumed wax which was kept burning at festivals and funerals) with nine holes to be filled with tallow. He was also to find a lamp with oil, four processional candles to be made of 8 lbs. of wax, and one candle, to celebrate Mass and communicate the parishioners at the feast of Easter. He had further to provide corn for making the Host, and incense for the principal feasts. He had to pay the procuration to the Archdeacon, the tithes and all other impositions for the tax of 12 marks. All tithes and all other items of revenue not specified went to the abbey.

This division shews pretty clearly the Vicar's position, and with certain exceptions, it comes very nearly to the usual idea that the

vicar got the house, glebe, and small tithes, while the great tithes went to the Rector. But the singular part of the agreement is that the necessaries for the sacraments were to be found not by the parishioners, but by the priest at his own cost. It was usual to make the vicar find the mortar and wax, as he received the oblations and fees with which the light was probably endowed, but the parishioners, not the vicar, would be expected to find the bread for the Sacrament, and the incense, if not the candles. It will also be noticed that there is no mention as to who was to provide the wine for the Sacrament. Several things that the vicar was here held bound to provide were later on provided for out of Church-rates. One party to the great Church-rate controversy used to trace their origin to Saxon times, as the means of paying for the necessaries for divine service, but here are these payments which should clearly come out of Church-rates made by the vicar, and no suggestion made as to the parish paying. If there are any other parishes similarly situated to this it would be very interesting to find out when and how in such places Church-rates began to be paid, and for what purposes.

The Register contains various entries as to the administration of the Criminal Law. The rule then was that on a person being charged with a crime, if he was tried in the King's Court and convicted, he could allege that he was a clerk, that is, could claim the benefit of Clergy. If this plea was allowed he was handed over to the ecclesiastical authorities, who had their own prison, their own officers, and their own modes of trial and judgment. They paid no heed to the trial that had taken place before the lay tribunal, but dealt with the case in their own way, and if the convicted clerk could purge himself of the crime to the satisfaction of the ecclesiastical authorities, although he had been convicted by the lay courts, he was discharged as not guilty. This procedure, which, it is said, led to great scandal, is illustrated by several cases in the Register.

The Bishop had his own prison adjoining his palace in Worcester, and it appears the prison was let to a gaoler who agreed to keep the prisoners and be responsible in a penalty if they escaped. On the 28 November, 1373¹, the Prior leased to John Newman, citizen of Worcester, the custody of the gaol of the Episcopal Palace of Worcester, with the bodies of the prisoners con-

¹ p. 286.

fined in it, to be kept in a healthy and good state during the pleasure of the Prior, and Newman covenanted to pay the Prior 100 marks if he allowed any prisoner delivered to him to escape. At the date of the lease it seems there were two persons in prison, John Mallesore of Worcester and John Florence of Askeby, in the county of Lincoln, spicer. In the Prior's accounts for 1435 it appears the pay of the keeper of the prison was 1*s.* a week, and he also claimed to be allowed for iron chains and other things for safe keeping the prison.

By another indenture between the Prior and John Newman¹, keeper of the prison of the Palace of the Bishop, Newman acknowledged the receipt of four clerks convicted of felonies before the King's Justices. The practice seems to have been if any clerk was indicted before the King's Court, the Bishop, or on the vacancy of the See the Prior, appointed some one to attend the trial in the King's Court and, on the clerk's conviction, to demand his delivery to the ecclesiastical authorities.

Thus there was a Commission from the Prior² to the Dean of the Collegiate Church of Warwick to ask for and receive clerks accused of crime before the King's Justices, Stewards and Marshals. On being received they were handed over to the ecclesiastical gaoler, and remained for a longer or shorter space in the Bishop's prison until admitted to purgation.

In 1367³, Richard Black, of Wych, chaplain, was charged with theft before the King's Judges and sentenced to be hanged; but claiming to be a clerk, he was delivered over to the prison of the Bishop. The Prior, says the Register, believing by the testimony of many the innocence of the said Richard, ordered the said Richard to be purged, and ordered the Archdeacon publicly to proclaim, if any opposed, they were to appear before the Prior on a given day. No one appeared. The rectors of six of the Worcester churches, and of Tiberton, Dodderhill, and Crowle, and 8 laymen, among whom was one of the same name as the prisoner (whether a relative does not appear), all came and swore they believed him innocent, so he was discharged. This was followed by some other purgations of thieves.

Another case of purgation is recorded in 1377. John Strongmow, of Upton, clerk, was indicted before the King's Justices for

¹ p. 317.

² p. 313.

³ p. 93.

robbing Alice atte Mulne, John de Brocton, and Margery, daughter of Alice, of woollen clothes of the value of 40s. and feloniously slaying the said person at Duffield. He was convicted and on demand handed over to the Bishop, and kept for some time shut up in the prison of the ordinary at the palace. Steps were then taken by the Sub-prior for his purgation. Proclamation was made of the intended purgation. No one came forward to oppose, and so the purgation was allowed, and John Strongmow declared innocent of the robbery and murder of which he had been duly convicted.

In 1338¹, John le Veynour of Stoneleigh was indicted before the King's justices with stealing a blue robe worth 3s. and a blue tunic worth 18d., from Simon Philip, of Longedon, and convicted. He was delivered over to the Bishop and taken to the Bishop's prison at Worcester. The Prior wrote to the Dean of Kineton to publicly proclaim that if any person opposed the proposed purgation they were to appear before the Prior, or his deputy, on the morrow of the feast of St. Vincent. The dean was also ordered to find by an inquisition made by trustworthy men, both clerks and laymen, whether anything could be found why the purgation should not be proceeded with. The Dean reports that he had made proclamation and held the inquisition, and found nothing to prevent the matter being proceeded with.

Other cases might be cited, but enough has been said to shew how great was the evil of men being tried and convicted of crimes, and then allowed to go free, because they belonged to a particular class of the King's subjects.

One point remains to be mentioned; it is the habit to think that the clergy, and especially the monastic clergy, were most immoral; in a document which deals with the clerical and monastic life as fully as this Register does, it will naturally be asked what evidence is there one way or the other on the point. There are doubtless some entries that disclose that in certain instances there was immorality, but, after all, human nature was the same then as now, and from what appears in this Register, it could not be fairly said that the clergy of the 14th century were one bit more immoral than those of the 19th.

In 1313² a charge was made against Sir J. de S. of committing

¹ p. 279.

² p. 142.

adultery with M. the wife of W. de S. his brother. He appeared before the Prior and asserted his innocence of the crime. First purgation was allowed him, and with a sufficient number of compurgators he purged himself. Whatever the offence was, there is nothing to shew what Sir J. de S. was, whether cleric or layman.

In 131 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¹, proceedings were taken against W. de Staneweye, the Rector of Broadwas, for adultery and incest. This no doubt, at first sight, reads very badly, but when the proceedings come to be considered, the offence appears to be much less than we should have imagined. It is alleged that the Rector kept two women (Margery, the wife of Henry Morkoc, his parishioner, and spiritual daughter, and a certain Matilda, who passed for his dairymaid), contrary to the constitution of the Lords Otto and Ottobon in England against concubinage. He was also charged with adultery and incest with Agnes, the wife of John de Sapy, sister in blood to the said Margery, Christina Peyt, wife of Nicholas Peyt, of Broadwas, and Agnes, wife of Adam Upathome. But what seems to have been his great offence was that he laid violent hands on William, called Parcy, a clerk, knowing him to be a clerk, and so by the Canon, *Siquis suadente diabolo*, being thereby *ipso facto* excommunicated, yet in his priestly office he performed divine service, many times celebrating Mass; upon which it is intended to proceed against him. No one who reads the proceedings but will see that the last charge was considered by far the worst; this charge Staneweye admitted, but said he was legally justified in doing it. He was certainly a most disreputable priest, but it looks from the proceedings that the charges against him of immorality were not made out. He was convicted, and sentenced to be deprived. He appealed to the Court of Arches, but his sentence was affirmed.

J. de S.² was accused of adultery and incontinence with Joan the widow of J. de L., and of relapsing. He appeared before the Prior and denied the crime since the correction made by Bishop Ginsborough.

W. de C. was also accused before the Prior of fornication with A. de M. He underwent correction, and having taken the oath of continency from thenceforth, as was accustomed, he was dismissed. In neither of these cases is there anything to shew that the delinquents were in orders.

This does not apply to the next case, J. de C. Rector of the Church

¹ p. 169.

² p. 142.

of B. He was accused of the crimes of adultery, incontinence, and of relapsing; he appeared before the Prior, underwent canonical correction in form of right, whereupon he was dismissed.

John de S.¹, Rector of the Church of B., came before the Prior, and tearfully set forth that whereas after he had obtained the cure of the church he committed the crime of incontinence or adultery with X. de B., A. de G., and F. de L., unmarried women of his parish, and publicly kept them for some time in his house as concubines, for which he is deeply penitent, and humbly beseeches a healthful remedy. The Prior compassionating him grants him dispensation from the aforesaid crime.

Here are two beneficed clergymen who it appears were guilty of immorality; when that has been said, all has that can be, but it must be remembered that the beneficed clergy of that time were not of necessity in the higher orders of the Church, and it was a very different thing for a person in minor orders who was next door to a layman to be guilty of immorality, and for a priest. Persons in minor orders could get papal dispensation to marry, but those in priests' orders could not. It is not therefore fair, as is often done, in passing judgment on the mediæval clergy, to pick out all the offences committed by persons with all classes of orders, and treat them as offences by the clergy.

In the next case it does not appear the offender was a clergyman. The Prior caused to be called before him Sir W. de B. and A. de S. for the crime of adultery, as it is said, committed between them; the Prior enjoined salutary penance in form of law, and dismissed them so corrected.

In 1317², Master R. de A. B., Chaplain, appeared before the Prior, and with faithful men purged himself of incontinence with Joan de la Pole, and also that he was not a common merchant, nor a common drunkard, nor a homicide, nor a common brawler, nor negligent to the visitation of the sick.

Although it may well be that the rectors or vicars of churches were only in minor orders, here there is a clear case of a clergyman, a chaplain, charged with incontinence and allowed to purge himself.

In another case the proceedings were against the lady, she was suspended from ecclesiastical rights for contumacy². On making

¹ p. 143.

² p. 180.

submission she was absolved, and the priest was ordered to certify to all whom it might concern that E. had canonically purged herself from the report touching her adultery with W. de B.

The case of the Wroxhale nuns has already been noticed¹. Nothing whatever was proved against them; all that could be said was, that their conduct might give occasion for scandal, and it was the apprehension of this that made the Prior admonish them as he did to avoid the appearance of evil.

The case of the Prior of Lechlade² is so vaguely stated that it is impossible to say precisely with what he was charged; he is said to have diminished the divine culture, wasted and defiled the goods of the Priory, and led a dissolute life, charges which might mean anything or nothing.

On the 23rd July, 1375³, in the garden of the Prior of Worcester, very near the great gate John Salewarp, Rector of the Church of Hanbury next Wych, came before J. Segg, notary public, and the Prior of Worcester, and swore he would not from thenceforth have carnal knowledge of a certain Margaret Joos, nor meet her in suspicious places under a penalty of £10.

The last case that requires notice is that of the Abbot of Hayles⁴, Robert Alcester. A charge was made against him of committing fornication with Agnes Porter of Hayles. Over the Abbot, as he was a Cistercian, the Worcester Prior had no jurisdiction, nor could he visit the Abbey or serve any citation. As he could not proceed against the Abbot, the Prior proceeded against the woman. She was cited to appear and answer the charge, and not doing so was pronounced contumacious. Against this she appealed to the Court of Arches, and the Prior of Worcester was cited to appear and answer her appeal⁵.

The Prior again cited the said Agnes to appear⁶, and on her not doing so, ordered the Dean of Campden and the Rectors of Somerfeldshafte and Dumbleton to proclaim that Agnes Porter was suspended from entering the said churches, and to cite her to appear at Worcester before the Prior. This she seems not to have done, nor to have appeared in the Arches Court, for the official of that court directed the Prior to do what was necessary for the correction of the soul of Agnes Porter, by reason of her crime of

¹ p. 215.² p. 230.³ p. 340.⁴ p. 403.⁵ p. 404.⁶ p. 405.

fornication with the Abbot of Hayles, notwithstanding the inhibition of the 9th of the Kalends of July, directed to John Vampage and others. But it must be remembered that although assumed to be guilty, the case was never really proved against Agnes Porter.

This ends the entries on this subject. Any one who reads them fairly will say that although there was a certain amount of immorality, yet it is not proved that it existed to any special degree or was common among the clergy. On the contrary, from the lack of entries against the clergy, the inference would be that they were moral. Among the clergy there were black sheep then, as there are black sheep now, but the evidence of this Register does not prove the general charge of immorality against the clergy. If it proves anything at all, it rather serves to disprove the charge of any wholesale or universal immorality.

One part of the Register is most disappointing ; there are almost no references to the religious movements that were going on during the times of which it speaks. That the reforming spirit was abroad in the Worcester diocese is well known. It is said that Worcester-shire was a stronghold of the Lollards ; that in 1384 the then Archbishop, Courtenay, made a special visitation of the diocese to put down Lollardism ; that in 1387, Bishop Wakefield issued a mandate against the Lollards and all their works, yet there are only two slight references in the Register ; the first in 1302¹. The Prior writes to the Dean of Worcester and Gloucester, committing to their keeping certain heretical clerks convicted of crimes before the Justices of the King for gaol delivery in the counties of Worcester and Gloucester. That is all ; what the crimes were does not appear, nor why the clerks were called heretical.

The other allusion is in the letter from the Prior² to Pope Eugenius IV., announcing the election of Thomas Bouchier as Bishop of Worcester. One of the reasons for electing him was stated to be that the same Master Thomas Bouchier was "very useful to the cathedral church of Worcester and to all the English Church, and very necessary for expelling and extirpating the errors and heresies which were daily exercised in divers parts of the diocese of Worcester." This letter was written in 1433. Under Bishop Peverell, Badby, a tailor, was sentenced to die, and was burned in Smithfield. The Vicar of Chesterton in Warwickshire was also

¹ p. 6.

² p. 433.

charged with receiving and harbouring Lord Cobham, but we get nothing of all this.

There are a number of matters that the entries in this Register bring out as to the manners and customs of the clergy of the middle ages which well deserve notice, but this Introduction has already reached such a length that it would not be right to extend it further by going into any such matters. It is not its object to give an exhaustive account of all, or even of the principal entries in the Register, but only by bringing together some of those that are scattered over the book, without order and without method, to shew what most interesting matters there are in this volume. Looked at by itself, it may not appear to be more than a dry record of drier proceedings, the chronicle of the unimportant acts of unimportant persons, but if the entries are read together, if the earlier are contrasted with the later, and each subject is dealt with in the light of all the entries relating to it, it will be found that the Register possesses an interest that is nearly a living interest. It is almost possible to see the long train of Priors and monks appearing before us in the glimpses we get of their lives, and their acts, of what they have done, and what they have left undone, of the insight we gain into the motives that guided or restrained their actions. The impression left on our mind may be that the spirit which guided them was not one of the highest order; yet it was a spirit of loyalty to their monastery, for which and to which everything was to be sacrificed, every interest surrendered; for this they worked and visited, for this they laboured and toiled. It may be true that their aim was not the loftiest; that to exalt material over spiritual prosperity is not the highest or the noblest object for the work of a Benedictine House. But it must be recognised that their work was unselfish and unremitting, that its one object was to secure the triumph of the Worcester monastery over "all abbots, priors, deans, provosts, masters, ministers, chaplains, convents, colleges, churches," within the Worcester Diocese, and in this triumph which they achieved the Priors and the monks had their reward.

J. W. B.

Lincoln's Inn,
November, 1897.

APPENDIX.

THIS Appendix contains three lists which have been compiled to illustrate the distribution of the patronage of the benefices in the diocese in the 14th and 15th centuries.

No. 1. is an alphabetical list of all benefices and patrons in the diocese that are mentioned or referred to in the *Sede Vacante Register* during the vacancy of the See. It will be found that the names of 332 benefices with their patrons are given; of these 262 were in ecclesiastical, and the remaining 72 were in lay patronage.

No. 2. shews the distribution of ecclesiastical patronage among the different religious bodies; the results are curious. Gloucester and Tewkesbury seem to be the great patrons of ecclesiastical benefices, Worcester was not really so rich in benefices as might have been expected.

No. 3. shews the distribution of lay patronage. It will be seen that at the head of the list stood the King, but he appears in at least three capacities, (1) as sovereign, (2) as feudal guardian, (3) as acting for the bishop during a vacancy of the see; the Beauchamps seem to have been the great owners. It will also be noticed that those presentations in lay hands were usually connected with some estate, property, or office, and are never found as now, severed from everything, and merely held in gross.

By far the largest portion of the preferments were owned in the diocese, so the livings when they fell vacant were usually given to people in the diocese, which probably helped to maintain its strong individuality.

A list of the names of Popes, Kings, Archbishops, Priors, and Archdeacons, during each vacancy, is added.

I. ALPHABETICAL LIST OF BENEFICES AND PATRONS IN THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER, MENTIONED IN THE SEDE VACANTE REGISTER, 1301—1435.

Benefices.

Abbelench
Acton Torvile
Adreston

Patrons.

Simon le Brune
Keeper of the Church of Tormestone
Abbey of Tewkesbury

<i>Benefices.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>
Alcester	Prior of Churchill
„ Chantry of Virgin	Sir William Botiler
Aldermiston	Abbey of Pershore
Almondesbury	Abbot of St. Augustine's, Bristol
Ammeney, Holy Cross	Abbey of Tewkesbury
Arlingham	Abbot of Gloucester
Arrow	Sir Thomas Burdet
Astley	Sir Nicholas Lyllyng
Aston Cantelow	Robert Maudyt
„	Priory of Studley
„	Priory of Maxstoke
Aston-under-Edge	Lady Matilda de Stafford
Aston Somervyle	William Somervyle
Atherston	Abbey of Tewkesbury
Bacheshere	Thomas de Hodynton
Badmington Magna	Abbey of Lilleshall
Bageden	Chaplain of Trinity Chantry, Cirencester
Barndesley	Earl of Hereford and Essex
Beaudesert	Peter de Montfort
Beckford	Priory of Neuent
„	The King
Begworth	Prioress of Usk
Belne Brocton	Alienora, Lady of Sudeley
Belmebrokton	The King
Beoley	Abbey of Alcester
Bernynton Magna	Priory of Llanthony
Berston	Thomas Erdyngton and Sibyl his wife
Billesleye	Sir William Trussell, John Trussell
Bishop's Hampton	The King (Sede Vacante)
Bladynton	Abbey of Winchcombe
Blockley (Chantry of Virgin)	The King (Sede Vacante)
Bodebroke (Chantry)	Canons of Warwick
„	Rector of Bodebrook
Brailes	Prior of Kenilworth
Bradewell	Abbey of Evesham

<i>Benefices.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>
Bradeston (Chantry)	Richard de Sancto Mauro
Bredon	Disputed
Bredicote	William de Defford
Brimsfield	Prior of Brimsfield
,	The King
Bristol :—	
All Saints' (Chantry)	Mayor of Bristol
2nd Chantry	"
Fifth Chantry of Canons	"
All Saints'	Abbey of St. Augustine, Bristol
Holy Trinity	Abbot of Tewkesbury
St. Andrew	Abbey of Tewkesbury
St. John	"
St. Michael	"
St. Nicholas	Abbey of St. Augustine, Bristol
St. Owen	Abbey of Tewkesbury
St. Philip and St. James	"
Broadway	Abbey of Pershore
"	The King
Broadwas	Priory of Worcester
Brocworth	Priory of Llanthony
Broome	Prioress of Brewoode
Broughton	Abbey of Evesham
Broughton Hackett	Sir Nicholas Burnell
Budebrok	Disputed
Byshampton	Prioress of Cokhull
Bysseley	
Cambrugge	Maurice de Berkeley
Campden, Chapel of St. Catherine	Earl of Gloucester
"	T. de Ludlow, Lord of a moiety
Chaddesley Corbet	Sir William Corbet
Charfield	Sir Peter de Veel
"	John de Veel
Chepyngkyngtonè	Priory of Kenilworth
Cheryngton	Robert de la More
Cheddworth	The Abbey of Lyra
"	The King

<i>Benefices.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>
Chokenhull in the parish of Leigh	Abbey of Pershore
Churchill (Kidderminster)	Thomas Dykyns
Churchull	Sir John Wysham
Cirencester, Chantry of Holy Trinity	John Bylbury and Thomas Lane
Claverdon	Archdeacon of Worcester
Cleeve Prior	Priory of Worcester
Clifton next Bristol	Sir John de Sancto Laudo
Clyve Episcopi	The King
Cold Aston	Prior of Bath
”	Prior of Minorites, Malvern
Cokton	Priory of Studley
Condicote	Edward de Stonor
”	The King
Compton Winiates	Lord Stafford
Cotton	Abbey of Evesham
Comberton, Little	Thomas Beauchamp
Coughton	Prior of Studley
Coulsbourn	Prior of Llanthony
Cowley	Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
Croome	William d’Abitot
Croome d’Abitot	Richard Abitot
Crowle	Hospital of St. Wolstan, Worcester
Cudberley	The King as guardian of
”	Giles de Berkeley
”	Giles Brugge
Culme St. Denis	Priory of Deerhurst
”	The King
Culme Roger	Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
Dagelyngworth	Abbess of Godstow
Daylesforde	Miles de Hastings
Deerham	The King
”	John Kemys
”	Eleanor Russell
”	Sir R. Aston
Deerhurst	Abbey of St. Denis
Dichford Frary	John Brailles

Benefices.

Dichford Frary
 Dodderhill
 Dodynton
 Dontesbourne Militis
 Dorsynton
 Doynton
 Down Hatherly
 Doverdale
 ”
 ”
 Doynton
 ”
 Dudley
 Dumbleton
 Duntsebourne Abbatis
 Dursley
 Dydebrook

Eccleshall
 Eckington
 Eyford
 Eggeworth

Eggesworth
 Eldersfield
 Elmelode
 Elmley Castle
 Elmley Lovet
 Elveston
 Elbryghton
 Estleech
 Estleigh (St. Martin)
 Erlyngham
 Evenlode
 ”
 Eyston

Patrons.

Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
 Prior of Worcester
 Priory of Worcester
 John le Rous
 Sarah de Pryeyeris
 Priory of Llanthony
 Katherine Beauchamp
 Sir William Bishopsdon
 Sir Humphry Stafford
 John Bracy, jun.
 Sir William Traci
 Prior of Llanthony
 William Pirey
 Abbey of Abingdon
 Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
 Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
 Abbey of Hailes

Priory of Kenilworth
 Abbey of Pershore
 John Rous, William Gille
 Thomas Fabyan, Eva his wife,
 Rose, sister to Eva, and John
 Coof

Thomas Raleigh
 Priory of Little Malvern
 Richard le Porter
 Thomas, Earl of Warwick
 Earl of Warwick
 Priory of Bath
 Abbot of Bytlesdon
 Abbey of Tewkesbury
 Prior of Little Malvern
 Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
 Peter de Evenlode
 Peter Deyvyle
 John Kemys

<i>Benefices.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>
Feckenham	Abbey of Lyra
”	The King
Fladbury	Sir John de Brailes
Flavel	Alexander Besford
Folebrook	Nicholas de Warwick
Frampton on Severn	Prior of Clifford
Freethern	Geoffrey de Freethern
Fulton	John de Fulton
Fylton	Margaret Seebroke
 Gloucester:—	
St. Margaret's Chantry	Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
St. Margaret's Chapel	” ”
St. Mary before the Gate	” ”
St. John	” ”
All Saints'	Prior of Llanthony
Holy Trinity	The King
Gunelode	Richard Delvyle
Guyting inferior	Prior of St. John of Jerusalem
Habelench	Rector of Fladbury
Haggeley	Edmund de Haggeley
Hailes	Abbey of Hailes
Halesowen	Abbey of Halesowen
”	Priory of Welbeck
Hampton Lovett	Thomas Blount
Chantry of St. Anne	Canons of Lichfield
”	Sir Thomas Blount
Hanley Castle	Priory of Little Malvern
”	Earl of Warwick
Holt	John de Beauchamp
”	Priory of Worcester
Herforton	”
Harenhull	Robert de Harenhull
”	Sir John de Wynnyton
Haseleye	Priory of St. Sepulchre, War- wick
Haselour	Sir William de Meldon

<i>Benefices.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>
Harsefield	Priory of Llanthony
Hartlebury	The King
Hatheropp	Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
Hawkesbury	Abbey of Pershore
Hembury Saltmarsh	The King
Ilmyndon	Sir William Mountford
Inkberrow	Bishop of Hereford
Iwele	Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
K., Church of	The King
Kekyngwych	John Kekynwych
Kemesford	Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
Kempsey	The King
Kemerton	Sir Giles Beauchamp
„	Lord Abergavenny
Kenemarton	John de Ferariis
Kidderminster, Chantry of Virgin	Hugh de Dokesley
Kinwarton	The King (Sede Vacante)
Kynton	Prior of Kenilworth
Kinlet	Abbot of Wigmore
Lapworth	Merton College, Oxford
Langebrugge next Berkeley, Warden of Hospital of	Bishop of Worcester
Lappeworth	Priory of Maxstoke
Lascheberew	John Greville
Lechlade	Duke of York
Lega, Portion of Chokenhull in church of	Abbey of Pershore
Lega, Portion of Kymenhale in church of	„
Lega, chapel of	The King
Leech Andrew	Abbey of Tewkesbury
Lench Roculf	Earl of Warwick
Littleton	„
Littelton on Severn	Abbey of Malmesbury
Longdon	Abbot of Westminster
Lytethurn	Earl of Warwick

<i>Benefices.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>
Madresfield	Prior of Christchurch, Canterbury
”	Walter de Bracy
Malvern, Great	Priory of Malvern
Marsefield	Abbey of Tewkesbury
Martley	William Rede
Marston Sicca	Prior of Worcester
Maltesdene	Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
Minchinhampton	The King
Morton	Abbey of Evesham
Morton Abbot	Malcolm Mussard, Lord of Morton
Morton Bagot	Sir William Trussell
Morton Brut	Richard Ruyhal
Morton Underhill	Joan Comyn
Musarder	Hugh le Despencer
”	Earl of Kent
Nafford	Roger Golafre
Newell	Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
Newington	Earl of Warwick
”	Abbey of Gloucester
Newington on Cotteswold	Priory of Little Malvern
North Cerney	Lord Stafford
Northfield	Priory of Dudley
Northleach	Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
North Pidele	Sir Henry de Segrave
Nuns Hampton, Chantry of Virgin	Rector of Nuns Hampton
Nyndesfield	Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
Newbold Pacey	Queen's Hall, Oxford
Oddingley	The King as guardian of Edmund Mortimer
Oldbury	Joan Burdon
Oldberrow	Abbey of Evesham
Oldswinford	Sir Hugh Burnell
Old Sodbury	Sacristan of Cathedral
Olveston	Priory of Bath
Ombersley	Abbey of Evesham

<i>Benefices.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>
Oselworth	Abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester
Otyndon	Archbishop of York
”	Preceptor of Cathedral of York
Over, Chantry of	Katharine de Berkele, Lady of Wotton
Overswelle	Abbey of Evesham
Oxshulme	Sir John de la Hale
”	The King as guardian of Sir John
Pebbemore	Richard Clodeshale
Pebmore	”
Pershore St. Andrew	Abbey of Pershore
Pershore, Chantry of St. Edburgh	”
Pershore, Chantry of	”
Pillardington	John de Hercy
Pinnocschire	The King
Pokynton	Rector of Olveston
Pokelelchurch	Bishop of Bath and Wells
”	Sub-Dean and Chapter of Wells
Pokynton	Thomas and Joan Toky
Preston	Abbey of Cirencester
Preston Bagot	William, Earl of Warwick
”	Baldwin Freville
Preston next Hanley	William, Earl of Warwick
Pynnuchyr	Abbey of Hayles
Pypelton	Robert Russell
Quenyngton	Prior of St. John of Jerusalem
Quynton	Abess of Pollesworth
Ripple, Chantry of Newton	J. Salamon
Rodmerton	Roger Capes and Margaret his wife
Rokynton	Abbey of Reading
Rowell	Abbey of Winchcombe
Rondecombe	Earl of Stafford
”	Ann, Countess of Stafford
Ryndecombe	”
Rysyndon Magna	William Wyshehale.

<i>Benefices.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>
Rysyndon Magna	Walter de Hisle
Saltford	Prior of Kenilworth
Salwarp	Earl of Warwick
”	King as guardian
Saperton	Walter de Hisle
Schenindon	Abbey of Tewkesbury
Schelne (Hanbury)	Lucy Bartram (Lady of Schelne)
Schesyncote	John Throckmorton
”	William Wollashill
Shipton	Robert de Solers
Shipton Solers	Richard Monemouth
Shipton Moigne	The King as guardian to John Morgan
Shelsley Beauchamp	Sir John Whysham
Shirbourn	Prior of St. John of Jerusalem
Shrawley	Earl of Warwick
”	R. Beauchamp
Slimbridge	P. de Berkeley
Somersstoke	Roger de Clifford, Lord West- moreland
Sobbury, Little	Rector of Holy Trinity, Glou- cester
Sodbury Parva	Beatrice Everard
South Cerney	Abbey of Gloucester
Southrop	Prior of St. John of Jerusalem
Spetchley	William Golafre
”	William Spetchley
”	John Spetchley
Spenor	Abbess of Cokehull
Staunton	Guy Whytington
”	Priory of Deerhurst
Staunton in Foss	E. le Despenser
Stanway	Abbey of Tewkesbury
Stone	Abbey of Evesham
Stowelle	Adam Martell
”	Martin Clifford
Stonehouse	Abbess of Elnynstouwe

<i>Benefices.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>
Stratford on Avon	
Strensham	Robert Russell
Stretton on Foss	Walter Pickard
Suckley	Master of Fotheringay
Sutton	Abbey of Westminster
Swelle Upper	Abbey of Evesham
Swelle Inferior	Abbey of Nutteleye
Syde	Thomas de Berkeley
”	Sir John de Berkeley
Tardebigge	Abbey of Bordesley
Tetbury	Abbey of Eynsham
Thormerton	Sir John de St. Philibert
”	The King
”	Rector and convent of Edyndon
Tokynton	Thomas and John Toky
Toneworth	Priory of Kenilworth
”	Priory of Maxstoke
Tortworth	Sir Peter de Veel
Tredyngton	The King
Twining	Abbey of Winchcomb
Tyberton	Priory of Worcester
Tyrnley	Priory of Deerhurst
”	The King
Ulleburgh	Abbey of Evesham
Upton Snodsbury	Priory of Malvern
Upton on Severn	The King
Upton Warren	Earl of Warwick
Walton (Chantry)	Prior of Kenilworth
Walton Devyle (Chantry)	”
Wappeley	Abbey of St. Augustine, Bristol
Warwick, St. John in the Market- place	Collegiate Church of Warwick and John Bukyngham
St. James	Earl of Warwick
St. Mary, prebend of Comp- ton Murdak	John de Bukyngham
Warwick, St. Michael's	Dean of St. Mary's, Warwick

<i>Benefices.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>
Warwick, Chapel of St. Michael's	Earl of Warwick
St. Michael's Hospital	"
Prebend in Collegiate Church	"
Deanery of St. Mary's, Warwick	"
Warndon	William Bracy
Waleneford	Priory of Deerhurst
Wenlond	Priory of Little Malvern
Weston on Avon	Prioress of Whiston, Worcester
Weston Birt	Margaret, widow of John Giffard
"	Sir Thos. Beaumont
Westbury, Prebend at	King (Sede Vacante)
Prebend of Hembury	The King
Prebend at	"
Whitchurch	Sir Peter de Mountfort
Whitton next Wych St. Peter	Priory of Studley
Witleye	Walter de Kokeseye
Witley, Little	John de Beauchamp
Willarsey	Abbey of Evesham
Winterbourn (Chantry)	Thomas Bradston
Wolvardeleye	Priory of Worcester
Wolverdynton	Earl of Warwick
Woodchester	John Maltravers
"	Edmund de Beresford
Worcester, All Saints'	Priory of Worcester
"	Sir John Talbot
Charnel Chapel	King (Sede Vacante)
St. Alban's	Abbey of Evesham
" "	Abbey of Winchcombe
St. Clement	Priory of Worcester
St. Martin (Chantry)	Rector of St. Martin
St. Oswald's Hospital	The King (Sede Vacante)
"	The Sacristan
St. Swithin	Priory of Worcester
St. Wolstan Hospital	King (Sede Vacante)
Wormynton, Little	Walter Bodenham
" "	John Bodenham

<i>Benefices.</i>	<i>Patrons.</i>
Wotton	St. Peter of Chastillon of Couches
Wotton under Edge	Thomas Berkeley
Wych, Hospital of the Virgin at St. Andrew	Priory of Worcester
”	Priory of Deerhurst
”	The King
Wycheford	Richard le Strange, and his wife Constance
Wyke and St. John	Priory of Worcester
Wynrych	Priory of Llanthony
Wynston	Edmund, Earl of March
”	Duke of York
Wytechurch	Alice de Montfort
Wytton next Wych	Prior of Studley
Wyllesbourne	Prior of Kenilworth

2. (a) ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PATRONS AND BENEFICES IN
THE HANDS OF MONASTERIES OR OTHER ECCLESIASTICAL
BODIES.

<i>Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Abingdon, Abbey of	Dumbleton
Alcester, Priory of	Beoley
Bath, Prior of	Cold Aston
”	Olveston
Bath and Wells, Bishop of	Pokelechirch
Battlesdene, Abbot of	Elbryghton
Bordesley Abbey	Tardebigge
Brewoode, Prioress of	Brome
Brimsfield, Prior of	Brimsfield
Bristol, Abbey of St. Augustine	Almondsbury
”	All Saints', Bristol
”	St. Nicholas, Bristol
”	Wappeley
Canterbury, Christ Church,	Madresfield
Priory of	
Cirencester, Abbey of	Preston
Churchill, Priory of	Alcester

<i>Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Cokehull, Prioress of	Byshampton
" "	Spenor
Clifford, Priory of	Frampton on Severn
Couches, Abbey of St. Peter of Chastillon of	Wotton
Deerhurst, Priory of	Culme St. Denis
"	Staunton
"	Tyrnley
"	Walenford
"	Wych, St. Andrew
Dudley, Priory of	Northfield
Evesham, Abbey of	Bradewell
"	Broughton
"	Cotton
"	Norton
"	Oldberrow
"	Ombresley
"	Overswelle
"	Stone
"	Swelle, Upper
"	Ulleburgh
"	Willarsley
"	Worcester, St. Alban
Eynsham, Abbey of	Tetbury
Fotheringay, Master of	Suckley
Gloucester, Abbey of St. Peter's	Arlingham
"	Cowley
"	Culme Roger
"	Duntesborne Abbatis
"	Dursley
"	Erlynham
"	Gloucester, St. Margaret's Chantry
"	St. Margaret's Chapel
"	St. Mary before the Gate
"	St. John's

<i>Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Gloucester, Abbey of St. Peter's	Hatheropp
"	Iwele
"	Kempsford
"	Mattesdene
"	Newell
"	Newynton
"	Northleach
"	Nyndesfield
"	Oselworth
"	South Cerney
Godstow, Abbess of	Dagelyngworth
Halesowen, Abbey of	Halesowen
Hayles, Abbey of	Dydebrook
"	Hayles
"	Pynnochy
Jerusalem, Prior of St. John of	Guyting Inferior
"	Quenynton
"	Shirborne
"	Southrop
Kenilworth, Priory of	Brailes
"	Chepyngkyngtone
"	Eccleshall
"	Kynton
"	Salford
"	Toneworth
"	Wyllesbourne
Lilleshall, Abbey of	Badmynton Magna
Llanthony, Priory of	Bernynton Magna
"	Brocworth
"	Coulesbourne
"	Donynton
"	Dorynton
"	Gloucester, All Saints'
"	Haresfield

<i>Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Llanthony, Priory of	Wynrych
Lyra, Abbey of	Cheddworth
”	Feckenham
Malmesbury, Abbey of	Littleton on Severn
Malvern, Great, Priory of	Great Malvern
”	Upton Snodsbury
” Little, Priory of	Eldersfield
”	Estleech (St. Martin)
”	Hanley Castle
”	Newington on Cotteswold
”	Wenlond
Maxstoke, Priory of	Aston Cantelow
”	Lapponworth
”	Toneworth
Newent, Priory of	Beckford
Oxford, Merton College	Lapworth
” Queen’s Hall	Newbold Pacey
Pershore, Abbey of	Aldermirston
”	Broadway
”	Chokenynhall, portion in Leigh
”	Eckington
”	Hawkesbury
”	Leigh, portion of Kymenhall
”	Pershore, St. Andrew
”	Chantry of St. Edburgh
Pollesworth, Abbey of	Quynton
Reading, Abbey of	Rokynton
St. Denis, Abbey of	Deerhurst
Studley, Priory of	Aston Cantelow
”	Cokton
”	Coughton
”	Wytton next Wych
Tewkesbury, Abbey of	Adreston

<i>Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Tewkesbury, Abbey of	Ammeney, Holy Cross
”	Atherston
”	Bristol, Holy Trinity
”	St. Andrew
”	St. John
”	St. Michael
”	St. Owen
”	St. Philip and St. James
”	Estleech
”	Lech Andrew
”	Marsfield
”	Schenindon
”	Stanway
Usk, Prioress of	Begworth
Warwick, Canons of	Bodebrook (Chantry)
”	Warwick, St. John in Market Place
” Priory of St. Sepulchre	Haseley
Welbeck, Priory of	Halesowen
Westminster, Abbey of	Longdon
”	Sutton
Wigmore, Abbey of	Kinlet
Winchcombe, Abbey of	Bladyngton
”	Rowell
”	Twining
Worcester, Hospital of St. Wolstan	Crowle
Worcester, Priory of	Broadwas
”	Cleeve Prior
”	Dodderhill
”	Tyberton
”	Worcester, All Saints
”	St. Clement
”	St. Swithin
”	St. Wolstan Hospital
”	Wych, Hospital of the Virgin
”	Wyke and St. John’s
” Prioress of Whiston	Weston on Avon

(b) PATRONAGE OF OTHER ECCLESIASTICAL PERSONS OR BODIES.

<i>Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Bath and Wells, Bishop of	Pokelelchurch
Bodebrook, Rector of	Bodebrook
Edynton, Rector of	Thormerton
Fladbury, Rector of	Habblench
Hereford, Bishop of	Inkberrow
Lichfield, Canons of	Chantry of St. Ann
„	Hampton Lovett
Nun's Hampton, Rector of	Nun's Hampton
„	Chantry of Virgin
Olvreston, Rector of	Pokynton
Tormeston, Keeper of Church of	Acton Torville
Wells, Sub-dean and Chapter of	Pockelelchurch
Worcester, Archdeacon of	Claverdon
„ St. Martin, Rector of	Chantry of St. Martin
„ Sacristan of Cathedral	Old Sodbury
York, Archbishop of	Otyndon
„ Precentor of Cathedral of	„

3. ALPHABETICAL LIST OF LAY PATRONS IN THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER MENTIONED IN THE SEDE VACANTE REGISTER.

<i>Lay Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Abergavenny, Lord	Kemerton
Acton, Sir R.	Deerham
Bartram, Lucy (Lady of Schelne)	Schelne
Burnell, Sir Nicholas	Broughton Hackett
Besford, Alexander	Flavell
Beauchamp, Thomas	Little Comberton

<i>Lay Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Beauchamp, Katherine	Down Hatherley
" John de	Holt
" Sir Giles	Kemerton
" R.	Shrawley
" Sir Thomas	Weston Birt
" John de	Little Witley
Bereford, Edmund de	Woodchester
Berkeley, Maurice de	Cambrugge
" Giles	Cudberley
" P. de	Slimbridge
Berkeley, Thomas de	Syde
" Sir John de	"
" Thomas	Wootton under Edge
Berkele, Katharine de, Lady of	Over, Chantry of
Wootton	
Bishopdon, Sir William	Doverdale
Blount, Thomas	Hampton Lovett
Blount, Sir Thomas	Hampton Lovett, Chantry of St. Ann
Boddenham, Walter	Wormyngton, Little
" John	" "
Botiler, Sir William	Alcester, Chantry of the Virgin
Bradicote, Thomas	Winterbourn Chantry
Bracey, Walter de	Madresfield
" John (Junior)	Doverdale
" William	Warndon
Brailes, John	Ditchford Friary
" Sir John de	Fladbury
Bristol, Mayor of	Bristol, All Saints' Chantry
"	" 2nd Chantry
"	" 5th Chantry
Brune, Simon le	Abblench
Brugges, Giles	Cudberley
Burdet Sir Thomas	Arrow
Burnell, Sir Hugh	Oldswinford
Buckingham, John de	Warwick, St. Mary
"	Prebend of Compton
Bylbury, John	Cirencester Chantry

<i>Lay Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Capes, Roger, and Margaret his wife	Rodmerton
Clifford, Roger de	Somerstoke
„ Martin	Stowelle
Clodeshale, Richard	Pebmore
Comyn, Joan	Moreton Underhill
Coof, John	Eggesworth
Corbet, Sir William	Chaddesley Corbet
D'Abitot, Richard	Croom d'Abitot
„ William	Croome
Delvyle, Richard	Gunelode
„ Peter	Evenlode
Despenser, Hugh le	Musarder
Defford, William de	Bredicote
Dykyngs, Thomas	Churchill (Kidderminster)
Erdynton, Thomas, and Sibyl his wife	Berston
Evenlode, Peter de	Evenlode
Everard, Beatrice	Sodbury parva
Fabian, Thomas de, and Eva, his wife	Eggworth
Ferariis, John de	Kenemarton
Freethern, Geoffrey de	Freethern
Freville, Baldwin	Preston Bagot
Fulton, John de	Fulton
Grenville, John	Lascheberrew
Greville, John	Tortworth
Gifford, John, Margaret, widow of	Weston Birt
Giles, William	Eyford
Gloucester, Earl of	Campden, Chapel of St.Catherine
Golafre, Roger	Nafford
„ William	Spetchley
Hastings, Miles de	Daylesford
Haggeley, Edmund de	Hagley

<i>Lay Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Hale, Sir John de la	Oxshulme
Harenhull, Robert de	Harenhull
Hereford and Essex, Earl of	Barnsdesley
Hisle, Walter de	Saperton
Hercy, John de	Pillardington
Kekyngwych, John	Kekyngwych
Kemys, John	Eyston
Kent, Earl of	Musarder
King	Beckford
”	Brimsfield
”	Broadway
”	Belne Brockton
”	Cheddworth
”	Clyve Episcopi
”	Condicote
” as guardian of Giles de Berkeley	Cudberley
”	Hartlebury
”	Hembury Saltmarsh
”	Kempsey
”	Kemerton (Sede Vacante)
”	Lega, Chapel of
”	Minchinhampton
” of Edmund Mor- timer	Oddingley
”	Pinnocshire
” of Walter de Hisle	Sapperton
” of John Morgan	Shipton Moigne
”	Thormerton
”	Tredyngton
”	Tyrnley
”	Westbury, 3 prebends
”	Worcester Charnel Chapel (Sede Vacante)
”	St. Oswald's (Sede Vacante)
”	St. Wolstan (Sede Vacante)
”	Wych, St. Andrew

<i>Lay Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Kokeseye, Walter	Witleye
Lyllying, Sir Nicholas	Astley
Lane, Thomas	Cirencester, Church of Holy Trinity
Ludlow, T. de	Campden, Chapel of St. Catherine
Maltravers, John	Woodchester
March, Edward, Earl of	Wynston
Martell, Adam	Stouelle
Maudyt, Robert	Aston Cantelow
Montfort, Alice de	Wytechurch
" Sir Peter de	Whitchurch
" Sir William	Ilmyndon
" Peter de	Beaudesert
Monemouth, Richard	Shipston Solers
More, Robert de la	Cheryngton
Musarde, Malcolm, Lord of Newton	Musarder
Pirey, William	Doynton
Pckard, Walter	Stretton-on-Foss
Porter, Richard le	Elmelode
Raleigh, Thomas	Eggsworth
Rede, William	Martley
Rous, John le	Eyford
"	Dontesburn Militis
Russell, Robert	Pypelton
"	Strensham
" Eleanor	Deerham
Ruyhal, Richard	Morton Burt
Salamon, J.	Ripple, Chantry of Newton
St. Philibert, Sir John de	Thormerton
Sancto Laudo, Sir John de	Clifton next Bristol
Sancto Mauro, Richard de	Bradeston Chantry

<i>Lay Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Seagrave, Sir Henry de	North Pidele
Seebroke, Margaret	Fylton
Solers, Robert de	Shipton
Somervylle, William	Aston Somervylle
Spetchley, William	Spetchley
" John	Spetchley
Stafford, Earl of	Compton Winiates
" Earl of	Rondecombe
" Lord	North Cernys
" Ann, Countess of	Ryndecombe
" Sir Humphrey	Doverdale
Strange, Richard le, and Con- stance his wife	Wycheford
Sudeleye, Alienora, Lady of	Belne Brocton
Stonor, Edward de	Condicote
Throckmorton, John	Schesyncote
Tokey, Thomas and Joan	Tokynton
Traci, Sir William	Doynton
Trussell, Sir William	Morton Bagot
" "	Billesleye
" John	Billesleye
Veel, Sir Peter de	Charfeild
John	"
Warwick, Earl of	Lench Rodulf
"	Littleton-on-Severn
"	Newington
"	Upton Warren
"	St. James', Warwick
"	St. Mary's Deanery, Warwick
"	Warwick, Chapel of St. Michael
"	" St. Michael's Hospital
"	" Prebend in Collegiate Church

<i>Lay Patrons.</i>	<i>Benefices.</i>
Warwick, Earl of	Wolverdynton
" William, Earl of	Preston Bagot
" "	Preston next Hanley
" Edward, Earl of	Wynston
" Nicholas de	Folebrook
Westmoreland, Lord	Somerstoke
Whytington, George	Staunton
Wollashill, William	Schesyncote
Wyshehale, William	Rysyndon Magna
Wynnyton, Sir John de	Harenhull
York, Duke of	Lechlade
"	Wynston

APPENDIX.

Table shewing the different Persons in office during the vacancies of the See of Worcester recorded in this Register.

Date.	Vacancy.	Pope.	King of England.	Archbishop of Canterbury.	Prior of Worcester.	Archdeacon of Worcester.	Archdeacon of Gloucester.
I. Feb. 1301 to June, 1303	Godfrey Giffard to William Ginsborough	Boniface VIII.	Edward I.	Robert Winchelsey	John de la Wyke	Cardinal Francis de Santa Lucia	Walter de Burdon
II. Sept. 1307 to Dec. 1308	William Ginsborough to Walter Reynolds	Clement V.	Edward II.	Robert Winchelsey	John de la Wyke	Cardinal Santa Lucia	William de Bryston
III. Oct. 1313 to April, 1314	Walter Reynolds to Walter Maydeston	Clement V.	Edward II.	Walter Reynolds	John de la Wyke	Henry Fitz Dauphin of Vienne	William de Bryston
IV. March to Nov. 1317	Walter Maydeston to Thomas Cobham	John XXII.	Edward II.	Walter Reynolds	John de la Wyke	Henry Fitz Dauphin	William de Bryston
V. Aug. 1327 to June, 1328	Thomas Cobham to Adam Orleton	John XXII.	Edward III.	Walter Reynolds	Wolstan de Bransford	Adam de Champneys de Sandwiche	Hugh de Stratheme
VI. Dec. 1333 to May, 1334	Adam Orleton to Simon Montacute	John XXII.	Edward III.	John Stratford	Wolstan de Bransford	John de Orleton	Roger de Breinton
VII. April to July, 1337	Simon Montacute to Thomas Heminghale	Benedict XII.	Edward III.	John Stratford	Wolstan de Bransford	John de Orleton	Roger de Breinton
VIII. Dec. 1338 to April, 1339	Thomas Heminghale to Wolstan Bransford	Benedict XII.	Edward III.	John Stratford	Wolstan de Bransford	Robert de Wireceter, I.I.D.	Roger de Breinton
IX. Aug. 1349 to Feb. 1350	Wolstan Bransford to John Thoresby	Clement VI.	Edward III.	John Stratford	Wolstan de Bransford	John Severle	Richard de Ledbury
X. ... 1352 to April, 1353	John Thoresby to Reginald Brian	Innocent VI.	Edward III.	{ Thomas Bradwardin Simon Islip	John de Evesham	John de Harewell, Bishop of Bath & Wells	Richard de Ledbury
XI. Dec. 1361 to July, 1362	Reginald Brian to John Barret	Innocent VI.	Edward III.	Simon Islip	John de Evesham	John de Harewell	Richard de Ledbury
XII. April to July, 1364	John Barret to William Whitelsey	Urban V.	Edward III.	Simon Islip	John de Evesham	John de Harewell	Richard de Ledbury
XIII. Oct. 1368	William Whitelsey to William de Lynn	Urban V.	Edward III.	William Whitelsey	John de Evesham	Simon Clemens	Roger Peres
XIV. 18 Nov. 1373 to 28 Oct. 1375	William de Lynn to Henry Wakefield	Gregory XI.	Edward III.	{ William Whitelsey Simon Sudbury	Walter Legh	John Blanchard	William Thrysford
XV. 11 March to August, 1395	Henry Wakefield to Tideman of Winchcomb	Boniface IX.	Richard II.	William Courtenay	John Green	William Malpas	William Thrysford
XVI. 13 June, 1401 to 9 Oct. 1401	Tideman of Winchcomb to Richard Clifford	Boniface IX.	Richard II.	Thomas Arundel	John Malvern	William Rowcomb	Richard Wynchecomb
XVII. Oct. 1407 to Nov. 1407	Richard Clifford to Thomas Peverell	Gregory XII.	Henry IV.	Thomas Arundel	John Malvern	William Rowcomb	Nicholas Herbury
XVIII. 2 Mar. 1418 to 3 Dec. 1419	Thomas Peverell to Philip Morgan	Martin V.	Henry V.	Henry Chicheley	John Malvern	John Ixworth	Nicholas Herbury
XIX. ... 1425 to 1426	Philip Morgan to Thomas Polton	Martin V.	Henry VI.	Henry Chicheley	John Fordham	John Ixworth	Nicholas Herbury
XX. 23 Aug. 1433 to 15 May, 1435	Thomas Polton to Thomas Bourcier	Eugenius IV.	Henry VI.	Henry Chicheley	John Fordham	William Hende	Philip Potton

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