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M. Litt. Thesis.

BISHOP
BRANSFORD.

Prefatory Note.

It was the intention of the author of this thesis to append the text of Bishop Bransford's register. However, this proved impracticable because of the large size of the latter. None the less the footnotes with their references to the numbers of the author's edition, which has been calendared, have not been altered. Instead, to facilitate reference to the original MS. in the Worcester Diocesan Registry, Appendix I4 has been added. In this the folios of the MS. are collated with the numbers of the edition. Moreover, in Appendix I2, a representative series of extracts has been collected with special reference to the points discussed in the thesis. Further details from other sources have been added in Appendix I3.

R.M.H.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Abbreviations.

- C.C.R. Calendar of Close Rolls.
C.P.R. Calendar of Patent Rolls.
C.P.P. Calendar of Papal Registers,
Vol. I 1342-1419, Papal Petitions.
C.P.L. Calendar of Papal Registers,
Vol. 2 1305-42, Papal Letters.
Vol. 3 1342-62, Papal Letters.
D.N.B. Dictionary of National Biography,
63 vols. 1885-1900 (& Supplements).
E.P.N.S. English Place-Name Society.
G.E.C. G.E. Cokayne, ed. Gibbs, The Complete Peerage, 1910-
L.A. Liber Albus (See under: Publications of the
Worcestershire Historical Society.)
P.H.E. Political History of England, 12 vols. (ed. Hunt &
Poole), vol. 3 1216-1377, T.F. Tout.
R.S.V. Registrum Sede Vacante. (See under: Publications of
the Worcestershire Historical Society, Registers.)
V.C.H. Victoria County History.
W.H.S. Worcestershire Historical Society.

MSS. in the Diocesan Registry at Worcester.

REGISTERS:

<u>No. in the</u> <u>Worc. series.</u>		<u>Date</u> <u>on spine.</u>
4	Walter Maydeston,	1313-17.
5	Thomas Cobham,	1317-27 (See also under W.H.S.)
6	Adam de Orleton,	1327-33.
7	Simon de Montacute,	1333-37.
8	Thomas de Hemenhale,	1337-38.
9	Wolstan de Bransford,	1339-49. (This register has been edited by the author during the preparation of this thesis. See: Prefatory Note.)
10	John Thoresby,	1349-52.

THE 'LIBER RUBER'.

Otherwise described as: 'Liber Albus, Sive Extenta 9 R. Hen. iv et Chartae Regum et alia' (See note on the fly-leaf made by Sir Ivor Atkins in May 1937).

This is the volume termed by Nash (& others) 'Lib. Alb. Episc. Wigorn'. It is a miscellaneous collection extending over a long period of time. It is not to be confused with the 'Red Book of Worcester' (W.H.S.), nor with the Liber Albus of the cathedral priory.

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	(A Calendar of the entries. Two parts in one.)	

(See also the same author's: The Worcester Liber Albus, S.P.C.K. 1920. Reference is made to the former by the number of the entry in the Calendar and to the latter by the page number.)

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	containing: 1. Provinciale (seu Constitutiones Angliae) 2. Constitutiones Legatinae (Otho & Othobon) with the gloss of John de Athon. 3. Constitutiones Provinciales.	
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THE LIFE, EPISCOPATE, and REGISTER
of
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Acton Turville, Great Badminton,
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GENERAL CONCLUSION.

APPENDICES.

(See separate Index preceding them.)

Ad finem.

Note.

General Abbreviations. (For references to books &c. see Bibliography.)

M. = Magister (Master).

In the footnotes the Register of Wolstan de Bransford is referred to as 'Reg.Bransf.', followed by the number of the entry in the author's calendared edition. (See 'Prefatory Note' above & Appendix I4).

Other abbreviations are those in common use. (See: Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, 2 vols. 3rd. ed.(1944) 1950 reprint.)

His birthplace.

Wolstan de Bransford, his title suggests, came from the hamlet of that name some two miles to the south-west of Worcester but separated from it by the often turbulent waters of the River Teme. That Bransford was his native place is a not unreasonable assumption and one, moreover, which has found favour with most of the historians of Worcestershire. In the 14th century it was, as now, but a small hamlet and seems chiefly to have been remembered in History as having fostered so distinguished a son. In the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1332-3 its contribution was only 24s. 5d. and a mere 21 inhabitants subscribed to that sum, whereas the neighbouring Leigh, itself a place of but small importance, paid £4: 5s. 10d., to which 37 persons contributed.(2) None the less, lying as it did "on the fruytfull bancke of Teme"(3), Bransford must have been a pleasant place, and such we find it at the present time.

The small rectangular Bransford Chapel stands, as it did before the days of Wolstan, in the lee of a hill from the top of which there is a grand view of the Malvern range. Its masonry is plain and unornamented and in recent times it has been much patched. Indeed, in the 17th century, it proved a disappointment to Habington who remarked that Bransford "flourishethe not with Armes in her poore Chappell nor yelldethe monuments, beeing depryved of funeralls, and seekinge her sepulchres at Leyghe." (4) Anciently it is said to have belonged to the abbey of Pershore, but Urso d'Abitot, who had a bad reputation where church lands were concerned, granted the tithes to the priory of Great Malvern.(5) Worcester Priory held lands in Bransford and these also were granted, during the priorate of Wolstan, to the monastery.(6)

Early details.

The future bishop was the son of "John de Brauncefford formerly citizen of Worcester", as we learn from letters testimonial issued to him in 1307-8 during the vacancy of the see and in which he is described as 'clericus'.(7) On November 24th 1308 he was granted letters dimissory to receive the order of priesthood in the province of Canterbury.(8)

(1) In his register the bp.'s name is, as a general rule, spelt with an 'o' and without an 'f'. Elsewhere it is often written with a 'u' and sometimes with an 'f' also. This has caused him to be confused, on occasion, with his 11th century predecessor, St. Wulstan or Wulfstan; a confusion which is even to be found in the index to Churchill's Canterbury Administration (vol.ii, p.286, under Bransford, referring to vol.i, p. 63n.).

(2) Lay Subsidy Rolls (W.H.S.) pp. 8-9.

(3) Habington i, pp. 44-5. (4) op. cit. i, pp. 332-3.

(5) Ibid. pp. 44-45.

(6) Liber Albus 906, p. 195; Habington ii, p. 179.

(7) R.S.V. p. 88 (undated).

(8) Reg. Reynolds, p. 92, ix Kalen' Dec. (Nov. 24) 1308. He was then a deacon.

It is not known when Wolstan entered the priory of Worcester. The first mention of his name in connection with it comes in 1313 when, in conjunction with John de Stretford, he received 33 shillings for expenses incurred in a journey to London on the business of the monastery. (1) On April 5th. in the same year it is recorded that the rent of a tenement in Neldarestrete, now Pump Street, in Worcester, was paid to Brother Wolstan in the Chapter House by Brumhilda Spagard. (2) At any rate, if the suggestion of Dr. Wilson is correct, that the monks at the time of the 1317 election had their names written down in order of seniority by reason of the length of their sojourn in the priory, then Wolstan must have been a comparative newcomer as he was placed 34th. out of a total of 41. (3)

The election of a prior at Worcester in 1317.

In 1317 John de Wyke, who had ruled the cathedral priory since 1301, died. The monks thereupon assembled in their Chapter House on October the 20th. and deciding to act 'per viam compromissi' delegated their powers to certain of their number. These were to choose seven monks, from among themselves or from the rest of the convent, for presentation to the bishop whose duty it was to select one of them as the new prior. (4) There are two accounts of the election, one in the Liber Albus, which has been summarised by Wilson, and another in the Liber Ruber of the Diocesan Registry. (5) The Liber Ruber entry is in the form of letters patent of the sub-prior and convent granting their powers for the nomination of the seven monks to William de Wych; Richard de Bromwich, the precentor; and to Ralph de Cathrop- all professors of Theology; as well as to Robert de Clifton, the cellarer; Simon le Botiler, the cook; Henry Fouke, the sub-sacrist; and Roger de Stevinton, the pittancer. (6) The list from the Liber Albus is the same except that it is headed by an eighth person, Gilbert de Madeleye, who was in fact the sub-prior. (7) These proceeded to choose John de Harleye,

- (1) Early Computus Rolls (W.H.S.), p. 39. "In expensis J. de Stretford et Wlstani London. circa ecclesiam de Bradewas xxxiii s." (2) Liber Albus 580.
- (3) This was not the full complement as one was absent and five were in the Infirmary. The matter of precedence was, as is well known, an important consideration in a Mediaeval monastery. Wilson lists the monks and gives a detailed account of the election in Liber Albus, pp. 162-6.
- (4) This was in accordance with a composition between a former bishop, William de Blois (1218-36), and the then prior & chapter. It is printed in Thomas, App. 68, pp. 74-6 & in Anglia Sacra i, p. 544 (dated 1224). "...De caetero autem vacante prioratu sic providerunt ordinationem faciendam; ut Conventus septem Monachos, quos voluerit, de gremio suo (injunctum est tamen, ut de melioribus hoc faciat) Episcopo suo presentet; qui necesse habebit unum ex illis septem, quem voluerit, illis praeficere in Priorem ..." See also Thomas, App. 48, pp. 32-3 for the confirmation in 1274.
- (5) Nash & Thomas used this volume but called it the 'Liber Albus'. It is not to be confused with the Liber Ruber of the Cathedral Library. (See Bibliography.)
- (6) Liber Ruber, fo. cxxxix. (7) Liber Albus, p. 162 sqq.

Richard de Bromwych, John de Stretford, Simon le Botiler, (iii)
Henry Fouke, Roger de Neuwyntone, and Wulstan de Bransford. (I)
That Wolstan was thus chosen speaks well for his popularity,
or for his reputation. He himself held no office at the time
while three of the nominators were men of learning and four
obedienciaries. (2) 95

Robert de Clifton and Adam de Tewkesbury were appointed
proctors of the convent to carry the news of the election
of seven to the bishop, Thomas de Cobham (1317-27). Him they
found at the hospital of St. Mary at Strode, near Rochester.
He appointed Warin de Fulborne and Robert de Curton to
enquire into the qualifications of the chosen monks and later,
on November the 23rd., being unable to deal with the matter
personally "aliis arduis et inevitabilibus negotiis impeditus",
he appointed James de Cobham, canon of Wells, as his special
commissary to admit the nomination of the seven and to chose
one of them as prior. (3) On the same day the bishop wrote
to inform the chapter of the election of Wolstan de Bransford.
He instructed the official of the archdeacon of Worcester
to install and induct the new prior and to admonish the convent
to pay canonical obedience to him. (4) On December 2nd. the
official duly certified that he had executed the mandate and
had installed the prior on November the 30th. (5) The new
prior wrote to the bishop's official, James de Cobham,
requesting a formal deed of appointment properly sealed. (6)
Wolstan de Bransford as prior (1317-39).

It is almost a commonplace that the ruler of a monastic
house, at any rate by the 14th century, had to be a business
man. "A manly man, to been an abbot able", Chaucer had
written: (7) and indeed the 'father' of the monks had to be
a man of the world. Saintliness in itself, close following of
the Rule that had grown "old and somdel streit" (8), were not
enough. It was hard fact that if income failed a monastery
could not afford its inmates. Money and land were harder to
come by in the 14th. century; the halcyon days of monastic
foundations were over, having given way to a stormy period
of struggle for the retention of the lands and privileges
which had been secured. The liberality of the faithful was directed
in ever increasing measure towards the enlarging of parish
churches and the founding of chantries.

- (1) Liber Albus p. 162 sqq. In the list of monks, however, there
is no mention of a 'Roger de Neuwyntone', though there is a
'John de Neuwyntone' and a 'Roger de Herwynton'. This
discrepancy was not pointed out by Canon Wilson. It is
possible that this name is merely a misreading of 'Roger de
Stevinton', the last mentioned of the nominators.
- (2) See above. The professors of Theology were used as lecturers
and were sometimes lent to other houses of the Order. Richard
de Bromwych was prior of Abergavenny (1320-25). See: Chapters
of the Black Monks, i, p. 182 n.2 : Liber Albus pp. 179-81.
- (3) Liber Albus 750, p. 165. Reg. Cobham, p. 1.
- (4) Liber Albus 752, 753, p. 166. Reg. Cobham, p. 1.
- (5) Liber Albus 754, p. 166. Reg. Cobham, pp. 1-2.
- (6) Liber Albus 757, 761, 762, p. 166.
- (7) Chaucer, Prologue, l. 167. (8) Ibid. l. 174.

The economic position of Worcester Priory was no doubt not an exceptional one. An enquiry was held into the state of its finances in 1313. The convent complained that there were insufficient resources for the support of its fifty monks. Owing to the hostility of others and by plunder eight manors and five churches had been lost. Moreover, numerous people had been accustomed to assemble in Worcester, some on legal business, others because of the bridge over the Severn- the only one between Gloucester and Bridgenorth: small wonder that claims on the hospitality of the house had increased. Now, though these and other reasons were advanced because of the convent's desire to appropriate the church of Dodderhill, and some of them have a familiar ring, they cannot be entirely ignored. To what extent the local vicars and rectors who enquired into the validity of the contentions were unprejudiced can only be surmised. Certainly they averred the substantial accuracy of the priory's plea. The prior's heritage may well have included grave economic problems.

An important part of the new prior's duties was the defence of the rights of the priory in an interminable series of law suits. Proctors had to be maintained at the Papal Curia, at the king's courts, at the Court of Arches, at Parliament, and elsewhere. All this was expensive, troublesome, and a source of hard work for Prior Wolstan.

The case of Alice Conan must surely rank as a classic example of mediaeval litigation, argued as it was between two successive priors and an equal number of kings for nearly twenty years. Edward II commenced the tedious process in 1308 by requesting the prior, John de Wyke, to grant a corrody to Alice Conan, lady-in-waiting to his niece. The prior demurred, and after some interchange of correspondence the matter was dropped. In 1322, however, the king wrote to Prior Wolstan and made the same request for Alice, by then lady-in-waiting to the queen. The new prior also demurred, but the king was more determined this time. During 1323 the prior in person argued the case in the royal courts. He urged that the monastery held its lands in free alms and had not been charged with any such obligation until nine years previously (the king had forced the monks to receive Peter d'Avylers. Moreover, he had charters to prove it. The prior's attorney produced a charter purporting to date from the reign of Edgar (2) and which had been confirmed by the king. Unfortunately, as was soon pointed out on the latter's behalf, the charter made no mention of free alms and, furthermore, the priory had in fact received others besides Peter d'Avylers. The prior later returned to the attack by stating that he was well aware that the priory had received corrodians but in answer to petitions the king had promised that neither he nor his magnates would burden religious houses

(1) Liber Albus 562, pp. 124-6: Reg. Reynolds, pp. 75-77: Nash i, pp. 339-40 no. IX.

(2) This charter is in Monasticon ed. Caley, i, pp. 617-8 num. LXVI, dated 964. For doubts as to its authenticity: *ibid.* p. 567.

in such a manner in the future (I): what is more, they had the royal letters patent to that effect. The king had no answer and judgement was given for the prior.

Apart from such formal proceedings there was an ever growing correspondence on the subject. The king's letters were conciliatory, offering recompense if the priory submitted; angry; or even threatening. The prior manoeuvred with consummate skill. He suggested politely that Alice would be ^{more} suitably housed at Nuneaton among the nuns, for ladies did not make for good order in a monastery. The monks held their goods in common, he could make no grant without the consent of the chapter. If, however, the king would agree to promise that it would not be to the prejudice of the priory, he was prepared, out of his own private funds, to make a small grant to Alice. (2) The king remained determined, and the matter was only settled after he had ceased to reign when, on April 14th. 1327, the priory granted 'intuitu caritatis' the long sought corrody. By letters patent of July 1st. Edward III promised that the grant of £10 a year to Alice Conan for her lifetime would not prejudice the priory's rights nor be taken as a precedent. (3) We do not know whether this sum was ever paid but it is certain that as soon as April 1335 John Ussher was sent by the king to receive such maintenance as John le Treour had had in the reign of Edward I. (4)

Over and above the ordinary burden of taxation which was heavy enough on account of wars with Scotland, disturbances in England, and preparations for the Hundred Years War, there were other demands made by the king during Wolstan's priorate. In 1321 Edward II asked for men-at-arms to be sent to the Welsh Marches where he was trying to save the Despencers from the wrath of the Marcher barons. The prior replied that his house had already been burdened by reason of the conflux of people in Worcester, the coming and going to and from the Marches, and the perquisites of the

- (1) Articuli Cleri, 1316 (Cap. II). Statutes of the Realm, i, 171.
 (2) Corrodies, no. 47 p.29. "...De nostre petitesce ferroms une convenablete annuele.. et ferroms un fait, bonement de nostre seal demeigne, issint que deigne a vostre seigneurie granter a nous voz lettres patentes sous vostre grant seal, que nostre maison de Wyrecestre ne soit charge de tieux charges en temps a venir."
 (3) The most repeated argument was that of poverty. The whole case can be followed in 'Corrodies at Worc. in the XIV century' (W.H.S.) ed. Wilson & Jones, in which there are listed 51 letters from 1308 to 1327. There is also a detailed 'inspeximus' of the proceedings (Jne. 8 1337) in C.P.R. 1334-38, pp. 459-60. The final chapter grant is in L.A., III8. The confirmation of this in C.P.R. 1327-30, p. 102. In 'Original Charters relating to the city of Worc.' (W.H.S.), p. 159, is a record of the inquisition, dated at Worc. Sept. 12 I Edw. III (1327), in which the jury found that the priory held its lands in free alms. Coulton, Five Centuries of Religion, iii, pp. 240-241, gives an account.
 (4) C.C.R. 1333-37, p. 489.

magnates; but in any case the priory did not possess any such men-at-arms. (1) Two years later the king requested that a carriage should be sent to Newcastle for his campaign against the Scots. It was replied that the convent lacked horses but would send 10 marks instead. (2) In 1332 Edward III asked for a contribution to the 'aid' for the marriage of his sister Eleanor to Reginald, Count of Guelders. (3) In the following year he too was warring on the northern border and asked the priory to send a cart to Durham for the carrying of such things as were necessary for his army. (4)

The Papal emissaries also made demands upon the priory. Lucas, cardinal-deacon of S. Mary, asked provision for John Rydel who had lost his income because of the war against the Scots. The prior replied that he could not comply with the request as his monastery was too poor. On another occasion the same cardinal asked for a horse, and a white one with bridle and trappings was sent. (5)

With procurations Papal and episcopal, expenses of visitations, the upkeep of its estates, a continual series of demands, of requests for help, the necessity of providing for its own servants; it is not surprising that Prior Wolstan found it difficult to maintain the economic position of his charge.

We can find several instances of his policy for counteracting the drain on the priory's resources and for providing the necessary ready money. The first of these was the well known expedient of mortgaging future income for immediate advantage by the sale of corrodies. Wolstan's predecessor appears to have granted 14 such corrodies, he himself no fewer than 30. (6) Some, it is true, provided for the servants of the monastery, such as the porter or medical advisor; one was granted 'intuitu caritatis' to Geoffrey the Mercer; but the greater part were simply financial transactions whereby the recipients were fed or housed, or both, in return for a sum which varied considerably, no doubt in accordance with the facilities provided. (7)

(1) Liber Albus, 935-39, pp. 196-8.

(2) Ibid. 985-88.

(3) C.C.R. 1330-33, p. 590. Foedera, iv, pp. 544-5.

(4) C.C.R. 1333-37, p. 100; C.P.R. 1330-34, p. 446 sqq.

(5) Liber Albus 766-7, pp. 167-8 & 829-30, pp. 177-8.

(6) These figures are from the index of Wilson's calendar of the Liber Albus. No doubt many corrodies lapsed during the period and the number extant at any one time cannot be determined.

(7) The chief porter paid £25 (L.A. 892, p. 194). John de Bitterly was to have the 'painted chamber' (ibid. 872, p. 191). Simon Gros stipulated that he should have the best ale (ibid. 1205). Many brought their servants.

Another well tried expedient was the appropriation of parish churches. In 1330 the convent received licence for the appropriation of the church of Overbury with its chapels of Washborne, Teddington, and 'Berghes'. (I) The church of Dodderhill had been appropriated to the priory in 1302 by Bp. Godfrey Giffard (2) and the vicarage ordained in the same year. (3) Yet it appears that the priory did not obtain possession. Bp. Reynolds held an enquiry, which has already been discussed, as to the validity of the priory's contentions, and then confirmed the grant in 1313 (4) There was a further appropriation by Bp. Orleton in 1333, by authority of Pope John XXII, whom the prior and convent had petitioned. (5) John de Stratford was asked to secure the royal confirmation and this was conceded by letters patent of Feb. 26 1334. (6) Overbury with its chapels was valued in 1291 at 23 marks with the portion of the prior of Worcester a further 5 marks, and Dodderhill at 42 marks with the prior's portion a further 7½ marks. (7)

The farming out of lands was also a practice which commended itself to monasteries. In 1232 Henry III had granted the church of Bromsgrove to the priory in free alms. Prior Wolstan urged Bp. Thomas de Cobham to allow him to farm these lands for five years: the bishop gave him permission to do so for three. (8) A year later, in 1319, a mill belonging to Bromsgrove rectory was leased by the priory. (9)

Meanwhile the prior was negotiating for the return of some of the lost manors and for other portions of land. John the Mercer agreed to renounce his lands in Battenhall, Newberne and Timberdene (10) in return for 40 marks yearly during his life. He seems to have been favourably disposed towards the priory since he made several concessions with regard to its part of the bargain. (II) There were other negotiations in which John, parson of Harvington next Evesham, figured prominently. He was probably well acquainted with Wolstan as he too came from Bransford. In 1331 lands in Spetchley and Alveston were alienated by him and by

- (I) C.P.R. 1327-30, p. 536.
 (2) The document is printed in Nash, i, p. 338, no. 6.
 (3) Ibid. pp. 338-9 no. 7.
 (4) C.P.R. 1330-34, p. 521. *Inspeximus & confirmation of Pat.* 33 Edw. I. Reg. Reynolds, pp. 75-7. Nash, i, pp. 339-41 nos. 9 & 10.
 (5) Reg. Orleton, i, fo. 27r.-27v.: ii, fo. 53r.-53v. Printed in Nash, i, pp. 341-2 no. 12.
 (6) L.A. 1250 (See also 1168 & pp. 236-7). C.P.R. 1330-34, p. 521.
 (7) *Tax Eccles.* as printed in Nash, i, p. xliii.
 (8) *Cal. Chart. Rolls* i, p. 154. *Liber Albus* 791, 792, 795.
 (9) L.A. 868.
 (10) Details of the possession of these lands are given in Nash, ii, pp. 326-8.
 (II) L.A. 1222-25. *Habington*, i, p. 41. Newberne is now called Barnes (*Hab. loc. cit.*). See also *Monasticon* ed. Caley, i, p. 614 sqq. *V.C.H. Worcs.* iii, p. 515 & notes 26-8. Battenhall was appropriated to the cellarer (*Computus Rolls* p. II)

William de Gomstol to the priory. Five years later he similarly transferred lands in Cropthorne, Timberdene, Spetchley and Northwick. (1) Both these alienations were made by reason of a licence of Edward II permitting the convent to acquire 20 marks of annual rent. (2) In 1335 this same John, in conjunction with Thomas de Evesham, secured the reversion of the manor of Crowle Siward expectant upon the death of Joan, widow of John Syward. Five months later licence was secured for its transfer to the priory. (3) Bp. Montacute leased 19½ acres of arable land to the priory for 30 years from the feast of the Epiphany 1337 at an annual rent of 9 shillings. This concession was made to defray the expenses of the sacristy. (4) In the same year (1337) Wolstan secured a royal mandate for the payment of 20 shillings annually, together with arrears, which were due to the priory from the manor of Beaulieu, which had come into the king's hands by reason of the minority of the heir, Roger de Mortimer. (5)

The freeing of serfs may also have been a financial expedient. In the Liber Albus it is recorded that the prior manumitted a large number of persons. It may be wondered how far this redounded to the economic benefit of the priory as it is well known that considerable sums were exacted in this way by both monastic and lay landlords. (6)

In any analysis of the prior's financial policy his extension of the corrody system must be criticised. We may safely assume, however, that he who had so long fought off the menace of permanent royal corrodians was well aware of the risks involved. (7) The head porter's corrody may have been advantageous to the priory as he paid £25 (8) at a time when a chantry priest might expect to receive an annual salary of 4 marks. (9) Other servants of the priory received corrodies and in such instances the system of 'bed and board' might prove cheaper than a fixed monetary charge upon the funds. Some corrodians, however, did not pay enough for more than a very few years' lodging. (10) In fact, though the system was one which helped the priory to establish a financial 'modus vivendi' and to discharge current obligations, it was a dangerous one,

(1) C.P.R. 1330-34, p. 116. Ibid. 1334-38, p. 222.

(2) Ibid. & C.P.R. 1327-30, pp. 343, 450.

(3) Ibid. 1334-38, pp. 130, 182. Reg. Montacute, i, fo. 29r. & ii, ff. 19v., 20r. Nash, i, pp. 283-5. Habington, i, pp. 532-3, 534. V.C.H. Worcs. iii, p. 331, notes 39, 40.

(4) Reg. Montacute, i, fo. 29v. & ii, fo. 22r.

(5) Rot. Orig. Abbrev. ii, p. 105. Beaulieu was in the hands of William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, C.C.R. 1337-39, p. 194. R. de M. was the son of the Roger Mortimer executed in 1330.

(6) Coulton, Five Cents. of Religion, iii, p. 299 sqq. gives examples.

(7) Wolstan when bishop excommunicated Alexander de Luttelton of the Hosp. of S. Wolstan, Worcs. for granting corrodies without his permission. Reg. Bransf. 1371, 1373, 1375.

(8) L.A. 892, p. 194.

(9) See appendix 7.

(10) Robert de Boys paid 20 marks for a corrody & a dwelling in the city (L.A. 941), but the priory may have been under some obligation to him.

The acquisition of property raises no such misgivings, for it brought in valuable rents each year. Whatever intricate transactions lie behind these transfers of property it seems clear that a steady policy of recovering lands which the priory had lost -such as those at Crowle(I)- was pursued with manifest success.

Likewise in matters of appropriation and recovery of rent the prior showed a business-like determination. In fact there can be no doubt that the temporal interests of the monastery were well served under Prior Wolstan.

It is more difficult to assess Wolstan's contribution to the spiritual welfare of his house. He seems to have been careful about the qualifications of monks submitted for entry, that is if we can judge fairly from his refusal of a royal nominee because of defects of character and of an episcopal one on account of lack of learning. He himself, however, presented a candidate for the bishop's approval who, as it transpired, was under age.(2)

The evidence from episcopal visitations is but slight. There appears to be only one extant set of injunctions pertaining to Wolstan's priorate and that has been preserved in the second volume of Bp. Montacute's register. At the end of this volume (3) is a valuable series of such injunctions to the Worcester priory, five in number, and dating from 1290 to the episcopate of Thomas de Cobham.(4) Only the last of these could throw any light on the priory as ruled by Wolstan and it is concerned in the first place with the minutiae of administration. Among other things Bp. Thomas de Cobham sought to make provision for recording details of the monastery's valuables; for the recovery of alienations and loans made by R. de Hervynton while sacristan; for the appointing of receivers for such sums as the cellarer had been wont to receive; for the taking of oaths of faithful administration by such officers as had dealings with seculars; for the keeping of accounts; and for the exclusion of women and others from the monastery, except such as might be staying overnight as guests. The second part of these injunctions

(1) Monasticon, ed. Caley, i p. 596.

(2) Liber Albus, II34-7, pp. 225-6: II44-5, pp.229-30: 755-6,763.

(3) Reg. Montacute, ii, fo. 42r.-fo. 45v.

(4) They are those of,

Bp. Godfrey Giffard,	1290.	fo. 45v.
Archbp. Robert Winchelsey,	1301.	fo. 44r.-fo.45r.
Bp. William Geynsburgh,	1303.	fo. 42v.
Bp. William Geynsburgh,	(Undated)	fo. 42v.-fo.43r.
Bp. Thomas de Cobham,	(Undated)	fo. 43r.-fo.44r.
		(Probably 2 sets,
		1stly. fo.43r.-43v.
		2ndly. fo.43v.-44r.)

The writer of this part of V.C.H. Worcs. (vol. ii, pp.105-6) thought that some of these injunctions were the result of a visitation made by Bp. Montacute (See p. x). In fact not one of them dates from Montacute's episcopate and the summary given in V.C.H. Worcs. is a mixture of the injunctions of Bps. Geynsburgh & Cobham. The reference given is Reg. Mont. ii, f. 42, 43, 44 (Cf. the above list).

-or perhaps this is another and later set(I)- lays down rules for the various obedientiaries(2). It is difficult to pronounce judgement from such negative evidence but it is clear that Worcester Priory was neither much better nor appreciably worse than other houses of its size and importance at this time.(3)

Bp. Simon de Montacute visited the priory on the Monday after the feast of All Saints (Nov. 6th.) 1335.(4). He had warned the convent of his intention in a letter dated October 13, but it was not until the day of the proposed visitation that the monks expressed their preparedness to admit the diocesan. He preached in the Chapter House, taking as his text 'Vide et visita vineam istam' (5), and on the following day, Tuesday, he administered corrections. On the Thursday from his manor of Bredon he empowered J. de Clypston, his Official, and Henry de Neubold, his Auditor of Causes, to publish those faults which had come to light, to make enquiries, to administer corrections, and to impose punishments.(6) In answer to these commissaries, who had made various enquiries about the prior, the convent stated in a letter dated April 10 (1336) (7) that it had no wish to impugn the adequate answers which he had already given, and that as to the article concerning manumission, the prior had exercised this power 'sicut hactenus fieri consuevit'. (8)

Further details of Wolstan's spiritual rule are few, for no monastic chronicler described his doings and from his letters collected in the Liber Albus we can seldom glimpse more than the administrator occupied with the temporal aspect of the priory's affairs.

- (1) There is, however, only one marginal rubric 'Iniunctiones T. Cobham'. The mention of J. de Butterl' and J. de Bradewas and of their rooms in the priory enables us to date these injunctions between 1322 & the bp.'s death in 1327. J. de Bitterley was granted his corrody in Aug. 1319 & J. de Bradewas his in July 1322 (Liber Albus 872, p.191: 948.)
- (2) The various headings are as follows: 'De Ordine et Officialibus: De Elemosina: De Infirmis: De Cellerario: De Sub-Cellerario: De Coquinario: De Hostilario: De Pittanciaro: De Precentore.'
- (3) Compare for instance the injunctions to the Ely Chapter in Camden Miscellany, vol. lxiv.
- (4) V.C.H. Worcs., ii, p. 105 gives this date incorrectly as the Monday before (sic) the Feast of All Saints 1333. Montacute was not even bishop at that time.
- (5) Psalm LXXX, 14. Vulg. LXXIX, 15.
- (6) Reg. Montacute, ii, fo. 42r. In view of the confusion in V.C.H. Worcs. it may be useful to list the 5 entries on this folio.
 - i. The bp.'s warning of his impending visitation. Hartlebury, iii Ides Oct. 1335.
 - ii. The convent's reply. Worcester, viii Ides Nov.
 - iii. Memorandum of the bp.'s visitation, & of his administering corrections. 6 & 7 Nov.
 - iv. The bp.'s admonition concerning his intentions at the forthcoming visitation. (Undated)
 - v. Commission to J. de Clypston & Henry de Neubold. Bredon, v Ides Nov. (9th).
- (7) Given incorrectly as 1334 in L.A. II99. See also, L.A. II98 & pp. 250-51.
- (8) Reg. Montacute, ii, fo. 48r.

As head of the cathedral priory Wolstan de Bransford had to deal with matters extraneous to its government and regulation. Thus in 1318 he and the convent were appointed sub-collectors of a tenth in the diocese and the Patent Rolls bear ample witness to their efforts as tax gatherers. In 1337 Wolstan was ordered to send to York without delay £360 of the money collected by the abbot and convent of Gloucester, notwithstanding the Papal claims for its detention to pay for the proposed passage to the Holy Land. Moreover, he was warned that if the king's affairs were delayed for lack of such payment he would be punished as disobedient. (1)

By reason of his office he also had close connections with diocesan administration. As will be seen it was the prior of Worcester who exercised spiritual jurisdiction during the see's vacancy. Moreover, the property of the bishopric could not be alienated without the consent of the prior and chapter, and their confirmation was necessary for the appropriation of churches and for the foundation of chantries. In addition the prior might be given 'ad hoc' commissions: he often acted as a penitentiary, while, on occasions, he was appointed vicar-general for a bishop 'in remotis'. Wolstan, for instance, in 1317 shortly after his installation, was commissioned by Bp. Thomas de Cobham to reconcile the cloister at Worcester which had been polluted by the bloodshed caused by the brawling of lay persons. He was also appointed a penitentiary, in conjunction with the sub-prior and another monk, John de Aston, by the same bishop. (2) He was one of two commissioners appointed by Bp. Simon de Montacute to receive the obedience of the clergy of the diocese in 1334 (3), and he served both him and Bp. Thomas de Hemenhale as vicar-general. (4)

The prior also had his moments of relaxation. Like Chaucer's monk he 'lovede venerie', and on one occasion while disporting himself with his fellow monks Simon le Botiler, William de Peyto, and John de Evesham, as well as with John le Boys 'fisician' and others, he was rash enough to trespass on

(1) C.C.R. 1318-23 p. 103. Ibid. 1337-39 pp. 17, 34, 55.

(2) Reg. Cobham, pp. 13, 21.

(3) Reg. Montacute, i, fo. 2r.

(4) His appointment by Bp. Montacute is dated from Oxford, 11th. March 1334 (Reg. Mont., i, fo. 1r.). Bp. Hemenhale's commission is a joint one for Prior Wolstan, M. Stephen de Kettlebury and M. Andrew de Offord. (Reg. Hemenhale, fo. 6r.-6v. 3 Apr. 1337 Avignon.). The latter bishop also appointed Wolstan with other monks of Worcester to act as a penitentiary with powers of absolution even in reserved cases. (Ibid. fo. 10r.)

the property of Joan Botetourt at Northfield, breaking into her park there and carrying off game.(1) That lady promptly complained, and a commission of 'oyer' and 'terminer' was issued; but the letters patent were later revoked as having issued from the Chancery "surreptitiously" and contrary to the Statute of Northampton (1328). (2) Wolstan could be merry too, as when he invited a friend, probably Adam de Harvington, to stay with him at the priory for the festive season of Christmas.(3)

There are other less pleasant glimpses of the prior. Thus on one occasion he was somewhat severe with the vicar of Stanway who had been lax with regard to the repayment of half a mark due to the priory, and whom he threatened with arraignment before the archbishop.(4) He was also unnecessarily rude to the abbot of Ramsey who had borrowed a lecturer from the priory, and despite the abbot's polite reply he wrote again in a similar vein.(5) The abbot of Westminster was also treated with much less than Christian courtesy by Wolstan who, furthermore, made a bitter complaint against the prior of Great Malvern.(6) In contrast with such behaviour we find him co-operating with the abbots of Evesham and Gloucester to secure the postponement of a visitation due to be held in 1319 by the authority of the presidents of the Benedictine Chapter in the province of Canterbury. (7)

Prior Wolstan's two and twenty years as ruler of the cathedral priory had indeed been full and varied. His charge, as has been shown, had wider implications than the internal governance of a body of some fifty monks. Externally there was a perpetual struggle to be sustained against those who tried to encroach upon the privileges of the house. Correspondence had to be maintained with a proctor at the Papal Curia as with the king on the borders of Scotland or the Marches of Wales. Wolstan's ability earned respect; the king might threaten but the astute administrator held his ground. He was a capable man of affairs who did his best with a difficult legacy and the hardships of the times. It was in such a manner that the 'bonum regimen' of the priory was ensured. A successful litigant he rarely, if ever, lost a suit while prior. Firm in his dealings with king or bishop, alive to the inherited responsibilities of his position, he carried out his task with a temporal success which must have greatly rejoiced the hearts of his fellow monks.(8) It is not possible to say more than that, whether he was other than a conventionally pious man may never be known: certain it is,

- (1) Joan, one of the sisters & co-heirs of John de Someri, baron of Dudley, married Thomas Botetourt and had a residence at Weoley Castle in Northfield. Dugdale, Baronage ii, p.46.
- (2) C.C.R. 1330-34, p.154 (Sept.8 1330): C.P.R. 1327-30, p.570.
- (3) Liber Albus 844, p.182. The MS. has 'A. de H.'.
- (4) Ibid. 784, p. 172.
- (5) Ibid. 834-39, pp. 179-81. The correspondence is printed in full in Chapters of the English Black Monks i, pp.181-5, nos. 100-104 (Camden Soc. xlv 3rd ser.).
- (6) L.A. 1184, pp.239-40 & (for Gt.Malvern) 1277, pp. 275-6.
- (7) Ibid. 849-57. Chapters (See n. 5 supra), i, pp. 186-192 nos. 107-115.
- (8) No one who has read the 'Chronicon Abbatiae de Evesham' or any other monastic chronicle can doubt the importance of such success in the eyes of the monastery's inmates.

however, that no scandal or hint of personal slackness marred his reputation. To History he went down as the benefactor who had gained Crowle, Battenhall, Spetchley, and the church of Dodderhill for the priory(I) and, rightly or wrongly, so great was his prestige, as the builder of Bransford Bridge and the monastic Guesten Hall, as well as the prior whose whose well-known energy was far spent when, as an old man, he secured the bishopric which he might well have served in his prime twelve years before.

Two further aspects of Wolstan de Bransford's priorate.

i. Two building schemes attributed to the prior.

In the standard history of the county of Worcester we read of Wolstan de Bransford that, "The two acts by which he was most remembered were building a bridge over the Teme at his native place, Bransford, thus improving the route into Wales and Herefordshire; and building, while prior, a large hall to the priory, known as the Guesten Hall, for the entertainment of strangers and for holding courts." (2)

Most historians of Worcestershire or her bishops have mentioned these traditions. The remains of the bridge at Bransford can, indeed, still be seen by the side of its modern successor. Together with the bridges of Upton, Powick and Bewdley it was broken down by the Scots at the time of the second battle of Worcester in 1651. (3) Francis Godwin in his "Catalogue of the Bishops of England" (1615) remarked that Wolstan "...built the Prior's great hall, and the bridge of Bransford upon Tweed (sic), two miles above Powike." (4) Wharton in his "Continuatio Historiae de Episcopis Wygorniensibus" (1691), after mention of the bishop's death, added:- "Temedum flumen apud Bransfordam vicum natalem in agro Wygorniensis ponte conjunxit". (5) Similarly Thomas in his "Account" (1737) wrote that, "He is also said to have built the Bridge over Teme at Braunsford, the place of his Nativity, two Miles from Worcester." (6) Nash in his "Supplement" (1799) ascribes the same origin to the bridge.(7) Though none of the above writers refers to Leland more or less the same statement is to be found in his Itinerary: "Wolstanus Brannesford Prior Wigorn: et postea episcopus Wigorn: erexit magnam aulam Prioris. Brannesford Bridge super Tende duobus passuum milibus supra Powike." (8) The tradition appears to be a strong one but there is no contemporary or near-contemporary mention of it to bridge the gap of about 200 years until Leland's time.

(1) In the 6th.window of a set formerly in the west cloister of Worcester Cathedral was written "Wolstanus episcopus dedit Crowle, Batenhall, Pechely et ecclesiam de Duderhill acquisivit". Habington, ii, p.437. Thomas, Survey, p. 32.

(2) V.C.H. Worcs.ii, p. 31.

(3) Historical MSS. Comm. Reports, 5, App. p. 299.

(4) Godwin, p. 444. The remark is literally translated in the Latin edition of 1616 (p. 516).

(5) Anglia Sacra, i, p. 534.

(6) Thomas, p. 179. (7) Nash, Supplement, p. 51.

(8) Leland, Itinerary (2nd. ed. 1747) vol. 8 p.99 fo. IIIb. Only Green in his 'Antiquities of Worcester i, p.192 n. I, refers to Leland.

The same difficulties occur with regard to the Guesten Hall which still stands, though now roofless and much decayed, in what was once the outer court of the monastery. Money could not be found for its restoration in the last century and so its roof was removed to the new church of Holy Trinity, Shrub Hill, where it can still be seen, and the remains were left to endure the action of the elements. (1) Browne-Willis in his account of the greater abbeys (1718-19) noted that "Wulstan de Braunston (sic) Prior built the great Hall commonly called Gesten-Hall An. 1320". (2) Thomas tells us that this hall was built in 1320 and that, as the "Guesten Hall Court", it was the place where the tenants of the church of Worcester had to sue one another for amounts up to 40s. He adds "...it was disused a little before the Civil Wars, because the steward found it not worth while to continue it." (3) The same date is given in Lansdowne MS. 1233 where an entry, written in a late 17th century hand, runs as follows:- "William (sic) de Brunsford Prior built the Priors great hall or gesten hall, a.d. 1320." (4) Once again, though none of the above writers refers to Leland it is he who first mentions this tradition. (5)

It can only be said that at present, though there remains a distinct possibility that Wolstan de Bransford was connected with both these enterprises, there is no positive contemporary evidence to place the matter beyond doubt. (6) Meanwhile the prior's building prestige must rest upon the fact that in 1336, on Christmas Eve, he was granted a licence by Bp. Montacute for the rebuilding of a "casa sive domuncula" which stood in the cathedral cemetery and was used by the stonecutters employed by the sacristan. This had become ruinous and the bishop's licence was necessary for its reconstruction because it abutted on the wall of his court. (7)

- (1) Interesting details about the state of the building c. 1860 & of the happenings leading to its abandonment are to be found in *English Topography, Worcs.*, pp. 88-95.
- (2) *An History of the Mitred Parliamentary Abbies &c.* 2 vols. 1718-9 vol. 2, p. 262. He derived the information from his "kind friend Mr. Thomas Baker B.D. of St. John's College Cambridge; extracted from the collections of Dr. William Hopkins, late Prebend hereof".
- (3) Thomas, *Account*, p. 179. There is mention of a hall for guests in *Liber Albus*, 872 (1319).
- (4) Lansdowne MS. 1233, fo. 58 (formerly 70). I am indebted to the Assistant Keeper of the British Museum for details of this entry. In *V.C.H. Worcs.* iv, p. 395 n. 35, F.M. Stenton (assisted by Harold Brakspear on architectural matters) gives as his reference 'Prattinton Coll. (Soc. of Antiqu.) V. 45d. quoting Lansdowne MS. 1233 fo. 70', but he was sceptical as to the date 1320 on architectural grounds. Willis Bund in *V.C.H. Worcs.* ii, p. 31 (quoted above) is by no means so cautious.
- (5) See p. xiii n. 8.
- (6) The County Archivist informs me that he has not come across any information which invalidates this view.
- (7) *Reg. Montacute* i, fo. 29v: ii, fo. 22r. There is no mention of any renewal of the cemetery as stated in *V.C.H. Worcs.* ii, p. 104, the writer of which has misread the entry in the register.

ii. The prior as Official of the diocese 'sede vacante'.

The day after the death of Bp. Thomas de Cobham, that is on August 28th. 1327, the convent sent Simon Crompt and Richard de Glen, rector of Broadwas, to Archbishop Reynolds in order to secure his commission for the exercise of the powers of official in the Worcester diocese during the voidance of the see. (1) This had been the regular procedure in accordance with a composition arranged between the priory and Archbishop Boniface in 1268. (2) Prior Wolstan, however, as will be shown later, was elected to the bishopric, and so the powers of the official were committed to the sub-prior. (3) As the records of the Sede Vacante Register are deficient at this point we do not know the acts, if any, which were performed by the prior before the transference of the commission.

We have much more evidence of his activities during the vacancy from December 21 1338, the death of Thomas de Hemenhale, until his own consecration on March 21st. 1339. Simon Crompt and William de Bergeveneye informed the king of the death of Bishop Thomas and the archbishop- John Stratford- was asked to appoint the prior as administrator of the spiritualities. (4) John de Muchelneye, general proctor of the convent, was deputed to secure the confirmation of this jurisdiction by the Holy See. (5) The official of the Court of Canterbury, in the absence of the archbishop, granted the prior's request in his letters of December 29th. (6)

The prior, however, was acting even before this confirmation. On the 26th. he appointed Hugh de Groete as apparitor in the deanery of Pershore at the instance of his 'special friend' Peter de Groete. (7) Many other letters were despatched bearing the same date. The prior requested the vicar of Badgeworth to continue to exercise the office of dean of Winchcombe; the dean of Kidderminster to sequester the goods of the late rector. (8) He instructed the official of the archdeacon of Worcester, because of a complaint from the convent of Studley, to cite the perpetual vicar of 'Cokton' (i.e. Coughton) to return to his vicarage within a month and to show reason why he should not be removed. (9) He put in hand the process of visitation by warning the sub-prior and chapter of his intention to visit Worcester Priory and the clergy and people of the city on the following Wednesday (Dec. 30th.). He likewise ordered the dean of Worcester to summon the clergy and laity to appear before him in the cathedral on the Thursday; and the dean of Powick to prepare for a similar visitation two days afterwards. (10)

(1) Concilia, ii, pp. 537-8.

(2) Printed in Churchill ii, pp. 59-61 from MS. Lambeth 1212, dated Worcester 8 Sept. 1268.

(3) R.S.V. p. 190.

(4) Ibid. p. 257.

(5) Ibid.

(6) Ibid. p. 264.

(7) Ibid. p. 257.

(8) Ibid.

(9) Ibid. p. 258.

(10) Ibid. p. 257.

At a later date, January 2nd. 1339, intimation of an intended visitation was sent to the official of the archdeacon of Gloucester, who was instructed to cite the people of the deaneries of Gloucester, Cirencester and Fairford, Stonehouse, Hawkesbury and Bitton, Bristol and Dursley, to appear, together with the clergy, at various specified places between January 13th. and 21st. (1) A similar intimation was sent to the dean of Kidderminster informing him of the prior's intention to visit the deanery on the 29th. and 30th. (2) The dean of Pershore was summoned to appear with the clergy and representatives of the laity of his deanery in the church of S. Andrew on the 12th. (3)

The visitation duly proceeded, the prior visiting the chapter at Worcester and the deaneries of Powick and Worcester in person, while leaving the rest of the diocese to his commissaries the sub-prior (Nicholas Morice), Robert de Clifton the precentor, Simon Crompt the sacristan, and John de Westbury, monks of Worcester. (4) Subsequently the sub-prior, acting as the prior's official, enjoined the dean of Worcester to summon certain persons to receive punishments in the cathedral church. (5) Others from the deanery of (Droit)wich were likewise summoned to appear in the church of S. Augustine, Dodderhill, for corrections and the exhibition of such documents as they had omitted to produce at the time of visitation. (6) The nuns of Wroxall were admonished to pay closer attention to the Rule of St. Benedict in a letter which showed detailed knowledge of their misdemeanours. (7) Thomas de Blourton, vicar of S. Thomas's church, Great Malvern, for not having returned to his benefice as enjoined, had sentence of deprivation pronounced against him by the sub-prior and Thomas Aleyn was instituted in his stead. (8)

Apart from such spiritual matters there was also the secular role of tax collecting. A royal writ demanded information from the prior as to the amount of wool, granted by the late bishop and the clergy of the diocese, which had been collected. Wolstan could make nothing of the matter, so a further writ was sent with details of those religious houses which owed wool. (9)

On January 4th., however, Prior Wolstan had once again been elected to the bishopric. (10)

(1) R.S.V. p. 264.

(2) Ibid. p. 261.

(3) Ibid. p. 263.

(4) Ibid. pp. 272 sqq., 265.

(5) Ibid. pp. 258-9.

(6) Ibid. p. 260.

(7) Ibid. pp. 275-7.

(8) Ibid. pp. 262, 263-4. In fact the visitation was somewhat more than 'the usual sede vacante formality, which cost little trouble and brought in rich fees.' Coulton, *Medieval Panorama*, p. 749 (Writing of the diocese of Worc. at the time of the Black Death.).

(9) R.S.V. pp. 261-2.

(10) See below.

The disputed succession to the bishopric of Worcester. (xvii)

It was Wolstan de Bransford's misfortune and, there can be little doubt, that of the diocese of Worcester also, that the chapter was unable to count on any freedom of election to the episcopate. Willis Bund in his introduction to the Worcester Sede Vacante Register listed 19 bishops occupying the see between 1301 and 1435, of whom only four, Walter Reynolds, Wolstan de Bransford, Philip Morgan and Thomas Bourchier were chosen by the chapter. Of these, Reynolds was a royal suggestion, while Bourchier was also a nominee of the Crown. (1) Thus Wolstan's election was unique over a long period of Worcester's episcopal history. In Wharton's words: 'Tandem aliquando post continuam 7 Episcoporum a Papa provisorum successionem Monachi Wigornenses Episcopum a semetipsis electum acceperunt, Wolstanum sc(ilicet) priorem suum.' (2)

Before proceeding to describe the election to the bishopric of Worcester in 1327 it may be useful to glance at the political situation at that time. Orleton, bishop of Hereford, was a prominent supporter of Mortimer and Isabella who, in the first few years of his nominal reign, kept the young king, Edward III, in 'leading-strings'. (3) He held the office of Treasurer from January 28 until March 25 1327 when he went on a mission to Avignon and there secured Pope John xxii's support for his translation from Hereford to Worcester. In the words of Tout, "Orleton's eager quest of personal advancement soon brought him into conflict with the court, which for a time lost in him a strong partisan." (4) It would seem that Orleton, despite his strong Mortimer connection, sacrificed political advancement—at least for the time being—in favour of ecclesiastical promotion. The latter he secured from the Pope who between 1316 and 1334 reserved no less than 18 appointments to English bishoprics. (5) As we shall see, Orleton's personal policy provoked the strongest opposition from his former friends, the real rulers of England. (6)

On August 27th. 1327 Thomas de Cobham, bishop of Worcester, died. Four days later the convent's proctors Robert de Clifton(7) the cathedral precentor, and Thomas de Evesham, received the royal congé d'élire. Signification of royal assent to the election of Wolstan de Bransford, bearing the date September 8, was sent to Archbishop Reynolds. (8) Announcement of the

(1) Willis Bund, op. cit. pp.xi-xii. A.H. Thompson, English Clergy, p. 20.

(2) Anglia Sacra, i, p. 534.

(3) This is the conclusion of Tout who has given the most complete account of the government of Isabella & Mortimer in his 'Chapters', iii, pp. I-30.

(4) Op. cit. pp. I6-I7.

(5) Stubbs, iii, pp. 312-13.

(6) Stubbs (ii, pp. 366-73) gives a useful account of parties & policies during this early period of Edward III's reign, though here and there his statements should be modified by those of Tout (v. note 3).

(7) Wrongly given as 'Oliston' in C.P.R. (v. note 8).

(8) Concilia, ii pp. 537-8. C.P.R. 1327-30, pp. 159, 164.

(xviii)
archbishop's act of confirmation was made on October 3rd. in the parish church of Chartham (Kent), and letters bearing the same date were sent to inform chapter, clergy and king of the fact. No mandate for livery of the spiritualities is given in the Canterbury register but the bishop elect and confirmed certainly exercised both spiritual and temporal jurisdiction in the diocese. (1)

Even before the confirmation the Court party was busying itself in the interests of Wolstan. (2) On September 6th. a royal letter was sent from Nottingham to the Pope strongly urging that the choice of the chapter should be confirmed and no plea of prior provision put forward. Another in the same strain was sent to the cardinals and to Andrew Sapiti the royal proctor at the Curia. (3) All this was in vain, for on September 28th. Pope John XXII translated Adam de Orleton to the richer see of Worcester. (4)

None the less, on October 8th., William Trussell, eschaetor south of the Trent, was ordered to deliver the temporalities to Wolstan de Bransford. A similar mandate was sent to William de Leycestre and John de Hampton the administrators, and a writ 'de intendendo' to the tenants of the see. (5) On the same day the bishop elect was asked by the king to provide John de Crokford, royal chaplain, with a yearly pension on account of his elevation. (6) Arrangements were set on foot for the consecration, and Augustine de Waleys, king's clerk, the purveyor of necessaries for this function, was granted a writ of aid on the 16th. (7)

The king pressed the archbishop to proceed with the consecration but he persistently refused. (8) On October 29th.

- (1) Churchill, i, p.253. Liber Albus pp.234-5. The latter refers to a letter sent by Orleton when bishop of Worc. in which he assured the monks that, although Wolstan had exercised episcopal jurisdiction, it was lawful for them to receive him back as prior.
- (2) The nominal king, Edward III, only reached his 15th. birthday on Nov. 13th. 1327. That he was under tutelage should be remembered when the word 'king' is used in the following
- (3) Foedera iv, pp. 308-9. (account.)
- (4) C.P.L. 1305-42, p.263. Reg.Orleton, ii, ff. Ir.-3v. In the latter are the full texts of the apostolic letters for Orleton, the king, the archbp., the clergy & people of the diocese, & the vassals of the church of Worcester.
- (5) C.P.R. 1327-30, p. 179. (6) C.C.R. 1327-30, p. 228.
- (7) C.P.R. 1327-30, p. 182: Foedera, iv, pp. 314-5. "Cum venerabilis Pater W. Wygorniensis Electus, confirmatus, mittat, dilectum Clericum nostrum, Augustinum le Waleys, ac alios sibi servientes, ad diversas partes Regni nostri, pro Grossis Animalibus, et aliis Rebus diversis, pro Expensis, in instantibus Consecrationis ejusdem Electi, inde faciendis, pro Denariis suis emendis et providendis: vobis mandamus (&c.)..".
- (8) Foedera, iv, pp. 324-5. "...munus Consecracionis impendere voluntarie recusavit, quamquam super hoc fuisset cum debita instantia requisitus, et sollicitatus pluries ex parte nostra."

he wrote warning him not to attempt anything concerning the bishopric of Worcester to the prejudice of the Crown by virtue of any orders directed to him, since he had already accepted the election of the new bishop, taken his fealty, and restored to him the temporalities. It had come to his notice that certain orders were to be delivered to the archbishop which were prejudicial to the king's right and injurious to the law and custom of the realm. Similar letters were sent to the bishop elect, to the sub-prior of Worcester, and to the archdeacons of Worcester and Gloucester. (1) The archbishop was saved from this predicament by his timely death on November 16th. (2)

The day after Reynolds' death the king wrote to the prior and convent of Canterbury reciting the difficulties which he had encountered and urging them as keepers of the spiritualities to cite the suffragans of the province for the consecration of Wolstan 'absque ulterioris dilationis incommodo'. (3)

Nothing was done, however, and on December 12th. Edward wrote to Orleton in the strongest terms, warning him not to attempt anything to the injury of the Crown and expressing his displeasure that Orleton had secured the collation to Worcester. (4) Similar letters were sent to the Constable of Dover Castle, to the Warden of the Cinque Ports, and to the bailiffs of Canterbury: any bearing Papal letters to the derogation of the king were to be seized. (5) On the 26th. the king expressly prohibited Orleton from publishing any letters relating to reservation or provision. He was summoned to appear before Parliament at York on the Sunday after the Purification (Feb. 7th. 1328). (6) A similar summons was sent to the bishop elect, and the king wrote to him on January 1st. with a warning that he should do nothing to the prejudice of the king's rights or in derogation of his own election, on whatsoever pretext, until the matter had been decided at York. (7)

Whatever happened at York (8) it made no difference to Orleton. By March the struggle was over. On the 1st. of that month Adam de Herwynton was ordered to resume possession of the (9) temporalities, and on the following day to deliver them to Orleton. On the 5th. he wrote to the archdeacons of the diocese and to the chapter ordering them to obey Orleton, notwithstanding his former

(1) C.C.R. 1327-30, p. 235.

(2) *Anglia Sacra*, i, p. 117. He had not played too happy a part in the deposition of Edward II & Toub (*P.H.E.* iii, p. 302) wrote of 'the time-serving cowardice of Reynolds' in that connection.

(3) *Foedera*, iv, pp. 324-5. C.C.R. 1327-30, pp. 238-9.

(4) *Foedera*, iv, pp. 329, 330. C.C.R. 1327-30, p. 239. "Scientes pro certo quod dissimulare non intendimus, quin Violatores jurium Coronae nostrae, prout ad hoc ex vinculo juramenti astringimur, puniri modo debito faciemus.." (*Foed.*, iv, p. 330).

(5) *Ibid.* (6) C.C.R. 1327-30, p. 239. *Foedera*, iv, p. 331.

(7) C.C.R. 1327-30, p. 244.

(8) There do not seem to be any records of this Parliament. See: *Rotuli Parliamentorum*, Camden Soc., vol. LI, p. xxxi.

(9) C.P.R. 1327-30, p. 245. *Reg. Orleton*, ii, fo. 4r. & 4v.

instructions to the contrary. (1) The new bishop wrote to the Pope telling him of his reconciliation to the king and John XXII in reply urged him to gain Edward's good will.(2)

The chapter's election and the government's wish had alike been flouted. The would-be bishop returned to his priory and to the office of prior.

The new occupant of the see was not to remain long for Simon Mepham, the archbishop of Canterbury, died on October 12th. 1333 and the rich prize of Winchester fell vacant with the translation of John de Stratford to the primatial see. (3) Edward III had other ideas for Winchester but Orleton, his ambitions set on further advancement in the hierarchy, had the Pope on his side once again. John XXII duly appointed him to Winchester in December (4) and on May 28th. 1334 he was informed that he need not appear at the Curia on business connected with his translation; but it was not until September 23rd. that he secured the temporalities of his new see.(5) In December 1333 Simon de Montacute, archdeacon of Canterbury, had been provided to Worcester.(6) On the 15th. a special bull was issued for his consecration, and this took place at Thame on May 8th. 1334.(7) On March 15th. the temporalities had been restored,(8) and four days previously Wolstan de Bransford had been appointed vicar-general during the bishop's absence. (9)

Simon de Montacute was to stay at Worcester for an even shorter time than his predecessor. The see of Norwich fell vacant in 1336 and the monks proceeded 'per viam compromissi' to elect one of their number, Thomas de Hemenhale. They appear to have acted without royal licence, and what is more, their nominee set off post-haste for the Curia to secure confirmation

(1) C.C.R. 1327-30, p.376.

(2) C.P.L. 1305-42, p.488.

(3) *Anglia Sacra* i, p. II8. The bull appointing Stratford in C.P.L. 1305-42, p. 512 is dated 6 Ides (8th) Dec. Le Neve (p. 6) states that he was postulated Nov. 3rd.

(4) C.P.L. 1305-42, p. 512 gives the date 6 Ides (8th) Dec. Le Neve (p. 286), Thomas (Account) p. 172, Godwin (1616) p. 283, give Dec. 1st.

(5) C.P.L. 1305-42, p. 334. C.P.R. 1334-38 p. 21. Of Orleton Wharton (*A.S.* i, pp. 533-4) wrote that he was the first bishop, excepting Stigand and Richard Poor, who was translated from a second to a third bishopric. "Unde versificator quidam illius temporis hoc illi tristichon posuit:-

Trinus erat Adam; talem suspendere vadam Ex archivis
Thomas despexit, Wlstanus non bene rexit. de Castri
Swithinum maluit. Cur? quia plus valuit." de Belvoir.

(6) In C.P.L. 1305-42, p. 512 the date of the bull is 2 Non.(4th) Dec. In Reg. Montacute i, fo. I1r. there is a bull dated iii Ides (11th) Dec.(Printed in Thomas, App. 95 pp. 109-10.)

(7) Thomas, App. 96 p. III. Reg. Montacute i, ff. 6v, I1r, I3r.

(8) C.P.R. 1330-34, p. 526.

(9) Reg. Montacute i, fo. Ir.

of his election (1). Thomas de Hemenhale was disappointed in his expectations so far as Norwich was concerned, for the Pope, Benedict XII, made him resign and provided Anthony, dean of Lincoln, to the then vacant see.(2) A further vacancy at Ely enabled the Pope to provide for everyone. Simon de Montacute, at the king's wish, was translated to the greater eminence of Ely, and Hemenhale was provided to Worcester.(3) All three bulls were dated March 14th. 1337. The new bishop of Worcester, after his consecration at Avignon, set out with a Papal mandate for the possession of his see.(4) The temporalities were released on July 25th.(5) A difficult situation had been resolved to the benefit of all concerned, but to the detriment of the rights of the chapter and of the prior claim of Wolstan for consideration.

During his absence Thomas de Hemenhale appointed Wolstan de Bransford, Stephen de Kettlebury and Andrew de Offord as his vicars-general. These were empowered to act 'coniunctim vel divisim' and a number of folios at the beginning of Hemenhale's register show the activities of Prior Wolstan by virtue of this commission.(6) On the same day that the temporalities of the bishopric were restored to him (July 25th) Thomas de Hemenhale renounced, in a chamber of the Tower, all such words of the bull which might be prejudicial to the king.(7) He seems to have arrived in his diocese during the first fortnight of September. Fifteen months later, on December 21st. 1338, he died. (8)

The news of his death was carried by Simon Crompt and William de Bergeveney to Windsor where, seven days later, on the 28th, the king issued his *congé d'élire*. The prior and chapter, after burying their former bishop in the cathedral church on the feast of St. John the Apostle (Dec. 27th), met on the Sunday after the 'Circumcisio Domini' (Jan. 3rd.) to decide on a date for the election of his successor. (9) Robert de Clifton was appointed

- (1) Foedera iv, p. 714. "Assensu nostro Regio non optento, ad Sedem Apostolicam se transulerit, Confirmationem Electionis, de se factae, ut dicitur, petiturus, in dicti Juris nostri praejudicium manifestum." (Oct. 28 1336)
- (2) Foedera iv, p. 732.
- (3) Ibid. pp. 733, 744. The king thanked the Pope for his promotion of Montacute "... ad Eminentiore[m], Elinensem, videlicet, ecclesiam misericorditer transulistis, vestrae Munificentiae grates et gratias referimus cordiales..."(p. 744)
- (4) C.P.L. 1305-42, pp. 540, 541, 542. The bull for Hemenhale is in Foedera iv, p. 733.
- (5) C.P.R. 1334-38, p. 473.
- (6) Reg. Hemenhale fo. 6r.- 6v. Avignon Apr. 3rd. 1337.
- (7) P.R.O. Lists & Indexes, Papal Bulls. An annexed notarial instrument, dated July 25 1337, gives these details. The oath was, of course, part of the usual procedure in such cases.
- (8) Reg. Hemenhale fo. 10r. R.S.V. pp. 256-7.
- (9) R.S.V. p. 259.

to admonish all excommunicated and other unqualified persons to take no part in the proceedings, and the following day, Monday January 4th, was chosen for the election. (I)

On that day the convent duly proceeded according to canonical form. After the 'Sermo' and 'Missa de Spiritu Sancto' the reading of the constitution 'Quia Propter' (2) took place. The monks then decided to elect 'per viam compromissi'. According to the Sede Vacante Register they chose three of their number, A. de B., E. de C., and O. de N., as compromisers. (3) Yet Henry Fouke, a monk of Worcester, in a letter to Orleton, then bishop of Winchester, states that after the death and burial of their bishop the convent proceeded 'de consilio magistri Thome de Astleye' to conduct the election 'per viam simplicis compromissi' and chose as compromisers, Simon Crompt, John of Evesham, John of Westbury, Robert of Weston, and Nicholas de Stanlak. These elected their prior, Wolstan, as bishop, 'nullo penitus reclamante vel contradicente die octavarum Sanctorum Innocentium' (Jan. 4th.). This divergence is indeed puzzling as the accounts seem to agree on the date, the form chosen for the election, the elected person, but on nothing else. (4)

On the 16th. of January the king formally signified to the archbishop's vicar-general, the bishop of Chichester, that he had assented to the election. (5) On the 19th. the latter ordered the citation of all opponents to the election to be made by the archdeacon of Worcester. Any such were to appear on the next law day after the feast of S. Scholastica (Feb. 10) in the parish church of Maidstone. (6) The election was probably confirmed on February 16th. as the earliest commissions of the bishop 'electus, confirmatus' were issued bearing that date. (7) The temporalities were restored on the 17th. (8) and on Palm Sunday (March 21) Wolstan de Bransford was duly consecrated by the bishop of Chichester in Canterbury cathedral. (9) A week later on Easter Day, he was enthroned in the cathedral church of Worcester by Bernard Sistre, the archdeacon of Canterbury, who claimed that he performed this function 'iure suo' and not by reason of the commission sent by the vicar-general. (10)

- (I) R.S.V. p. 267 sqq. (2) Decret. Gregor. ix: i, vi, 42.
 (3) I can only identify 'A. de B.'; probably Alexander de Brerhulle listed among the monks in 1317 (Liber Albus p. 163), & mentioned in R.S.V. p. 265 (inter alia) as sub-prior.
 (4) R.S.V. p. 267 sqq. Catalogue of MSS. p. 180 App. F. 141 (W.H.S.).
 (5) C.P.R. 1338-40, p. 175. Robert Stratford was bp. of Chich. (1337-62).
 (6) R.S.V. pp. 259-60.
 (7) Reg. Bransf. fo. 1r. Thomas (Account) p. 176 sqq. gives March 20th. as the date of confirmation & others have copied this statement.
 (8) C.P.R. 1338-40, p. 203.
 (9) Reg. Bransf. 21.
 (10) Ibid. 24.

Thus was Wolstan de Bransford duly consecrated 12 years, save but a few months, after his initial election. Some indeed have written that he was elected three times, or even four, but in no case have the references to documents been given. (1) The Liber Albus might well have provided us with a clue, covering as it does the whole of the priorate of Wolstan, but, in so far as can be gathered from the published portions, it mentions only the 1327 election. The Sede Vacante Register has a single entry (2) pertaining to the 1327 vacancy but otherwise mentions only the 1339 election. Moreover, there is no trace of a royal *congé d'elire* in the published Calendar of Patent Rolls for either the 1333-4 vacancy or that of 1337. What is more, both vacancies were the result of translations, and in 1328 John XXII had announced his intention of reserving all such appointments. (3)

Thomas, who wrote with a careful eye on his documentary sources, makes no mention of additional elections, nor does Green in his 'Antiquities of Worcester' (1796). Wharton in the *Anglia Sacra* is equally reticent. In fact, an account in the *Liber Ecclesie Wygorniensis*, in which an unknown writer urges the archbishop to confirm the election of Wolstan made after the death of Hemenhale, seems to be positive evidence that he was the chapter's choice on but two occasions, as we are led to believe from other sources. He is a prolix correspondent, but the main body of his plea seems to be contained in the following extract.

"Iste inquam Wlstanus quem alias Wygornienſe capitulum ad officium preſulatus elegit velut inter eos magis idoneum, et metropolitanus qui tunc fuerat confirmavit ut dignum. Iste etiam quem idem capitulum ex communi et concordia ſententia elegit nunc iterum et huic miſit iterum confirmandum, ut ergo, pater et domine reverende, quod factum ſic unanimiter ſicque concorditer extitit ſtabile ſit et firmum, ipſius noſtri capituli confirma ſententiam et confirmationis veſtre ſcribe decretum. (4)

The important words for our purpose are 'nunc iterum'; surely had there been other occasions so verbose a letter writer could not have refrained from quoting them in support of his argument.

(1) V.C.H. Worcs. ii, p. 31 (Willis Bund), 'his fourth election': Harvey Bloom, *Liber Ecclesie Wyg.*, Intro. p. x 'twice before elected bishop': Wilson, *Liber Albus* (Cal.), Intro. p. xv 'three times': Willis Bund, R.S.V., Intro. p. xii, 'three several occasions elected....'.

(2) R.S.V. p. 190.

(3) Stubbs iii, p. 313 (quoting Wilkins, *Concilia* ii, p. 546). This policy was continued by Benedict XII (*Ad regimen* (1335). *Extrav. Commun.* III, ii, 13.) and put forward at the time of Hemenhale's provision to Worcester (*Foedera* iv, p. 733):

"..nullus praeter nos, de ordinatione ipsius ecclesiae Wygorniensis, se ea vice intromittere poterat, pro eo quod Nos diu, ante hujusmodi vacationem ejusdem ecclesiae Wigorniensis, Provisiones omnium Ecclesiarum Cathedralium, per translationes quorumlibet praelatorum ipsarum, ubicumque existentium, per Nos factas tunc, et imposterum faciendas, ad alias ecclesias Cathedrales, tunc vacantes, et inantea vacaturas, dispositioni nostrae duximus reservandas..."

(4) *Liber Ecclesie Wygorniensis* (W.H.S.) p. 55 sqq.

There seems, in fact, no reasonable doubt but that Wolstan de Bransford was elected only in 1327 and 1339 and that between those dates the chapter did not have an election at all - or if it did, it must have been a mere formal acceptance of the papal nominee. (1)

Wolstan de Bransford as bishop (1339-49).

Non-residence has for long been recognised, and rightly so, as one of the greatest evils of the church of the later Middle Ages; ~~An~~ evil, moreover, against which its legislators fulminated in vain. (2) Dioceses deprived of their pastors might be administered well enough by a vicar-general and the purely sacramental functions of the episcopal office performed by suffragan bishops 'in partibus'. The register of a mediaeval bishop appears much the same whether he was absent or working personally in his diocese. A register, however, is a collection of objective documents which leave out of account the personal element. The increased use of proxies for spiritual offices was a marked indication of the growing secularisation of the church, a process which, so far as the diocese of Worcester is concerned, culminated in that period before the Reformation when for forty years, by the connivance of king and Pope, the see was held by non-resident Italians. (3) It was about the same time that the aged Fox, retiring at last to the see of Winchester and bemoaning his 30 years as a royal servant, wrote: "Though I should live 20 years longer than I do, I could not make sufficient recompense thereof.." (4) Wolsey too, stripped of the worldly dignities he had so loved and arriving too late at the border of his neglected see of York, is said to have remarked shortly before his death: "..but if I had served God as dyligently as I have don the Kyng, he wold not have gevyn me over in my grey heares. Howbeit this is the just reward that I must recyve for my worldly dyligence.. not regardyng my godly dewtye." There could be no more poignant reminder of the need for a resident non-secularised episcopate. (5)

It is against such a background of 'godly dewtye' that the career of Wolstan de Bransford as bishop of Worcester must be set. An aged and ailing man when he at last received his overdue promotion he was yet alive to his duties and performed them with a zeal which can hardly have had other than a salutary effect upon his diocese. He was a local man, as prior he had learnt much of the intricacies of diocesan administration, he had in fact received valuable training for his new position. In him the diocese had a resident pastor who, after his consecration,

- (1) Unfortunately there is a gap in the Canterbury registers between 1327 & 1349 (Churchill i, p. 257). Montacute described himself as 'electus et confirmatus' but this perhaps referred to Papal choice & confirmation. Metropolitan confirmation was superseded by Papal provision.*
- (2) For instance Othobon, ti. 21 De Residentia Archiepiscoporum et Episcoporum (Lyndwood, p. II8 sqq.).
- (3) See Creighton, Historical Essays & Reviews (1902) p. 202 sqq.
- (4) Letters & Papers of Henry VIII, 3, 2207.
- (5) Cavendish, Life of Cardinal Wolsey (Alcuin Press 1930) p.181.

* See Appendix II. Additional Notes.

very rarely- possibly only on one occasion- left its confines.(I)

How far his ministrations benefited the diocese we shall never know: such things cannot be calculated. Yet of his diligence there can be no doubt. In those days the tenderness of a father in God exercising his 'officium pastorale' might often be overshadowed by the severity of the 'iudex ordinarius', the gentle voice of pious exhortation by the strong hand of the administrator. It is a pity that the register is only concerned with the formal aspects of the bishop's ministry. (2)

Even allowing for some mediaeval exaggeration and for the not uncommon disinclination to undertake tedious journeys to London, Wolstan's health must have been far from good at the time of his tardy promotion. In 1340 the king excused him from attendance at parliaments and councils for as long as he was impeded by his infirmities and in consideration of his promise personally to celebrate the anniversary of Edward II in the abbey of S. Peter, Gloucester, so long as he was able.(3) Two years later this exemption was renewed.(4) In 1346 Wolstan's proctor pleaded that the bishop's infirmities made it impossible for him to attend the council summoned to meet at St. Paul's. (5) Yet, despite such handicaps, we find him making his primary visitation during the winter of 1339-40. It was a thorough progress which included every deanery subject to his jurisdiction in both archdeaconries. (6)

It is evident also that Wolstan was not content to carry out ordinations in the chapels of his manor houses, as many bishops from motives of convenience were content to do.(7) It was only during the closing stages of his life, when no doubt his ailments were gaining the upper hand, that he was forced to confine them to the chapel of his castle-manor of Hartlebury. There is no evidence that any ordination was not celebrated by the bishop himself, and the number of those ordained during his episcopate was certainly not less than three thousand. (8)

- (I) He was at the council held October 1342 in St. Paul's, but from dates in his register he could not have been there long. V. Lyndwood, Const. Prov.p.43: Reg.Bransf. 58I, IO44.
- (2) According to the legate Otto, a bishop should watch over his flock, set an example, celebrate Masses in his Cathedral church, perambulate his diocese correcting, reforming & consecrating churches, and sow the word of life in the Lord's field. Lyndwood, Const.Leg. D. Othonis, tit. De officio archiepiscopi et episcopi, (pp. 55-6).
- (3) Foedera v, p. 191: C.P.R. 1338-40, p.546. "tanta Debilitate & Infirmitate corporis sui detinetur, quod absque gravi Dampno & Corporis sui periculo non potest commode laborare, ut accepimus." (Foedera, loc. cit.).Edward II was murdered 21st.Sept. 1327. How far Wolstan was able to carry out his obligation is not made evident by his register.
- (4) Foedera v, p. 310: C.P.R. 1340-43, p.431. "...tantae Aetatis & sui ipsius tam impotens existat (&c.)..."
- (5) Reg. Bransf. 780. (6) See Appendices 3-6.
- (7) V. English Clergy, p. 202 sqq. for details of 15th & 16th century practice.
- (8) See Appendix 8 and the figures for other bishops in Thomas (tabled by Stubbs, iii, p.366).

Every resident mediaeval bishop was to a greater or lesser extent peripatetic. It was indeed domestic economy rather than pastoral zeal which forced him to move from manor to manor. None the less this fact did mean that many parts of the diocese were seen by the bishop and that without the levying of procurations which made him an expensive guest at times of official visitation. Wolstan de Bransford was most often at Hartlebury, the traditional seat of the Worcester bishops. Yet, because this manor was situated in the north-west corner of the diocese, it is not surprising that we find him staying frequently at Withington near Cheltenham, a very suitable central point for administrative purposes.(1) He was also often at his manors of Bredon and Alvechurch, at Blockley, and less regularly at Kempsey and elsewhere. When in the southernmost part of the Gloucester archdeaconry he stayed at his manor of Henbury in Salt Marsh within easy reach of Bristol. (2)

Wolstan's episcopate was a busy one, a fact to which his bulky register bears ample witness. The time was one of much change. Chantry foundations were increasing in number, religious houses were anxious to restore their financial position, or to establish it, by appropriating churches, while to safeguard the interests of their parishioners portions with definite rights were set aside for the consequent vicars. All this increased the burden of administration. No less than twelve new chantry foundations are recorded in the register, as well as seven ordinations of vicarages, and details of the appropriation of (3) seven churches to religious houses and one to a chantry foundation.

The return of royal writs must also have been an onerous duty, showing the importance of the bishop as an executive- in the ecclesiastical sphere- of the central administration. There are forty folios of such writs in Wolstan's register; that is, between a quarter and a fifth of it. These writs were received by the bishop in all parts of his diocese, sometimes taking such a long time to reach him that they are marked as having arrived too late for execution.

Moreover, as bishop, Wolstan still had to cope with the litigation which had troubled him as prior. This time his struggle with the king for the right of presentation to the church of Tredington was a prominent issue. The king claimed that the right to present to this church, which had been in the patronage of the bishops of Worcester, had devolved on himself by reason of the vacancy of the see. In the 1327-8 vacancy he had first presented M. Henry de Clyf, one of his clerks.(4) Later in January 1328, he confirmed the collation of the benefice by Wolstan to his nominee.(5) Perhaps Henry de Clyf was not anxious to secure such a doubtful benefit for he did not pursue the matter and the king later revoked his presentation &, in March

(1) In Reg. Bransf. 18 nearby Winchcombe is described as 1328, "in medio dicte diocesis".

(2) To be distinguished from his similarly named manor of Hanbury (iuxta Wych) in Worcs.

(3) Some other entries date from earlier times. See pp. xl, xli.

(4) C.P.R. 1327-30, p.232, Oct. 5 1327.

(5) Ibid. p.205, Jan. 22 1328

presented Adam de Herwynton in his stead. (I) In 1339, during the Hemenhale-Bransford vacancy, the king again presented to Tredington, this time John de Charnelles. (2) He was still claiming the right in 1344 when he presented Thomas de Baddeby, another of his clerks. (3) Wolstan fought the case in the courts but the justices of the King's Bench decided in favour of the king. (4) Final victory was not to be Edward's, however, for the Pope had meanwhile provided Thomas Dunclent to the benefice and his adherents had every intention, so it was rumoured, of taking the church by force of arms, trusting to maintain themselves there by appeals to the Pope. (5) The matter dragged on undecided, the king issuing various commissions for the arrest of the supporters of Thomas Dunclent and waxing indignant when in 1347 he heard of an intention to induct him. (6) In June of that year the sheriff of Worcester, Peter de Greete, was commanded to go in person to Tredington where the supporters of the Papal candidate were said to be considering the spoliation of the church and the carrying away of the tithes and other collected profits by means of an armed attack. The sheriff was ordered to make public proclamation against such as were contemplating this breach of the peace and of the Statute of Northampton. His admonitions had little effect; for the evil doers duly arrived, carried off the fruits and profits by force of arms, and consumed them. As a result the sheriff was instructed to attach the bodies of all such as had entered the houses belonging to the church and to lodge them in the Tower. (7) In the event the Pope was to prove too strong for the king and the latter was forced to revoke his presentation of Thomas de Baddeby and to ratify the estate of Thomas Dunclent as parson. (8) In August 1348 all those concerned in the disturbances were pardoned. (9) In the same year Thomas Dunclent secured a Papal indulgent permitting him to stay at a university for three years, excusing him from residence in his newly won benefice and from the obligation of being ordained to the order of deacon or priest. (10) According to Nash the bishops of Worcester did not manage to collate to this benefice until Bouchier in 1436 presented John Mackworth. (II)

(I) C.P.R. 1327-30, p. 347. Mar. 15 1328.

(2) Ibid. 1338-40, p. 175. Jan. 4 1339.

(3) Ibid. 1343-45, p. 349. Sept. II 1344. Reg. Bransf. 1214.

(4) Ibid. 1343-45, p. 419. Oct. 14 1344. Reg. Bransf. 1215.

(5) Ibid. 1343-45, pp. 419, 589.

(6) Ibid. 1345-48, pp. 171, 313, 322.

(7) Ibid. p. 383.

(8) Ibid. p. 447.

(9) Ibid. 1348-50, p. 220.

(10) C.P.L. 1342-62, p. 301.

(II) Nash ii, p. 431 (Reg. Bouchier f. 33r.). In a list of confirmations by Papal authority in C.P.P. (p. 199) is recorded the acceptance of Tredington by Thomas Daclerc (sic).

The Tredington dispute may well throw some light upon two otherwise inexplicable entries in Rymer's Foedera. John Bodemon and Thomas Dunclent had brought a suit in the Papal Curia against Bishop Wolstan because of his alleged disobedience to the Holy See. On that account the bishop was summoned to make personal appearance at Avignon. Early in 1345 Edward III wrote to the Pope, Clement VI, pointing out that Wolstan was old and that if he answered such a summons he might well die on the way. He praised him highly, stating that "... inter alios Prelatos regni nostri Angliae, justus, pius, & honestus, ac Deo, et Sanctae Romanae Ecclesiae, Devotus & Obediens sit, & semper fuerit reputatus." (1) He also wrote to his proctors at the Curia with instructions to prosecute the case so as to avoid the personal attendance of Wolstan. (2) The time coincides with that of the Tredington dispute and it may well be that the events are connected, as the participation of Thomas Dunclent suggests. (3) Perhaps Thomas found the bishop lukewarm in support of his Papal provision, and the readiness of the king to come to Wolstan's support is not surprising in view of his own claims to the right of presentation to Tredington.

Of the reasons for John Bodemon's animosity we can find no trace, but in any case it was not the first time that Wolstan's actions had brought complaint at Avignon. On June 13th. 1341 he had deputed the prior of Worcester to receive Peter Fraunceys as a brother of the hospital of St. Wolstan. On the 18th this Peter Fraunceys was appointed to the preceptory of the hospital and was duly inducted on the same day. (4) The reason for the vacancy is not given in the register which plainly does not provide the whole story. In fact, a certain Robert de Merston had been dispossessed by Wolstan and he had subsequently ventilated his grievances at the Curia. The Pope commissioned the archbishop of Canterbury to enquire into the matter and to reinstate Robert if it was found that he had been unjustly despoiled of his preceptory. (5) We hear nothing further of the matter, however, and can only presume that the complaint came to nothing.

Less contentious, and looked upon with greater favour at Avignon, was Wolstan's interest in education. The Pope granted him a faculty to keep two of the monks of his old monastery at a university and to supply them with necessaries from his episcopal income, notwithstanding the fact that they were under the authority of the prior. (6) At the request of the bishop the abbots of Pershore and Winchcomb, and the prior of Lanthony, were to implement the Papal authority by choosing such monks as were likely to profit in the Schools so that they might bear good fruit in the church of Worcester. (7) It was Wolstan himself,

(1) Foedera, v, p. 438. Thomas, App. 100, p. 115.

(2) Foedera, v, pp. 438-9. Thomas, App. 101, p. 116.

(3) M. Thomas Dunclent B.C.L. seems to have had influential friends and there are a number of petitions on his behalf recorded in C.P.P. (pp. 6, 59, 65, 191).

(4) Reg. Bransf. 406, 408, 409.

(5) C.P.L. 1342-62, p. 70 Apr. 13, 1343.

(6) Ibid. p. 70, Jly. 22, 1343.

(7) Ibid. pp. 215-6, 31 Jly. 1345.

however, who on October 12th. 1345 chose John of Leominster in accordance with this Papal privilege. (I)

While Wolstan was thus occupied within his diocese momentous events were taking place in a wider sphere which were to have their effect throughout the realm. His episcopate commenced some 18 months after the first hostilities of the Hundred Years' War (2), and ended with the terrible scourge of the Black Death.

The chief effect of the Hundred Years' War upon the ecclesiastical population of the diocese, as no doubt upon the mass of its lay counterpart also, was that produced by the ever increasing demands for money to defray its cost. The triennial tenth of 1337(3) was followed by the grant of two annual tenths by the clergy.(4) In 1342 another tenth was conceded and the king sent William de Neuwynham to borrow money and to secure some anticipation of the dates arranged for the payment of the tenth. The bishop was unable to accede to these requests for the diocese as a whole, but he made concessions for his own part 'licet in hoc graviter onerati', and the abbots of Pershore and Evesham did likewise.(5) A further triennial tenth was granted in 1344 (6) and this was followed, in 1346, by the concession of a biennial tenth.(7) Moreover, in 1338, after the king's brief experiment in the establishment of monopolistic conditions for the sale of wool,(8) a moiety of that commodity had been demanded from the clergy (9), and this was followed, in 1347, by a loan of wool.(10) The burden was aggravated by demands for the procurations of the Papal nuncios, the collection of which was alternately permitted and forbidden by the king.(11) On one occasion the king planned to divert the procurations to his own use as a forced loan, a plan which Archbishop Stratford countered by suggesting the retention of a corresponding part of the tenth due for collection.(12) Wolstan himself was

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 828.
- (2) Early in November 1337 the English ravaged Cadzand, an island off the coast of Flanders. Cam. Med. Hist. vii, p. 345.
- (3) Stubbs, ii p. 379 note (quoting Wake p.287). There was some difficulty in collecting this money in the diocese. See Reg. Bransf. I7, I42, III8, II22, II25. The dean of Campden was cited before the bp's commissary for neglect in the collection of arrears. Ibid. 29.
- (4) The first was granted Oct. 1st. 1338. V. Reg.Bransf. III5,II23. The second in Feb. 1340. V. Reg.Bransf. II42: Cf. Stubbs, ii, p. 380 n. 2 & p. 381 n.4.
- (5) Reg.Bransf. I046-8. The clergy were summoned to S. Paul's to consider the king's difficulties (Oct. 9) & to a 'concilium provinciale'(Oct. 14). Ibid. I043-44: Stubbs, ii. p.392 n. I gives Oct. 5th. as the date of the southern convocation & quotes Knighton c.2582 as evidence of the grant of the tenth.
- (6) Convocation met May 31 1344. Reg. Bransf.I23I. Stubbs ii p.395
- (7) Oct. 16. Stubbs, ii p. 395 n.3. Reg. Bransf.I292,I298. (n. I.
- (8) See art. in History N.S. vol. xxxvii Feb. 1952 pp. 8-24.
- (9) Reg. Bransf. III5-I7, II23, II27. Stubbs, ii. p. 380.
- (10) Reg. Bransf. I290, Stubbs, ii. p. 397.
- (11) Reg. Bransf. I255, I29I, I322.
- (12) Ibid. 323, II40, II45, II46 (a.d. 1340). This is an interesting sidelight on the struggle between king & archbishop. The latter resigned the Great Seal in June 1340. Stubbs, ii. p.385 n. I. (quoting Avesbury).

expected to pay 100 marks in 1342 and a further 200 in 1346 by way of loan to the king.(1) In 1347 the lands of his bishopric were assessed for the payment of a feudal aid demanded by reason of the knighting of the Prince of Wales.(2)

There was also the spiritual aspect of the assistance given by the diocese to the king which is marked in the register by entries concerned with the prayers to be offered up for the success of his armies, for peace, or as thanksgiving for victory. Edward III sailed for France in July 1338 and a writ, dated August 13 and witnessed by his son, was sent to Bishop Wolstan requesting that Masses might be said, the word of God expounded, and devout processions, hymns, vigils, and other such 'pietatis opera' offered up with remembrance of the king.(3) The bishop received the news of the naval victory of Sluys (June 24 1340) at Blockley and he at once ordered Masses to be celebrated, processions made, prayers offered up, and other such works of charity to be performed throughout the diocese.(4) There are two copies in the register of a further writ asking for the prayers of the clergy prior to the royal departure for Brittany in 1342.(5) It is marginally described as a writ 'pro pace' and the archbishop (Stratford) granted 40 days' indulgence to those who, being truly penitent and after confession of their sins, assisted at the offering of Masses and prayers as requested by the king.(6) Other writs for prayers to be said for the favourable progress of the war were sent in June 1345 and August 1346.(7)

Thus it was by prayer and taxation that the diocese played its part in the Hundred Years' War. Very occasionally was it that the joyful victory processions brought momentary forgetfulness of the constant burden of the king's demands.

An even darker cloud was to overshadow Wolstan's closing years. Though the effect of the war upon the diocese may have been somewhat slow and insidious that of the Black Death was certainly catastrophic. To judge from the number of institutions the plague began to make itself felt in the diocese in October and November 1348. It was taking a fairly constant toll of incumbents between December 1348 and April 1349 and became really

- (1) Foedera v. pp. 346-7, 491.
- (2) C.C.R. 1346-49, p. 231. The aid was demanded in 1346 and Stubbs points out that this was contrary to the provisions of a statute of 1340 (ii, pp. 383, 395 n. 5).
- (3) Reg. Bransf. II31.
- (4) Ibid. II44. Printed in Thomas, App. 99, pp. II3-4.
- (5) Reg. Bransf. IO45, II71. He was absent from Oct. 4 1342 until Mar. 2 1343, when he made a truce for three years. Stubbs, ii, p. 392 n. I (quoting Foedera).
- (6) Reg. Bransf. IO45. The writ was included in a letter sent by the bishop of London on the authority of one received from Archbishop Stratford.
- (7) Ibid. I245, I270.

virulent between May and the bishop's death on August 6th. (1) The terrible mortality among the clergy during the last few months of the bishop's life has long been known on account of the carefully written folios of the second volume of the register with their lengthy record of institutions. (2) They, none the less, do not tell the whole story for they only record the institutions from March 16th. This, however, they do with commendable detail, giving the cause of a vacancy in almost every case; in marked contrast to the entries for the earlier part of the year, recorded in the first volume of the register, which are strangely reticent. (3) A general picture of the situation, though one which will require modification, can be viewed by means of the following table which shows the number of institutions to benefices in the first eight months of 1348 and 1349 respectively.

<u>Month.</u>	<u>1348</u>	<u>1349</u>
Jan.	3	14
Feb.	2	12
Mar.	1	15
Apr.	1	14
May	0	39
Jne.	2	46
Jly.	1	68
Aug.	1	13*
	<hr/> II <hr/>	<hr/> 221 <hr/>

* Aug. 1-6 only.

Such figures take no account of the causes of the vacancies. There were a number of resignations during 1349, about half of which can be accounted for by the fact that those resigning took other benefices, the process of exchange having been simplified by the number of deaths. Such cases- if both benefices were in the diocese of Worcester- involved two institutions instead of one and so distort the figures. There is no mention of any exchange between live incumbents in the second volume of the register.

Bearing these points in mind it is possible to provide detailed figures only for the months of April-August 1349. Such an analysis may help to show to what extent- if any- the clergy fled from their benefices, though only in so far as formal resignation can be taken as an indication of this. Even so, the evidence cannot be conclusive as we are sometimes left with the enigmatic 'vacantem' without further explanation. This more analytical table can be set down as follows:-

- (1) Between Jan. 1st. 1348 and Mar. 16th. 1349 death is mentioned only twice as the cause of a vacancy, though resignations & exchanges are regularly recorded. It is probable that most of such unexplained vacancies were in fact caused by deaths.
- (2) I know of no writer, however, who has given any precise and detailed information about these institutions.
- (3) The institutions in Vol. 2 are numbered 1377- 1567 in the edition.

I349	No. of institutions.	Reasons given for vacancy.			No. of those taking other benefices.	(xxxii)
		(Death.)	Resig.	None.)		
Apr.	14	13	0	1	0	
May.	39	30	4	5	2	
Jne.	46	37	2	6	1	
Jly.	68	53*	10	5	5	
Aug. (1st-6th.)	13	8	4	1**	4	
	<u>180</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	

* In no. 1516 the scribe omitted 'per mortem' though these words were obviously intended.

**The entry for Blockley describes the vicarage as 'creata de novo' (1564).

It will be seen from this that during the above 4¼ months 8 vacancies, that is less than 5% of the total number, were caused by those who resigned without taking up other benefices, and that a further 18 - or 10% - were left unexplained, while over 78% were brought about by the death in harness of the former incumbents. This story of death and desolation so inadequately told in terms of such statistical detail is continued in the Sede Vacante Register.

The royal ordinances for the regulation of wages and prices reached the bishop early in July. (1) On the 3rd. Wolstan gave instructions to the prior of Worcester to publish them in the cathedral church and in other suitable places and to cite the disobedient to appear before him on the fifth law day after the citation. He also wrote to the commissary of the archdeacon of Worcester and to the official of the archdeacon of Gloucester to ensure the publication of the ordinances in the archdeaconries. Sentences of suspension and interdict were to be passed, in accordance with the king's demand, against such of the clergy as did not obey them. (2)

Meanwhile in the city of Worcester itself the plague had been claiming an ever increasing number of victims. The churchyard in the cathedral precincts had become full to overflowing and Wolstan sent instructions to the dean of Worcester that future burials were to take place in the cemetery of the hospital of St. Oswald. (3)

(1) They were dated June 18 1349. Reg. Bransf. 1334.

(2) Ibid.

(3) Ibid. 999. Printed in Nash, i, pp. 226-7. Cf. Leland, Itinerary vol. 4, p. 103 f. 184b. "...a Free Chappell, & beareth the name of St. Oswald....and here were wont Corses to be buried in tyme of Pestilence, as in a publicke cemetery for Worcester."

Wolstan himself had not much longer to live. On August 6th 1349 in the castle of Hartlebury he breathed his last. (1) Whether he died of the plague or whether, as perhaps seems more likely, he at last succumbed to the infirmities which had dogged him during the whole of his episcopate, is not recorded in his register. (2)

The pestilence swept on: the neatly written entries of the register's second volume were continued into the prior's Sede Vacante Register with not one specific mention of the disaster. There was only the telling nature of their very record—the ceaseless list of institutions—to hint at the terrible horror all around. After Wolstan's death, when the royal eschaetors Robert de Wadecop and Leo de Perton began to collect the receipts from the episcopal manors, they found a large deficit. Moreover, many of the customary rents could not be collected as there were no tenants. (3) The next bishop, John Thoresby (1349-52), sued Wolstan's executors in the archbishop's court and recovered 1,000 marks for dilapidations and £100 for stock which was missing from the episcopal manors. (4) It was Bp. Thoresby who secured a Papal faculty for the dispensation of 20 literate persons of illegitimate birth and ten sons of priests, deacons or subdeacons, so that they might be ordained and enabled to hold a benefice apiece. A sufficient indication of the shortage of clergy! (5)

After six hundred years Wolstan de Bransford may seem a somewhat shadowy figure. It is always difficult to conjure up the living personality from the dry bones of largely impersonal documents. What does stand out most prominently is that as bishop he continued his pastoral ministrations and maintained a close personal interest in the administration of his diocese despite physical disabilities which were very marked even at the beginning of his episcopate. He might more often have utilised commissaries for his visitations: we have evidence that he did so for but part of only one visitation. He might have remained at Hartlebury or at most described the small circle of his Bredon, Alvechurch and Hartlebury manors. He might have entrusted far more of the business of the diocese to commissaries, or his ordinations to a bishop 'in partibus'. In fact if he had taken any or all of these courses contemporary opinion might scarcely have censured him. Yet such was not his way. Throughout his episcopate he was active and peripatetic: numerous proceedings are recorded as having taken place 'coram episcopo' and he carried out two institutions on the very last day of his life, one of them 'statim post ortum solis eiusdem diei'. (6) In the last five months of his life he ordained no less than (7) 487 persons, and on two occasions more than 150 received orders.

(1) Reg. Bransf. 1568. The last entry in vol. 2.

(2) In V.C.H. Gloucs. ii, p. 19 it is stated that he died of the plague but no reference is given.

(3) V.C.H. Worcs. iv, p. 448 (from Mins. Accts. Bundle II43, nos. 19 & 20).

(4) Thomas, Account, p. 179.

(5) C.P.L. 1342-62, p. 332 XI Kal. Dec. (Nov. 21) 1349.

C.P.P. p. 186.

(6) Reg. Bransf. 1566, 1567. (7) See Appendix 8.

He paid his last visit to Henbury, in the far south of his diocese, in the Summer of 1348. According to Leland, Thomas, the son of Thomas Lord Berkeley and Catherine his wife, was born on June 7 1348, the feast of the Translation of St. Wulstan, and was baptised four days later by Bishop Wolstan. (1) There is no date in the register which suggests that the bishop was in the neighbourhood at that time, but he was certainly at Henbury towards the end of August, for he was present at the resignation there of William Edwart from the chapel of Tormarton. (2) By the end of October he was back at Hartlebury. (3) On December 2nd. he was at Wick by Worcester, whence he returned to Hartlebury which he is recorded to have left only once again before his death. (4)

Apart from this background of work and administration we catch all too few glimpses of an essentially human figure. The prior who enjoyed a day's hunting, or Christmastide in the company of a friend, who became angry with a fellow abbot, or acceded to the request of a friend for the promotion of a relative, (5) and who, when bishop, pardoned a debt due to him from another, (6) is a person whom we can understand. So too is the man made prematurely old by illness (7) who defied the weakness brought on by his infirmities and continued to cope with his arduous duties. The bridge which he is reputed to have built is no more, the Guesten Hall, likewise attributed to him, is now but a roofless ruin, the very windows of the cloister which recorded his beneficence are no more and have, moreover, been replaced by others which make no mention of him; (8) yet still there stands forth from the records which remain to us the figure of a man whose conscientious industry and application contrast sharply with what we know of many another 14th. century bishop. No historian has written ill of him, on the contrary

- (1) Itinerary, vol. 6, p. 44 f. 50. Thomas (the 3rd) de Berkeley (ob. 1361), married Catherine d. of Sir Peter de Veel kt. . Thomas the eldest son died *vita patris*. Dugdale, Baronage, i, p. 359.
- (2) Reg. Bransf. 911.
- (3) Ibid. 955.
- (4) Ibid. 923. From May 23-25 he was at Ripple and Kempsey (ibid. 1414-1418). Dr. Coulton writing from a predetermined point of view in his *Medieval Panorama* (p. 748 notes to Chap. xxxviii) and quoting details from a thesis on the Black Death by Dr. Lunn remarks of Wolstan:- "Worcester administered his diocese from his village manor of Hartlebury, and died August 6, 1349." The implication is one of spiritual apathy, but it is more than probable from what we know of the bishop's life and circumstances that it was a purely physical infirmity which kept him there.
- (5) See above pp. xi-xii.
- (6) It was due as procurator from Thomas Lench, dean of S. Mary's, Warwick. Reg. Bransf. 115.
- (7) As he received letters dimissory for the priesthood in 1308 & was prior in 1317 he could not have been less than 65 when he died, that is, 55+ at the time of his consecration (1339).
- (8) The Cloister Windows at Worcester Cathedral, C.B.A., 1949.

the general consensus of their opinions is that had he secured promotion earlier he might well have been one of the most noteworthy of mediaeval bishops. He lacked the learning of Cobham, the self-seeking of Orleton, the noble birth of Montacute, but he had more chance to prove himself than Hemenhale. His was a life of 'godly dewtye' well carried out. Strictly localised, perhaps, and chiefly of interest to historians of Worcester and her diocese, but a model for those times and an example which might well have been more closely followed in the centuries that came after. It was indeed for a worthy father in God that the priests of the chantries of Tormarton and Broadwas were enjoined to offer up prayers for all time. (I)

(I) Reg. Bransf. 449, 684.

THE REGISTER.Collation.

The register of Bishop Wolstan de Bransford was originally divided into two volumes, a practice which had begun with the sixth of the Worcester registers, that of Bishop Adam de Horlton, or Orleton, (I327-33). The register of Simon de Monte Acuto, or Montacute, (I333-7) (I), is similarly divided, but the brevity of Thomas de Hemenhale's episcopate, which lasted for only 21 months (2), rendered a second volume of his slim register unnecessary.

Bishop Wolstan's register then, is the ninth in the Worcester series, and the original covers of both volumes are marked with a large 'Arabic' 9. The register is now bound in a single volume within vellum boards secured by metal clasps. (3)

The original cover of the first volume is much mutilated and bears the title "Registrum secundum Wolstani" in a mediaeval hand; a designation which puzzled later readers. (4) It is endorsed "Registrum venerabilis in Christo patris domini Wolstani Dei gracia Wyg' episcopi" in a hand of the same period. The corresponding cover of the second volume is more fragmentary; it bears the heading "Registrum Wolstani" written twice in a mediaeval script and "2m. vol" has been added by a post-mediaeval scribe.

The pagination of the first volume was by means of Roman numerals and was not invariably accurate. Subsequently the folios were renumbered with Arabic numerals but only after many of them had become detached from the register. Some of these missing folios were discovered among the transcripts in the Registry and bound in the register after the second volume in the year 1881, there being a note to this effect signed by the then registrar Alfred Hooper on the fly-leaf at the back of the register. These folios have both Arabic and Roman numerals but the former are not continuous with those of the remainder of volume one, in fact they are so muddled as to indicate that they had a very checkered career amongst the documents of the Registry.

- (1) These registers are dated from the time of Papal provision, Wolstan's, it seems, from that of his confirmation. Montacute was not consecrated until 1334.
- (2) March 14 1337 (Bull of provision)- Dec. 21 1338.
- (3) The other registers are similarly bound. As Henry Clifton's memoranda at the end of the register were made in 1824 it is possible that the rebinding was carried out at that time; in any case Wolstan's register was rebound in 1881 so as to include the displaced folios mentioned below.
- (4) Written on the cover are the words "Quoted in the Old Index as the 2nd. volume" and "This is quoted as
e e e
y 2nd volume in y Old Index but this is y firste."

In 1824 Henry Clifton noted that 'pages' II4, I55 and I85 were missing and that there were two pages marked I2I. (1) He was only considering the Arabic numerals, had he studied the Roman ones as well he could have realised that there never had been a folio II4, for though the Arabic numerals jump from II3 to II5, as he noted, the corresponding Roman numerals are consecutively cxiiii and cxv. (2) Moreover, the accuracy in this respect of the Roman numerals is confirmed by the fact that there is no break in the sequence of the subject matter. A similar error can be detected with regard to folio I55, for here too there is really no missing page. As there is a break in both the Roman and Arabic numerals it seems probable that there was a folio I85. The subject matter does not help us in this instance but it may be significant that if such a folio did exist it must have been a separate half sheet following the I8th. quire, and so most susceptible to loss. This is not unlikely as both I86 and I87 are separate folios. There are two folios numbered I2I but the Roman numeration is again consecutively cxxi, cxxii.

Folio lxxxii must have been lost before the addition of the Arabic numerals but there are no other missing folios until cxlvi (I47), at which point there is a gap in the register as at present bound until fo. ccxviii(I48). In the pagination table (3) an attempt has been made to reconstruct the original register and to discover the number of folios which it once contained. Unfortunately the conclusions reached can only be suggestive because of the possibility that the Roman numerals did not advance consecutively owing to errors of pagination such as can be found among the extant folios. With this proviso it may be calculated that 37 folios have been lost and (4) that no less than 35 of these are missing from those quires which somehow became separated from the remainder of the register between the time of its original pagination and the addition of the late mediaeval Arabic numerals.

At the present time the first volume contains I86 folios (including the fly-leaf) and 36 more folios bound after the second volume properly belong to the first. That is, 222 folios remain out of a probable original total of 259 (including the fly-leaf). In addition there are seven MS. fragments which have been either attached to the folios or else bound up with them. These vary in size from approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X $10\frac{1}{2}$ " to a substantial portion measuring 6" X $10\frac{1}{2}$ ". (5)

- (1) See p. xxxvi, n. 3.
- (2) Differences between the Arabic & Roman paginations are set out in Appendix I. Other volumes in the Registry have such double numeration.
- (3) Appendix I.
- (4) Or 38 if there was a fo. cclii, but this seems unlikely as it would mean that a separate folio had been placed within the last quire.
- (5) In addition there is an incomplete paper copy of Adam de Herwynton's chantry at Pershore. This is post-mediaeval (16th. cent.?), and has been bound after fo. 95.

The second volume presents far fewer difficulties. It is made up of 18 folios numbered from 2 to 19 in Arabic figures. There probably never was a folio I, particularly as the diminutive Roman numerals run from i to v (i.e. 2-6 Arabic), at which folio they cease. The 'Brevia Regia' recorded from fo. 5 verso to fo. 7 verso date from 1350 and therefore do not properly belong to the register of Bp. Wolstan at all. Two separate portions of MS. are bound up with this volume though they should really have been included in volume one.

Binding. (I)

There are 18 quires in the present first volume varying from 3 sheets to 7 and from 4 folios to 14. (2) Eight folios have been cut out and the volume ends with two separate ones. The make-up is in fact very irregular even though 7 of the quires do contain 6 sheets and 12 folios.

Four further quires, originally in the first volume, are bound after the second, and these contain 8, 8, 16 and 4 folios respectively. In the third quire folios clxxix, clxxxvi and clxxxiii are in the wrong order. (3) Folios clxxxii and clxxxiii form a single sheet and this seems to have been the centre sheet of a quire containing folios clxxix and clxxxvi (also a single sheet) on the outside, but the remaining folios of this quire have been lost.

The second volume is made up of two quires of 4 and 8 folios respectively, two separate folios precede each of these quires and two more complete the volume. The stubs remain, the corresponding six folios having been cut out.

In neither volume is there any trace of pagination within the quires and only two instances of the use of catchwords, one from the folios misplaced after the second volume, (4) the other in volume two and linking the second quire with the first of the subsequent separate folios.

(1) See Appendix 2.

(2) Each quire was made up of a number of sheets which were then folded over to form twice the number of folios. When folios have been cut out their 'stubs' can usually be detected on close inspection.

(3) In the edition of the register these have been rearranged in order to make the ordination lists comprehensible, but the original order, that is as at present bound, can be reconstructed from the table in Appendix I.

(4) This is to be found on fo. clxxxvi (82) which is bound out of its proper order.

The arrangement of material.

The main divisions of the register are quite clear. In volume one the first three quires are filled with sundry records of the bishop's consecration and enthronement, letters dimissory, commissions and appointments, licences, and of the primary visitation of the diocese. The fourth quire is headed "Hic incipit Registrum Institucionum, Licenciarum, Prefeccionum, et Appropriacionum ecclesiarum." This title seems to apply to the entries up to the end of the 15th quire (i.e. fo. 147, clxvi), and the last entry bears the date May 6th 1349, three months before the bishop's death. In this section much space is occupied by very lengthy entries detailing the appropriations of churches and the ordinations of vicarages and chantries.

Following fo. 147 (clxvi) there were originally the quires containing the bishop's ordinations which, together with sundry extraneous material, were made up of some seventy folios, of which about half are missing. These were followed by three quires (36 folios) of royal writs, interrupted by long entries recording the ordination of the Tormarton chantry, the union of the churches of Aston Turville and Tormarton, and the ordination of the vicarage of the former.

Yet although these divisions; Introductory; Institutions Licences, Appointments, Appropriations of Churches; Ordinations; Royal Writs; can easily be discovered on inspection, it is only the second which bears a formal title. Moreover, the material in the first two is so varied that it could well have been subdivided. It must have been a difficult task to trace any particular entry and the enigmatic "scrutato registro" obviously conceals much industrious searching. There is not a contemporary index such as can be found in the registers of Bp. Godfrey Giffard (1268-1301) and of Bp. Thomas de Cobham (1317-27), and the notes on the fly-leaf (1) merely give the year A.D. as a guide for would-be searchers. (2) This, incidentally, was usually put at the top of each folio, for within the above mentioned broad divisions the entries were arranged, more or less, in chronological order.

From the point of view of arrangement and neatness, as of regularity, the second volume contrasts markedly with the first, though it must be remembered that, excepting the royal writs, it covers only a few months of 1349. The subject matter is carefully divided into five sections, each of which is meticulously headed. These deal with Memoranda, Ordinations, Royal Writs, Suits in the Audience Court of the bishop, and with Institutions to benefices. The list of Institutions and Elections closes with the record of the bishop's death. The marginalia are very regular and the entries are carefully written and, excepting those concerned with the Audience Court, regularly spaced. It may be remarked of this material that, for the most part (3), it differs from that in volume one not so much in content as in date.

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 4. (2) A 17th/18th. cent. index is bound in with the register of Wolstan as with others in the Worcester series.
 (3) It is most unusual to find Court proceedings in an episcopal register.

Marginal descriptions of the entries are to be found throughout the register, varying considerably in the amount of detail which they supply. Many of these are of a general character without any indication as to the persons or places mentioned, but it would be unwise to infer from this that the register is primarily a collection of precedents or mainly a repository of common forms. For one thing, many marginal entries do contain names of persons and places; and for another, some quite cryptic memoranda have detailed marginalia. As far as Wolstan's register is concerned it seems that the marginalia provided a practical method of finding one's way about a somewhat extensive series of records. Without them the difficulty of tracing an item would be enormously increased. In Mediaeval times the clerk was not looking for a person, as such, but for an entry about him. He was concerned, perhaps, with his orders, or with a licence which the bishop had granted him. The clerk therefore could turn to the appropriate section and approximate date (1) and scan the marginalia for the type of entry required, he could then see if it was connected with the person in question. (2)

The register in fact served many purposes. It not only preserved the forms in which licences and commission had been granted, but also provided a record of such complicated documents as the ordinations of chantries or vicarages which, if not fully set down, might well have provided sources of future disputes. (3) It was useful too for the keeping of lists of those ordained, of persons granted letters dimissory, of licences and institutions. It was essential for the bishop to keep full records of these so that they could be referred to as occasion arose. The royal writs also had a place in the register. They were so recorded as to leave a space in which details of their "return" could be noted. Elections to religious houses were entered in great detail. This was important in case their validity was later questioned. Details of oaths of indemnity on account of various actions taken by the bishop, of grants of land or of pensions and privileges, all find places in the register, since at any time their details might need to be recalled. Pensions due to the bishop were particularly important items, for which his receiver would need to account. No doubt he looked through the register to discover or check them up. Certainly these items are invariably marked by a pointing finger and often with a marginal "pensio" as well. Frequently too documents had to be consulted from times long before the bishop's episcopate. It was sometimes found simpler to write these out in the register for ease of reference. Thus in Wolstan's register the ordination document of the Ripple chantry, dating from 1320 and the episcopate of Thomas de Cobham, is written in full because a dispute had arisen as to the right of presentation. (3) Similarly,

- (1) The year A.D. or that of the bishop's consecration was usually written at the top of each folio.
- (2) Cf. Hamilton Thompson, *English Clergy*, p. 8.
- (3) The Ripple Chantry was not recorded in Cobham's register but is to be found in the *Liber Albus* (Confirmation, I200-I). See also, *Reg. Bransf.* 969; *Hist. Comm. Rep. V*, App. I, p.303.

another entry dating from Bishop Baldwin's episcopate (II80-85) gives details of the endowment of the chapel of Campden, probably for a similar reason. (1) Another, dating from 1316, records the grant of land made by Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, in return for the priory of Worcester's obligation to celebrate certain anniversaries. (2)

Such is the bishop's register: a many sided record, which served equally as a work of reference as to facts and as a means whereby the continuity of administrative detail was preserved. (3)

Registration.

Wolstan's register provides no clue as to the organisation responsible for its compilation. There is no mention of any particular place where the Worcester registers were kept (4) or the current entries made. Obviously a staff of clerks accompanied the bishop as he wandered from manor to manor, and numerous records must have been kept which never found their way into the register at all. In fact there do not seem to have been strict rules as to what was to be entered and what omitted. Thus the itinerary for the bishop's primary visitation is recorded in great detail while that for his second found no place in the register. Part of his "progressus" for the third visitation was entered but then crossed out. Then again the warning of visitation sent to the archdeacon of Worcester in 1339 is set down but not the corresponding one for the archdeacon of Gloucester, yet both are recorded for the second visitation, though one is fragmentary. (5) Sometimes entries are recorded twice or even more times. Sometimes the component parts of lengthy proceedings are written down on different folios and subsequently the entries are gathered together and the process written up as a whole. (6) Examples of such lack of system could be multiplied. It cannot be doubted that the register is but a partial record of the episcopate and that its arrangement leaves very much to be desired.

Without attempting any detailed comments on the Palaeography of the register it may be stated that there is one distinctive script in which the greater part of the first volume is written. The standard of recording varies considerably and is least satisfactory for the ordination lists which are the work of at least two scribes. The most homogeneous section is that devoted to royal writs (ff. 148-187). The predominant script in the second volume is somewhat similar to the best work of the main hand in the first. The quaternion of royal writs, however, (ii, ff. 5v.-7v) would seem to be the work of several scribes, and in any case it dates from a period after the death of Bishop Wolstan. The ink used by the scribes varies in colour from a near black to a dull reddish brown.

(1) Reg. Bransf. 905.

(2) Ibid. 952.

(3) It is an interesting fact that entries in the modern registers at Worcester, though written in English, follow closely the common form to be found in their mediaeval predecessors.

(4) Copies of some documents were kept in the Treasury of the priory. See Rubric in Reg. Bransf. 905.

(5) See below under 'Visitations'.

(6) As in the case of the Pershore chantry (906).

The register leaves us with no definite evidence as to the identity of the scribes who were responsible for its compilation and writing out, there are merely one or two hints which may or may not be relevant. The first of these is the name, Thomas Bolevinch, which occurs on the back of an attached portion of MS.(I) The name is roughly framed by straight lines in the form of a rectangle. This Thomas Bolevinch is mentioned several times in the body of the register for he was a notary and employed as such in the diocese. We shall find later that he was associated with the bishop's administrative staff. (2) The same name is written in the margin of a contemporaneous entry in the Liber Ruber recording the acknowledgement of a pension due to the bishop for the appropriation of the church of Clent. (3) It may be that his name appears merely on account of his notarial activities, but this is unlikely, and particularly so in the first instance in which it is written on the back of the copy of a document which did not require notarial attestation. Perhaps, however, he was merely connected with the business recorded in the entry.

The next person whose name has received rather special attention in the register is John de Chalveston. Wherever his name appears in the ordination lists a somewhat decorative 'Chalveston' has been written in the margin. This does not seem to have been written for information purposes but with care and effort at elaboration. Certainly such treatment is unique in the register, and probably few scribes 'doodle' with names other than their own. John de Chalveston, as we shall see, was clerk of the bishop's household. (4)

^{de} Thirdly, it may be that Robert de Marny, a notary public, was connected with the writing of the register. After numerous entries 'R. Marny' has been written, and not all of these had been notarially attested. (5) His name is to be found chiefly in the earlier portion of the register.

^{perhaps} Finally, in the second volume, William Aleyn is definitely stated to have been the "scriba episcopi", which title may perhaps be rendered as "the bishop's secretary". (6) How far such a title indicates that he did the actual manual work is not clear, but in any case his name only comes into prominence at the very end of the register, though he may have been working for the bishop at an earlier date. It can only be concluded that there is no real evidence but that certain names do come into prominence for reasons which are difficult to discover.

- (1) Attached to fo. I04. See no. 822.
- (2) See p. lxiii.
- (3) Liber Ruber (MS) fo. I40. 3I May I344.
- (4) Below, pp. lxi, lxii. For his ordination see Reg. Bransf. I060 (subdeacon): I06I (deacon): I066 (priest).
- (5) As for instance Reg. Bransf. 3. See also p. lxiii for further details of Marny.
- (6) Reg. Bransf. I484, I562. See p. lxi.

THE DIOCESE: ITS EXTENT AND DIVISIONS.

Only a brief summary is necessary for our present purpose. In the 14th century the diocese of Worcester extended, in a straight line from north to south, for some eighty miles; its greatest width being about half that distance. It included Worcesterhire, save for some parishes in the west of the county which were in the diocese of Hereford; part of Warwickshire(I); and almost the whole of Gloucestershire. Within that roughly defined area were parts which claimed exemption from the bishop's jurisdiction. The first of these formed the peculiar of the archbishop of York in the neighbourhood of Churchdown, to the north of Gloucester. The second was in the vicinity of the abbey of Evesham, the Vale, which had secured such exemption by 1248/9. (2)

The diocese was divided into the archdeaconries of Worcester and Gloucester. That of Worcester comprised the county of that name and the parts of Warwickshire within the diocese: that of Gloucester merely the county of that name. The Worcester archdeaconry was divided into the deaneries of Worcester, Powick, Pershore, (Droit)wich, Kidderminster, Blockley, Warwick and Kineton, together with the exempt area around Evesham. That of Gloucester into those of Gloucester, Stonehouse, Dursley, Bristol, Bitton, Hawkesbury, Cirencester, Fairford, Stow, Winchcombe and Campden, together with the exempt area of Churchdown. The deaneries of Bitton and Hawkesbury are at this period often treated as a single deanery (3) and by the 16th century they had been amalgamated. Certain areas in each archdeaconry claimed to be exempt from the jurisdiction of the archdeacon. (4)

- (1) Forming the deaneries of Kineton and Warwick. The remainder of the county formed the archdeaconry of Coventry in the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry.
- (2) The exemption of the abbey from episcopal visitation had been secured in 1206 and the churches of the Vale were judged to be exempt from episcopal jurisdiction in 1248 by a decree which was confirmed by the abbey in 1249. See Chron. Abbatiae de Evesham., Preface, pp. xxvi-xxviii & p. 198.
- (3) As, for instance, in the Itinerary of the bishop's primary visitation. Reg. Bransf. II7.
- (4) See below under 'Exempt Jurisdictions' p. xlvi et seq.

(i) Archdeacons and Rural Deans. (I)

The archdeacon, the 'oculus episcopi' (2), was in theory an important administrative official with his own court and rights of visitation, his activities being confined to a certain area. At times of visitation his archidiaconal chapters were suspended and his judicial powers superseded by the ordinary jurisdiction of the bishop. Yet whereas in the 13th century it was usual for the archdeacons of the Worcester diocese to witness charters and other documents this had become exceptional practice by the time of Bishop Wolstan. Moreover episcopal mandates were only very rarely addressed to the archdeacons themselves and even the form "archidiacono vel eius officiali" had for the most part given way to the more definite "archidiaconi officiali".

Robert of Worcester (de Wygorn'), Juris Civilis Professor, had in 1334 been appointed as one of the proctors of Simon de Montacute at the Curia (3). In 1337 he exchanged the church of Meonstoke in the diocese of Winchester for the archdeaconry of Worcester. (4) He farmed the manor of Ledcombe in Berkshire, the property of the abbey of Cluny, and also, for three years, the church of St. Michael, Worcester. (5) He was parson of the church of Claverdon in Warwickshire, a benefice which was attached to his archdeaconry. (6) Of his activities within the diocese there is little trace. He died at the time of the Black Death and his successor, John de Severleye, received the collation of the archdeaconry on May 22nd 1349. (7) The latter's position seems in some ways to have been an exceptional one and can best be discussed later with ^{his} other activities in the diocese. (8)

M. Roger de Breynton became archdeacon of Gloucester in 1331 by means of an exchange with John of Usk. (9) On February 24th. 1339 Wolstan, then bishop elect, delegated to commissaries of the bishop of Hereford his powers for carrying out an exchange of the archdeaconry with the rectory of Old Radnor. (10) There is no mention of the proceedings by virtue of this commission, but Roger de Breynton must have remained as archdeacon until 1348 when he successfully negotiated an

(I) The best modern account of their origin and function is to be found in:- Diocesan Organisation in the Middle Ages: Archdeacons and Rural Deans, by A. Hamilton Thompson. See also the same author's English Clergy, chap. 2.

(2) Dioc. Organisation p. 7. Bishops' Chanc. p. 8.

(3) Reg. Mont. i, fo. 2r.-2v. (4) Ibid. fo. 27v.

(5) Reg. Bransf. II74, II78, II80. Ibid. 234.

(6) Ibid. I26I-I264.

(7) Ibid. I4I3. Robert must have died between May I4 & 22. He is mentioned as patron of Claverdon at the former time (Ibid

(8) See p. lii et seq.

(9) Liber Albus, II75-6.

(10) Reg. Bransf. I9.

I4IO).

exchange with the rector of Doddington in the diocese of Ely. (I) He resigned on April 7th and his successor, M. Richard de Ledbury, was instituted in the person of his proctor and in the presence of the bishop on the same day. (2) In 1343 Roger de Breynton, on the petition of Bishop Orleton of Winchester, had received Papal licence to augment his 'slender' prebend of Hereford by the acquisition of another one. (3) Like Robert of Worcester he played no part, so far as can be ascertained, in the administration of the diocese and there can be little doubt that both treated their archdeaconries mainly as sources of income.

The archdeacon, in the person of his official, appears as the bishop's deputy within the territorial limits of his archdeaconry. It is to him, or to his official, that mandates for induction were in the ordinary way addressed. (4) Not of course that he or his official was expected to carry them out personally, but he could be held responsible in case of neglect. It was to the archdeacons that mandates for the execution of royal writs concerning the diocese as a whole, such as that for help against the French in 1339 or for the implementation of the royal ordinances ten years later, (5) were addressed. They were commonly directed to enquire into vacancies of benefices, (6) or into their value if they were to be appropriated. (7) They were concerned, on receipt of the bishop's mandate 'ad hoc', with such matters as the citation of those who had neglected to pay their tenths or the collection of papal procurations. (8) It was they who received episcopal mandates for the citation of the clergy and the representatives of the laity at times of visitation. (9) It was the archdeacon of Gloucester who, as we might expect, was instructed to publish in his chapters or other convocations the bishop's revocation of all commissions granted to penitentiaries in the archdeaconry. (10) Thus the work of the archdeacons, or more accurately of their officials, was enormously extended by a ready flow of mandates from the diocesan.

Of the rural deans we know much less. Unlike the non-resident lawyer archdeacons they were invariably beneficed locally, though seldom have their names come down to us. We know, however, that Walter Marny was dean of Gloucester and rector of St. John's church in that town. Similarly Thomas, rector of Little Rissington, was dean of Stow. (11) But in general mandates were addressed to the dean of the locality without further elaboration. Such mandates, during the episcopate of

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 90I-904. (2) Ibid. 902, 904.
 (3) C.P.P. 1342-1419, p. 57.
 (4) Mandates for induction to benefices in the bishop's patronage were regularly sent to special commissaries.
 (5) Reg. Bransf. 18, 1334.
 (6) e.g. Reg. Bransf. 175, 177, 200, 219, 319, 623, 810-811.
 (7) e.g. Reg. Bransf. 451.
 (8) e.g. Ibid. 29, III8, II22, II25. Ibid. 582.
 (9) Ibid. 89. See under 'Visitations' below.
 (10) Ibid. 54.
 (11) Ibid. 150, 817.

Wolstan de Bransford at any rate, were issued to deans on the basis of the territorial limits of their deaneries. (1) Thus the dean of Stonehouse was instructed to secure the restitution of the fruits of the vicarage of Tetbury, situated in his deanery: the dean of Cirencester to place the church and chapels of South Cerney under an interdict: the dean of Pershore to cite those of his deanery who had been found guilty of irregularities at a recent visitation. (2) The multiplicity of such mandates 'ad hoc' demonstrates the important part played by rural deans in diocesan administration. In addition we sometimes find them exercising permanent commissions outside the areas of their own decanal jurisdiction. Thus Walter Marny held the office of penitentiary in the archdeaconry of Gloucester and also was commissioned to secure criminous clerks from the secular authorities in the same area. (3) The deans of Worcester and of Stow exercised similar commissions "ad exigendum clericos" but without territorial limitations. (4)

On occasions the bishop by-passed the machinery of archdeaconry and deanery by the appointment of special commissaries. Thus the local incumbents of Haselor, Alcester and Beoley were empowered to deal with a case concerning the destruction of the woods of the abbey of Alcester, and the abbot of St. Peter's, in Gloucester, and the prior of St. Oswald's there were ordered to remove the vicar of Tytherington. (5)

ii. Exempt jurisdictions.

Certain parts of the diocese claimed exemption from any but the bishop's jurisdiction. The origin and growth of such franchises has not yet been investigated. In Bp. Wolstan's register there is mention of the deans of Cleeve, Alvechurch, Tredington, and of the jurisdictions of Bibury, Blockley, Ripple and St. Helen's, Worcester. At all these places, except the last, (6) there were episcopal manors and the churches, save that of Bibury which belonged to the canons of Osney (7), were in the bishop's collation. It is significant in this connection that mandates for induction to such churches were regularly sent, not to the appropriate archdeacon in the person of his official, but to a special commissary or commissaries. (8)

(1) Cf. Diocesan Organisation, p. 36.

(2) Reg. Bransf. 88, 94, 103.

(3) Ibid. 53, 81, 150, 152.

(4) Ibid. 63, 48. No doubt many others exercising commissions were also rural deans, but we can only guess at this because of the latter's usual anonymity. (v. xlv supra.)

(5) Ibid. 30, 600.

(6) The palace of the Worcester bishops was situated between the cemetery of the priory and the parish of St. Helen's. Part still remains. V. Green, i, p. 75.

(7) See Thomas, App. pp. 14-15 no. 24.

(8) In the following cases of churches in the bp.'s collation mandates were sent to the appropriate archdeacon's official:- Halford (Reg. Bransf. 241, 465), Ripple (ibid. 571), Henbury (ibid. 1440), Withington (ibid. 1566), Naunton (ibid. 1567).

For inductions to benefices within such areas of jurisdiction it was the practice for mandates to be sent to the dean of the peculiar. (I)

There are some details in the register which help to clarify the position at Ripple and Blockley. A mandate for induction to the chantry of Ripple is addressed "decano exempte iurisdictionis de Ryppel". (2) Now this term 'exempt' is also used of such peculiars as Evesham and Churchdown, which allowed the bishop no right of visitation (3) or of other jurisdiction and equipped their candidates for ordination with letters dimissory. (4) Such exemption was not, of course, claimed by Ripple or Blockley: their exemption was from the jurisdiction of rural dean or archdeacon. (5) At Ripple there is evidence of testamentary jurisdiction. When a certain John Roger, or Rogers, died intestate in the parish of Ripple the bishop commissioned the dean of Pershore to sequester his goods, but only because there was no one to exercise the rector's jurisdiction. (6)

The register provides more information about Blockley. When the church of Batsford fell vacant in June 1349 it was the dean "iurisdictionis peculiaris de Blokkele" who carried out the enquiry into the vacancy. (7) In a later entry of the same type but relating to Sezincote the inquisition is said to have been carried out "per decanum exempte iurisdictionis de Blockeleye". (8) What such exemption meant at Blockley is shown by the commission to John, rector of Hinton and farmer of Blockley church. He was empowered to correct and punish faults; to hear, take cognisance of, and terminate all causes 'ex officio' or begun, or to be initiated in the future, at the instance of parties. In addition he received full powers for the probate of wills together with rights of coercion and of sequestration. (9) Such powers resemble those of the diocesan commissary and sequestrator combined.

How far such extensive jurisdiction extended to other places is a matter which needs investigation. (10) It can well be compared with that of the rectors and vicars of exempt parishes in the diocese of Canterbury and in the deaneries of the archbishop's immediate jurisdiction. Both appear to have originated in much the same way. (11)

- (I) For Blockley see App. 10 under Stretton, Sezincote & Batsford. (The record of a mandate to the offic. of the archd. of Glouc. in 454 may be the result of mental confusion with Stratton, Gloucs. Stretton was in the archdeaconry of Worc.) For Ripple v. *ibid.* sub. nom. For Bibury *ibid.* under Barnsley &c.
- (2) Reg. Bransf. 672.
- (3) The canons of Osney may have disputed the right of the bp. to visit Bibury (See Reg. Bransf. II7 p.58 n.2). The priors had no jurisdiction there 'sede vacante' (R.S.V. Intro.pp.viii-ix). Wolstan did not visit Ripple at all.
- (4) Issued by the abb. of Evesham & the archbp. of York respectively. See, for instance, p. 427 (Edition).
- (5) Blockley was a deanery itself, but Ripple was in that of Pershore. (6) Reg. Bransf. 180. (7) *Ibid.* 1485.
- (8) *Ibid.* 1518. (9) *Ibid.* 129, 15 May 1340.
- (10) e.g. Broadwas, for which see V.C.H. Worcs. iii, p.296.
- (11) Churchill, i p. 83 et seq.

iii Deans of Collegiate Churches.

There were only two collegiate churches of importance in the diocese, those of St. Mary, Warwick, and of Holy Trinity, Westbury on Trym. They had areas of jurisdiction within which the archdeacons of Worcester and Gloucester respectively had no powers, though they never acquired such independence as did some similar foundations in other dioceses (1) and were visited by the bishop in the normal way. (2)

They played but a small part in diocesan administration and their own sphere of influence was too small to be of any great importance. (3) The dean of Westbury acted as the bishop's commissary for the proclamation of the election of Ralph de Assch as abbot of St. Augustine's Bristol in 1341. (4) While Robert de Endredeby, who exchanged the prebend of Congreve in the church of St. Michael at Penkridge for the deanery of St. Mary's Warwick in 1340 (5), received a commission "ad exigendum clericos". (6) The latter, however, is more noteworthy for his dispute with the archdeacon of Worcester. This arose on account of the archidiaconal jurisdiction which the dean exercised in the town of Warwick. Robert appeared before the bishop's special commissaries in the church of Hampton and swore to desist from the exercise of any jurisdiction until the suit or disagreements between himself and the archdeacon had been settled by friendly arrangement or legal agreement. Exception was made in the case of his jurisdiction among the canons and in matters concerning the "regimen chori" and their coming together for worship (ad divina). If he was found guilty of breaking this oath he was to augment the bishop's alms by the sum of 30 shillings. (7) Unfortunately we can only guess at the particular causes of the quarrel and there is no mention of its outcome in the register.

- (1) e.g. Those in the diocese of York. V. English Clergy, p. 73.
- (2) St. Mary's, Warwick, was founded in or shortly after 1123 by Roger de Newburgh, the second Earl of Warwick. There were six prebends and the deanery was in the patronage of the Earls of Warwick. Westbury, which had anciently been a minster of secular clerks, was refounded in 1288 as a college. The bishops of Worcester were patrons and there were five prebends. V. Knowles & Hadcock p. 344. Tanner, Notitia, pp. 142, 570.
- (3) Bp. Godfrey Giffard attempted to augment Westbury to offset the importance of the monastic chapter at Worcester. In the middle of the 15th century Bp. John Carpenter followed a similar policy and even styled himself bishop of Worcester & Westbury. V. English Clergy, p. 80: Godwin (1616) pp. 518-9.
- (4) Reg. Bransf. 417. This dean was probably Adam de Aylinton. (V. V.C.H. Gloucs. ii, p. 108: Tanner, Notitia, Appendix of Principals of Religious Houses (Browne Willis).
- (5) Reg. Bransf. 349. 16 Sept. 1340.
- (6) Ibid. 473 14 Jly. 1342. Issued jointly to Robert de Endredeby & Robert de Staverton.
- (7) Ibid. 556.

So far what may be described as the permanent territorial organisation of the diocese has been discussed. Under the present heading it is proposed to treat of those administrative officers who were specifically appointed by the bishop and whose powers lapsed at his death or resignation, or merely on the withdrawal of the commission by virtue of which they were exercised. The general pattern of the administrative and judicial system was probably well established by the beginning of the 14th century, though there are many differences in the type, scope and combination of appointments under successive bishops of Worcester between 1300 and 1350. It is difficult, moreover, without close study of such appointments over a period of time to separate the respective spheres of influence of their holders.

a. The official principal.(1)

With a resident bishop the most important of these officers was the official.(2) Unfortunately the commission of Bp. Wolstan appointing John de la Lowe, *Turis Civilis* Professor, to the office is not explicit. His powers are described as those "que ad officialitatis officium in nostra Wygorn' diocesi pertinent". In addition he was given the "specialis potestas" for enquiring into, correcting and punishing the faults of the bishop's subjects.(3) Some two months later, in November 1339, he received a further commission which empowered him to hear and determine criminal causes in which clerks were involved, after their surrender by the secular authorities for judgement "in foro ecclesiastico". He was also given authority to make enquiries so as to determine fully the truth about such crimes(4) and the reputation, character and conversation of the clerks concerned. He was to arrange for their admission to purgation, so that if they accomplished it canonically they might be released from prison. He could proceed further and take such decisions as the nature of the case warranted and could, moreover, exercise powers of canonical coercion.(5)

On November 26th 1339, on completion of his visitation in the archdeaconry of Worcester, Wolstan appointed his official and his sequestrator, Henry de Neubold, to take cognisance of and to deal with the 'comperta' arising therefrom, granting them powers of enquiry, correction and punishment. These last

- (1) The usual title in the register is 'official' but in 1484 (vol.2) the term 'official principal' is used.
- (2) When a bishop left his diocese he appointed a vicar-general. See, for instance, the detailed joint commission (*commissio vicariatus*) for Prior Wolstan, Stephen de Kettlebury & Andrew de Offord in Reg. Hemenhale, fo. 6r. sqq.
- (3) This accords with Lyndwood's statement:- "Cessat tamen eorum potestas in criminum correctione, excessuum punitione, et a beneficiis vel administracionibus amotione: nec etiam possunt conferre beneficia absque commissione speciali." Provinciale &c., tit. De sequest., cap. Frequens, ver. Officiales. Reg. Bransf. 23, 19 Sept. 1339.
- (4) For a definition of 'crimen' see English Clergy, p. 56 n.1 (quoting Lyndwood, tit. De foro competenti, cap. Contingit, ver. Delicto).
- (5) Reg. Bransf. 101, 26 Nov. 1339.

had been included in the official's commission as the "specialis potestas" noted above, and so a clause was added to indicate that no revocation of the original grant was intended. (1) The same two persons received a similar commission in 1342 (?) after the bishop's visitation of the deanery of Pershore, (2) and another, this time covering all parts of the diocese which had been visited, was issued to John de la Lowe, John de Severleye and Hugh de Fenebrugg early in 1343. (3)

We can glean little from the register as to the work of John de la Lowe in his judicial capacity as the exerciser of the "officium domini" for such proceedings are but infrequently found in episcopal registers. We know of the commissions by virtue of which he acted but have no information as to the manner in which he exercised them. We know much, however, of his other activities and of the part which he played in the general administration of the diocese. He was present at the appointment of deputies for the collection of debts due to the see (4) and witnessed the letters patent empowering John de Walton and Philip le Yonge (5) to act as the bishop's proctors at the Papal Curia. (6) He acted as the bishop's special commissary for the carrying out of the election of the prioress of Pinley in 1342 (7), and was present during the election of an abbot at Tewkesbury in 1347. (8) In 1344 he was commissioned to secure the assent of the prior and chapter to the appropriation of Clent with Rowley to the abbey of Halesowen. (9) He appended the seal of his office to the submission of the executors of William de Herwynton, formerly abbot of Pershore, and was present in the chapel of Hartlebury when Henry de Lench swore on behalf of the abbot and each of the monks, one by one, to observe all the details of the ordination of the chantry founded at the wish of their late abbot. (10) In the same year, 1346, he was present

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 104. "Non intendentes per nostram commissionem presentem commissionem per nos vobis officiali nostro prius concessam in aliquo revocare."
- (2) Ibid. 536. Undated.
- (3) Ibid. 567. Jan. 22 1343.
- (4) Ibid. 96. Oct. 16 1339.
- (5) Philip le Yonge betrayed his trust to the extent of claiming the vicarage of Bromsgrove and securing Papal sentences of suspension & excommunication against his opponents. Ibid. 244.
- (6) Ibid. 243. Dec. 12 1339.
- (7) Ibid. 485. Aug. 21 1342.
- (8) Ibid. 943. Aug. 1347. With other clerks of the diocese he held as it were a 'watching brief', the monks declaring that "non intendebant quod predicti magistri interesse debebant tanquam ius in eadem eleccione obtinentes."
- (9) Ibid. 526 Jan. 17 1344. He was instructed to appear personally in the chapter, to give details of the matter and to discuss it.
- (10) Ibid. 906. Feb.-Apr. 1346.

(li)

at the resignation of the rector of St. Swithin's, Worcester. (I)
On such occasions, and on many others, did the bishop make use
of his official who remained active until his death, probably
from the plague, shortly before July 1st 1349. (2)

b. William de Bergeveny.

In a commission dated 16 February 1339 the bishop elect, who was still in London, empowered William de Bergeveny to hear, take cognisance of, and terminate all suits and causes in the consistory courts of the city and diocese of Worcester (3) and to exercise all episcopal jurisdiction and powers of coercion. (4) This commission, with its lack of mention of powers for enquiry, correction and punishment, delegates authority of a type which is traditionally ascribed to the officiality, though there is no mention of the conferring of such an office. (5) It is possible, even perhaps probable, that William de Bergeveny's appointment was only a temporary one pending the bishop's arrival in his diocese. (6) Wolstan may not have had the opportunity to consider the appointment of his permanent staff, perhaps he had no intention of doing so until after his consecration. (7) Certainly William de Bergeveny, who had carried news of Hemenhale's death to the king, was well known to him. (8)

M. William de Bergeveny- that is, Abergavenny- was a clerk of Llandaff diocese who was ordained successively subdeacon and deacon by Bishop Wolstan in 1339. (9) By another commission of 16 February 1339 he was appointed with three others, two monks and another clerk, to receive the canonical obedience due to the bishop elect and confirmed from the clergy of his diocese. (10) He is mentioned as a witness later in the same year (11), as proctor of the convent of St. Peter's, Gloucester, in 1347, and as present in their chapter house at the time of the ordination of the vicarage of Standish in the following year. (12) Had he continued to act in the diocese in a judicial capacity his name would almost certainly have appeared more often in the register. As we shall see, a 'commissio generalis' was later to be exercised by John de Severleye, the chancellor.

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 755, 29 Jan. 1346.
(2) In an entry of this date (ibid. 1484) he is described as "iam vero defunctum". There is no mention of an institution to his church of Bredon. According to Nash the next institution was that of Robert de Chigwell in 1351. (i, p.133. See also infra p. lxvi).
(3) There is mention of the Gloucester court in Reg. Bransf. 1329.
(4) Ibid. 7.
(5) "...quia sola commissio generalis cognoscendi in causis non sufficit ad constituendum aliquem Officialem principalem absque hoc, quod illud exprimatur per committentem verbo vel in scriptis." Lyndwood, Tit. De Sequest. cap. Frequens, ver. Officiales.
(6) He had arrived by 28 Mar. 1339. V. Reg. Bransf. 22.
(7) Henry de Neubold's commission as sequestrator, 16 Feb. 1339, was reissued in identical terms after the bp.'s consecration. Ibid. 8, 26. (8) R.S.V. p. 259.
(9) Reg. Bransf. 1004, 1008. (10) Ibid. 6 (11) Ibid. 96.
(12) Ibid. 837, 945. In the latter he is described as 'iuris peritus'.

c. The chancellor & commissary.

There is no mention in the register of the appointment of John de Severleye as chancellor and he is not mentioned as such until 1342. (1) In fact, for the first few years of Wolstan's episcopate he was absent from the diocese and was probably engaged in the completion of his legal studies. He was granted licences to leave his church of Billesley for one year in 1339 and 1340, and for two years in 1341. (2) In a commission dated 10 December 1342 he was empowered to hear, take cognisance of, and terminate all causes and suits, moved or to be moved, which pertained to the bishop's audience outside his consistory court. (3) The court of audience was the chancellor's usual sphere of action. It was not static like the consistory court but went with the bishop as he moved round his diocese. (4) Yet it is not the above mentioned commission which prefaces the 'acta' of the audience court recorded in the register's second volume (5) but a slightly earlier one. This, dated 4 October 1342, is entered twice. On the first occasion it is marginally described as a "Comissio generalis in omnibus causis et negociis" (6), and on the second as a "Commissio ad causas et negocia." (7) Apart from these contemporary marginalia the entries are identical. John de Severleye, the bishop's chancellor, was given authority to enquire into, correct and punish crimes and excesses of any of the bishop's subjects; to take cognisance of causes, both matrimonial and others, moved or to be moved, which pertained to the bishop's jurisdiction or cognisance. (8), and to discuss and terminate such causes; and, moreover, to exercise powers of canonical coercion. It will be noted that the commission is a wide one, including not only those powers of enquiry, correction and punishment which we have seen granted to the official as a "specialis potestas", but also that of dealing with matrimonial cases which were often considered proper to the officiality. (9)

- (1) i.e. in the commissions mentioned below.
- (2) Reg. Bransf. 223 (18 Oct. 1339): 344 (29 Aug. 1340): 429 (29 Aug. 1341). The first is a licence to remain 'in scolis litterarum', no reasons are given in the other two.
- (3) Ibid. 566. The remainder of this commission gives the chancellor authority for the canonical punishment & correction of those found guilty at the recent visitation, together with powers of coercion.
- (4) Professor Hamilton Thompson likened the consistory to a "Common Bench of the diocese". English Clergy, p. 54.
- (5) Reg. Bransf. ii, ff. 8r.-9r. (1365-1376).
- (6) Ibid. 1330.
- (7) Ibid. 1365.
- (8) Ibid. "ad nostram iurisdictionem sive nocionem qualitercumque spectantibus".
- (9) English Clergy, p. 188 (App. I). In Reg. Bransf. 1329 there is mention of a matrimonial suit in the Gloucester consistory.

In the register John de Severleye is usually described as 'chancellor' but less than three months before Wolstan's death he also became archdeacon of Worcester(1) and thereafter he is invariably given that title.(2) He is the only archdeacon whom we find personally active in diocesan affairs during Wolstan's episcopate. It is significant in this connection that shortly after he became archdeacon mandates for induction were addressed not to the 'official' but to the 'commissary' of the archdeacon of Worcester.(3) An archdeacon appointed his own official who was frequently benefited in the archdeaconry. In an age of absentee archdeacons it was their officials who carried out the routine work and who possessed their own seal of office. (4) The title 'commissary' is a departure from established practice which we are tempted to ascribe to the fact that there was for once a resident archdeacon engaged in diocesan business.

Even after the expiry of his licence of absence in 1343 John de Severleye was by no means permanently resident in the diocese. He was appointed as one of the bishop's proctors at the parliaments of 1343 and 1344, and at the councils of 1344 and 1346. (5) Moreover, in January 1344 he was in London delivering the Papal procurations which had been collected in the diocese. (6) We find him witnessing an oath at Bredon in 1345 (7) and the definitive sentence of election of the master of St. Mark's, Billeswick, in 1346 (8), but he was rarely active in the diocese, so far as we can judge from the register, until 1348. Yet, in December 1342, by the commission mentioned above, he was empowered to correct and punish those guilty of faults brought to light at the recent visitation (9), and he was also associated with John de la Lowe and Hugh de Fenebrugg in the commission of January 1343 which has been discussed with reference to the powers of the official principal. Even so,

(1) 22 May 1349. Reg. Bransf. 1413.

(2) e.g. in Reg. Bransf. 1452, 1484, 1504.

(3) Ibid. 1431 (28 May 1349): 1432 (29 May 1349) &c.

(4) Ibid. 369: "litteras domini archidiaconi officialis sigillo officialitatis eiusdem signatas.

(5) Ibid. 1192, 1217, 1208, 1258. The parliaments were summoned to meet on April 28 1343 (ibid. 1189, Stubbs ii, p. 392 n.2): June 7 1344 (ibid. 1216, Stubbs ii, p. 395 n. 1): & on Sept. 11 1346 (ibid. 1269, Stubbs ii, p. 395 n. 3), but no proctors are mentioned in the register. There was no parliament in 1345 or 1347 and no proctors have been recorded for that of 1348 (ibid. 1306). That for 1349 was postponed (ibid. 1324, 1325). John de Severleye did not act as proctor in parliaments prior to 1343. The councils of 1344 & 1346 were summoned for 18 April & 3 Feb. respectively (ibid. 1207, 1257).

(6) Reg. Bransf. 596. Acquittance dated 26 Jan. 1344.

(7) Ibid. 726. 21 May 1345. (8) Ibid. 794. 27 Apr. 1346.

(9) See p. lii n. 3.

in view of his absences in 1343, it seems doubtful whether he was very diligent in the exercise of such powers. In August 1348, however, he was present at Henbury when the chantry of Tormarton was resigned in the bishop's presence (1), and in December the new vicar of Dowdeswell swore in his presence to pay a pension due to the church of Withington. (2) When archdeacon we find him examining witnesses at the election of the prior of the Holy Sepulchre, Warwick(3), and acting as the bishop's commissary for enquiry into the legality of the election at Studley priory. (4)

It is impossible to visualise the man from these details in the register, but as an episcopal officer we observe that he exercised wide powers combining, during the last few months of the episcopate, the offices of archdeacon and chancellor. (5) Yet his name is by no means so much in evidence as that of John de la Lowe, and his frequent absences for study, for attending parliaments, and for other reasons, indicate that his ambitions were of a rather wider character than could be contained within the diocese of Worcester. In view of this it may not be too far from the purposes of this introduction to trace briefly his later career. Under the bishop's successor, John Thoresby, he is mentioned as official and, jointly with the prior of Lanthony, he was appointed vicar-general. (6) In February 1352 he exchanged his archdeaconry of Worcester for the church of Buxted, Sussex, in the diocese of Chichester.(7) In the following year he was present at the profession of obedience to the see of Canterbury made by Reginald Bryan, Thoresby's successor as bishop of Worcester. (8) In 1356 he is mentioned as a canon of Chichester and one of several commissioners appointed by Archbishop Islep to take cognisance of ecclesiastical causes pending in the court of the late dean of South Malling (9). Between 1353 and 1355 he acted as "Auditor and Commissary of the Causes and business of the Archbishop's court." (10)

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 9II. 29 Aug. 1348.
- (2) Ibid. 957. 19 Dec. 1348.
- (3) Ibid. 1452. 16-17 Jne. 1349.
- (4) Ibid. 1504. 6 Jly. 1349.
- (5) May 22- Aug. 6, 1349.
- (6) Reg. Thoresby ff. 2r., 9r., 12r., 26r. &c.
- (7) R.S.V. pp. 200-201, 18 Feb. 1352.
- (8) Churchill, ii, p. 132.
- (9) Ibid., i, p. 77.
- (10) Ibid., i, p. 49I. See also pp. 140, 49In. & ii, p. 243.

d. The adjutor and special commissary.

On July 1st. 1339 the bishop appointed M. Hugh de Penebrugg(I) as his adjutor or special commissary. He was authorised to act in all causes and legal business, either initiated by virtue of the bishop's office, or moved or to be moved in his court at the instance of parties, as well as to correct and punish the excesses of the bishop's subjects, with powers of canonical coercion.(2) He was also associated with the bishop's official and with his chancellor in the commission of January 1343 for dealing with faults brought to light in the visitation of the previous year. (3)

In the first of these commissions, which, so it was stated, was not intended as an encroachment upon the jurisdiction of the official or commissary-general, Hugh de Penebrugg was authorised to deal with such cases as were heard 'coram episcopi'(4), that is in the bishop's audience court. (5) It is not surprising then that he is mentioned on a number of occasions and in a variety of places, although he was seldom called upon to act as a commissary 'ad hoc'. (6)

e. The sequestrator & receiver.

Henry de Neubold was first appointed to the office of sequestrator by a commission dated 16 February 1339. (7) He was given authority to seek out and receive proofs of the wills of those dying in the city and diocese of Worcester; to grant and register probate; to commit the administration of the goods of those dying testate or intestate to executors; and to do everything else known to pertain to the office by custom or legal right, with powers of coercion. (8) Such jurisdiction, however, did not extend to a number of exempt areas in the diocese, though disputes in the matter were not unknown.

Some aspects of testamentary jurisdiction have already been noted with regard to Blockley and Ripple.(9) At Barnsley the probate of the will of Thomas de Rysele, rector of the chapel there, and the commission of its administration to executors, which had been carried out by the dean of Bibury, were described by the bishop's official as "nullius penitus esse firmitatis, tanquam facta per eum ad quem eadem facere non pertinuit." (10)

(1) i.e. Pembridge, Herefordshire.

(2) Reg. Bransf. 65.

(3) Ibid. 567.

(4) Ibid. 65. "In omnibus causis et negociis coram nobis (&c.)".

(5) See p. lii.

(6) Reg. Bransf. 3, 96, 243, 244, 794, 1013, 1054. He appears as special commissary for the admission of the oath of Henry Forneaux in II55.

(7) Ibid. 8 Identical with 26, 30 Mar. 1339.

(8) The three stages 'probacio', 'approbacio' and 'insinuacio' are distinguished, which Professor Jacob renders as "proving, declaration of validity, registration." Reg. Chichele, ii, Intro. p. x.

(9) See p. xlvi.

(10) Reg. Bransf. 425.

The official, moreover, acting by virtue of the bishop's commission 'ad hoc', granted probate once again and committed the administration to the same executors. (1)

The more important wills were outside the jurisdiction of the diocesan sequestrator. (2) The archbishop of Canterbury, or the prior 'sede vacante', claimed the "ius recipiendi probaciones testamentorum personarum nobilium" not only in the diocese of Canterbury but also in all other dioceses of the province "iuxta prerogativam ipsius ecclesie". (3) In 1349, the prior of Canterbury, the see having remained vacant since the death of John Stratford in the previous year, committed his powers for the probate of the will of Hugh le Despenser to the bishop of Worcester. (4) Bishop Wolstan replied that none of the executors had come to him for the purpose of producing the will and proceeding with the matter nor, so he had heard, had they made any attempt to do so: he was unable, therefore, to implement the prior's commission. (5)

Henry de Neubold did not confine his activities to the duties of sequestrator. In an entry for the year 1348 he is described, not only as sequestrator-general, but also as general commissary for the correction and punishment of the misdeeds of the bishop's subjects brought to light by his visitations, as well as special collector for the levying, collection, and receipt of all pensions and procurations due to the bishop from the diocese. (6) In addition he frequently acted by special commission. Thus he made enquiry into the condition of the priory of the Holy Sepulchre after the bishop's visitation of 12 November 1339. (7) Again, in 1345, he examined the proposals for the appropriation of the church of Aston Cantlow to the priory of Maxstoke, and subsequently secured the consent of the Worcester chapter. (8) In September of the same year he was associated with the dean of the Christianity of Warwick in an episcopal mandate for the custody of the fruits of the same church during its vacancy. (9)

(1) Reg. Bransf. 425.

(2) This matter is fully discussed in the Introduction to vol. ii of Reg. Chichele, ed. Jacob.

(3) Reg. Bransf. 1338.

(4) He was the son of Hugh le Despenser, the younger. See Reg. Bransf. 1338 n. 2. & *ibid.* 404-5.

(5) *Ibid.* 1338.

(6) *Ibid.* 913.

(7) *Ibid.* 118.

(8) *Ibid.* 746-748.

(9) *Ibid.* 749.

In April 1346 he and his clerk Ralph witnessed the oath of indemnity sworn by the newly instituted rector of the church of SS. Philip & James, Bristol. (1) In 1349 he was appointed to ascertain whether the portion ordained for the vicarage of Pillerton was of the estimated amount. (2) Though, unlike Hugh de Penebrugg, he is seldom mentioned as having been 'present' at any administrative act, he was constantly engaged in the exercise of various episcopal commissions.

Henry de Neubold played a not undistinguished part in diocesan administration. During the episcopate of Simon de Montacute we find him, in 1335-6, acting as auditor of causes (3) and, in December 1335, he was appointed sequestrator and commissary general. (4) After Wolstan's death he was employed by Bp. Thoresby (1349-52) and succeeded John de Severleye as official and vicar-general. (5)

f. Conclusion.

These officers- the official principal, the chancellor, the adjutor or special commissary, the sequestrator- formed, as it were, the core of the bishop's administrative system, acting 'ex officio' or by special commission throughout those parts of the diocese subject to the bishop's jurisdiction. They appear as constantly moving figures against the permanent background of the organisation of archdeaconry and deanery. Essentially, of course, legal officers; their judicial functions were exercised by virtue of the bishop's delegation, he being the 'iudex ordinarius' of the diocese. They were men of some learning: all bore the title 'magister' and the official that of 'Iuris Civilis Professor'. Their spheres of influence were closely inter-related and with our limited knowledge it is difficult to ascertain where the jurisdiction of one legal officer ended and that of another began. That this might have given rise to doubts even in those times can be gathered from the saving clauses which have been noted above. (6)

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 795. (2) Ibid. 1335.
 (3) Reg. Montacute, ii, ff. 42r., 48r.
 (4) Ibid. ff. 15r., 17r.
 (5) Reg. Thoresby, ff. 42v., 44r.
 (6) See above, pp. l, li, lv. John de Severleye did not exercise his judicial power 'qua' chancellor but by virtue of the bishop's commission. His commission of Dec. 1342, which specifically confines his jurisdiction to cases outside the consistory court, was preceded by a 'commissio generalis', the wide powers of which have been detailed above, which contains no such limitation. This commission would seem to conflict with that granted to the official, but its recording as a preface to the 'acta' of the audience court shows that he acted there by virtue of the powers conceded in it, and under the title of 'commissary'. Such a commissary was the bishop's delegate in the audience court when he was not hearing cases in person (Cf. Reg. Bransf. 44). Whether John de Severleye also acted outside that court is not evident from the register.

Penitentiaries.

Certain important cases were a matter for Papal dispensation. In such instances the Pope was petitioned by the party or parties concerned, and the bishop acted as the 'executor' of the consequent Bull of Dispensation. This process can be observed in the cases of Hugh le Despenser and of William Elys who had contracted marriages in ignorance of canonical impediments. (1) In other instances the bishop dispensed by the authority of letters sent by the Papal penitentiary, Gaucelinus. Thus, Baldwin de Mohun, who had been instituted to the rectory of Whichford, though of less than canonical age, was first absolved, then enjoined to say the seven penitential psalms with the Litany for eight consecutive days as a penance, and finally granted dispensation so that he could be admitted to another benefice or presented again to his former one- all this in the person of his proxy! The bishop in all this had merely carried out the (2) instructions contained in the Papal penitentiary's letter. (However, most of the dispensations recorded in the register regularised illegitimate persons. (3))

Of those cases which came within the bishop's own jurisdiction, the more important were reserved for his personal consideration. There are few instances permitting the granting of absolution "*eciam in casibus dicto patri reservatis*". (4) Moreover, the area in which a penitentiary might exercise his 'officium' varied considerably. The vicar of Standish could only act among his parishioners (5); William de Stratton's powers were to be exercised in the county of Gloucester (6), Henry Costantyn's in the deanery of Hawkesbury & Bitton (7), and John of Leominster's in the diocese as a whole. (8) The duration of such commissions also varied. They might be granted until revocation (9) or during pleasure (10), for 2 years (11), or for only one (12). Furthermore, penitentiaries might be monks (13), friars (14), canons (15), or secular clergy- deans (16), rectors (17), or vicars (18). Though friars are found exercising the office of penitentiary, for the general hearing of confessions and for preaching their activities were circumscribed by the bull '*Super Cathedram*'. (19)

(1) Reg. Bransf. 404-5, 714-5.

(2) Ibid. 679-680. (3) Ibid. 253, 354, 1011, 1014.

(4) e.g. Ibid. 998. In which 2 monks of Worcester are empowered to hear confessions, grant absolution, and impose salutary penance. See also *ibid.* 268, 269.

(5) Ibid. 43. (6) Ibid. 35. (7) Ibid. 268.

(8) Ibid. 1333. He was also given permission to preach.

(9) "*donec eas ad nos duxerimus revocandas*", as in *ibid.* 35.

(10) "*quousque sibi placuerit*", as in *ibid.* 608. Most of the entries have merely "*quousque &c.*".

(11) Ibid. 151. (12) Ibid. 259.

(13) Ibid. 52, 242, 998, 1333. (14) Ibid. 28, 36, 55, 259.

(15) Ibid. 35, 261, 608.

(16) Ibid. 53. Walter Marny was dean of Gloucester.

(17) Ibid. 41, 53, 260. (18) Ibid. 43, 143, 144, 151, 268, 469.

(19) Clement, III, vii, 2. See also Reg. Bransf. 262, 269, 322, 693, 944, 1019, for licences granted to friars.

The more serious cases mentioned in the register as reserved for the bishop's consideration are those which involved the violation of nuns, perjury in civil courts in matters of disherison or bloodshed, the breaking of the bishop's manors or parks, or those in which the sentence of excommunication was incurred or the bishop's dispensation required. (1)

An interesting case is recorded in which a number of persons broke into the bishop's park at Penne, near Henbury. He excommunicated them and subsequently granted absolution, enjoining salutary penances. These included the saying of 50 Hail Mary's, the offering at the high altar of Worcester Cathedral of a bow and arrow by each of three malefactors who had drawn a bow in the park, and of wax (2) at the high altar of Holy Trinity, Bristol, by numerous others. (3)

In May 1339 Bishop Wolstan revoked all commissions granted by his predecessors to penitentiaries in the archdeaconry of Gloucester. (4)

b. Apparitors.

We can find little information in the register about these minor legal officers. There are three appointments to the "officium apparitoris", in the deaneries of Pershore, Dursley, and Powick, respectively. (5) That the office was somewhat other than a burden to the recipient seems to be implied by the fact that the appointment of Hugh de Groete by Wolstan while acting as official of the diocese 'sede vacante' was made at the particular request of Peter de Groete his special friend. (6)

c. Commissaries 'ad hoc'.

Though most of the work of the diocese fell to the lot of the archdeacons' officials, the deans, and the bishop's judicial officers, others were on occasions employed for specific purposes such as the carrying out of institutions to benefices in the bishop's collation, the admitting of vows of chastity (7), or the implementing of Papal provisions. (8)

d. Parliamentary and other proctors.

There is no mention of the appointment of a proctor for the parliament which met on October 13 1339 at Westminster. (9)

- (1) See, inter alia, Reg. Bransf. 43, 143, 259. Professor Hamilton Thompson has extracted a commission, dated 1382, from the register of Archbp. Courteney which gives a very full list of reserved cases. V. English Clergy, p. 56 n. 1.
- (2) Either 'one candle, 5 pounds of wax' or 'one wax candle of 5 pounds' weight.' Reg. Bransf. 1013.
- (3) Ibid. (4) Ibid. 54.
- (5) Ibid. 51, 86, 87.
- (6) R.S.V. p. 257. See also p. xv.
- (7) Reg. Bransf. 817.
- (8) Ibid. 27, 136.
- (9) Ibid. 1132. Stubbs ii, p. 380 n. 3, & p. 381.

Robert de Chikewell, or Chigwell, was commissioned to act for the bishop at the parliament summoned for 20 January 1340. (1) He was reappointed for the second session which commenced on 29 March 1340 (2) and again for the third which began on July 12, this time jointly with Thomas de Evesham. (3) There is no record of a summons to the important parliament which first met on April 23rd 1341. (4) John de Severleye and William de Salwarp were appointed proctors for the 1343 parliament and John de Stoke, John de Thoresby and John de Severleye for that of 1344. (5) The last three were also appointed for the council of 1344 and John de Severleye and John de Stoke for that of 1346. (6)

In December 1339 M. John de Walton and M. Philip le Yonge were made proctors of the bishop at the Papal Curia. (7) Philip le Yonge took the opportunity of claiming the vicarage of Bromsgrove, in the patronage of Worcester Priory, and so Richard de Thormerton, a canon of Westbury, and John de Walton were appointed to prosecute the bishop's case against him. (8)

vi. The bishop's 'familia' and chancery. (9)

The terms 'familia' and 'familiares' have been frequently used but seldom defined. In a writ of 1339 the king ordered the bishop to arm his 'familiares' (10) and, in the same year, during his primary visitation, Wolstan is recorded as having received procuration in food and drink 'pro se et sua familia'. (11) The former is obviously a reference to the bishop's lay tenants and dependents; the latter to his clerks, 'servientes', and such other persons as made up his retinue. (12) In fact the term 'familia episcopi' has a wide and somewhat indefinite meaning.

Included in this term were not only the important legal officers of the bishop who have already been discussed, but also many other clerks in his employment, those who were frequently in attendance upon him, holding office in his household, witnessing documents, being present during the conduct of official business, or regularly acting as his notaries. In a limited sense we might also include those who gave counsel or advice to the bishop and for whom he felt obligations of friendship. The lay persons engaged in the administration of the bishop's temporalities will be mentioned later.

(1) Reg. Bransf. 106. Stubbs ii, p. 381 & ibid. n. 4.

(2) Reg. Bransf. 283. (3) Ibid. 137.

(4) Stubbs ii, p. 387 et seq.

(5) Reg. Bransf. 1192, 1217. For details of these and later parliaments see p. liii n. 5.

(6) Ibid. 1208, 1258. (7) Ibid. 243. (8) Ibid. 244.

(9) The writer is much indebted to the pioneer work of C.R. Cheney in 'English Bishops' Chanceries' which, though dealing with an earlier period, provides a useful 'terminus a quo'.

(10) Reg. Bransf. 18 (Wilkins, Concilia ii, pp. 654-5). "mandamus quod familiares vestros arraiare et armis competentibus quemlibet videlicet eorum iuxta status sui decenciam muniri.."

(11) Reg. Bransf. 102. (12) At times of visitation the bp.'s retinue was restricted officially to 20 or 30 persons. V. Cheney p. 5.

The word 'chancery' has a more specialised meaning and may be said to denote those clerks of the familia who were engaged in secretarial and scribal duties, though no such distinction, nor even the term 'chancery', is to be found in the register of Bishop Wolstan. None the less, it is fairly certain that there was an organised secretariat at this time, though the chancellor himself can have had little to do with such routine work. John de Severleye was an important legal officer and, moreover, he was often absent from the diocese and infrequently witnessed episcopal acts. His secretarial duties must have been performed by a person of far less consequence. The title of 'scriba' was used by M. William Aleyn, called 'de Rothewell', who was a clerk of the diocese of Lincoln and in acolyte's orders. (1) This person, however, is first mentioned as late as July 1349 and his predecessor- if he had one- is not recorded. Yet this is far from conclusive since a baffling lack of precision as to title, office or function prohibits any accurate analysis of the organisation of those clerks whom we know to have been employed in Bishop Wolstan's service.

In attempting to discover the names of either laymen or clerks who were in the bishop's service it is a helpful, though not an exhaustive test, to analyse the various lists of witnesses. The laymen witnessed grants of land made by the bishop (2), and only rarely other documents. (3) Their participation need not necessarily imply close association with the bishop, but those who are known to have been connected with him in other ways as well are mentioned below. (4) The test is not exhaustive because there are others, particularly clerks, whose names do not appear in such lists but who were certainly closely associated with the bishop.

Thus John de Chalveston, rector of South Tawton in Devon and so a clerk of Exeter diocese, was regularly ordained in the diocese of Worcester. (5) This in itself would be suggestive, and we are scarcely surprised to find him acting as clerk of the bishop's household and, in October 1342, receiving an acquittance after his accounts had been duly checked by the episcopal auditors. (6) Similarly, William de Salwarp, one of Wolstan's proctors for the 1343 parliament, is described by him as "nostri hospicii senescallum". (7)

(1) Reg. Bransf. 1484, 1562. See p. xlii.

(2) See, for instance, the witness lists in Reg. Bransf. 80, III, 120, 121.

(3) Hugh de Cokesey was present for the oath sworn by William Corbet (*ibid.* 2), John de la Ryver for the resignation of the warden of his chantry (*ibid.* 9II).

(4) See p. lxvii et seq.

(5) *Ibid.* 1060 (subdeacon): 1061 (deacon): 1066 (priest). He was of illegitimate birth (C.P.P. pp. 101, 54).

(6) Reg. Bransf. 542. See also p. xlii supra.

(7) *Ibid.* 1192.

This was probably a more exalted office than that of John de Chalveston, for William was a man of some substance. It was he who witnessed grants from the bishop's manors of Hanbury and Alvechurch in 1340, and from the latter in 1348. (1) If the identification is correct, as seems likely, he secured mortmain licences for the alienation of lands to a chantry priest at St. Michael's, Salwarpe, in 1347, and for a similar alienation to three priests at Hindlip, in 1356. These schemes seem to have been abortive but some salt workings were given to the priory of Westwood. (2) Again, John de Stoke, rector of Saintbury in Gloucestershire, who was granted a portion of land from the bishop's manor of Hanbury, acted as one of his proctors for the parliament of 1344 and for the councils of 1344 and 1346. (3) He is also mentioned as custodian of the properties of alien persons in the counties of Warwickshire and Leicestershire, in 1339, and as the bearer to the Exchequer, on the bishop's behalf, of various sums levied from the goods of Robert de Hambury. (4) We may, perhaps, place Thomas de Evesham (5) in the same category. He farmed the fruits of the bishop's church of Hillingdon in Middlesex (6) and was appointed one of the proctors for a session of the 1340 parliament. (7). Like John de Stoke we find him carrying money to the Exchequer. (8)

Three other persons may be classed somewhat differently as friends of the bishop to whom, we may suspect, he turned for advice on occasions. We have seen that after Thomas de Hemenhale's death the convent, according to one account, proceeded to the election of their future bishop by the advice of M. Thomas de Astley. It may be that Wolstan felt some obligation towards him. Certainly, in 1339, he agreed to pay 5 marks and a gown yearly to William, the brother german of M. Thomas de Astley, from the proceeds of his manor of Kempsey. (9) Similarly, Thomas de Lench, dean of St. Mary's, Warwick, received a mark of the bishop's favour when the procuration due from him at the time of visitation was remitted "de gracia speciali". (10) Lastly, John de Lech, Iuris Canonici Professor, was granted, in January 1340, an annual pension of ten marks until he could be provided with an acceptable benefice, on account of his faithful help and counsel "impensis et impendendis". (11)

- (1) Reg. Bransf. III, 120, 121.
 (2) V.C.H. Worcs., ii, 150, 258: iii, 209-10, 401: iv, 136, 182.
 (3) See p. lx.
 (4) Reg. Bransf. II20, II51, II52, I321.
 (5) In C.C.R. 1339-41, p. 88 (Feb. 21 1339), a Thomas de Evesham, parson of Newnham (Lincoln dioc.) is mentioned in conjunction with Wolstan, bishop elect. In 1327 (C.P.R. 1327-30, p.159) & in 1331 (L.A. 1241) a person of this name is mentioned as rector of Badby (Badeby). (6) Reg. Bransf. 139.
 (7) See p. lx. (8) Reg. Bransf. II60.
 (9) Ibid. 84. Inspeximus & confirmation in C.P.R. 1350-54, p.396 (Jan. 27 1353). (10) Reg. Bransf. II5.
 (11) Ibid. II3.

None of the clerks mentioned so far is recorded as having witnessed, or been present at, any of the bishop's acts. Some of them may well have been considered members of his familia, bound to him by ties of service and reward. But we must turn to other names if we are to discover those clerks who were occupied with the routine work of administration.

It may be helpful to list the names of those who acted as notaries, men habitually employed for the recording of official documents. Not all of those mentioned acted for the bishop. Thus, John de Chaille, a clerk of Lincoln diocese, who described himself as "tabellio publicusque auctoritate apostolica notarius", was employed by the hospital of St. Mark, Billeswick, for the purpose of attesting the election of their master. (1) Similarly, the convent of Tewkesbury employed John de la More, a notary public and clerk of Exeter diocese, for their election in 1347. (2) Again, in 1348, the abbot and convent of St. Peter's, Gloucester, used Robert de Rodmerton, a clerk of the diocese, for the notarial attestation and recording of the ordination of the vicarage of Standish. (3)

Of the notaries employed for diocesan business, M. Thomas Bolevinch of Droitwich is only mentioned as having attested one document, in a second he is described as 'present', and he witnesses a third. (4) Robert Marny formally attests two entries (5), but no less than six entries have either "R. Marny" or merely "Marny" written after them. The meaning of this addition is not clear, though perhaps the notarial attestations have dropped out in some cases. (6) It may be that Thomas Bolevinch and Robert Marny were the bishop's regular notaries. Both were local men. The former came from Droitwich (7) and the latter from Bishop's Cleeve, a few miles over the Worcestershire border, in Gloucestershire. Robert Marny received a licence, dated 18 January 1344, permitting him to leave his church of Halford and to study for one year. (8) He died in March 1349 at the time of the plague. (9)

(1) Reg. Bransf. 78I et seq. 792.

(2) Ibid. 926 et seq.

(3) Ibid. 945.

(4) Ibid. 52I, 556, 645.

(5) Ibid. 243, 244.

(6) Ibid. 3, 123, 43I, 432, 445, 1013.

(7) He is regularly described as 'de Wych'. About 1300 a Robert 'dictus Bulvynche' was a chaplain at Dodderhill. v. Nash i, p. 336 & p. 338 no. 7.

(8) Ibid. 528.

(9) Ibid. 1379.

Four more notaries who acted in the diocese are mentioned in the register. Peter Richard Beaugrant had a house in Worcester and attested the appointment of John de Chalkeford's proctor. (1) Walter de Beggeworth was one of the witnesses of the resignation of the Tormarton chantry warden in 1348. (2) No formal attestation by M. John de Bradewas is recorded in the register, but he was 'present' on two occasions, and the second time he is termed 'notary'. (3) Lastly, William Aleyn, already mentioned as the bishop's 'scriba' (4), was a notary public from the diocese of Lincoln. He is not mentioned earlier than 1349. He formally attests one document and witnesses another. (5)

Of those who were not notaries M. John Botoner is mentioned most frequently. He is recorded as being present or witnessing on no less than seven occasions. (6) He also acted as the bishop's receiver and accounted for all the sums (7) due to Wolstan from both his temporalities and his spiritualities. In September 1342 he rendered a full account of these financial activities and, after audit, he received due acquittance. (8) In January of the following year he received another discharge, this time for £100 which had been sent to him in the care of the bishop's servant John de Wych and for which he had duly rendered account. (9) He resigned his benefice of Naunton on Cotswold for the vicarage of Wisbech in the diocese of Ely only two days before the bishop's death. (10)

Nicholas de Stanlak was also frequently in attendance on the bishop. He was admitted a monk of Worcester in 1329 (11) during Wolstan's priorate. He was either present or acting as a witness on five occasions. (12) In 1340 he acted with John de Preston as a proctor for the choosing of a monk from the seven presented by the convent of Worcester. (13) He is mentioned in 1341 as the bishop's penitentiary, and this may have been intended in a personal sense. (14) It is possible that he was the bishop's chaplain, though John de Ryppon is the only person so entitled in the register. (15)

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 669. John de Chalkeford was rector of Rudbaxton (St. David's dioc.) & was negotiating an exchange with the rector of Oddingley.
- (2) Ibid. 911.
- (3) Ibid. 594, 726.
- (4) See p. xlii.
- (5) Reg. Bransf. 1484, 1549.
- (6) Ibid. 243, 244, 245, 677, 726, 764.
- (7) Compare the commission of Henry de Neubold who was to collect merely the pensions and procurations. See p. lvi.
- (8) Reg. Bransf. 541.
- (9) Ibid. 555.
- (10) Ibid. 1562.
- (11) Liber Albus 1147.
- (12) Reg. Bransf. 3, 244, 432, 521, 755.
- (13) Ibid. 290.
- (14) Ibid. 3.
- (15) Ibid. 1562.

Other clerks, such as Henry de Winchcombe (1), William de Preston (2) and John de Dumbleton (3), also witnessed isolated acts, but their names do not occur sufficiently often to indicate that they were other than occasional participants in diocesan business.

vii. The bishop's patronage as a means of remuneration.

There is a close connection between the holders of benefices in the bishop's collation and his administrative staff. The existence of a considerable number of these benefices may almost be said to have made administration possible, for without this resource the bishop would have found it difficult to maintain his staff. We have seen that Wolstan granted a number of pensions and a few plots of land, but such were rather exceptional. For the most part his clerks were rewarded with benefices as they fell vacant. Unless otherwise stated all the benefices mentioned below were in the bishop's collation. The inter-relation of proctors, inductors and those instituted is in itself of much significance.

The bishop's official, John de la Lowe, received the collation of the rectory of Bredon in 1341, the mandate for induction being directed to Henry de Neubold. (4) He retained the benefice until his death in 1349. The institution of John de Severleye, the chancellor, to the rectory of Billesley, not in the bishop's gift, must have taken place before Wolstan's episcopate. He resigned in 1349 when he became archdeacon of Worcester. (5) In 1341 Henry de Neubold received the collation of Weston on Avon church, which had been resigned by Hugh de Penebrugg who had himself been instituted in the previous year. (6) He remained rector until after Wolstan's death. Hugh de Penebrugg had resigned so that he could accept the rectory of Hartlebury. John le Botoner acted as the bishop's commissary for his induction. (7) The church of Halford was collated to John le Botoner in 1339 and he was inducted in the person of his proctor, Thomas Bolevinch, early in 1340. (8) He did not retain it long for, in December, he exchanged it with Robert Marny for the rectory of Naunton on Cotswold. (9) In 1349 he resigned and moved to Ely diocese as vicar of Wisbech. (10)

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 503, 594.
- (2) Ibid. 245, 594. He was rector of Hethe, Lincoln diocese.
- (3) Ibid. 521. He was rector of Sedgeberrow.
- (4) Ibid. 435. 8 Sept. 1341.
- (5) Ibid. 1413. 22 May 1349.
- (6) Ibid. 390, 20 Jan. 1341 : 357, 28 Oct. 1340.
- (7) Ibid. 389, 19 Jan. 1341.
- (8) Ibid. 241.
- (9) Ibid. 381, 382.
- (10) Ibid. 1562.

Though the church of Halford was collated to Robert Marny in December 1340, he does not seem to have retained it. (1) In 1341, being described as vacant, it was collated to John Bate of Cleeve. (2) In the following year, however, Robert Marny recovered it after the resignation of John Bate. (3) In August 1344 he exchanged it for Eastleach, in the patronage of the prior and convent of Great Malvern. (4) He probably died in March 1349 as his successor was instituted on the 20th of that month. (5) The church of Naunton, left vacant by the removal of Botoner to Wisbech, was collated to the bishop's secretary, William Aleyn (6). Two days later, on August 6th 1349, he secured the more valuable rectory of Withington, thus vacating Naunton. (7) The mandate, dated 4 August, for the induction of William Aleyn to Naunton was addressed to John de Rippon, the bishop's chaplain. On the same day Halford was collated to the latter, Henry de Neubold and Robert del Hull being appointed to induct. (8) Because of the long vacancy at St. Peter's, Warwick, the presentation devolved on the bishop, thus enabling him to provide for Thomas Bolevinch. (9)

In fact only a few of those whom we have found prominent in the bishop's service did not derive benefit from his rights of collation. Though it may be regretted that such men of learning did not often reside in their parishes, at least there was no pluralism.

Before leaving the subject it may be interesting to note a glaring example of how such a system of remuneration could be abused. Robert de Chigwell, whose activities as parliamentary proctor have been noticed above, received the collation of Hampton Bishop in 1341. (10) In 1343 he secured licence to leave his church for two years. (11) Two years later a faculty was granted to Raimund Pelegrini, the Papal nuncio, at the instance of the king and of Queen Philippa, permitting him to receive the resignations of Robert de Chigwell and Nicholas Janini de Ramberticuria, canon and prebendary of Chichester. These two planned a large scale exchange. Robert's benefices included canonries and prebends in London, Salisbury, Wells and Dublin, to the value of £66, as well as others he expected to receive in Lincoln, York and in the gift of the bishop of Worcester, estimated at £50. (12) There is no mention of the institution of Nicholas Janini to Hampton, but he exchanged it, in 1346, for the church of Sparham in the diocese of Norwich. (13)

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| (1) Reg. Bransf. 382. | (2) Ibid. 446 |
| (3) Ibid. 465. | M. John Botoner acted as his proctor. |
| (4) Ibid. 646. | (5) Ibid. 1379. |
| (6) Ibid. 1562. | (7) Ibid. 1566. |
| (8) Ibid. 1563. | (9) Ibid. 744-5. |
| (10) Ibid. 410. | (11) Ibid. 514. |
| (12) C.P.P. p. 99. C.P.L. 1342-62, pp. 188-9. | |
| (13) Reg. Bransf. 823-5. | |

Details of the manors belonging to the bishopric of Worcester can be studied in the Red Book of Worcester. (I) They were distributed among all three counties of the diocese and there were also lands at Hillingdon in Middlesex and a London house in the Strand. (2)

As steward of his temporalities in the counties of Worcester and Warwick Bishop Wolstan appointed Peter de Groete, whom he had described in 1338 as his special friend. (3). It was no doubt this Peter de Groete who witnessed the bishop's grants to John de Peyto junior, John de Stoke and Thomas de Henley. (4) The Groetes, father and son, both named Peter, secured the manor of Pirton Foliot in 1340. They received further lands from William de Salwarpe and Thomas de Pirton and, in 1353, land in Pirton and Severn Stoke was granted to them by Thomas lord Berkeley. (5) A Peter de Groete was acting as sheriff of Worcester in 1347 (6) and the name occurs regularly among the lists of members for the city of Worcester and among those of the knights of the shire. (7)

The hundred of Oswaldslo was, for the most part, a compact area around Worcester. In 1342(?) Thomas le Somery was appointed bailiff of this franchise, which he was to hold in the same way as others had held it before him. (8) Richard de Bromwych was appointed in 1349 (27 June), though three days later Thomas atte Mulle was granted similar letters of appointment "sub sigillo domini ad causas". (9) A writ addressed to the sheriff of Worcester for the distraint of tenants at West Hills within the liberty of Oswaldslo, notwithstanding the bishop's franchise, has been copied into the register. (10)

On April 5th 1339 Adam de Styventon was appointed bailiff of the manors of Stratford and Hampton and of the bishop's lands in the town of Stratford, he was also to hold the lesser courts (parvas curias) together with the hundreds of Pathlow and 'Gilpuc'. (II) On the 4th Peter de Penebrugg had been appointed constable of Hartlebury castle. (12)

On April 29th 1339 William de Cheltenham was appointed steward of the bishop's temporalities in Gloucestershire, with rights of taking each year clothes and sustenance for himself and his horses "prout decet" and, moreover, of receiving 10 marks, in four instalments, from the reeve of Salt Marsh. (13) He had

- (I) Ed. Marjory Hollings (W.H.S.). Parts i-iv, 1934-50.
(2) See Green i, pp. 75-7. (3) Reg. Bransf. 33. R.S.V. p. 257.
(4) Reg. Bransf. 80, III, 120, 121. In 120 he is termed 'senior'.
(5) V.C.H. Worcs. iii, pp. 269, 384 n.: iv, p. 335.
(6) See p. xxvii. He is not listed as a sheriff in 1347 in Nash i, p. xvi.
(7) Nash i, pp. xxvi, xxix.
(8) Reg. Bransf. 565. C.C.R. 1343-46, p. 202. For details of this franchise see Nash i, p. lx et seq.
(9) Reg. Bransf. 1331, 1332. (10) Ibid. II24, 4 May 1339.
(II) Ibid. 31. (12) Ibid. 32. (13) Ibid. 67.

a house at Pucklechurch in Gloucestershire and received licence to have an oratory there in 1342. (1) He was a prominent man in the county. Together with Thomas de Berkeley he was commissioned to enquire into the assaulting of collectors of a 10th and 15th, to arrest such as were guilty, and to lodge them in prison. (2) In 1344 he served on a commission of 'oyer' and 'terminer' set up to investigate recent riots in the city of Hereford. (3) He served on many similar commissions particularly in association with Thomas lord Berkeley and Thomas de Cobberley. (4)

In 1340 William de Netherton was appointed custodian of the bishop's house or houses in the parish of Blessed Mary at Stronde, as well as receiver of all rents due to the bishop in London or in the above mentioned parish. (5) It was in the house of the bishop of Worcester that Sir Robert Parning, the chief justice of the King's Bench and appointed Treasurer in 1340, died. (6) It was there too that Stephen de Cobham and John de Futteneye came before John de Thoresby, keeper of the Chancery rolls and future bishop of Worcester. (7) In 1346 John de Irford, who claimed to be rector of Oddingley, appointed proctors to act for him in the house of M. John Thoresby, canon of Lincoln and keeper of the Privy Seal. This was in fact the bishop of Worcester's house. (8)

Such administration of his temporalities did not exhaust the help given by the laity to the bishop. We have seen that he was on terms of friendship with Peter de Groete, and a similar relationship seems to have existed between himself and Hugh de Cokeseye. In an undated document, though probably of 1339, Wolstan granted Hugh 40/- of rent and a robe from the proceeds of his manor of Hanbury until his (the bishop's) death "pro servicio, consilio, et eius auxilio nobis impensis et impendendis". (9) He was one of the well known Cooksey family which held the manor of Great Cooksey in Upton Warren as well as other lands in Worcestershire. Hugh succeeded his brother Walter before 1333 and died in 1356; his wife, Edward le Botiler's daughter Denise, died in 1376-7. (10) Hugh witnessed the bishop's grant to John de Peyto and the oath sworn by Sir William Corbet. (11)

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 467. (2) C.P.R. 1343-5, pp. 514-5.
 (3) Ibid. pp. 419-20. (4) See below
 (5) Reg. Bransf. 140.
 (6) C.C.R. 1343-46, pp. 97, 225 (1343).
 (7) Ibid. p. 473 (1343). See also ibid. p. 480.
 (8) Reg. Bransf. 668.
 (9) Stubbs ii, p. 387.
 (10) V.C.H. Worcs. iii, p.232. See also the index sub. nom.
 (11) Reg. Bransf. 2, 80.

John de Peyto was granted the bishop's manor of Stratford at a yearly rent of £60 and also the profits of the episcopal hundreds and liberties in the county of Warwick. (1) A person of this name held land at Waresley in 1346. (2)

THE BISHOP'S VISITATIONS.

Bishop Wolstan commenced his primary visitation some seven months after his consecration and did not complete it until half way through the following year. Subsequent visitations were carried out in 1342 and 1345, but there is no mention of one in 1348.

The primary visitation, quite apart from its pastoral and judicial significance, was a formal personal progress during which the bishop, as it were, made the acquaintance of his flock. It is significant that it is the most fully recorded of Wolstan's visitations and the only one in which his day to day movements can be traced throughout. It was carried out by the bishop in person between 14 October and 19 November 1339 in the archdeaconry of Worcester, and between 7 February and 29 June, but with interludes, in that of Gloucester. We cannot but admire the fortitude of the bishop who carried out such a strenuous itinerary despite the rigours of winter; one, moreover, which included some very hilly Cotswold country traversed in the inclement months of February and March.

The usual procedure in the diocese of Worcester at times of visitation was for notice of the bishop's intentions to be sent to the prior and convent of the cathedral church. The two archdeacons, in the persons of their officials, were then informed, and their judicial authority was suspended for the duration of the visitation, for the bishop would be exercising in person his powers as 'iudex ordinarius' of the diocese. The archdeacons were instructed to summon the clergy and people of their archdeaconries, the clergy in person and the laity by their representatives, to meet in various places in accordance with a prearranged itinerary. The 'comperta', or findings, were duly recorded by the bishop's clerks in the course of the visitation. After its completion the bishop's duty was to remedy such defects and irregularities as had come to light, but in practice special commissions were issued to his legal officers for the correction and punishment of offenders.

The scribes responsible for the compilation of the register did not consider that it was necessary to record full details of all Wolstan's visitations, nor yet to gather such material in a separate quaternion. The primary visitation is obviously given a special prominence, though even then all the relevant documents are not recorded. There is a detailed

(1) Reg. Bransf. 80. 12 Aug. 1339. See pardon by fine of 5 marks for not having licence for this grant in C.P.R.

1338-40, p. 329. 28 Oct. 1339.

(2) V.C.H. Worcs. iii, pp. 269, 384n. See also iv, p. 335.

itinerary for each of the archdeaconries (I), a letter informing the prior of Worcester and another the prior of Little Malvern of their diocesan's intended advent, and a further letter addressed to the official of the archdeacon giving details of the proposed itinerary and instructing him to cite the clergy and representatives of the laity. (2) The corresponding letter for the archdeaconry of Gloucester is not recorded. There is far less information about the 1342 visitation and even less about that of 1345. The 'progressus' for part of the latter was written down and then crossed out, so that it is by chance that this fragment has come down to us. (3) It is unlikely that there was a visitation in 1348, certainly there is no hint of one in the register.

a. The primary visitation. 14 Oct. 1339- 29 June 1340. (4)

On 22 September 1339 the bishop wrote to the prior and convent of Worcester intimating his intention to visit them on the 14th of October. He made it plain that he intended no root and branch reformation but he wished to see them for the quietening of his conscience and the due performance of his office. Moreover, he desired to refresh them, so far as he could, with the food of God's word, and thus together they might find consolation. (5) On the 30th he wrote to the official of the archdeacon of Worcester instructing him to cite the clergy and laity of his archdeaconry and to order the former to bring along all such documents as might require inspection. Full details of the proposed itinerary, in so far as it concerned the parish churches, were given. (6) On the same day the priory of Little Malvern was warned to expect the bishop on October 21st. (7)

For the first day of the visitation, Thursday 14th October, the bishop was occupied with the cathedral priory. He stayed there for one night and received procuration for himself and his familia in food and drink for two days. During the five subsequent days Wolstan visited the deanery of Worcester and the churches of the city together with the hospitals of SS. Wulstan and Oswald there. On Monday the 18th he made the brief journey to the Cistercian nunnery of Whistones some four miles south-east of Worcester.

On the 20th he crossed the Severn and Teme rivers and visited Powick deanery at Powick and Longdon. After visiting Little Malvern priory and dedicating an altar at Upton on Severn he spent the night of the 23rd. at Kempsey, one of his manors. It is probable that he crossed the river by boat because at that time Worcester boasted the only bridge over the

(1) Reg. Bransf. 102, 117.

(2) Ibid. 85, 90, 89.

(4) See appendices 3-6.

(6) Ibid. 89.

(3) Ibid. 751.

(5) Reg. Bransf. 85.

(7) Ibid. 90.

Severn between Bridgenorth and Gloucester- or so the protagonists of the priory had claimed in 1313. (1) Furthermore, even in the 16th century Upton only possessed a wooden bridge. (2)

On the 24th the bishop journeyed to Astley, near Hartlebury, where he visited the priory. Astley was a cell of the abbey of St. Taurinus, Evreux, and so an alien priory. The prior at his institution took an oath of obedience to the bishop and undertook to pay the portion due to the vicar of Astley. (3) The bishop spent the night at his castle of Hartlebury.

Wolstan then proceeded to visit the Kidderminster deanery at Kidderminster and Halesowen, and that of Droitwich at Tardebigge and Dodderhill. The church of Dodderhill overlooks Droitwich from a considerable hill to the north of that town. The bishop completed his visitation there on Saturday, 30th October, but whether he returned to Hartlebury or to Worcester is not clear, though he was certainly at the latter place three days later (2nd November). (4) Thus in seventeen days he had visited four deaneries, two hospitals, and four other religious houses. He had covered rather more than 120 miles.

Despite such a strenuous beginning Wolstan did not rest long, but set out to visit the remainder of the archdeaconry on November 3rd. Pershore deanery was visited in the churches of St. Andrew, Pershore, and of Cropthorne. The abbey of Pershore was reserved for the return journey. One day sufficed for the deanery of Blockley, while that of Kington was visited in the churches of Welford and Easington. During this time the bishop spent a night at Tredington on one of his manors.

Proceeding northwards the bishop arrived at his manors of Stratford and Hampton. These are given a separate heading apart from the deaneries in the register. He visited in the church of Holy Trinity, Stratford, and spent two nights at Hampton. On the feast of St. Martin (November 11th) he visited the collegiate church of the B.V.M., Warwick, and stayed the night in the priory of the Holy Sepulchre. This place he visited on the following morning, together with the hospital of St. Michael. Leaving Warwick, Wolstan visited the (Benedictine) nunneries of Pinley and Wroxall, the former of the Cistercian and the latter of the Benedictine order, and on the following day the remainder of the churches of the deanery in the church of Wootton Wawen. The Augustinian priory of Studley, the Benedictine abbey of Alcester and the Cistercian nunnery of Cook Hill each occupied the bishop for one day, and on the 19th of November he arrived back at Pershore where he visited the abbey. (5)

(1) See p. iv.

(2) Gaut, Worcestershire Agriculture (1939) p. 54 (from Leland).

(3) Reg. Bransf. 400.

(4) Ibid. 105.

(5) While at Alcester he also visited the church there and other neighbouring ones.

Whether by chance or perhaps by good planning, the bishop had covered, by the time he reached Pershore on his return journey, almost the same mileage as he had done in the first half of the archdeaconry. He had taken 16 days, visited four deaneries and Stratford with Hampton, as well as nine religious houses. By 25th November he was back at Hartlebury (1) where he spent Christmas, and where he seems to have remained until the beginning of February. (2)

On 3rd February 1340 Wolstan was at his manor of Hanbury, near Droitwich, and on the 6th at Sedgeberrow, near Evesham. (3) The following day he commenced his visitation of the archdeaconry of Gloucester at Beckford in the deanery of Campden. He visited this deanery in no less than five different churches. The bishop had no jurisdiction over the alien priory of Beckford, a cell of St. Barbe-en-Auge in Normandy, but he spent two days at the Benedictine abbey of Winchcomb at the expense of the abbot and convent. He visited the deanery of Stow in the churches of Longborough, Stow, and Rissington, and that of Fairford in those of Eastleach, Hatherop and the chapel of Sherborne. It is recorded that he stayed at Lechlade priory but there is no mention of any visitation there (4). He rested at Bibury "per totum diem" on February 22nd. The bishop no doubt stayed on his manor but whether he visited the area of the Bibury jurisdiction is not clear. The clerk who wrote up the account of the visitation started the 'vis' of 'visitavit' but altered it to 'ivit', and this may well be significant. (5) The deanery of Cirencester was visited in three churches and the bishop was at the Augustinian abbey of Cirencester for two days, administering corrections on the second. The deanery of Stonehouse was visited in six churches and Wolstan spent two days at the Benedictine abbey of St. Peter, Gloucester. On the second day he administered corrections as he had done at Cirencester. The last four days of this part of the visitation were spent in the deanery of Winchcomb which was visited in three churches. On 11th March, it being the Saturday after the first Sunday in Lent, an Ember day, the bishop held an ordination in the parish church of Cheltenham, but details of this were probably written on folios which have been lost.

(1) Reg. Bransf. 234, 235.

(2) Ibid. 248, 249.

(3) Ibid. III, 250.

(4) An Augustinian hospital, later converted into a secular chantry. Knowles & Hadcock, p. 283.

(5) See p. xlvi.

After his visitation in the church of Bishop's Cleeve on March 13th Wolstan probably rested for some days. He had completed the most strenuous part of his work, having been almost continuously on the move for five weeks. In 36 days he had slept at no less than 29 different places. He had, moreover, covered about 150 miles, and though the route seems to have been well chosen it included some fairly hilly country on the lower slopes of the Cotswolds. All this was accomplished in the months of February and March.

By March 22nd the bishop was back at Hartlebury (1), though his visitation was as yet incomplete. On April 1st, the eve of Passion Sunday, he held an ordination in the parish church of Kidderminster, (2) and, on the 22nd, a very small one at Alvechurch, where he kept the Easter festival. (3) By May 14th he was at his manor of Bredon (4) whence, on the 18th, he visited the churches of Tewkesbury and Deerhurst. This was quite a short journey of some six miles and he returned to Bredon the same day.

On May 22nd Wolstan began his visitation of the remaining four deaneries of the Gloucester archdeaconry. (5) He stayed two days at Lanthony priory, and then visited the Gloucester deanery at Gloucester and Longney. The deanery of Dursley was visited in the chapel of Stinchcombe and the church of Wotton-under-Edge, that of Hawkesbury and Bitton in those of Hawkesbury, Wapley, Pucklechurch and Iron Acton.

Iron Acton church was visited on June 9th and Wolstan did not continue his progress until the 19th. He remained at his manor of Henbury, no doubt recuperating from the rigours of his travelling.

On the 19th he arrived at the abbey of St. Augustine, Bristol, where he stayed for two days and made corrections. On the second day he also visited the hospital of St. Mark, Billeswick (al. Gaunt's Hospital). On the 21st. he visited the Benedictine priory of St. James and the hospitals of SS. Bartholomew and Mary Magdalene. The churches of the town were visited in the parish church of Holy Trinity, while those of the northern outskirts received the bishop in the collegiate church of Westbury-on-Trym. Each evening the bishop made the journey of a few miles back to his manor of Henbury.

Wolstan remained at Henbury from June 23rd until the 26th, when he once more set out northwards, visiting the remainder of the deanery of Bristol at Almondsbury. By the time he had reached Eastington, on Thursday June 29th, he had covered some ninety miles since he had left Lanthony. Yet this part of his visitation had been quite leisurely, interrupted as it had been by his days at Henbury.

(1) Reg. Bransf. 282.

(2) Ibid. 1009.

(3) Ibid. 126, 128, 1010.

(4) Ibid. 300.

(5) Counting Hawkesbury & Bitton as a single deanery.

The bishop's total mileage while actually visiting his diocese did not fall much, if at all, short of 500 miles. A total which does not include his journey to and from Hartlebury when he interrupted the visitation between March 13th and May 18th 1340. It will be noticed that the bishop was far more thorough in his visitation of the Gloucester archdeaconry, no deanery being visited in less than three churches, while two days were spent in the larger monasteries of Winchcomb, Cirencester, Gloucester, Lanthony and Bristol.

Meanwhile the machinery for correction had been set in motion. Two of the bishop's legal officers, his official John de la Lowe and his sequestrator Henry de Neubold, were associated in a commission for the correction of faults in the archdeaconry of Worcester. (1) On December 6th the dean of Pershore was ordered to cite certain persons contained in a schedule to appear before the bishop or his commissaries on the 14th in the church of St. Andrew, Pershore, so that they might receive correction and answer questions put to them. Certain faults, however, the bishop reserved for correction at a later time. (2) A number of religious houses received special attention. The bishop issued detailed injunctions for the Augustinian house of St. Peter, Gloucester. These, as the bishop himself owned, were scarcely novel but dealt with the perennial faults of monastic houses concerning which Wolstan could not have been ignorant. Penalties are prescribed for leaving the cloister (3), for neglect of the 'opus divinus', for revealing the counsels of the chapter, and for provocation to anger. There was also provision for an obedientiary whose weekit was to say High Mass to choose a substitute to fulfill his office until the end of the week, for speech in Latin and French during labour or at other lawful times of conversation, and for the faithful collection and distribution of alms by the almoner. Moreover, the sacristan was to keep the church in good repair. The bishop expressed his unwillingness to enforce his injunctions with threats of excommunication or to impose upon the canons a corrector or commissary who was a stranger to them, for not only did he wish to conceal rather than to spread abroad their faults but also, 'laudato altissimo', there were many more things in their house deserving praise than there were those meriting correction. (4) In contrast, there was much amiss at the priory of the Holy Sepulchre, Warwick. The bishop's sequestrator, Henry de Neubold, was instructed to go there in person, to summon before him all who might throw light on the matter, and to enquire diligently as to the state of the house, the circumstances of the prior and canons, and more especially of the officials and administrators of the common goods, both regular and secular persons. Sufficient food and drink were to be allowed, but if the prior or cellarer was suspected of serious

(1) Reg. Bransf. IO4. 26 Nov. 1339.

(2) Ibid. IO3.

(3) Probably in the wider sense of "loca claustralia".

(4) Reg. Bransf. II6.

wastage of the goods of the priory he was to be suspended until the matter had been thrashed out in the bishop's presence. (1) Unfortunately we are vouchsafed no further information as to the success of the bishop's efforts to improve conditions at these two religious houses.

Because of irregularities at Chedworth Wolstan sequestered the fruits of the rectory, which was appropriated to the abbey of Lyre in Normandy. Their collection was entrusted to commissaries. (2) At Frampton Cotterell the rector had been suffering from bouts of madness. On May 4th the bishop had provided him with a coadjutor in the person of Philip de Weston, who had powers to take charge of the spiritualities and temporalities of the rectory. (3) What became of this coadjutor is not recorded for while at Henbury, towards the completion of his visitation, Wolstan appointed Henry, vicar of Great Sodbury, to act in the same capacity. (4) Four days previously, June 20th, he had appointed Thomas Neel de Rudebourn to act as coadjutor to the vicar of Turkdean. The latter may not have been well disposed towards the helper imposed on him for, some days later, Wolstan enjoined him to receive Thomas under penalty of excommunication and, moreover, to show all his goods so that a proper inventory could be made. (5) On April 9th 1340 the bishop admonished the rector of Campden in the person of his proctor to reside in his church. (6) From Blockley he wrote a letter instructing the dean of Kidderminster to discover the whereabouts of Nicholas Jobmol, or Jobinol, and to admonish him to reside in his parish. (7)

The hospital of St. Bartholomew, Bristol, had been founded for a master, brethren and sisters. About 1336 (8) the foundation was reorganised to provide for a prioress and sisters. In 1340 Wolstan, as a result of information laid before him at the time of his visitation and in response to a petition, gave permission to the prioress for the farming of the dormitory which, at the time when there had been both brethren and sisters, had housed the latter. (8)

b. The second visitation. 4 Nov. 1342 - ?

It is obvious that the register does not contain the full account of this visitation, and even the portions of the itinerary which have been recorded might well prove misleading on account of their incompleteness.

From his manor of Withington Wolstan wrote a letter, dated 3rd. October 1342, informing the prior and chapter of Worcester of his intention to visit them on the first law day after the feast of All Saints, Monday November 4th. (9) On the same day he sent details of his itinerary to the official of the archdeacon of Worcester, ordering him to summon the clergy and four or six laymen from each parish according to its size. (10)

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 118. (2) Ibid. 138.
 (3) Ibid. 45. (4) Ibid. 132. (5) Ibid. 131, 133.
 (6) Ibid. 123. (7) Ibid. 135.
 (8) This date given in Knowles & Hadcock, p. 258.
 (9) Reg. Bransf. 530. (10) Ibid. 531.

An examination of the itinerary shows that it relates only to the deaneries of Worcester, Powick, Droitwich and Kidderminster, which, as we have seen, formed the first part of the bishop's itinerary in the archdeaconry during his primary visitation. There is no mention of the deaneries of Pershore, Kington or Warwick. That Wolstan visited Pershore deanery is obvious from the fact that the dean was instructed to cite those found guilty of defects, whose names were appended in a schedule, to appear before the bishop or his commissaries. (1) Unfortunately this entry is not dated, nor is that recording the appointment of John de la Lowe and Henry de Neubold as commissaries. (2) They probably bore a date prior to 10th December, when commissaries were appointed to take cognisance of the comperta of the whole visitation, and after 11th November, when the bishop completed his itinerary- so far as it has been recorded- by visiting the deanery of Kidderminster. It is possible that the Warwick deanery was left until January 1343, for Wolstan warned the monasteries of Alcester and Wroxall of his intention to visit them on the 22nd and 25th of that month and both had been included in his primary visitation of the deanery of Warwick. (3) The bishop was at Arrow, near Alcester, on 21st January, and at Hampton, near Stratford, on 1st February. (4)

The evidence for the Gloucester archdeaconry is even more fragmentary. The itinerary gives details for only three days, from November 28th to the 30th. In this time the bishop proposed to visit the deanery of Campden in the churches of Didbrook, Child's Wickham and Beckford. At this juncture the scribe had to turn to a new folio and he neglected to conclude the itinerary. (5) None the less, it is likely that the visitation was concluded before the issue of the commission of December 10th mentioned above. As Wolstan was then at Hartlebury he could not have made any extensive tour of the southern archdeaconry. As we have seen, he was in Warwickshire in January and there is little evidence to suggest that he continued his visitation of the Gloucester archdeaconry after that. (6)

Though the full extent of the 1342 visitation is not recorded in the register, it is none the less obvious that it was a partial and somewhat cursory affair. Apart from the issue of the three commissions for correction there is little further about it. (7)

c. The third visitation. 7 Nov. 1345- ?

There is even less information about the third visitation. There are no letters for the prior of Worcester or for either archdeacon, but there is a mere fragment of the "progressus" which was crossed out after only four days had been completed. This visitation began as usual in the chapter

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 536. (2) Ibid. 566. (3) Ibid. 533, 534.
 (4) Ibid. 496, 494. Moreover, the final commission for correction &c. was dated 22 Jan. 1343. Ibid. 567.
 (5) Ibid. 532. (6) But see ibid. 600.
 (7) Ibid. 536, 566, 567. See also 537.

house at Worcester. On the following day, Tuesday 8th November, the bishop continued his visitation, dined at the priory, and slept at Hartlebury. His commissaries together with the notary spent the night in the priory. These commissaries continued the visitation on the Wednesday by visiting the churches of the city and neighbourhood of Worcester in the church of St. Helen. On Thursday the bishop himself visited various churches of West Worcestershire in the church of Astley, staying the night at nearby Hartlebury. (1) These few details and an acknowledgement of the receipt of procuration from the abbey of Halesowen on account of the church of Clent, together with mention in 1346 of a recent visitation of Cirencester abbey, comprise just about all we know of Wolstan's third visitation. (2)

d. Conclusion.

A fourth visitation should have begun in November 1348, but there is no record of such in the register. An air of finality is given by the fact that Henry de Neubold, who had acted as corrector general and as collector of procurations, received his acquittance on the 5th of that month. (3) Apart from this omission the rule of triennial visitations had been well kept. But even though the later visitations were not fully recorded in the register, and may well have been more extensive than the truncated itineraries suggest, it is obvious that they fell far short of the standard set by Wolstan's primary progress. (4)

(1) Reg. Bransf. 751.

(2) Ibid. 753, 835.

(3) Ibid. 913.

(4) Professor Hamilton Thompson in his *English Clergy* (p. 45), writing of a somewhat later period, remarked: "Where the diocese was large, the (primary) visitation invariably was spread over a considerable period, and, although it was sometimes followed after some years' interval by a second visitation, this seems to have been incomplete, and I know of no instance, even at earlier periods when it is possible to follow a bishop's movements from day to day, in which the rule of triennial visitations was strictly observed." In the light of this statement Wolstan may be said to have upheld a standard somewhat higher than that of most of his contemporaries.

CHANTRIES.

Detailed ordinations of no less than thirteen (1) chantries are to be found in the register and they form one of the most prominent of the classes of documents which it contains.

A chantry, in the technical sense of the word, (2) was a Mass offered for the good estate of the founder, his relations, friends, or such other persons as he chose, while living, and for the welfare of their souls after death. These Masses could be celebrated at the ordinary altars of a church, but in the 14th century it became increasingly common for wealthy founders to make provision for the building of special chapels to accommodate their chantry priests. It was the growth of this practice which was in large measure responsible for the fascinating irregularity assumed by many of the English parish churches in the later Middle Ages.

By chance a 12th century foundation (3) of the chapel of St. Katherine at Campden has been recorded in the register. (4) Only in the marginal rubric, a 14th century addition, is the word 'cantaria' mentioned. (5) None the less it is in essence much the same as the later chantries, the lands for its support being given by one Gondevill "pro salute anime mee et antecessorum meorum".

The actual establishment of a 14th century chantry was a complicated, if somewhat stereotyped, process. The founder was anxious, above all, to ensure that his chantry continued for ever, in fact the term "perpetua cantaria" is frequently used in such documents. In order to do this he had to provide a sufficient endowment. (6) The usual method was to grant lands and rents of a certain value, together with a sum of money and sundry necessary goods and chattels. All these were to be handed on unimpaired and undiminished to each successive chaplain. If there was more than one chaplain such grants were usually assigned to one of them who acted as "custos" or warden of the chantry and who made provision for his colleagues. It was important too that there should be definite rules for the presentation of chaplains, with rights devolving upon second, or even third parties in case of non-presentation. Finally the founder drew up detailed ordinances concerning the conduct of the chaplains, the scope of their duties, and the circumstances in which they could be removed. Frequently the bishop was exhorted to make full enquiries at times of visitation, and this may indicate greater contemporary faith in the value of

- (1) One of these is the Ripple chantry, dating from Thomas de Cobham's episcopate. See p. xl n. 3.
- (2) For a discussion of the meaning of this word v. English Clergy, pp. 132-3. (3) 1180-85. See p. xli.
- (4) Reg. Bransf. 905.
- (5) Its habitual use to signify a special Mass dates from the 13th century. English Clergy, p. 133.
- (6) In 1341 two chantries were united because of the diminution of their endowments. Reg. Bransf. 119.

visitatorial supervision than that evinced by some modern writers. (1)

The various stages in the formal process can be studied in the entry about the chantry founded by Thomas de Berkeley in the church of St. Giles at Coberley. (2) This is entitled "ordinacio", but this word has a more specialised meaning which is noted below. The ordination in the wider sense is a composite entry in the form of the bishop's letters patent confirming the whole process and dated 5th July 1340 from Blockley. Contained within these letters patent are those of the founder, duly attested and dated 9th November 1337 at Coberley. These latter constitute the chantry's foundation (fundacio), and include the royal licence for alienation in mortmain, dated 23rd May 1336; the grant (dotacio) of such lands to the chaplain and his successors, duly attested and dated from Coberley as above (9 Nov.); and, finally, the actual details of Masses, observances and other regulations which the founder wishes his chaplain to obey (ordinacio). The bishop's function was two-fold: to approve, ratify and confirm, so far as in him lay, the foundation, grant and ordination, and to inhibit anyone from maliciously infringing them by threat of excommunication. It was customary for the prior of Worcester to add his own confirmation, though such additions are not always recorded in the register.

The later foundation at Coberley exhibits an elaborate precaution. The ordination document was produced in four copies, one each for the warden of the chantry, the rector of Coberley, the prior and convent of Great Malvern, and the bishop of Worcester. (3) For the chantries in the monasteries of Cirencester and Pershore the respective abbots submitted their proposals for the bishop's definitive ordination. (4) In general, however, the matter was not left to the bishop, though there is a general resemblance between all the chantry foundations which indicates that they were drawn up on a more or less common plan.

It would not be appropriate to treat of the various ordinations in any great detail since these can best be studied in the text. Something, however, may usefully be said about their general classification and the circumstances of their founders. The most important of these last were the families of Berkeley.

The Berkeleys.

In the time of William I Berkeley was held by a certain Roger. The third Roger de Berkeley lost his lands on account of his adherence to King Stephen and he never recovered his ancestral home. From this family in the elder line came the Berkeleys of Dursley, and in the junior line those of Coberley. Robert Fitzharding, a Bristol citizen, ousted the Berkeleys and is reckoned the first lord of Berkeley. (5) Thomas

(1) Or perhaps it had become merely common form.

(2) Reg. Bransf. 154.

(3) Ibid. 834.

(4) Ibid. 835, 906.

(5) Dugdale Baronage i, p. 349 et seq., D.N.B. iv, p. 340 et seq., G.E.C. 2, p. 124 sqq.

de Berkeley, a descendant of his who died in 1321, was the first baron of Berkeley to transmit a hereditary peerage. Thomas de Berkeley, the third baron and eighth feudal lord of Berkeley, succeeded his father, Maurice, in 1326. He received back the Berkeley lands which had been confiscated because of the latter's opposition to the Despensers. Though suspected of being connected with the murder of Edward II which had taken place in his castle, he was honourably acquitted. He married, firstly, Margaret the fourth daughter of Roger Mortimer, and secondly, Catherine daughter of John Clivedon of Charfield. After an adventurous life fighting in Scotland as well as at Crecy, Calais and Poitiers, he died in 1361. (1)

The Berkeley and Syde chantries.

The last named Thomas de Berkeley, in conjunction with his chaplain William de Syde, was responsible for no fewer than six of the chantries established during Wolstan's episcopate.

Four of these were nominally attributed to William de Syde. In 1340 this priest was granted licence to chose a confessor and to celebrate Mass himself, or in the person of a suitable chaplain, in his oratories within the monastery of St. Augustine, Bristol, and the castle of Berkeley.(2) It was Robert FitzHarding, ancestor of the Berkeleys, who had founded the monastery,(3) while the castle was the 'caput' of the Berkeley lands. In 1349 William de Syde was the mandatory for the induction of the chantry priests of Over and Wortley, the former founded in the name of his patron, Thomas lord Berkeley, and the latter in his own name. (4) In the same year he presented a chaplain to the Over chantry. (5) On the patent rolls is recorded a grant in fee of certain lands by Thomas lord Berkeley to William de Syde, in exchange for others which the latter was already holding from him.(6)

The four 'Syde chantries' were founded respectively in the church of the B.V.M. at Syde, and in the chapels of St. Katherine, Cambridge, in the parish of Slimbridge; St. Maurice at Newport in that of Berkeley; and St. John the Baptist, Wortley, in that of Wotton-under-Edge.(7) Only at Newport was provision made for more than one chaplain. There Robert of Sodynton, the "custos", was to be helped by a "capellanus secundarius". Apart from the differences which this occasioned the four chantries are 'mutatis mutandis' the same, and were obviously parts of a single scheme. The licences in

(1) Dugdale i, pp. 355-359. G.E.C. 2, pp. 127-30.

(2) Reg. Bransf. 240.

(3) Tanner, Notitia, p. 480. See the charter in Monasticon, ed. Caley, vi p. 635 num. I.

(4) Reg. Bransf. 1000.

(5) Ibid. 1462.

(6) C.P.R. 1343-45, p. 194, Jan. 30 1344. 100 acres of land, 10 of meadow, 4 of wood, & 40s. rent, in Alkyngton.

(7) Reg. Bransf. 658-661.

mortmain are all dated 5th May 1343.(1) An earlier licence, granted at the instance of Maurice de Berkeley(2), permitted William de Syde to alienate 2 mesuages, 2 virgates of land, and 100s. of rent in Berkeley and Wotton for the support of two chaplains who were to celebrate in the church of Cam, but there is no evidence in the register of its implementation.(3)

The chaplains of the Syde chantries were required to pray for the good estate of the founder and of Thomas lord Berkeley, Maurice de Berkeley (his brother), Maurice de Berkeley (son of Thomas), John Maltravers, Reginald de Cobham and Joan his wife, Richard of Chester(?) (Cestr'), William de Cheltenham, and all the founder's relations, friends, benefactors and others to whom he was indebted, as well as for the souls of all the above after death. In addition they were to pray for the souls of the founder's parents and relations, as well as for those of John Giffard, lady Margaret Giffard (his wife), lady Margaret de Berkeley, John de Wylinton and his wife Joan, and all their friends and benefactors.

Thomas lord Berkeley has been mentioned above.(4) His brother, Maurice, was a distinguished person in his own right and served frequently and with honour in the expeditions against Scotland and France.(5) Maurice, son of Thomas, succeeded his father in 1361 and died in 1368, never, so it is said, having recovered from the wounds he had received at Poitiers.(6) John Maltravers would seem to be the younger of that name. He had followed the cause of Lancaster and had fought at Boroughbridge. After his return to England with Isabella and Mortimer in 1326 he was associated with Thomas lord Berkeley in the custody of Edward II. He was sentenced to death in 1330 but fled abroad where he remained until in 1345 he was granted a safe conduct to attend parliament. In 1351 his outlawry was annulled and in the following year his lands were fully restored. He died in 1364. His first wife Milicent, whom he married about the year 1313, was the daughter of Maurice lord Berkeley the father of his fellow gaoler Thomas de Berkeley.(7) The latter's daughter, Joan, married Reginald de Cobham (of Sterborough). This Reginald was prominent both as a soldier and as an ambassador during the war with France, and was several times appointed Admiral of the West. In October 1361 he died of the plague. His wife Joan lived for another eight years and in her will bequeathed her body for burial in the churchyard of the priory of St. Mary Overy, in Southwark, if she should die there. (8)

(1) C.P.R. 1343-45, pp. 23, 32.

(2) Thomas lord Berkeley's brother.

(3) C.P.R. 1340-43 p. 306, May 19 1341 (See also *ibid.* p. 185).

(4) See p. lxxx.

(5) Dugdale, Baronage, i pp. 355-6. In Reg. Bransf. 735 he is termed 'lord of Uley (Iweleye)' (Gl.).

(6) Dugdale, Baronage, i pp. 359-60. G.E.C. 2, p. 130.

(7) D.N.B. XXXVI pp. 6-7. G.E.C. 8, pp. 581-5. Dugdale (*op. cit.* ii, pp. 101-2) confuses the father & son, both named John.

(8) Dugdale, *op. cit.* ii, pp. 67-8. G.E.C. 3, p. 353. Dugdale (ii, p. 68) describes Joan as daughter of Maurice de Berkeley, thus contradicting his earlier correct statement (i, p. 359).

Who this particular Richard de Cestr' was is not at all clear. A person of the same name is mentioned as a remembrancer of the Exchequer in 1341, and in 1344 he received pardon for acquiring lands in Leicestershire without licence.(1) But there is nothing to connect him with the Berkeleys. William de Cheltenham, on the other hand, was a well-known man in Gloucestershire. He held lands at Pucklechurch and, in 1349, presented to the chapel of Hillsley.(2) We have seen something of him in connection with the bishop's temporalities.(3)

Of those who were dead at the time of the chantry's foundation; John Giffard had once been a prominent landholder in Gloucestershire, dying seized of the manors of Brimpsfield (4), Rockhampton, Syde and Badgeworth, as well of other lands in the county and elsewhere. He had been captured after the battle of Boroughbridge (1322) and had been hanged and quartered at Gloucester.(5) We have already noticed that Margaret de Berkeley was the first wife of Thomas lord Berkeley.(6) The Wylingtons had held the manor of Yate (Gloucs.) since 1208. John de Wylington had licence in 1299 to fortify his manor house there. He also joined Lancaster's rebellion, but received back his lands during Edward III's reign. His wife Joanna ~~had~~ presented to Hill Croome in 1342, at which time she was described as lately the wife of John de Wylington, knight. (7)

In each of the four Syde ordinations cattle, growing crops and money were set aside for the day to day expenses of the chantry priest, or priests. This information provides us with some interesting Economic details which have been tabulated in Appendix no. 7.

The two chantries founded in the name of Thomas lord Berkeley himself were in the chapel of Over, in the parish of Almondsbury, and in the monastery of St. Augustine, Bristol. These were established for the special commemoration of Margaret, the founder's first wife, and of himself after death. The mortmain licence for the Over chantry is dated March 12th 1345 (8). That for the foundation in St. Augustine's is only referred to in the register but is dated April 8th 1348 on the Patent Rolls. (9)

Thomas de Berkeley also founded other chantries outside the Worcester diocese as can be seen from the summary of his benefactions in Dugdale's Baronage. (10)

(1) C.P.R. 1340-43, p. 81, Jan. 20 1341.
Ibid. 1343-45, p. 311, Jly. 1 1344.

(2) Reg. Bransf. 1439.

(3) See pp. lxvii-lxviii.

(4) He is usually termed 'John Giffard of Brimpsfield'.

(5) Dugdale, Baronage i, p. 501. G.E.C. 5, pp. 797-9.

(6) See p. lxxx.

(7) Cox, Gloucs. p. 174: Dugdale, Baronage ii, p. 142: Banks, Baronia i, p. 461: Reg. Bransf. 478.

(8) C.P.R. 1343-45, p. 442. Reg. Bransf. 735.

(9) C.P.R. 1348-50, p. 49. It replaces an earlier one for the alienation of a messuage & 40s. rent in Bristol. For the chantry see Reg. Bransf. 907.

(10) Op. cit. i, pp. 358-9.

The chantries of Thomas de Berkeley of Coberley.

As has been shown, the Berkeleys of Coberley sprang up as the junior branch of the original possessors of Berkeley. Thomas de Berkeley of Coberley (I), though his importance was far less than that of the neighbouring baron of Berkeley, was a prominent man in Gloucestershire. In 1342 he received exemption for life from being put on assizes, juries or recognitions, or from being called upon to serve in any capacity against his will. (2) In 1345, however, we find him making a visitation of the king's hospital of St. Bartholomew at Bristol which was much decayed (3), and, in the following year, acting as a member of the commission "de walliis et fossatis" along the coast of the Severn between Bristol and Gloucester. (4) Moreover, he served on many other commissions both with his namesake of Berkeley and with various knights of the county. (5)

Thomas de Berkeley founded two chantries, both in the church of St. Giles at Coberley. He first secured a licence for alienation in mortmain in 1336(6) but the details of the chantry were not drawn up officially, nor was the grant made, until 9th November 1337. The bishop's confirmation seems to have been delayed until 5th July 1340. (7) Five years later, in 1345, Thomas paid a fine of 40 marks for a further alienation. (8) This time he planned a more ambitious chantry with a warden (custos) and two chaplains (9), but the new foundation appears to have been a separate one which did not absorb its predecessor. It was the founder's intention that his chantry priests should lead a corporate life, living together at a house called 'Bevalee'. They were to have bread from finely sieved wheaten flour, good ale- with six gallons of a better quality brewed from one bushel of barley, and vegetables. On ordinary days they were to sit down together for two meals, dinner and supper, each of one course; but on festival days they were to have two courses, one of which was to be made up of two parts of salted meat from store and one part of fresh meat, while the other was to be simple and adequate rather than sumptuous. The other chaplains were to swear obedience to the warden and all

(1) V. Bigland p. 405; Rudder, pp. 398-9. He held the manor of Coberley 8 Edw. iii (1334/5). Thomas his son held it 25 Edw. iii (1351/2) and died 6 Henry iv (1404/5). The line became extinct in 1404 (D.N.B. iv, p. 340 et seq.).

(2) C.P.R. 1340-43, p. 534, 7 Oct. 1342.

(3) See p. lxxv supra.

(4) C.P.R. 1343-5, p. 514, 15 Jne. 1345.

(5) e.g. Ibid. 1345-48, pp. 186, 466, 472.

Ibid. 1348-50, pp. 165, 169, 235, 239-40.

(6) Ibid. 1334-38, p. 268, 24 May 1336.

(7) Reg. Bransf. 154.

(8) C.P.R. 1343-45, p. 449, 17 Mar. 1345.

(9) Reg. Bransf. 834.

of them were to have free access, at convenient times, to the church of Coberley, and were to possess a key to the door of the chapel newly built by Thomas de Berkeley. This is the south chapel at Coberley which contains the tomb of the founder with recumbant effigies of himself and his wife Joan. (I)

The chaplains, moreover, were to have a proper tonsure with ears standing free from the hair and a large crown. Their clothes were to be uniformly of a blue or of a russet colour, the latter being neither too light nor too dark. They were to wear an over-tunic without openings and which reached to the ankles, as was seemly. (2) For weekdays they might wear a shorter tunic, though without openings, but the price of the cloth was not to exceed two shillings.

The powers of the warden are interesting. Not only were the chaplains to take an oath of obedience to him, but also, every Friday after the reading of the chantry ordinances, (3) and before dinner, he was to meet them in a suitable place and to accuse, correct, chastise and punish them according to the nature of their defaults. It was he, too, who paid for clothing, surplices and other necessaries; who provided the wine and lights necessary for the celebration of Mass; who was to chose, after the founder's death, chaplains to replace those who had died, resigned or been removed; (4) and who was entrusted with the custody and maintenance of the chantry's endowments and goods.

The chantry of John de la Riviere in the church of Tormarton.

The family of 'la Riviere' had lost its lands because of rebellion against Edward II and they had passed to Edmund FitzAlan, Earl of Arundel, who was closely associated with the Despencers. Arundel was executed in 1326 and the lands were restored in the first year of Edward III's reign. (5) John de la Riviere, lord of Tormarton and patron of the churches of Tormarton and Acton Turville, was a knight of some consequence in Gloucestershire. He had a park with rights of free warren at Tormarton which is mentioned as having been broken into by John de Berkeley of Dursley (6) and others, who carried away deer, hares, rabbits and partridges and assaulted the servants of their rightful owner. (7) He acted on many

- (I) His second wife. His first was also named Joan and her anniversary was to be kept by the chaplains. (Reg. Bransf. 834). Bigland writes that the church was "re-erected by Thomas Berkeley in 1330" (p. 405). The nave and chancel were rebuilt in 1372 & 1369 respectively. (Cox, Gloucs. p. 82).
- (2) At the 4th Lateran Council it was ruled that garments should be closed in front and of proper length. "Clausura deferant desuper indumenta nimia brevitare vel longitudine non notanda". Mansi xxii, 1006. V. art. in Cath. Enc. iv, pp. 419-20.
- (3) They were to be read on the vigil of each of the 5 feasts of the B.V.M. & on that of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist.
- (4) The warden had powers of removal.
- (5) Rudder, p. 773 et seq. Stubbs ii, p. 360.
- (6) See p. lxxix for this branch of the Berkeleys.
- (7) C.P.R. 1334-38, p. 283. The entry has 'Durlegh' for 'Dursley'.

local commissions. (1) His tomb is in the chancel of Tormarton church and on it remains the matrix of his monumental brass. He was depicted supporting a church, a device which has been taken to indicate the founder of a church or chapel. (2) He did in fact have a chapel built contiguous to the church which was dedicated to the B.V.M. It was in this chapel that he founded a chantry in 1336. (3)

One might suspect that this earlier foundation was absorbed by the chantry which we are about to consider, but there is no evidence for this in the register. For the later foundation there are two licences on the Patent Rolls. The first, dated 12th July 1340, permitted John de la Riviere to alienate a messuage and two carucates of land to a chaplain who was to celebrate divine service daily in the chapel of the B.V.M. in Tormarton church. (4) The second, dated May 20th 1343, allowed him to alienate the advowson of the church of Acton Turville to William Edward, warden of the chantry. (5)

There are two separate ordinations of this chantry in the register, the first of these is undated, the second is dated from Hartlebury May 1st 1344 in the form of the bishop's letters patent incorporating the founder's petition. In the latter the church of Tormarton is permanently incorporated as a perpetual wardenship (6) and the word 'custos' replaces the 'rector' of the earlier entry. (7) The rector, under his new title of warden, was under the obligation of residence, and by him or his chaplains, or by one of them whom he might depute, was the spiritual cure of the church to be exercised.

In addition to the warden there were to be four chaplains to celebrate Mass; two clerks, one a deacon, the other a subdeacon, who were to serve in the church; and three chanters or choristers. These were to be clothed in white surplices with black almuces, while the warden, if present, was to wear, for Mattins and the canonical Hours, an alb and a black almuce with a lining of fur in winter and of silk in summer (*iuxta diversitatem temporis*). (8)

- (1) e.g. As one of the overseers of the Statute of Westminster II. C.P.R. 1343-45, p. 78.
 (2) Dated c. 1350 in Haines, *Manual of Monumental Brasses* (1861), i, p. cxxiv (illustration) & ii, p. 70.
 (3) "quamdam cantariam capelle Beate Marie quam idem miles erexit ecclesie subscripte (Tormarton) contiguam". Reg. Montacute i, fo. 27r.
 (4) C.P.R. 1340-43, p. 9. (5) Ibid. 1343-45, p. 44.
 (6) "dictam ecclesiam sub nomine perpetue custodie et sub regimine custodis intitulandi in ea perpetuo incorporandam". (Reg. Bransf. 1211)
 (7) Reg. Bransf. 449.
 (8) The surplice and almuce were the usual choir habit of canons at this time. V. Cath. Enc. vii, p. 464.

The list of vestments to be used in the church is of special interest and may well be set down in tabular form. (I)

AT THE HIGH ALTAR.

<u>COLOUR.</u>	<u>OCCASION.</u>	<u>COPE & TUNICLES.</u>
Blue (violet?)	Vigils.	Without.
Red.	Easter & solemn feasts of martyrs & apostles.	With.
Green.	Christmas & solemn feasts of confessors.	With.
White.	Five feasts of Our Lady & other solemn feasts of virgins.	With.
Black.	Anniversaries & burials of the founder & other indicated persons.	----

AT THE ALTAR IN THE
CHAPEL OF THE B.V.M.

White.	Masses of the B.V.M. on vigils.	Without.
White (of greater price).	Sundays & other common feasts.	-----
Black.	For Requiem Masses.	-----

AT THE NAVE ALTARS OF
B. ANNE AND OF
B. JOSEPH.

Two 'pairs of vestments', one for each of the altars, for the use of untitled priests wishing to celebrate Mass.

From this we have a definite scheme of colour, while the more important feasts and the anniversaries ordained by the founder were to be marked by celebration at the high altar. The tunicles were worn by the subdeacon and deacon mentioned above, though this title may well conceal the dalmatic worn by the deacon as distinct from the tunicle of the subdeacon. (2) Except for Mass, during which the chasuble was generally used, the cope (capa) was the priest's

- (I) Innocent III (ob. 1216) is said to have been among the first to emphasise differing liturgical colours in his *De Sacro Altaris Mysterio*, I, lxv. (Migne, Pat. Lat., ccxvii pp. 773-916). *Cath. Enc.* iv, p. 135. He lists the 5 colours mentioned above, though not for the same feasts.
- (2) See *English Clergy*, App. v, p. 285. Recension by Bp. Bek of the statutes of the Cotterstock chantry. "...diaconus et subdiaconus induti dalmatica et tunica... serviant (&c.)..."

liturgical garment at this period. (1) The term 'pair of vestments' is not elaborated but by the 14th century the eucharistic garments were well developed and frequently depicted on monumental brasses. (2)

Among the other ornaments of the church was a gilded box within which were kept two relics: a particle of Christ's cross enclosed within one of gold, and a drop of the Virgin's milk in a crystal jar. There were also two silver-gilt clasps or morsers for fastening the copes in front, as well as three chalices, three corporals, two missals, two graduals, and two breviaries with musical notation (cum nota). In addition a stock of ten surplices and ten almuces was provided.

The appropriation of the church of Acton Turville considerably increased the chantry's endowment. (3) In a Papal confirmation of 1348 its income is rated at 100 marks, that is £66: 13s. 4d. (4) In fact, though the chantry was not incorporated as a college, but as a 'custodia', its purpose was the same as that of such foundations, and it was wealthier than many of them. Though no injunctions, such as are drawn up in the second Coberley chantry, prescribe a communal life, the warden was to be resident and to provide the chaplains, clerks and chanters with food and rooms in his house (5), as well as with graded stipends of 24s., 6s. and 40d. respectively.

The chantry of M. John de Bradewas in the church of Broadwas.

Some difficulty arises as to the identification of M. John de Bradewas, the founder of this chantry. This is because it is possible to distinguish at least three persons of this name in the diocese. A M. John de Bradewas witnessed the resignation of the vicar of Brimpsfield in 1344 (6) and, in 1345, he is mentioned as a notary public and as rector of Sedgeberrow. (7) This was the John de Bradewas who was ordained successively acolyte, subdeacon and deacon during Wolstan's episcopate. (8) Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, petitioned the Pope for a dispensation for him to study civil law for seven years. (9) There is no mention of his institution to

- (1) See Archbp. Winchelsey's inventory in Gibson, Codex i, pp. 224-5. Gibson (ibid. p. 225) notes: 'Sacerdos extra tempus missae, dum exercet divina officia, praesertim dum ministret incensum ad altare, vel dicat collectas, utitur capam.' (Lyndwood).
- (2) e.g. The brass of 1370 in Dearmer, Ornaments of the Ministers, plate II. (3) Reg. Bransf. 1212. 3 May 1344.
- (4) C.P.L. 1342-62, pp. 300-301.
- (5) In Reg. Bransf. 449 the clerks are ordered to sleep in the
- (6) Reg. Bransf. 594. (7) Ibid. 726. (church.)
- (8) Ibid. 692, 1060, 1061.
- (9) C.P.P. p. 101, 1345. He describes him as 'his clerk'.

Sedgeberrow, though John de Dombleton had been rector in 1343 (1). Another John de Bradewas, priest, was instituted to the vicarage of St. Andrew, Pershore, in 1340, but he does not have the prefix 'magister'. (2) M. John de Bradewas, priest, the third of that name, had been prominent in the affairs of Worcester priory as early as 1302. (3) This John, strangely enough, had been rector of Sedgeberrow in 1309, like his first mentioned namesake. In 1322, in return for 200 marks and ten quarters of wheat, he and John son of Margerie of House were granted corrodies and the use of St. Oswald's chamber at Worcester priory. (4) Now this 'John, son of Margerie,' is obviously the same person who is mentioned as one of the sons of Margery de Housele in the Broadwas chantry ordinances. (5) The only difficulty in the way of concluding that the founder of the chantry and the John de Bradewas of the Liber Albus were the same person is that the former is always entitled 'clericus' while the latter was undoubtedly a priest. (6) The term 'clericus', except when opposed to 'laicus' or in such special contexts as 'clericus noster' or 'clericus episcopi', was at this time used to indicate someone in minor orders. However, it may well have been used in the wider sense in this instance. If we accept this identification, then John de Bradewas founded his chantry 22 years after he was granted a corrody, that is in 1344. He was dead by 1349 when the prior of Worcester presented to his chantry, thereby exercising a right which devolved on him only after the founder's death. (7) If the grant of the corrody marks the date of his retirement, as it may well do, then John de Bradewas must have been an old man in 1344.

The details of the chantry ordination do not call for comment here as the full text has long been known to readers of Nash who appended it to his description of Broadwas. (8) The chapel of the B.V.M., described as 'de novo constructa', still exists. It is a separately gabled structure to the south of the nave to which, internally, it is connected by an arcade of two bays. (9)

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 521. (2) Ibid. 308.
 (3) L.A. 73. He is frequently mentioned both in the Liber Albus & in the R.S.V. See the indexes to these volumes sub. nom.
 (4) L.A. 456, 948.
 (5) Reg. Bransf. 684.
 (6) e.g. L.A. 456.
 (7) Reg. Bransf. 1515.
 (8) Nash i, pp. 140-143.
 (9) Also of the 14th cent. In the chapel the piscina is still to be seen.

(1) See above p. 140.
 (2) C.P.R. 1340-41 p. 140.
 (3) Ibid. 1302-03 p. 140.
 (4) Ibid. 1322-23 p. 140.
 (5) Reg. Bransf. 684. (6) Ibid. 684.
 (7) C.P.R. 1343-44 p. 140. (8) Nash i, pp. 140-143.
 (9) 27 Feb. 14 Reg. Bransf. 774.

Adam de Herwynton is mentioned several times in Bp. Geynsburgh's register (I303-7), twice as a chamberlain of the Exchequer. (I) This would seem to be the same Adam de Herwynton as the one who was appointed vicar-general by Bp. Orleton in I328 (2), and who was presented to Tredington by the king. (3) It was to him that the mandate for the resumption and subsequent restoration to Adam de Orleton of the temporalities of the bishopric was sent. (4) In I332 he was appointed as one of the attorneys of Bp. Orleton who was going abroad on the king's business. (5) In the same year he received licence for the alienation in mortmain to the abbot and convent of Pershore of a messuage, a toft, a carucate and a half of land, I2 acres of meadow, 4 acres of pasture, and 40s. of rent in Pershore. (6) These lands, however, were held for life by Ellen, formerly wife of Hugh le Porter, as we learn from a licence of I340 permitting Adam de Herwynton to grant them only after her death. (7) Adam himself died on March 31st I344 (8), on which day his anniversary was to be kept by the chantry priests of his new foundation. (9) At the time of his death he was a prebendary of Hereford (IO) and also held the prebend of Compton Mordack in the collegiate church of the B.V.M., Warwick, which was in the patronage of the Earls of Warwick. (II)

The entry detailing the ordination of the chantry, calendared in the edition as no. 906, is really a collection of documents, four of which are duplicated elsewhere in the register. The whole entry can best be analysed in tabular form, as follows.

ORDINATION DOCUMENT OF THE BISHOP 27 Feb. I346 Bredon.	(a. Letters patent of the pr. & conv. of Pershore submitting to the bp.'s ordination &c. 25 Feb. I346. Pershore (773).
incorporating--	(b. Similar submission of Adam de Herwynton's executors. 26 Feb. I346. Bredon. (774) (I2)
	(c. Appointment of Robert de Lutleton as proctor of the conv. to deliver the submission & to assent to the bp.'s ordination. 25 Feb. I346. Pershore. (772)
ADDITIONS TO THE ABOVE-----	(d. Process whereby Henry de Lench swears on behalf of each member of the monastery in the chapel of Hartlebury. I2 Apr. I346
	(e. Henry de Lench appointed proctor by the conv. & by each monk separately to swear as above. 9 Apr. I346. Pershore. (885).

(I) Reg. Geynsburgh (W.H.S.), pp. 2I4, 230.

(2) Reg. Orleton ii, fo. 3v. ii Kal. Mar. I327 (29 Feb. I328).

(3) See above pp. xxvi-xxvii. (4) Ibid. p. xix.

(5) C.P.R. I330-34, p. 373. Sept. 30 I332.

(6) Ibid. p. 250, Jan. 28 I332.

(7) Ibid. I338-40 p. 5I8, May I8 I340.

(8) Reg. Bransf. 62I. (9) Ibid. 906.

(IO) C.P.R. I343-45, pp. 225, 24I, 328. (II) Reg. Bransf. 62I.

(I2) 27 Feb. in Reg. Bransf. 774.

The endowment of lands to the yearly value of £10 provided for two secular priests who were to live in a house called "Le Porters", no doubt after the Hugh le Porter mentioned above, which was to be maintained at the monastery's cost. An additional sum of 143 marks was given by the executors for the use of the monastery on condition that the founder's anniversary was kept. The priests were to pray for the souls of the founder and his relations and benefactors and for that of Guy de Beauchamp, formerly Earl of Warwick. They were also to pray for Thomas, Earl of Warwick, his wife Katherine, and for their souls after death. (1)

The oath which Henry de Lench had sworn on behalf of each monk separately was to be administered to every future monk at his profession. This part of the entry is particularly valuable because it gives a full list of the monks at Pershore just before the Black Death. They numbered 28, not including Thomas de Pyriton, the abbot (1340-49), and William de Brerhulle, the prior. (2)

The chantry of Abbot Hereward in the chapel of the B.V.M. in the Augustinian abbey of Cirencester. (3)

There are two entries concerned with this foundation. The second of these, dated 3rd October 1346, is the convent's submission to the bishop's ordination of the chantry. This submission was incorporated in the formal document sealed by Wolstan at Hartlebury eight days later. (4)

The various benefactions and excellences of the abbot are first recited and then the annual rents which he had granted for specific purposes: £4 for the increase of the worship of the Virgin in her chapel within the monastery; 60s. for the more liberal daily sustenance of the canons and for greater pittances; and 30s. for the poor. These amounts have been interlineated to replace the original ones, which remain unaltered in the convent's submission, of 5 marks 2d. (£3 6s. 10d.), 56s. 7d., and 25s. 3d. (5)

The chaplain "in cantu convenienter edoctus" was to be present daily in the chapel of the B.V.M., clothed in a surplice, for the celebration of Mass. Each canon appointed as warden of the chapel by the abbot was to be provided by him with a house within the precincts of the monastery, together with food, drink, clothes and other necessaries to the yearly value of not more than 4½ marks. After the abbot's death his anniversary was to be kept in the same way as those of the former abbots Henry, Adam and Richard. (6) During his lifetime

- (1) Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of W. (1298-1315), m. Alice daughter of Ralph de Tony. His eldest son Thomas m. Catherine d. of Roger Mortimer & died 1369. Dugdale, Baronage 1, pp. 229-33.
- (2) See V.C.H. Worcs. ii, pp. 133, 136.
- (3) According to V.C.H. Glos. ii, p. 84, he became abbot in 1335. Monasticon ed. Caley, vi p. 176 gives 1334. According to the latter he died Apr. 25 1352. See also V.C.H. Glos. ii, p. 82.
- (4) Reg. Bransf. 835, 836.
- (5) In C.P.R. 1345-48 pp. 40-1, Jan. 28 1346(?), one Robert Hereward (the abbot's name was William) received licence to alienate to the abbey a large amount of property, including 49 messuages & 4 shops in Pershore.
- (6) The previous 3 abbots are named: Henry de Hamptonet, Adam Brokenberwe, Richard de Charlton.

annually on the feast of the Assumption (15 Aug.) the almoner was to distribute to the poor goods to the value of 26s. 8d. in excess of the usual amount. After his death a similar sum was to be expended on his anniversary. There was also provision for an annual pittance of 20s. in value.

To each parishioner, and to others with the consent of their diocesan, who helped the chantry by advice, gift, or the diligent promotion of its aims, or who prayed for the good estate of the abbot while living, or for his soul when departed, and said the Lord's Prayer and the Angelus (salutatio angelica) with a pious mind, the bishop granted a forty days' indulgence.

The Ripple Chantry. (1320)

Before leaving the subject of chantries that founded by John Salemon, clerk, in the church of Ripple may be mentioned. The ordination document finds no place in the register of Bp. Thomas de Cobham to which it properly belongs. The entry in Wolstan's register seems to be the same as that in the Liber Albus in the introduction to which some account of it is given. (1) Habington gives a summary of the foundation in his Survey. (2)

Conclusion.

The chantries for which the Berkeleys of Berkeley were responsible number no less than six, half of those founded during the episcopate. (3) These, together with the two chantries of Berkeley of Coberley, that of John de la Riviere at Tormarton, and that of Abbot Hereward at Cirencester, were all Gloucestershire foundations. In Worcestershire there were the Broadwas and Pershore chantries, while Warwickshire lacked any new foundation.

All save one of the foundations were on a small scale. Seven provided for only one chaplain; those of Newport, Pershore, Broadwas, for two; the later foundation at Coberley for three, including a warden; that of Tormarton for a warden, four chaplains, two clerks and three choristers- ten persons in all.

The Tormarton and Coberley foundations are particularly interesting as, taken together, they provide details of the communal life of the chaplains, their garments, and of various ecclesiastical ornaments, relics and vestments.

Lastly, there are many indications in the ordination documents of the widespread cult of the Virgin and of its strong influence upon the minds of the founders.

(1) L.A. (Cal.) pp. xxxvii-xxxviii. See also p. xl n. 3 supra.

(2) The large size of Ripple church, the presence of stalls and 'misericords' of a monastic pattern (believed to have been brought from Hartlebury), together with an error in Habington, have led the writer of a current guide book to a strange conclusion. Habington wrote (acc. to his editor): "The chapeleyne had in his first institution from his founder 5 mounckes (sic) which he was at his deathe to leave to his successor.." (ii, p. 270). His quoter discounted the monks and suggested that canons were more likely. Actually the "mounckes" of Habington should read "marks".

(3) See also Reg. Bransf. II9 for the union of two chantries because of lack of endowment.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Seven appropriations of churches to monastic houses are recorded in the register, and one to a chantry foundation. In addition there is mention, in I349, of the recent appropriation of Pillerton to the collegiate church of St. Mary, Warwick. (1) There is a licence, dated June 9th I344, for Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, to grant the advowson to the College and for the latter to appropriate the church. (2)

Three churches, those of Tanworth, Aston Cantlow and Yardley, were appropriated to the Augustinian priory of Maxstoke. (3) In I33I Sir William Clinton had established a secular college with a warden and chaplains in the parish church of St. Michael, Maxstoke. (4) It was refounded by William as a priory of canons regular in I336 when licence was secured for the alienation of £40 in land and rent and of the advowsons of Maxstoke and Long Itchington. (5) In the following year a charter of foundation, dated IO March I337, made provision for a prior and I2 canons. (6) This number is said to have been later increased to I3. (7) In I345 there were I9 canons and two years later 20. (8)

Early in I340 William de Clinton, then Earl of Huntingdon, secured the advowson of Tanworth, saving a pension of two marks and a stone of wax, from the prior of Kenilworth, as well as a release of rights of presentation by Thomas de Beauchamp. (9) The appropriation document is dated I7 June I340 at Henbury. In his letters patent the bishop recited the reasons which had rendered such a course necessary. A greater number of canons than was allowed for by the original foundation had to be supported; the priory was situated near the public highway; buildings had to be constructed and repaired. The vicar's

(1) Reg. Bransf. I335.

(2) C.P.R. I330-34, p. 549. Dugdale, Baronage i, p. 233.

(3) Reg. Bransf. 32I, 750, 838.

(4) Dugdale, Baronage i p. 530 mentions 5 priests. (Cf. Tanner, Notitia, p. 583 n. b.). In C.P.R. I334-38 pp. 309-IO it is stated that there were 'six chaplains'. According to the entries in Reg. Bransf. the initial foundation was for a prior and four canons regular.

(5) C.P.R. I334-38, pp. 309-3IO, 3I8.

(6) See inspeximus & confirmation in C.P.R. I338-40, p. 26, Mar. 4th I338. Printed in Monasticon ed. Caley vi, pp. 524-6.

(7) According to Knowles & Hadcock p. I45 this increase was made in I459, while Dugdale (Warwickshire I730 ed. p. 995) attributes the addition to the founder's will.

(8) Reg. Bransf. 746, 750, 838.

(9) C.P.R. I338-40, p. 436, Mar. 8 I340. Inspeximus of
a/ Charter of pr. of K. 27 Feb. I340.
b/ Release by T. de B. I Mar. I340.

portion, to the value of 20 marks, was reserved, as was the annual pension due to the prior of Kenilworth which was mentioned above.(I)

The process of appropriation can readily be studied with reference to Aston Cantlow. After William de Clinton had obtained licence for the alienation of the advowson and for the appropriation of the church (2) the way was clear for the priory to petition the bishop for his consent. The petition is incorporated in the bishop's letter of 23 June 1345 to Henry de Neubold instructing him to enquire as to the validity of the priory's contentions and as to the adequacy of the vicarage.(3) This he did by journeying to Aston Cantlow and laying the articles of the priory before a number of local clerks and laymen, whose depositions were taken down and sent to the bishop.(4) The latter having made up his mind as to the rightness of appropriation, though how far this had become a mere formality it is difficult to establish, commissioned Henry de Neubold to obtain the consent of the prior and convent of Worcester (15 Sept.1345). Attached to the commission was a schedule detailing the articles of the priory's submission and the proofs of their validity.(5) On the feast of St. Matthew (21 Sept.) the commissary placed the facts before the chapter and after discussion secured the required assent. Details of these proceedings were recorded in his letter to the bishop (22 Sept.). (6) The bishop's seal was appended to the formal document of appropriation on 4th October and that of the chapter was added on the 6th. (7) Finally, the Pope confirmed the appropriation in 1348.(8)

There already was a vicarage of Aston Cantlow to which Thomas de Normanton had been instituted in December 1344 by reason of an exchange.(9) In order to take possession of the rectoral portion the impropiator had to await the resignation or death of the rector (*cedente vel decedente ipsius ecclesie nunc rectore*). William Savage, who claimed to be rector of Aston Cantlow, resigned on August 24th 1345 in the house of the Earl of Huntingdon at Southwark.(10) Yet on September 14th another rector was instituted. (11) In 1349 Thomas de Normanton's successor was presented for institution by the prior and convent of Maxstoke. (12)

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 321.
- (2) C.P.R. 1343-45, p.476.
- (3) Reg. Bransf. 746.
- (4) Ibid.
- (5) Ibid. 747.
- (6) Ibid. 748. '*Certificatorium eiusdem commissionis*'.
- (7) Ibid. 750.
- (8) C.P.L. 1342-62 p. 285.
- (9) Ibid. 685.
- (10) Ibid. 743.
- (11) Ibid. 742. The appropriation was still 'sub iudice' at this time. See above.
- (12) Ibid. 1523.

There are two entries detailing the appropriation of Yardley church. The first of these chronologically is a copy of the bishop's letters patent authorising the appropriation (May 3rd 1347). The second, dated 22nd June 1347, is the confirmation by the prior and convent of Worcester. The latter incorporates the former though with some differences of phraseology. (1) Licence for the alienation of the advowson and for the appropriation of the church had been granted to Thomas, Earl of Warwick, in 1346. (2) Nash transcribed the vicarage document from the Liber Albus, and also the letters patent of the Maxstoke canons acknowledging their obligation to pay an annual pension to the priory of Worcester of 20 shillings. This was because the appropriation deprived the latter of the fruits of the benefice at times of vacation. (3) The Pope confirmed the appropriation in 1350. (4)

John Botetourt received licence in 1340 for the alienation to the abbot and convent of the Premonstratensian house at Halesowen of the advowson of the church of Clent with its chapel at Rowley. (5) The formal document of appropriation is dated 31 May 1344. The articles of the convent's petition to the bishop are comprehensive. There were buildings to be repaired, for the religious were unable to meet in the church or choir with safety. Moreover, the number of canons had increased, the house- as was well-known- was situated near to the public highway, and many rights and possessions had been lost by reason of the power of the magnates. Their arable land- such as they had left- was for the most part sterile, and on account of the scarcity of money, the lukewarmness of devotion, as well as the various oppressions of the people, the offerings at the head of St. Barbara had ceased, and in former times they had relied on such oblations for a great part of their sustenance. There had also been fire in the town of Hales which had burned their houses and those of their tenants. Besides all the above they made general complaint of oppressions, exactions and misfortunes. (6) The vicarage document has, once again, been omitted from the register but an undated copy of it is in the Monasticon. (7)

- (1) Reg. Bransf. 833, 838. Nash ii, p. 482. Nash seems to have mixed up the two entries.
- (2) C.P.R. 1345-48, p. 135. June 23 1346. According to Nash (ii, p. 478) Sir John de Beauchamp, son of Guy & brother of Thomas, released his right in the advowson & in certain lands there 20 Edw. III. Gyles de Erdington did likewise.
- (3) Vicarage ordination; Nash ii, pp. 482-3 (L.A. fo. 203), undated. Pension: *ibid.* p. 483 (L.A. fo. 212) 25 Jne. 1347.
- (4) C.P.L. 1342-62, p. 333. Kal. Feb. 1349 (1 Feb. 1350).
- (5) C.P.R. 1338-40, p. 443. Mar. 24 1340. Dugdale, Baronage ii, p. 46. The charter of John Botetourt granting the advowson is in Monasticon vi, p. 929, dated 4 Apr. 1340. But see Reg.
- (6) Reg. Bransf. 681. See also *ibid.* 526. (Bransf. 1204.)
- (7) Op. cit. vi p. 929. Ex ipso autogr. penes Edw. Baronem Dudley an. 1640.

The Benedictine abbey of St. Werburgh, Chester, had received licence to appropriate the church of Campden, the advowson of which belonged to them, in 1332. (1) The appropriation document is dated 10 July 1340. (2) The convent complained of their nearness to a port, which meant that there was much coming of rich and poor to await an opportunity for crossing the sea. Various tallages had been imposed upon them and they had suffered from the inundation of their lands and the violence of the sea. Thirty carucates and more of their land in the towns and manors of Bromborough, Eastham, Whitby and Ince (3) had been lost, and this had cost them £100 a year. Moreover, wars with the Welsh princes had deprived them of the manors of Broughton and Dyserth, and of the church of Holywell. (4) Finally, a great part of their church, and the whole of the tower (campanile), was ruinous.

The Augustinian priory of Lilleshall secured licence to appropriate Great Badminton church, which was of their advowson, in 1340. (5) The appropriation document in the register is undated and incorporates the very moderate supplication of the convent which makes mention of only one specific reason for the decline of its economic position. This is the allegation that their distance from towns brought many travellers who so burdened the house that it was found difficult to maintain the canons themselves. (6)

The document detailing the appropriation of a moiety of the church of Morton Daubeney to the hospital of St. John, Warwick, is undated. (7) However, the copy of an indenture, dated 14th Dec. 1340, whereby the brethren agreed to pay 40d. annually to the bishop as indemnity, indicates that the appropriation had taken place earlier in that year. (8) Yet it appears that the royal licence for alienation was not granted until 1345. (9) In the petition it was urged that the hospital had too slight an income for its duties of sustaining guests, as well as the poor and infirm. Moreover, considerable sums had been expended, and would have to be expended in the future, on the repair of the buildings. The hospital was situated in a public place within a well-known town and many people, particularly relations of the founders, stayed there during sittings of the county court (*singulis diebus comitatus*) and of the justices and at other times when the people of those parts were wont to congregate together. Apart from the above there were the poor,

(1) C.P.R. 1330-34, p. 261. Jan. 27 1332.

(2) Reg. Bransf. 329.

(3) These places are in the Wirral peninsula overlooking the Mersey estuary.

(4) There is no mention of these temp. Hen. VIII among the properties of the abbey. See *Monasticon* ed. Caley ii, pp. 390-93 (Augmentations) & 400-1 (Valor Eccles.). They had formerly been held; see *ibid.* p. 381.

(5) C.P.R. 1338-40, p. 521 May 15 1340.

(6) Reg. Bransf. 450. See also *ibid.* 451. (7) *Ibid.* 108.

(8) *Ibid.* 148. (9) C.P.R. 1343-45, p. 553. Oct. 18 1345. Dugdale, *Baronage* i, p. 233.

and the sick and infirm who remained for the duration of their sickness or infirmity. Murrain had afflicted the herds and there had been heavy exactions and tallages as well as extortions by their enemies.

The other half of this church was appropriated to the hospital in 1359 during the episcopate of Bishop Bryan. (1)

In cases of appropriation a pension was generally reserved to the bishop because of the loss of the fruits of the benefice at times of vacation. (2) Thus at Tanworth the vicar had to pay an annual sum of 13s. 4d., and the impropriators of Clent one of two marks. (3) The vicar of Kidderminster was under obligation to pay one mark to the bishop and one to the prior of Worcester (4), while the impropriator of Morton Daubeney paid $\frac{1}{4}$ mark (40d.) to each. (5) The payment of such sums is but irregularly recorded in the register. (6)

Taken together the appropriation documents provide much valuable information. Thus they afford some interesting details of the new foundation of Maxstoke and of the troubles at Halesowen and the neighbourhood of Chester. Despite the fact that it is now customary to impugn the accuracy of monastic petitions for appropriation- and certainly mention of murrain, exactions, and of propinquity to the highway had by the 14th century become almost common form- none the less, the particularised local circumstances have a convincing ring of truth.

It may be useful to list the values, according to the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of 1291, of those churches appropriated to monastic houses.

- (1) Thomas, Account, p. 181 (Reg. Bryan fo. 91).
- (2) For his claims under this head v. Reg. Bransf. 749.
- (3) Ibid. 157, 160 (Tanworth).
Ibid. 681, 753. (Clent). See also Liber Ruber (MS.) f. 140.
- (4) Ibid. 153.
- (5) Ibid. 108, 148.
- (6) There is mention of 30s. paid by the Abb. & conv. of Evesham for Ombersley (ibid. 125, 147): 4 marks (3 yearly) by the abb. & conv. for Bidford (ibid. 676, 899, 900).
Though there is no mention of pensions in the appropriation document of Yardley the Liber Albus records the acknowledgement of the priory of Maxstoke's obligation to pay 20s. annually to the prior & conv. of Worcester. (Nash ii, p. 483)

<u>Churches.</u>	<u>Value.</u>	<u>Impropriator.</u>	<u>Page ref. (I)</u>
<u>Aston Cantlow.</u>	£22 0s. 0d.	Maxstoke Pr.	p. 218.
<u>Badminton, Great,</u> With rector's portion in chapel of Oldbury.	£13 6s. 8d.	Lilleshall Abb.	
	8s. 6d.		
<u>Campden.</u>	£24 13s. 4d.		p. 223
Portion of abb. of Chester.	10s. 0d.	St. Werburgh Abb.,	
Portion of abb. of Bordesley.	10s. 0d.	Chester.	
<u>Clent with chapel of Rowley.</u>	£18 13s. 4d.	Halesowen Abb.	p. 217
<u>Morton Daubeney,</u> Moiety of,	£ 5 0s. 0d.	Hospital of St. John, Warwick.	p. 219
<u>Pillerton (Hersey).</u>	£13 6s. 8d.	College of B.V.M., Warwick.	p. 219
Portion of prior of Ware(?)	£ 5 0s. 0d.		
<u>Tanworth.</u>	£33 6s. 8d.	Maxstoke Pr.	p. 218
Portion of pr. of Kenilworth.	£ 1 6s. 8d.		
<u>Yardley.</u>	£24 13s. 4d.	Maxstoke Pr.	p. 217.

(I) Record Commission 1802.

VICARAGES. (I)

There are seven ordinations of vicarages in the register, but only four of these refer to the churches appropriated by Bp. Wolstan.

Kidderminster had been appropriated to the sisters of the leper hospital of Maiden Bradley in 1335 by Bp. Montacute who had ordained a vicarage in the following year. (2) Because of their disputes with the vicar, John de la Doune, the sisters had drawn up what purported to be an entirely new submission, dated 11th Dec. 1340, which they sent to the bishop. Three days later John de la Doune agreed to abide by Wolstan's ordination and taxation of his vicarage. The formal document ordaining the new vicarage, dated 18th Dec., included both of the above submissions. (3)

A similar dispute between the abbot of St. Peter's, Gloucester, and M. Walter de Evesham, the vicar of their church of Standish, led to the ordination of the vicarage there in 1348. In this case a public instrument was drawn up in the presence of the abbot, prior, and 34 monks, all duly assembled in their chapter house. After inspection of this document the bishop formally approved it on September 23rd. (4) Lands at Standish had been in the abbey's possession since Saxon times (5) and there is a copy in the register of the restitution of the manor there to the almoner of the house in 1202. (6) However, I am unable to find any appropriation document.

There is a similar lack of information about Wellesbourne. This church had been granted to the priory of Kenilworth by Roger, Earl of Warwick (ob. 1153), and the grant had been confirmed by Henry I. (7) But the time of its appropriation is not known. (8) The ordination document is dated 15th Oct. 1348, and once again it was the consequence of disagreement between the impropiators and their vicar. (9)

- (1) The best general account of this subject is by Hartridge, (Vicarages in the Middle Ages, 1930).
- (2) Reg. Montacute i, fo. 20v.-fo. 21v. (1335) & for the vicarage: *ibid.* fo. 24v.-fo. 25r. (1336). See also L.A. 1273, p. 273.
- (3) Reg. Bransf. 153.
- (4) *Ibid.* 945.
- (5) *Monasticon* ed. Caley i, p. 550.
- (6) Reg. Bransf. 837.
- (7) Dugdale, Baronage i p. 69. *Monasticon* ed. Caley vi, pp. 219, 228.
- (8) Dugdale (Warwickshire 1730 ed. i, p. 572) remarks: "howbeit the time of its appropriation I find not".
- (9) Reg. Bransf. 950.

The remaining four vicarages of Acton Turville (1), Great Badminton(2), Campden(3), and Tanworth(4), were ordained on account of the bishop's own appropriations.(5)

Only at Tanworth and Campden is there mention of additional clergy. At the former the vicar had to find a parochial chaplain when he was not himself officiating as well as a clerk to give daily assistance. At Campden the vicar had to find a parish priest when unable to say Mass himself and also a secondary priest and a deacon for daily ministrations.

Most of the ordination documents have many details of fields and places and are on that account of considerable interest to the local historian. Furthermore, their careful descriptions of the rectoral and vicarial obligations provide ample material for an interesting study.

GENERAL CONCLUSION.

The bishop's life, the physical make-up of his register, and the methods and personnel of his administration have been treated with some detail. An attempt has also been made to cover the wide range of material in the register, though much of the routine work connected with exchanges of benefices, institutions and enquiries into vacancies has not been discussed because the form of such processes in Register Bransford does not depart materially from that established in other contemporary registers which have already been published. (6) Instead there has been emphasis on the machinery of episcopal administration, the bishop's visitations, and the establishment of chantries, the appropriation of churches and the ordination of vicarages. In all these an attempt has been made to provide perspective by some enquiry as to their founders in the case of chantries, the impropiators in the case of appropriations, and the times of appropriation in that of vicarages. Moreover, there has been some analysis of the processes involved.

Not only is Wolstan de Bransford's register interesting because of the number, fullness and range of its entries, but also, covering as it does the years 1339-1349, it provides a valuable local reflection of that period between the commencement of the Hundred Years War and the calamity of the Black Death. We can only wonder at the resilience of the episcopal administration which in its official aspect gave so little sign of the dread calamity with which Wolstan de Bransford's episcopate closed.

-
- (1) Reg. Bransf. I2I3. Undated (Probably 1344).
 (2) Ibid. I59. 29 Dec. 1342.
 (3) Ibid. 595. 23 Apr. 1343. A Papal mandate sent to the bp. of Lincoln empowered him to confirm or alter at his discretion the portion of £20 assigned by the bp. of Worc. to the vicar of Campden, question having arisen as to its sufficiency. Avignon, 24 Feb. 1347. C.P.L. I342-62, pp.186-7.
 (4) Ibid. I60, 325. The latter dated 11th Mar. 1342.
 (5) For the vicarages of Yardley & Clent v. p. xciv.
 (6) e.g. Those of the neighbouring diocese of Hereford. (Cantelupe Soc.)

APPENDIX I (See Intro. p. xxxvi et seq.)The pagination of the register.Numeration

<u>Original</u> <u>(Roman)</u>	<u>Additional</u> <u>(Arabic)</u>	<u>Corrected</u> <u>(Including lost folios)</u>
i	I	
iii (I)	2	
iii	3	
iv	4	
The numbers then advance 'pari passu' until fo. 8I.		
lxxxi	8I	
lxxxiii(2)	82	83
The Roman numerals continue one in advance of the Arabic until fo. cxiii (II3)		
cxiii	II3	
cxv	II5	
The numbers then advance 'pari passu' until f. I2I.		
cxxi	I2I	
cxxii	I2I	
The Roman numerals continue one in advance of the Arabic until fo. cxxix (I28).		
cxxix	I28	
Omitted (3)	I29	I30
cxxx	I30	I3I
The numbers then advance 'pari passu' but one below the true folio number until fo. cxliiii (I44).		
cxliiii	I44	I45
Illegible	I45	I46
cxlv	I46	I47
cxlvi	I47	I48
In the register as at present bound there is a gap until fo. ccxviii which, as the Arabic numerals carry straight on, is also numbered I48. Assuming that there were no further errors in the Roman numerals this folio should have been numbered 220. Some of the intervening folios have been bound after volume two but are inserted here in their proper place. (4)		
cxlvii	47	I49
cxlviii	48	I50

(1) Recte 'ii'.

(2) There was a fo. lxxxii as the last sentence on fo. lxxxi v. is incomplete and not continued on the folio numbered lxxxiii. Moreover two stubs follow fo. lxxxi (8I) on the first of which are faded traces of writing.

(3) The verso of this folio has an entry continued on fo. cxxx, so it is in its correct place. The scribe when numbering the folios must have inadvertently turned over 2 leaves at once.

(4) Their present order is given in the Table following this one. While separated from the register many of the folios were lost and others disarranged.

APPENDIX I (cont.)Numeration.

<u>Original</u> <u>(Roman)</u>	<u>Additional</u> <u>(Arabic)</u>	<u>Corrected</u> <u>(Including lost folios)</u>
cxlix	34	I51
cl	35	I52
Four folios missing.		
clv	39	I57
clvi	40	I58
clvii(I)	49	I59
clviii	50	I60
Twelve folios missing.		
clxxi	I2	I73
clxxii	I3	I74
clxxiii	I4	I75
clxxiiii	I5	I76
clxxv	I6	I77
clxxvi	I7	I78
clxxvii	I8	I79
clxxviii	I9	I80
clxxix (2)	?	I81?
Two folios missing.		
clxxxii	43	I84
clxxxiii(3)	44	I85
Two folios missing.		
clxxxvi (4)	82	I88
clxxxvii	62	I89
clxxxviii	63	I90
clxxxix	64	I91
clxxxx	65	I92
clxxxxi	67	I93
clxxxxii	68	I94
clxxxxiii	69	I95
clxxxxiiii	70	I96
clxxxxv	71	I97
clxxxxvi	72	I98
clxxxxvii(?)	73	I99
clxxxxviii	74	200
Thirteen folios missing.		

- (1) No such number can now be traced but the subject matter indicates that this folio should precede fo. clviii.
- (2) This number is now very faint but the folio was part of the sheet containing fo. clxxxvi. This sheet was probably the outside one of a quire of 4 sheets which contained ff. clxxxii & clxxxiii as the centre sheet. The remainder of the quire has been lost.
- (3) This folio has been replaced in its proper order. It formed part of a quire the remaining two sheets of which are now in the wrong place. See n. 2 above.
- (4) This folio is considerably torn and faded. This fact, and its Arabic number 82, indicate that it was at one time the outside folio of the detached leaves and followed ccxv 80 (Arabic 81 is missing).

APPENDIX I (cont.)Numeration.

<u>Original (Roman)</u>	<u>Additional (Arabic)</u>	<u>Corrected (Including lost folios).</u>
ccxii	77	214
ccxiii	78	215
ccxiiii	79	216
ccxv	80	217
The next two folios are missing. The remainder of the folios are correctly bound in volume one.		
ccxviii	I48	220
Both sets of numbers increase uniformly until:-		
ccxxiii	I54	226
ccxxv	I56 (sic)	227
Both sets again increase uniformly until:- (I)		
ccli	I82	253
ccliii (2)	I83	254
ccliiii	I84	255
Folio cclv (I85) is missing.		
cclvi	I86	257
cclvii	I87	258

- (1) Except that the scribe wrote ccvi in error for ccxxvi (I57).
 (2) It seems probable that there never was a fo. cclii.

Volume ii.

The first folio is numbered i (Roman) and 2 (Arabic). The Roman numerals, which are very small, cease at v (6). The Arabic numerals continue until the last folio of the volume (I9).

The present order of the folios bound after volume ii.

cxlvii	47
&c. as in the above table until:-	
clxxviii	I9
clxxxii	43
clxxix (?)	?
clxxxvii	62
clxxxviii	63
&c. as in the above table until:-	
clxxxviii	74
clxxxvi	82
clxxxiii	44
ccxii	77
&c. as in the above table until:-	
ccxv	80 (last folio).

These folios are bound after the I7th/I8th century index. Before binding they seem to have been rearranged in their original order, but with the exceptions noted above.

APPENDIX 2.

The binding of the register. (See Intro. p. xxxviii et seq.)

<u>Quires</u>	<u>Folios.</u>	<u>Details.</u>
<u>Vol. i</u>		
I	I2 (6 sheets)	Fly-leaf- folio II
2	I0 (5 ")	f. I2- f. 2I
3	4 (3 ")	f. 22- f. 25. 2 folios removed.
4	I3 (7 ")	f. 26- f. 38. I folio removed. Fragment of MS. between ff. 28 & 29.
5	9 (5 ")	f. 39- f. 47. I folio removed.
6	I2 (6 ")	f. 48- f. 59
7	8 (4 ")	f. 60- f. 67
8	8 (4 ")	f. 68- f. 75
9	6 (4 ")	f. 76- f. 8I. 2 folios removed.
I0	I2 (6 ")	f. 82- f. 93 (lxxxxiiii)
II	I2 (6 ")	f. 94- f. I05 (cvi)
I2	I2 (6 ")	f. I06- f. II8 (cxviii)
I3	I0 (5 ")	f. II9- f. I27 (cxxviii)
I4	I2 (6 ")	f. I28- f. I39 (cxxxix)
I5	8 (4 ")	f. I40- f. I47 (cxlvi) f. I47 (cxlvi) verso is blank.
I6	I2 (6 ")	f. I48- f. I60 (ccxxix)
I7	I0 (5 ")	f. I6I- f. I70 (ccxxxix)
I8	I4 (7 ")	f. I7I- f. I84 (ccliiii)
Two separate folios have been added at this point.		
	2	ff. I86 (cclvi) & I87 (cclvii)
		No folio I85.
<u>Total</u>	<u>I86</u>	
<u>Vol. ii</u>		
Odd folios	2	ff. 2 & 3 (i & ii)
I	4 (2 sheets)	f. 4- f. 7.
Odd folios	2	ff. 8 & 9
2	8 (4 ")	f. I0- f. I7
Odd folios	2	ff. I8 & I9
<u>Total</u>	<u>I8</u>	
<u>Folios bound after Vol. ii (properly belonging to vol. i).</u>		
I	8 (4 sheets)	f. 47 (cxlvii)- f. 50 (clviii)
2	8 (4 ")	f. I2 (clxxi)- f. I9 (clxxviii)
3	I6 (8 ")	f. 43 (clxxxii)- f. 44 (clxxxiii)
4	4 (2 ")	f. 77 (ccxii)- f. 80 (ccxv)
<u>Total</u>	<u>36</u>	

Visitations in the archdeaconry of Worcester. (I)i. Primary Visitation 14 Oct.-19 Nov. 1339 (Reg. Bransf. 89,102.)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Details.</u>	<u>Held in:</u>	<u>Dined.</u>	<u>Slept.</u>
Oct. Th. 14	Priory of Worc. Procuration for bp. & his familia for 2 days and 1 night in food & drink.	Chapter House.	Worc. Priory.	Ibid.
<u>Deanery of Worcester.</u>				
Fr. 15	Churches of the city & neighbourhood. S. John's Wick, Wichenford, Grimley with chapel of Hallow, Claines, Warndon.	Worcester Cathedral.	Priory?	Bp.'s Palace.
Sat. 16	The remainder of the churches of the deanery.	Worcester Cathedral.	?	Bp.'s Palace.
Sun. 17	Bp. dedicated altar of All Saints, Worcester.	-----	?	Bp.'s Palace.
Mon. 18 S. Luke	Priory of Whistones (Cist. nuns). Hospital of S. Oswald, Worc.	The priory & hospital.	?	Bp.'s Palace.
Tues. 19	Hospital of S. Wulstan, Worc. Procuration of iv marks.	The hospital.	?	?
<u>Deanery of Powick.</u>				
Wed. 20	Powick, Suckley, Acton Beauchamp, Leigh, Upton on Severn, Hanley, Gt. Malvern, Madresfield, Clevelode. Proc. of iv marks.	Powick Church	Powick.	ibid.
Th. 21	Longdon Ch. & neighbouring churches. Proc. of iv marks.	Longdon Ch.	Longdon.	ibid.
Fr. 22	Priory of Little Malvern.	Little Malvern Pr.	--	--

(I) See Introduction p. lxix et seq.

APPENDIX 3 (cont.)

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Details.</u>	<u>Held in.</u>	<u>Dined.</u>	<u>Slept.</u>
Oct. Sat. 23	Bp. dedicated altar at Upton on Severn.	--	Spetchley	ibid.
Sun. 24	Priory of Astley (Alien). Proc. v marks, ½ remitted.	The priory.	Hartlebury	ibid.
<u>Deanery of Kidderminster.</u>				
Mon. 25	Kidderminster, Wolverley, Hartlebury, Elmley Lovett, Doverdale, Chaddesley with chapel(s), [Bel]broughton, Broom, Churchill.	Kidderminster Church.	Clent.	ibid.
Tues. 26	Halesowen and the remainder of the churches & chapels of the deanery. Proc. iv marks.	Halesowen Ch.	Clent.	ibid.
Wed. 27	Dedication of altar at Hagley.	----	(Bel)broughton	ibid.
Th. 28	Dedication of altar at (Bel)broughton.	----	Northfield	ibid.
<u>Deanery of (Droit)wich.</u>				
Fr. 29	Tardebigge, Beoley, Northfield with chapel, Bromsgrove with chapels (King's) Norton & Grafton, Alvechurch, Stoke (Prior) with chapel. Proc. iv marks.	Tardebigge Church.	Hanbury.	ibid.
Sat. 30	Dodderhill with chapels & remaining churches & chapels of the deanery.	Dodderhill Church.	?	ibid.
<u>Deanery of Pershore.</u>				
Nov. Wed. 3	Pershore & neighbouring churches.	St. Andrew's Ch., Pershore.	Cropthorne	ibid.
Th. 4	Cropthorne & many churches of the deanery.	Cropthorne Ch.	?	?

APPENDIX 3 (cont.)

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Details.</u>	<u>Held in:</u>	<u>Dined.</u>	<u>Slept.</u>
Nov.				
<u>Deanery of Blockley.</u>				
Fr. 5	<u>Deanery of Blockley.</u>	<u>Blockley Ch.</u>	<u>Blockley</u>	<u>ibid.</u>
<u>Deanery of Kineton.</u>				
Sat. 6	<u>Deanery of Kineton.</u> <u>Wolford & nearby</u> <u>churches. Proc.</u> <u>iv marks.</u>	<u>Wolford Ch.</u>	<u>Honington</u>	<u>ibid.</u> <u>(In manor</u> <u>of prior of</u> <u>Coventry).</u>
Sun. 7	<u>Dedication of altar</u> <u>at Cherington.</u>	<u>-----</u>	<u>Tredington</u>	<u>ibid.</u>
Mon. 8	<u>Eatington & other</u> <u>churches of the</u> <u>deanery.</u>	<u>Eatington Ch.</u>	<u>Lambcote</u>	<u>ibid.</u> <u>(In manor of pr.</u> <u>of Kenilworth).</u>
<u>Stratford & Hampton.</u>				
Tues. 9	<u>Stratford with chapel(s)</u> <u>& Hampton Ch.</u>	<u>Stratford Ch.</u>	<u>Hampton.</u>	<u>ibid.</u>
Wed. 10	<u>Dedicated altars at</u> <u>Barford & Sherborne.</u>	<u>-----</u>	<u>Hampton.</u>	<u>ibid.</u>
<u>Deanery of Warwick.</u>				
Th. 11	<u>Colleg. Ch. of St. Mary,</u> <u>S. Martin. Warwick. Proc. iv marks.</u>	<u>St. Mary's Ch.</u>	<u>Priory of</u> <u>Holy</u>	<u>ibid.</u> <u>Sepulchre.</u>
Fr. 12	<u>Priory of Holy Sepulchre.</u> <u>Proc. of iv marks.</u> <u>Hospitals of St. John &</u> <u>St. Michael, Warwick.</u>	<u>ibid.</u>	<u>Rectory of</u> <u>Budbrooke.</u>	<u>ibid.</u>
Sat. 13	<u>Priory of Pinley. Pr. of</u> <u>Wroxall. Proc. of iv</u> <u>marks remitted.</u>	<u>ibid.</u>	<u>Rowington</u> <u>(In manor</u> <u>of abbot</u> <u>of Reading.)</u>	<u>ibid.</u>
Mon. 15	<u>Wootton Wawen & other</u> <u>churches. Proc. iv marks.</u>	<u>ibid.</u>	<u>Oldberrow</u> <u>(In manor</u> <u>of abbot of</u> <u>Evesham.)</u>	<u>ibid.</u>
" "	<u>Dedication of altar at</u> <u>Oldberrow.</u>	<u>-----</u>	<u>v. supra.</u>	
Tues. 16	<u>Priory of Studley.</u> <u>Proc. iv marks.</u>	<u>ibid.</u>	<u>Kinwarton</u>	<u>ibid.</u>

APPENDIX 3 (cont.)

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Details.</u>	<u>Held in:-</u>	<u>Dined.</u>	<u>Slept.</u>
Nov. Wed. 17	Alcester Abbey Proc. iv marks. Alcester & other churches.	Ibid. Ibid.	Weethley	ibid.
Th. 18	Cook Hill Priory	ibid.	Fladbury	ibid.
Fr. 19	Pershore Abbey. Proc. iv marks.	ibid.	--	--

ii. The Second Visitation 4th-IIth Nov. 1342. (Reg. Bransf. 530-I)

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Details of Churches &c. visited.</u>	<u>Place of visitation.</u>
Nov. Mon. 4	Worcester Priory.	Chapter House.

WORCESTER DEANERY.

Tues. 5	Churches of the City of Worcester. Hospitals of S. Oswald & S. Wulstan.	Cathedral. The said hosp- -itals.
Wed. 6	Hindlip, Warndon, Bredicot, Spetchley, Pirton, Severn Stoke, Kempsey, Tibberton, Wick, Claines, Aston Bishop (i.e. White Ladies Aston), together with their chapels.	Cathedral.

POWICK DEANERY.

Wed. 6	Powick, Hanley (Castle), Great Malvern, Madresfield, Clevelode.	Powick Church.
--------	--	----------------

(DROIT)WICH DEANERY.

Thurs. 7	Dodderhill, Elmbridge, S. Andrew (Droitwich), S. Nicholas (Droitwich), S. Mary (Witton), S. Peter (Witton), Salwarpe, Martin (Hussingtree), Hampton (Lovett), Hadzor.	Dodderhill Church.
Fr. 8	Tardebigge, Beoley, (King's) Norton, Northfield, Cofton (Hacket), Bromsgrove, Grafton, Upton (Warren), Stoke (Prior), Aston, Hanbury, Alvechurch.	Tardebigge Church.

KIDDERMINSTER DEANERY.

Sat. 9	Halesowen, Yardley, Dudley, Clent, Rowley, Swinford, Pedmore, Hagley.	Halesowen Ch.
Mon. II	Mitton, (Bel)broughton, Broom, Churchill, Chaddesley (Corbett), Stone, Rushock, Elmley Lovett, Doverdale, Hartlebury, Wolverley, Kidderminster.	Kidderminster Ch.

iii The Third Visitation 7th-10th Nov. 1345 (Reg. Bransf. 75I)

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Churches &c. visited.</u>	<u>Held in:-</u>	<u>Dined</u>	<u>Slept.</u>
Mon.	7	Worcester Priory	ibid.	ibid.	ibid.
Tues.	8	" " " "	ibid.	ibid.	Hartlebury (Commissaries in the priory.)
<u>Deanery of Worcester.</u>					
Wed.	9	By the bp.'s commissaries:- (St. Helen's, S. Peter the Great, S. Nicholas, S. Andrew, S. Swithin, All Saints, S. Clement's, S. Martin's, S. Alban's, Wick with the chapel of S. John, Claines, Aston Bishop, Tibberton, Kempsey with chapel, Ombersley, Hindlip, Warndon, Bredicot, Spetchley, Pirton, Severn Stoke.	St. Helen's Ch. Worcester. The rectory there. (I)		Hartlebury. ibid.
Thurs.	10	By the bishop:- Astley, Witley, Shrawley, Shelsley, Holt, Martley, Arley, Knightwick, Cotheridge, Kenswick, Broadwas, Grimley with the chapel of Hallow, & the chapel of Wichanford.	Astley Ch.		Hartlebury. ibid.

(I) It may be that some of these churches were visited by the bishop himself as the entry ends: "..... in rectoria Sancte Elene et prandit et pernoctavit in manerio suo de Hertlebur' ".
(See Reg. Bransf. 75I)

Visitations in the archdeaconry of Gloucester. (I)i. Primary Visitation 7 Feb. -29 Jne. 1340. (Reg. Bransf. II7)

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Details.</u>	<u>Held in:-</u>	<u>Dined.</u>	<u>Slept.</u>
<u>Feb.</u> (Deanery of Campden)				
Mon. 7	Beckford Ch. & others. Procuration.	ibid.	Dumbleton Rectory.	ibid.
Tues. 8	Dumbleton & neighbouring churches. Dedication of altar at Alderton. Procuration in food and drink.	Dumbleton Ch.	Winchcombe	ibid.
Wed. 9	Winchcombe Abbey. Stayed 2 days at expense of abbot & conv.	ibid.	ibid.	ibid.
Th. 10				
Fr. 11	Didbrook Ch. & others nearby. Proc. iv marks.	ibid.	Stanway.	ibid.
Sat. 12	Wickham & other churches.	ibid.	Broadway.	ibid.
Sun. 13?	----			
Mon. 14	Campden & other churches.	ibid.	Ebrington.	ibid.
Tues. 15	Dedicated High Altar of Todenham Ch. Proc. in food & drink.		Todenham.	ibid.
<u>Deanery of Stow.</u>				
Wed. 16	Longborough & other churches. Proc. iv marks.	ibid.	Broadwell (manor of abbot of Evesham.)	ibid.
Th. 17	Stow & other churches.	ibid.	Bourton.	ibid.
Fri. 18	Rissington Ch. & other neighbouring churches.	ibid.	Gt. Barrington (In manor of prior of Lanthony)	ibid.
Sat. 19	Eastleach & 3 nearby churches.	ibid.	'Benynton' or 'Bevynton'	Lechlade Priory.
Sun. 20			Lechlade Priory.	Fairford Rectory.
Mon. 21	Hatherop Ch. & other churches.	ibid.	Coln S. Aldwyn.	Ibid.
Tues. 22	The bp. rested the whole day at Bibury.			

(I) See Introduction p. lxix et seq.

APPENDIX 4. (cont.)

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Details.</u>	<u>Held in:-</u>	<u>Dined.</u>	<u>Slept.</u>
<u>Feb.</u>				
Wed. 23	Sherborne Ch. & others.	Chapel of Sherborne.	Sherborne (manor of abbot of Winchcombe)	ibid.
<u>Deanery of Cirencester.</u>				
Thurs. 24	Farmington Ch. & others.	ibid.	Northleach (Manor of abbot of Glouc.)	ibid.
Fr. 25	Hampnett & other churches	ibid.	Chedworth.	ibid.
<u>S. Mathias</u>				
Sat. 26	Rendcomb & other churches	ibid.	Ampney Crucis.	ibid.
Sun. 27	Dedicated High Altar of Siddington.		Cirencester.	ibid.
Mon. 28	Cirencester Abbey. Proc. in food & drink.	ibid.	ibid.	ibid.
Tues. 29	Corrections at Cirencester Abbey.	ibid.	Saperton	ibid.
<u>Deanery of Stonehouse.</u>				
<u>March.</u>				
Wed. 1	Rodmarton & other churches. Dedication of High Altar.	ibid.	Tetbury	ibid.
Thurs. 2	Cherrington & other churches.	ibid.	Avening	ibid.
Fri. 3	Minchinhampton & other churches.	ibid.	ibid.	ibid.
Sat. 4	Churches of Horsley & Nympsfield, chapel of Kinley (college of secular priests).	Horsley Ch.	Horsley	ibid.
Sun. 5	Reconciliation of church-yard at Kingscote.		Horsley.	ibid.
Mon. 6	King's Stanley & 4 churches nearby. Dedication of altar at Stroud.	King's Stanley Ch.	(Leonard) Stanley Monachorum	ibid.
Tues. 7	Stonehouse with nearby churches.	ibid.	Standish (Manor of almoner of Glouc.)	ibid.
Wed. 8	St. Peter's Abbey, Glouc. Proc. in food & drink.	ibid.	ibid.	ibid.

APPENDIX 4 (cont.)

(cxi)

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Details.</u>	<u>Held in:-</u>	<u>Dined.</u>	<u>Slept.</u>
<u>March.</u>				
Th. 9	Corrections in the abbey of Gloucester. 2 days' stay at the expense of the abbot & conv.	ibid.	ibid.	ibid.
<u>Deanery of Winchcombe.</u>				
Fr. 10	Leckhampton & other churches.	ibid.	Cheltenham	ibid.
Sat. 11	Ordinations in Cheltenham Ch. & visit. of that church & others.	Cheltenham Church.	Prestbury (manor of pr. of Lanthony)	ibid.
Sun. 12	Dedicated altar at Elmstone (Hardwicke)		Bishop's Cleeve.	ibid.
Mon. 13	Bishop's Cleeve Ch. & chapel(s).	ibid.	ibid.	ibid.
<u>May</u>				
Th. 18	Churches of Tewkesbury & Deerhurst.	?	Bredon.	ibid.
<u>Deanery of Gloucester.</u>				
Mon. 22	Priory of Lanthony. Proc.			
Tues. 23	in food & drink. Stay of two days.	ibid.	ibid.	ibid.
Wed. 24	Ch. of B. Mary before the abbey gate, Gloucester. Churches of the town & those of Harescombe, Pitchcombe, Brookthorpe, Matson, Hartpury, Ashleworth.	ibid.	Longney (manor of abbot of Pershore)	ibid.
Th. 25	----			
Fr. 26	Longney, Arlingham, Frocester, Fretherne, Moreton (Valence) with chapel, Standish with chapel(s), Haresfield.	Longney Ch.	Slimbridge Rectory.	ibid.
<u>Deanery of Dursley.</u>				
Sat. 27	Cam with chapel, Frampton on Severn, Slimbridge, Uley, Coaley, Berkeley with chapels. Dedication of Stinchcombe chapel.	Chapel of Stinchcombe.	Cam Rectory	ibid.
Sun. 28	Dedicated altar of chapel of Nibley.		Wotton (under Edge) rectory.	ibid.

APPENDIX 4 (cont.)

(cxii)

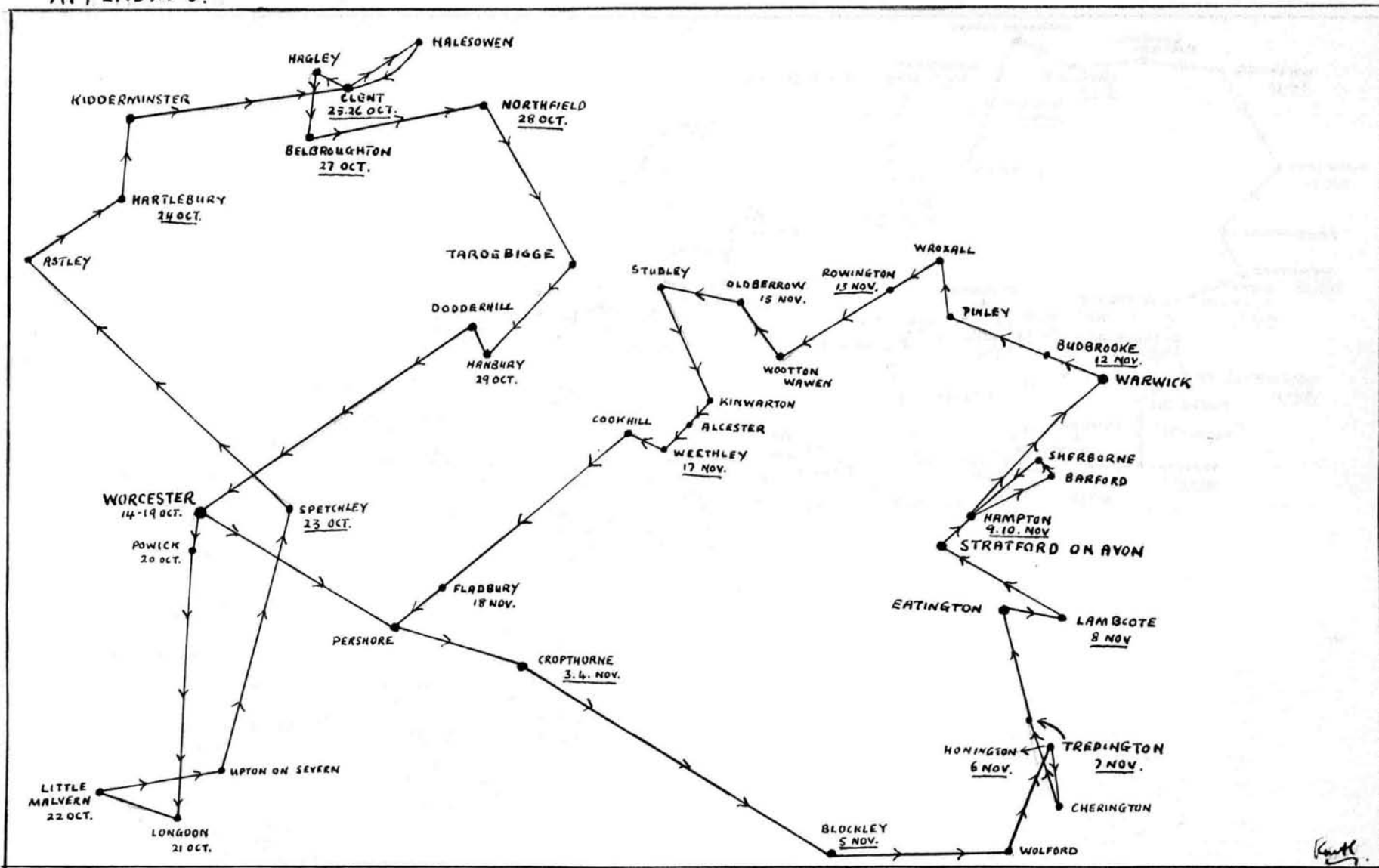
<u>Date.</u>	<u>Details.</u>	<u>Held in:-</u>	<u>Dined.</u>	<u>Slept.</u>
<u>May.</u>				
Mon. 29	Wotton with chapel(s) Rockhampton, Thornbury with chapel(s), Newington, Beverstone with chapel of Kingscote, Lasborough, Ozleworth.	Wotton Church.	Hawkesbury Rectory.	ibid.
<u>Deanery of Hawkesbury & Bitton.</u>				
Tues. 30	Hawkesbury with chapel(s), Boxwell with chapel(s), Weston Brit & other nearby churches.	Hawkesbury Ch.	Great Sodbury with the vicar.	Codring- -ton. (manor of Roger Kantok).
Wed. 31	Wapley & other churches.	ibid.	Pucklechurch Rectory.	ibid.
<u>JUNE</u>				
Th. 1	Pucklechurch & other churches.	ibid.	ibid.	ibid.
Fr. 2	Iron Acton & other churches.	ibid.	Henbury	ibid.
<u>Deanery of Bristol.</u>				
Mon. 19	St. Augustine's Abbey, Bristol, where the bp. stayed 2 days & made corrections.	ibid.	ibid.	ibid.
Tues. 20	Hospital of St. Mark (alias Gaunt's), Bristol	ibid.		Henbury.
Wed. 21	Friory of S. James (Ben- edictine, cell of Tewkesbury.) Hospitals of S. Bartholomew & S. Mary Magdalene.		Henbury	ibid.
Th. 22	Holy Trinity & other churches of the town.	ibid.	Henbury	ibid.
Fr. 23	Collegiate Ch. of Westbury, Henbury, Winterbourne, Stoke Giffard, Filton, Clifton.	Westbury on Trym.	Henbury	ibid.
Mon. 26	Almondsbury, Horfield, Littleton, Olveston, Elberton, Tockington, Weston, Oldbury, Berkeley.	Almondsbury.	Olveston in rectory.	ibid.
Tues. 27	Dedication of cemetery of chapel of Oldbury.		Berkeley.	ibid.
Th. 29	Dedication of the church of Eastington.			

APPENDIX 4ii. Second Visitation 28-30 Nov. 1342 (incomplete). (Reg. Bransf. 532)

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Details of churches &c. visited.</u>	<u>Place of visitation.</u>
<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Deanery of Campden.</u>	
Thurs. 28	Didbrook, Kemerton, Alderton, Dumbleton, Wormington, Toddington, Stanway.	Didbrook Ch.
Fri. 29	Childs Wickham, Stanton, Buckland, Broadway, Willersey, Hinton, Aston Somerville.	Childs Wickham Ch.
Sat. 30	Beckford.	

APPENDIX 5.

(CXIV)



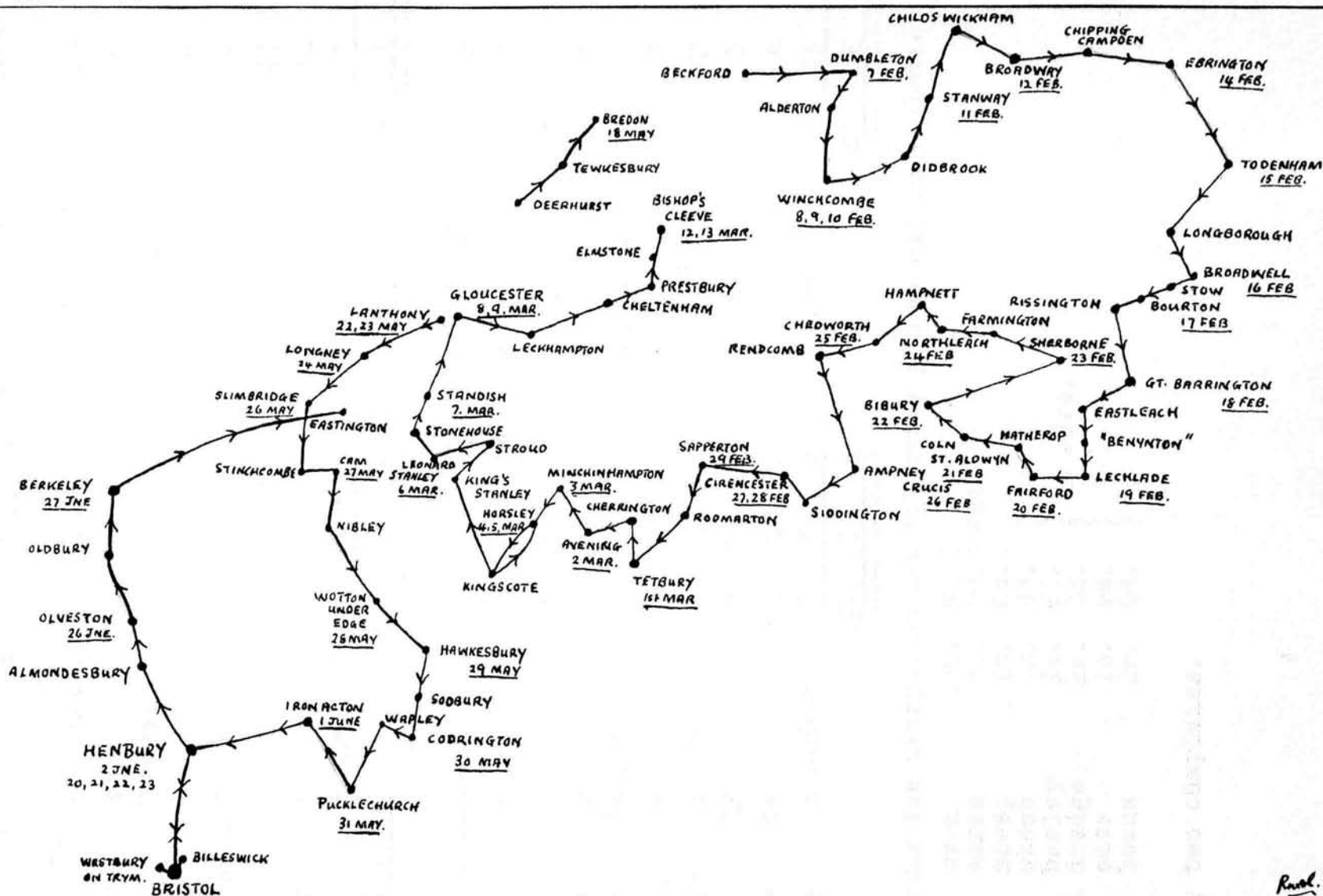
THE DATE INDICATES THAT THE BISHOP STAYED THE NIGHT.

THE BISHOP'S PRIMARY VISITATION IN THE ARCHDEACONRY OF WORCESTER. 14 OCT. - 19 NOV. 1339.

Kent

APPENDIX 6.

(CXV)



Rand.

THE DATE INDICATES THAT THE BISHOP STAYED THE NIGHT.

THE BISHOP'S PRIMARY VISITATION IN THE ARCHDEACONRY OF GLOUCESTER, 7 Feb - 29 June 1340.

Some Economic details from the Chantry Endowments
at Syde, Cambridge, Newport and Wortley,
in Gloucestershire. (Reg. Bransf. 658-661)

<u>SYDE</u>			£	s.	d.	<u>CAMBRIDGE</u>			£	s.	d.
Oxen	2	+1 horse	1	10	0	4		2	13	4	
Sheep	90		6	15	0	-		-	-	-	
Wheat	7	acres	1	1	0	13	acres	2	12	0	
Barley	11	"	1	7	6	-		-	-	-	
Dredge	7			14	0	-		-	-	-	
Oats	12			18	0	8	" 1 rood.		13	1½	
Beans	-		-	-	-	5			12	6	
Money	4	marks	2	13	4	4	marks	2	13	4	
<u>Total value</u>			<u>£14</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>			<u>£9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3½</u>	

<u>NEWPORT.</u>			£	s.	d.	<u>WORTLEY</u>			£	s.	d.
Oxen	6		4	0	0	4		2	0	0	
Sheep	-		-	-	-	-		-	-	-	
Mares	3		1	4	0	-		-	-	-	
Wheat	18	acres	3	12	0	11½	acres	2	6	0	
Barley	-		-	-	-	½	"		1	3	
Dredge	1	"		2	0	6	"		12	0	
Oats	18	"	1	7	0	18	"	1	7	0	
Beans	14	"	1	15	0	1	"		2	6	
Money	8	marks*	5	6	8	4	marks.	2	13	4	
			<u>£17</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>8</u>			<u>£9</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	

Ignoring the exceptions the following prices can be tabled:-

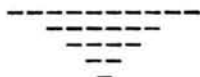
oxen	13s.	4d.)	} each.
mares	8s.	0d.)	
sheep	1s.	6d.)	
wheat	4s.	0d.)	} an acre.
barley	2s.	6d.)	
dredge	2s.	0d.)	
oats	1s.	6d.)	
beans	2s.	6d.)	

* For two chaplains.

For convenience this has been divided into two tables, A. & B. The first of these is a list of the ordinations held by the bishop, while the second is a numerical analysis of those ordained. Ordinations to the first tonsure have been omitted. These were held quite separately and at different times from the other ordinations (See Reg. Bransf. I006, I007, I020, I02I, I074-II07).

Though the list of ordinations is lengthy it is by no means complete as many folios have been lost from this part of the register (See App. I). For I342 there is only one ordination and perhaps part of another. Some lists for I344 are missing, others are incomplete. All of those for I347 (ignoring the very small ordination of Feb. I8), and all save one for I348 have also been lost. Other extant lists are incomplete.

Apart from the usual ordinations of the 'Quatuor Tempora' (I) the bishop regularly held others on both Holy Saturday and on the Eve of Passion Sunday, and irregularly at other times.



- (I) The Ember days at the four seasons. The Wed., Fri. & Sat. after
- i) Ist Sunday in Lent.
 - ii) Pentecost.
 - iii) Holy Rood Day (Exaltation). Sept. I4.
 - iv) Fst. of St. Lucy. Dec. I3.

If (iii) & (iv) fall on Wed. the Ember days start on the following Wednesday.

The bp. held his ordinations on Saturdays in Embertide.

APPENDIX 8.ORDINATIONS 1339-49.Abbreviations.

R.	Regular)	Clergy.	* Indicates in Table A. that 10 or less than 10 persons were ordained.
S.	Secular)		
T.	Total.		
Ch.	Church.		
Inc.	Incomplete.		

Table A. List of Ordinations. (See also Table B.) Edition Number

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Day. (& Season)</u>	<u>Place.</u>	<u>Ref.</u>
<u>I339</u>			
27 Mar.	Holy Saturday	Kempsey Church.	I004.
22 May.	Eve of Trinity Sunday. (Sat. in Embertide)	Tewkesbury Abbey Ch.	I008.
<u>I340</u>			
I Apr.	Sat. the Eve of Passion Sunday.	Kidderminster Ch.	I009.
I5 Apr. *	Holy Saturday.	Alvechurch Ch.	I010.
<u>I342?</u>			
Undated.	-----	-----	I042.
<u>I342</u>			
21 Dec.	Sat. in Embertide after the feast of St. Lucy.	Hartlebury Ch.	I049.
<u>I343</u>			
8 Mar.	Sat. in the 1st week of Lent. (Embertide)	Cheltenham Ch.	I050.
9 Mar. *	2nd Sunday in Lent.	Withington (Bp.'s chapel)	I068.
29 Mar.	Sat. the Eve of Passion Sun.	Bredon (Bp.'s chapel)	I051.
12 Apr.	Holy Saturday.	Hartlebury Ch.	I052.
7 Jne.	Eve of Trinity Sunday. (Sat. in Embertide.)	Hartlebury Ch.	I053.
20 Sept.	Sat. in Embertide after the Exaltation.	Bishop's Cleeve Ch.	I054.
20 Dec.	Sat. in Embertide after 1st. of St. Lucy.	Hartlebury.	I055.
<u>I344</u>			
20 Mar. *	Sat. before Passion Sunday.	Hartlebury (Bp.'s chapel).	I056.

APPENDIX 8. (Table A cont.)

(cxix)

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Day & Season.</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Edition No. Ref.</u>
<u>I344</u>			
3 Apr.	Holy Saturday	Hartlebury Ch.	I057
9 May*	Rogation Sunday	Hartlebury	560
29 May	Eve of Trinity Sun. (Sat. in Embertide)	Campden Ch.	I058
I344?			
18 Dec.?	-----	-----	I059
<u>I345</u>			
6 Feb.*	Quinquagesima Sun.	Hartlebury (Bp.'s chapel)	692
19 Feb.	Sat. in the 1st week of Lent. (Embertide)	Hartlebury Ch.	I060
20 Feb.*	2nd. Sunday in Lent.	Hartlebury	701
12 Mar.	Sat. the Eve of Passion Sunday	Hartlebury (Bp.'s chapel)	I061
27 Mar.*	Easter Day.	Hartlebury (Bp.'s chapel)	I062
26 Mar.	Holy Saturday.	Hartlebury Ch.	I063
21 May	Sat. in Embertide after Pentecost.	Tewkesbury Abb.	I064
24 Sept.	Sat. in Embertide after the Exaltation.	Campden Ch.	I066
17 Dec.	Sat. in Embertide after fst. of St. Lucy.	Hartlebury (Bp.'s chapel)	I067
<u>I346</u>			
11 Mar.	Sat. in the 1st week of Lent. (Embertide)	Hartlebury Ch.	I069
1 Apr.*	Sat. the Eve of Passion Sunday.	Hartlebury (Bp.'s chapel)	I070
15 Apr.	Holy Saturday.	Hartlebury Ch.	I071
10 Jne.	Sat. in Embertide after Pentecost.	Tewkesbury Abb.	I072
23 Sept.	Sat. in Embertide after the Exaltation.	Stow Ch.	I073
<u>I347</u>			
18 Feb.*	Quadragesima Sunday	-----	I065

Table B. Details of Ordinations. (See also Table A.)

Date.	Acolytes.			Subdeacons.			Deacons.			Priests.			Totals.
	R.	S.	T.	R.	S.	T.	R.	S.	T.	R.	S.	T.	
<u>I339</u>													
27 Mar.	4	3	7	4	I	5	4	8	I2	4	IO	I4	38
22 May	7	I46	I53	I8	IO2	I20	20	II3	I33	?	54	54	460
<u>I340</u>													(Inc.)
I Apr.	0	28	28	0	28	28	0	I2	I2	3	30	33	IOI
I5 Apr.	0	0	0	0	I	I	0	I	I	3	0	3	5
<u>I342?</u>													
Undated.	?	?	?	?	3?	3	I3	3I	44	22	29	5I	98
<u>I342</u>													(Inc.)
2I Dec.	4	5	9	6	9	I5	5	9	I4	8	I2	20	58
<u>I343</u>													
8 Mar.	5	28	33	I2	IO	22	8	I2	20	9	20	29	IO4
9 Mar.	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
29 Mar.	0	6	6	5	3	8	6	3	9	I	I	2	25
I2 Apr.	0	0	0	0	3	3	I	3	4	I	3	4	II
7 Jne.	5	I4	I9	4	8	I2	4	IO	I4	7	II	I8	63
20 Sep.	5	I7	22	I3	I5	28	II	I4	25	II	28	39	II4
20 Dec.	I	6	7	9	?	9	?	?	?	?	?	?	I6
<u>I344</u>													(Inc.)
20 Mar.	0	0	0	0	4	4	I	0	I	0	2	2	7
3 Apr.	I	2	3	0	4	4	0	5	5	I	I	2	I4
9 May	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
29 May	I6	24	40	II	2I	32	6	30	36	Incomplete			IO8
<u>I344?</u>													(Inc.)
I8 Dec?	?	?	?	?	5	5	8	I2	20	I4	9	23	48
<u>I345</u>													(Inc.)
6 Feb.	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
I9 Feb.	5	I2	I7	9	I5	24	2	I3	I5	3	I3	I6	72
20 Feb.	0	I	I	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	I
I2 Mar.	0	0	0	3	3	6	5	7	I2	3	5	8	26
26 Mar.	0	0	0	0	7	7	2	2	4	0	6	6	I7
27 Mar.	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
2I May	6	62	68	9	3I	40	9	20	29	I9	20	39	I76
Totals.	<u>64</u>	<u>360</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>IO3</u>	<u>273</u>	<u>376</u>	<u>IO5</u>	<u>305</u>	<u>4IO</u>	<u>IO9</u>	<u>254</u>	<u>363</u>	<u>I573</u>

Table B. (cont.)

Date	Acolytes.			Subdeacons.			Deacons.			Priests			Totals.
	R.	S.	T.	R.	S.	T.	R.	S.	T.	R.	S.	T.	
b/f.	64	360	424	103	273	376	105	305	410	109	254	363	1573
<u>I345</u>													
24 Sep.	I	I3	I4	4	I6	20	I	I8	I9	6	2I	27	80
I7 Dec.	0	0	0	9	6	I5	II	9	20	I	6	7	42
<u>I346</u>													
II Mar.	4	23	27	II	20	3I	II	22	33	I2	22	34	I25
I Apr.	0	0	0	2	I	3	I	3	4	2	I	3	I0
I5 Apr.	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	4	4	2	5	7	I4
I0 Jne.	4	65	69	I7	27	44	I8	I7	35	I4	28	42	I90
23 Sep.	I8	75	93	I3	22	35	I8	29	47	25	3I	56	23I
<u>I347</u>													
I8 Feb.	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
<u>I348</u>													
20 Dec.	3	I5	I8	I	I3	I4	4	I5	I9	5	20	25	76
<u>I349</u>													
7 Mar.	6	34	40	4	49	53	2	27	29	7	25	32	I54
28 Mar.	0	0	0	3	I8	2I	0	35	35	0	I8	I8	74
29 Mar.	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
II Apr.	0	0	0	I	20	2I	0	20	20	0	3I	3I	72
I9 Apr.	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
3I May.	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
6 Jne.	3	5I	54	8	37	45	II	26	37	I2	23	35	I7I
22 Jly.	I	I	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	<u>I04</u>	<u>653</u>	<u>757</u>	<u>I76</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>68I</u>	<u>I82</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>7I2</u>	<u>I95</u>	<u>485</u>	<u>680</u>	<u>2830</u>

Note: as above.

REMARKS:
 1. of St. Mark.
 (like sample)

Notes: (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21) (22) (23) (24) (25) (26) (27) (28) (29) (30) (31) (32) (33) (34) (35) (36) (37) (38) (39) (40) (41) (42) (43) (44) (45) (46) (47) (48) (49) (50) (51) (52) (53) (54) (55) (56) (57) (58) (59) (60) (61) (62) (63) (64) (65) (66) (67) (68) (69) (70) (71) (72) (73) (74) (75) (76) (77) (78) (79) (80) (81) (82) (83) (84) (85) (86) (87) (88) (89) (90) (91) (92) (93) (94) (95) (96) (97) (98) (99) (100)

SOME ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF HEADS
OF RELIGIOUS HOUSES.Abbreviations.

A.P.	Alien Priory.
Aug. C.	Augustinian Canons Regular.
Ben.	Benedictine.
Ben. N.	Benedictine Nunnery.
Cist.	Cistercian.
Cist. N.	Cistercian Nunnery.
H.	Hospital.

Heads of Houses.

Abb.	Abbot.
M.	Master.
Prec.	Preceptor.
Fr.	Prior.
Pss.	Prioress.
W.	Warden.

Reference.

R.B.	Register Bransford (Followed by Edition number.)
------	--

Causes of Vacancy. (C. of V.)

A.	Amoval.
D.	Death.
I.	Infirmity.
R.	Resignation.

<u>House.</u>	<u>Office of:</u>	<u>New Holder.</u>	<u>C. of V.</u>	<u>Date.</u>
ASTLEY A.P. Ben. Dependent on S. Taurin, Evreux.	Pr.	Ralph de Valle.	--	18 Apr. 1341 (Inst. by bp.)
<u>Note.</u>	Presentation by Abb. & Conv. of S. Taurin.			R.B. 400
Ibid.	Pr.	William Provot.	--	5 Jne. 1343 R.B. 506.
<u>Note.</u>	As above.			
Ibid.	Pr.	Hugh de Valle.	I	18 Jne. 1349 R.B. 1455.
<u>Note.</u>	As above.			
BILLESWICK. H. of St. Mark. (alias Gaunt's)	M.	John de Stokelonde.	A.	27 Apr. 1346 (Confirmation of election by bp.)
<u>Notes.</u>	Ralph de Tetbury was deposed. He had gone on pilgrimage & had not returned.			R.B. 75-7, 78I et seq. Confirmation, <u>ibid.</u> 793-4.

APPENDIX 9 (cont.)

(cxxiv)

<u>House.</u>	<u>Office of:</u>	<u>New Holder.</u>	<u>C.of V.</u>	<u>Date.</u>
BRISTOL Aug. C. <u>Notes.</u> John Snow, the previous abb., had been elected in 1332 (V.C.H. Glos. ii, p. 79).	Abb.	Ralph de Assch.	D.	31 Jly. 1341 (Confirmation by bp.) R.B. 419.
BRISTOL S. Mary Magdalene H.	Pss.	Matilda de Luttelton.	--	27 Mar. 1349 (Episcopal Appointment.) R.B. 997
COOK HILL Cist. N. <u>Notes.</u> Election "per viam scrutinii" made after death of Pss. Sarah quashed by Bp. Nash ii, p. 16.	Pss.	Christine Durvassal.	D.	29 May 1349 (Episcopal Appointment). R.B. 1434.
DEERHURST A.P. Ben. Cell of St. Denys. <u>Notes.</u> John de Vitolio was recalled (pr. since 1329). According to V.C.H. Glos. ii, p. 105, Ralph was removed in 1344 & Thomas Graculi (R.B. 'Garculi') put in his place.	Pr.	Ralph de Ermonvilla.	I.	8 Feb. 1340 (Inst. by bp.)* R.B. 256-7.
Ibid. <u>Notes.</u> 8 Sept. 1345 the bp. appointed the rector of Eaton Hastings to administer the temporalities & to chose a chaplain to exercise the cure of souls (R.B. 662).	Pr.	Thomas Garculi	A.	? 1344 (See note above. No mention in R.B.)
Ibid. <u>Notes.</u> Thomas was forced to resign 26 Nov. 1345 (R.B. 759,760).	Pr.	John Godelli.	R.	17 Feb. 1346 (Inst. by bp.)* R.B. 759-61.
* At Deerhurst by agreement (V. R.B.256-7) the bp.'s institution was not to the priory but to the parish church. A case of a regular being instituted to a benefice with cure of souls.				
PERSHORE. Ben. <u>Notes.</u> William de Herwynton resigned 26 Sept. 1340 (R.B. 352-3). He had been abb. since 1307 (Reg. Geynsburgh, p.30).	Abb.	Thomas de Pyriton.	R.	14 Nov.? 1340 (Appointment by bp. after quashing double election.)
PINLEY. Cist. N.	Pss.	Amicia de Hynton.	--	21 Aug. 1342 (Confirmation by J. de la Lowe, bp.'s commissary, of election.) R.B. 485.

APPENDIX 9 (cont.)

(cxxxv)

<u>House.</u>	<u>Office of:</u>	<u>New Holder.</u>	<u>C.of V.</u>	<u>Date.</u>
STUDLEY Aug. C.	Pr.	John la Souche.	D.	9 Jly. 1349 (Election quashed. Bp. appoints.) R.B. 1504.
<u>Note.</u> Robert de Langedon previous prior.				
TEWKESBURY. Ben.	Abb.	Thomas de Legh.	D.	10 Sept. 1347 (Pronouncement & confirmation by bp.) R.B. 926 et seq.
<u>Note.</u> John de Cotes, the previous abbot, elected 1328 (V.C.H. Glos. ii, p.65).				
WARWICK. Holy Sepulchre. Aug. C.	Pr.	Peter Warwick.	A.	17 Jne. 1349 (Confirmation of election.)
<u>Notes.</u> Previous prior, William de Wilton. This house had a prior & 8 canons in 1339 according to Knowles & Hadcock, p. 158. R.B. 1452.				
WARWICK. St. John's H. M. or W.		Philip de Besford	R.	23 Feb. 1344. (Confirmation of election by bp.'s commissaries.) R.B. 527, 579, 602.
<u>Note.</u> Previous Master, Henry Bobbi.				
Ibid.	M.	John of Alcester junior.	---	26 May 1349 (Appointment by bp. after defective election.) R.B. 1002.
WARWICK. St. Michael's H.	M. or W.	William de Knytcote.	--	10 Sept. 1343 (Inst. by bp. after present- -ation by Thomas Beauchamp, E. of Warwick.) R.B. 574.
WHISTON or WHISTONES. Cist. N.	Pss.	Agnes de Monynton.	D.	3 Jly. 1349 (Episcopal appointment.) R.B. 1494.
<u>Note.</u> Previous Pss., Juliana de Power.				
WINCHCOMBE. Ben.	Abb.	William de Sherborne.	R.	26 Apr. 1340 (Bp. appoints after quashing election.) R.B. 298.
<u>Notes.</u> Richard of Iddebury had been abbot since 1315 (V.C.H. Glos. ii, p.72). He resigned 22 Mar. 1340 (R.B. 284).				

APPENDIX 9.

(cxxxvi)

<u>House.</u>	<u>Office of:</u>	<u>New Holder.</u>	<u>C.of V.</u>	<u>Date.</u>
WOOTTON WAWEN. A.P. Ben. Dependent on the abbey of Conches in Normandy. <u>Note.</u> Previous prior-	Pr.	John de Sil- -vaneto.	R.	2 Jan. 1341 (Inst. by the bp. to the church & priory. Cf. Deerhurst.) R.B. 384.
WORCESTER. Ben. Cathedral Priory.	Pr.	Simon le Botiler.	Elevation of Wolstan de Bransford to the episcopate.	13 Apr. 1339 (Bp.'s choice in accordance with a composition. R.B. 39.
Ibid.	Pr.	Simon Cromp.	D.	6 Nov. 1339 (ut supra) R.B. 229.
Ibid.	Pr.	John de Evesham.	D. (10th Apr.)	22? Apr. 1340 (ut supra) R.B. 292.
WORCESTER. S. OSWALD. H.	M. or Prec.	William de Salopia.	--	6 May 1349 (Appointed by bp.) R.B. 1003.
WORCESTER. S. WULSTAN. H.	Prec.	Peter Fraunceys.	--	18 Jne. 1341 (Appointed by bp.) R.B. 408-9.
<u>Note.</u> Peter Fraunceys displaced Robert de Merston. See Intro. p. xxviii.				
WROXALL Ben. N.	Pss.	Isabella de Fokerham.	R.	25 Oct. 1339 (Appointment by the bp. for this occasion by consent of convent.) R.B. 279.
<u>Note.</u> Previous pss: Agnes de Broy.				

APPENDIX IO.Table of Institutions to Benefices.

R. = Rectory.
 V. = Vicarage.
 Chant.* Chantry.
 Ch. = Chapel.

<u>Benefice.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Ref. (Ed. number)</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
Abbots Lench	V (Ch.)	489 I546	Ch. of Fladbury.
Abbots Morton	R	487	
Acton Beauchamp	R	I463	
Acton Turville	V	632	
Alcester	R	I442	
Alderminster	V	I467	(al. Alder- -maston)
Alderton	R	I558	
Almondsbury	V	918	
Alvechurch	R	239	
Alveston	V	I46I	
Arle	Ch.	965	
Astley	V	I497	
Aston Episcopi	V	I539	(al. White Ladies Aston)
Aston Blank	V	I96	(al. Cold Aston)
Aston Cantlow	R	742	
	V	685	
	V	I523	
Aston Somerville	V	628	
	V	985	
	V	986	
Aston Subedge	R	I446	
Atherstone	R	I438	
Badminton	V	496	
	V	990	
Barcheston	R	724	
Barford	R	I540	
Barnsley	R	43I	
	R	516	See also 895-6.
Barrington, Great,	V	378	
Barrington, Little,	V	I534	
Batsford	R	458	
	R	I485	
Beckford	V	717	
	V	I433	
Belbroughton	R	I492	
Beoley	V	I513	
Berkeley	V	I38I	
Bibury	V	98-9	
Bidford	V	I476	
Billesley	R	I44I	

<u>Benefice.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Ref. Edition no.</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Binton	R	666	
Birtsmorton	R	I43I	
Bishampton	R	I64	
	R	393	
B.V.M.	Chant.	304	
Bisley,			
2nd Portion	R	6I8	
	V	9I7	
	V	I465	
Bitton	V	402	
	V	I378	
Blockley	V	I564	
Boxwell	R	562-3	
	R	988	
	R	I557	
Breadstone,			
St. Michael's	Chant.	688	
Bredicot	R	702	
	R	I500	
Bredon	R	288	
	R	435	
Brimpsfield	V	525	
	V	604	
Bristol,			
St. Augustine's			
Abbey	Chant.	95I	
	Chant.	I406	
St. Augustine			
the Less	V	963	
St. Lawrence	R	993	
St. Mary in the			
Market Place.	R	968	
St. Nicholas	V	967	
	V	987	
St. Owen	R	983	
	R	I380	
St. Peter	R	960	
SS. Philip &			
James	R	795	
	R	975	
	R	I5I6	
St. Stephen	R	50I	
	R	520	
	R	9I9	
ibid. at altar	Chant.	995	
of	Chant.	996	
St. Katherine.	Chant.	I377	
St. Werburgh	R	235	

<u>Benefice.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Ref. Ed. no.</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
Broadwas	Chant.	682	
	Chant.	683	
	Chant.	I515	
Broadway	R.	I484	
Brockworth	V.	756	
	V	I503	
Broom	R	592	
Buckland	R	I487	
Butlers Marston	V	I502	
Campden	V	33I	
Cerney, South,	V	I565	
Cerney, North,	R	I395	
	R	I48I	
Chaddesley	R	I5I4	
Charfield	R	703	
Chedworth	V	I472	
Cherrington	R	955	
	R	I385	
	R	I428	
Childs Wickham	V	I490	
Churchill,	R	379	
nr. Kidderminster.			
Churchill,	R	I4I2*	
nr. Worcester.			
Church Lench	R	228	
	R	768	
Claverdon	V	I4IO	
Clent with chapel of Rowley.	R	236	
	R	569	
	R	6I9	
	V	7I6	
	V	I554	
Clifford	R	I460	
Clifton	R	502	
	R	92I	
Coberley	Chant.	334	
	Chant.	898	
	Chant.	I469	
Cold Ashton	R	I4I6	
Cold Aston (v. Aston Blank)			
Coln St. Aldwyn	V	I400	
Combe Baskerville	R	889	
Comberton, Great,	R	205	
Compton Greenfield	Ch.	852	

* Nash (i, p.I96) records no institution between I294 & I36I.

APPENDIX IO (cont.)

(cxxx)

<u>Benefice.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Ref. Ed. no.</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
Compton, Little,	R	I479	'in Henmarsh'.
Compton Wyniates	R	593	
	R	876	
Coughton	V	I71	
	V	I432	
Cowley	R	I466	
Cromhall	R	392	
	R	977	
Croome. See Earls Croome, Hill Croome.			
Daglingworth	R	330	
	R	845-7	
	R	I429	
Deerhurst*	R	256-8	
	R	761-2	
Didmarton	R	500	
	R	815	
Ditchford Frary	R (ecclesia sive capella)	I536	
Dodderhill	V	769	
Dowdeswell	R	957	
	R	I549	
Down Ampney	R	I474	
Doynton	Ch.	924	
Driffield	V	I521	
Droitwich, St. Andrew,	R	810-812	
	R	954	
See also under Witton.			
Dry Marston	R	I483	
Dumbleton	R	305	
Duntisborne	V	976	
Duntisborne Abbots	R	475	
	R	606	
Dyrham	R	854	
Earls Croome	R	982	
Eastleach Martin	R	646	
	R	I379	
Eatington	V	495	
Edgeworth	R	844	
Elmley Castle	V	I424**	
	Chant.	484	
	Chant.	805	
Exhall	R	I383	
	R	I475	
Eyford	R	I532	
Feckenham	V	442	
	V	I552	

* This dependency of St. Denys was a 'prioratus curatus'. After his appointment by the mother house the prior was presented to the bp. for institution & induction to the parish church of Deerhurst. See App. 9 under Deerhurst.

** Nash (i, pp.389-90) has muddled the institutions to the vicarage & chantry. He gives the date of Thoury's inst. as I319, but this is probably a printer's error.

APPENDIX IO (cont.)

(cxxxix)

<u>Benefice.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Ref.No.</u>	<u>Ed.</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
Filton	R	459		
Fladbury	V	I427		
Flyford Flavell	R	I543		
Frampton Cotterell	R	920		
Frocester	V	440		
	V	I456		
Fulbrook	R	I386		
	R	I524		
Gloucester, Archdeaconry.		904		See also I9, & Intro. p. xliv.
Gloucester, St. Aldate,	R	413		
	R	440		
	R	I505		
St. Mary (in Austro)	R	461		
	R	477		
	R	I453		
St. Owen	V	461		
	V	481		
	V	994		
Holy Trinity	R	923		
Grafton (Temple Grafton)	V	333		
	V	I409		
Grafton Flyford	R	I559		
Grimley with Hallow.	V	I561		
Hadzor	R	I448		
Hagley	R	I401		
	R	I493		
Halford	R	241		See Intro. pp.lxv-lxvi
	R	382		
	R	446		
	R	465		
	R	646		
	R	I563		
Halling	R	378		
Hampton Bishop	R	410		Al. Hampton Lucy.
	R	825		
	V	460		
	V	463		
Hampton Monialium (see Minchinhampton)				
Hampton Meysey	R	857		
	R	I473		
Hanbury	R	I97		See also 57-8
Hartlebury	R	389		
Harnhill	R	452		
Hartpury	V	I414		
Harvington (nr. Evesham)	R	I84		
Haselor	R	663		
	R	I443		

<u>Benefice.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Ref. Ed. no.</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
Hatherop	R	2I2	See also 78.
	R	I422	
	R	I550	
Henbury (nr. Bristol)	V	I440	Termed 'in Salt Marsh'.
Hill Croome	R	478	
Hillside	Ch.	444	
Hillsley	R (Ch.)	I439	
Hindlip	R	609	
	R	687	
	R	I535	
Holt	R	73	No record of inst.
	V	438	
	V	I496	
Honington	R	69I	
Horton, prebend of, (in the cath. church of Salisbury.)		886-8	
Inkberrow	V	I544	
Prebend of, (in the cath. church of Hereford)		720	V. commission in 7I9.
Ipsley	R	622	
	R	956	
Iron Acton	R	964	
Kemerton	R	I78	
	R	829	
Kempsey	V	8I4	
	V	I384	
B.V.M.	Chant.	I495	
Kidderminster	V	369	
Chapel of B.V.M. in the churchyard.	Chant.	863	
Kington	R	665	
Knightwick	R	2I8	
	R	826-7	
Lechlade	V	394	
Leckhampton	R	I450	
Leigh next Deerhurst	V (Ch.)	9I4	
Leigh next Worcester			
Portion of Cherkenhill			
	R	I64	
Portion of Kymenhall		634	
	R	I508	
Lench			
See: Abbots Lench			
Chruch Lench			
Rous Lench			

APPENDIX IO (cont.)

(cxxxiii)

<u>Benefice</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Ref.Ed.no.</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
Lighthorne	R	391	
Lindridge	V	973	No record of inst.
Little Compton See Compton			
Longbridge	Hospital or ch. R.	204 I512	
Long Compton	V	I425	
Longdon	V	I507	
Lower Swell See Swell			
Matson	R	I382	
	R	I477	
Mickleton	R	I435	
	R	I486	
Minchinhampton	R	I471	
B.V.M.	Chant.	437	
"	Chant.	916	
"	Chant.	I398	
Miserden	R	674-5	
	R	I419	
Morton	R	I538	
Morton Daubeney (Moiety of)	R	226	
Morton & Waddon, Prebend of, (Attached to a canonry in Hereford cath.)		875	
Naunton (on the Wold) nr. Stow.	R	381, 383.	
	R	I562	
	R	I567	
Newport	Chant.	979	
Northfield with chapel of Cofton.	R	509 763	
Northleach	V	I430	
Notgrove	R	I556	
Nympsfield	R	453	
Oddingley	R	426	
	R	678	
	R	722	
	R	962	
Oddington	R	635	
	R	I423	
Oldberrow	R	I480	
Oldbury	R (Ch.)	I405	
	R (Ch.)	I519	
Over	Chant.	I000	
	Chant.	I462	

<u>Benefice.</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Ref.Ed. no.</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
Oxhill	R	217	
	R	341	
Ozleworth	R	I511	
Painswick	V	601	
Pebworth	V	I491	
Pedmore	R	650	
	R	I553	
Peopleton	R	777	
	R	I391	
Pershore			
St. Andrew	V	308	
B.V.M. in the			
Abbey nave,	Chant.	776	
Piddle, North,	R	I81	
	R	I457	
Pinnock	R	877	
Powick	V	320	
	V	878	
	V	I411	
	V	I507	
Preston	V	486	
	V	858 &c.	
	V	882	
	V	I529	
Pucklechurch	R	439	
	R	I417	
Rendecombe	R	978	
	R	I396	
Ripple	R	570-I	
	Chant.	I83	
	Chant.	672	
	Chant.	925	
	Chant.	958	
	Chant.	971	
	Chant.	972	
	Chant.	991	
	Chant.	I468	
Rissington, Little			
	R	237	
	R	340	
Rissington, Great	R	I436	
Rock (de la			
Roche)*	Ch.	254	
	Ch.	591	

* The chapel of St. Catherine of the Rock, Wollashill, nr. Eckington.

<u>Benefice.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Ref.Ed.no.</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
Rodmarton	R	980	
Rous Lench	R	I547	
Rowell	V	I402	
Rowington	V	839	
Rushock	V	I454	
Salwarpe	R	316	
	R	445	
Sapperton	R	I420	
Severn Stoke	R	497	
Sezincote	R	I518	
Shell	R (Ch.)	625	
(nr. Droitwich)	R (Ch.)	638	
	R (Ch.)	641	
	R (Ch.)	653	
Shenington	R	850	
Sherborne	V	I389	
Shipton Oliffe	R	813	
	R	I551	
Shipton Sollars	R	I447	Al. Chaumpflour.
Siddington	R	771	
Siston	R	974	
Slaughter	R	I482	
Sodbury, Little,	R	311	
	R	399	
Sodbury, Old,	V	I415	
Soddington	R	752	
	R	I548	
Spernall	R (Ch.)	766	
	R (Ch.)	I531	
Spetchley	R	723	
	R	I449	
Stanton	R	442	
(nr. Snowhill)			
Staunton	R	664	
(nr. Corse)	R	856	
Staverton	V	949	
ibid. Chantry of			
B.V.M.	Chant.	I404	
Stoke Gifford	R	612	
Stone	V (Ch.)	575	
	V (Ch.)	806	
	V (Ch.)	I542	
Stratton	R	883	
(nr. Cirencester)	V	505	
	V	884	
	V	I541	
Stratford on Avon			
Wardenship of	Ch.	I387	
chapel of St. Thomas the Martyr.			
Subwardenship of			
the same	Ch.	I451	
ibid.			

<u>Benefice.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Ref.Ed.no.</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
Strensham	R	I392	
	R	I545	
Stretton-on-Fosse	R(Ch.)	227	
	R(Ch.)	303	
	R(Ch.)	454	
	R(Ch.)	610	
Studley	V	767	
Suckley	R	324	
	R	416	
	R	690	
Swell, Lower	V	314	
	V	388	
	V	88I	
Swell, Upper,	R	I403	
Swindon	V	915	
Side	R	I393	
Tanworth	R	287	
	R	306	
	V	428	
	V	I524	
Tardebigge	V	I470	
Temple Grafton			
See Grafton			
Tockington	Ch.	984	
Todenham	R	I445	
Tormarton	R	307	
	R	332	
ibid. Wardenship	Chant.	922	
of chantry of	Chant.	989	
B.V.M.			
Tortworth	R	874	
	R	959	
Turkdean	V	403	
Twynning	R	I390	
Tytherington	V	I394	
Upper Swell			
See Swell.			
Upton Snodsbury	R	I458	
Walton d'Eiville,	Chant.	I426	
chant. in the chapel of,			
Wapley	V	796	
	V	966	
Warwick			
Colleg. Ch. of the			
B.V.M.	Deanery	349	
ibid.	Prebend	443	
ibid. Prebend of Compton			
Mordack		62I	
Ibid. Another prebend.		689	
		I408	
Ibid. Another prebend.		992	
		I527	

<u>Benefice</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Ref.Ed.no.</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
Warwick (cont.)			
St. Michael	R	I388	
St. Nicholas			
Portion	R	427	
3rd Portion	R	519	
" "	R	765	
" "	R	I444*	
" "	R	I520	
St. Peter	R	744-5	
Wasperton	V	I397	
	V	I459	
Welland	V	I464	
Wellesbourne	V	I407, I533.	
Westbury on Trym			Commission for exchange
Prebend		822	with that of Wetwang in the cath. church of York.
Weston on Avon	R	357	
	R	390	
Weston Birt	R	479	
Weston Mauduit	Ch.	4II	
Weston-sub-Edge	R	504	
	R	518	
Whatcote	R	372	
Whichford	R	456	
	R	503	
	R	633	
	R	657	
Willersey	R	I50I	
Windrush	V	I555	
Winstone	R	455	
	R	842-3	
Winterbourne	R	96I	
Withington	R	517	
	R	I566	
Witley	R	I498	
Witton			
(nr.Droitwich)			
St. Mary	R	I560	
St. Peter	V	640	
	V	I399	
Wolford	V	434	
Wolston	R	464	
Wolverton	R	359	
Wootton Wawen	R	384**	

* R. de Staverton is mentioned as the former incumbent, yet Richard de Brandeston (I520) is said to have succeeded Adam Carles (765) in Reg. Bransf. I520. It may be that I444 refers to another portion of this church.

** The prior was instituted to the priory & church. See App. 9 & compare with Deerhurst.

<u>APPENDIX IO (cont.)</u>			(cxxxviii)
<u>Benefice.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Ref.Ed.no.</u>	<u>Notes.</u>
Worcester,		I4I3	
Archdeaconry of,			
Worcester,			
All Saints	R	I42I	
St. Alban	R	607	
St. Clement	R	387	
	R	462	
	R	649	
St. Helen	R	348	
Chantry in,	Chant.	I72	
	Chant.	I4I8*	
St. Martin	R	447	
St. Michael	R	I95	
	R	499	
	R	I499**	
St. Nicholas	R	207	
	R	I530	
St. Swithin	R	754	No record of inst.
Chantry in,	Chant.	I528	
Wormington, Little,	R	I488	
Wortley	Chant.	I000	
Yate	R	490	
	R	880	
Yardley	V	8I6	
	V	853	
	V	I5I0***	

* Walter de Merston 'rector of St. Helen's' was the patron. There is no record of his institution. (Cf. 348)

** John de Winchcomb is recorded as the last incumbent, but see 499.

*** John de Wotton mentioned as the last incumbent, but see 853.

<u>Ref.</u>	<u>Additional Notes.</u>
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p.xxiv n.I It has been said that formal capitular elections were held even in cases of Papal provision (e.g. Prof. Hamilton Thompson, English Clergy 25 'There is no reason for supposing that the formalities of election were actually dispensed with in any particular instance..'). On this question the opening entries of the Worcester registers are not helpful. Montacute's register begins (fo.Ir.) "Incipit registrum..... (&c.)..electi confirmati a tempore provisionis sibi de dicta Wygorn' ecclesia." John Barnet was provided to Worcester in 1361 and the king revoked his former licence permitting the chapter to proceed to an election: "..quia tamen reverendus vir magister Johannes de Barnet, nobis predilictus, vivente prefato Reginaldo (Bryan), qui ad episcopatum Elien' per sedem apostolicam translatus fuit, in episcopum dicte ecclesie Wygorn' per eandem sedem electus fuit et confirmatus,...concessionem nostram predictam vobis de licentia predicta factam tenore presentium duximus revocand'. Et ideo vobis mandamus, firmiter inhibentes, ne ad electionem predictam colore licentie predicte procedatis..... Sed electioni illi omnino supersedeatis ex causa supradicta. In cujus rei &c." (Thomas, App. p. 120, n.106.)

p. xli. In Reg.Bransf. 837 (fo.IIIv. cxii- II2r. cxiii) is a copy of the restitution of the manor of Standish to the almoner by the abbot of Gloucester, dated 22nd July 1202, during the episcopate of Mauger (1200-1212).

p. lviii. In the case of William Elys, his mother had held his wife Juliana at the time of the latter's confirmation: "Cum igitur ad ipsorum pervenerit secretam noticiam quatenus mater dicti Willelmi prefatam Julianam eius uxorem dum ab eius ordinario confirmaretur in fronte ad confirmandum sive chrismandum tenuerat diu ante contractum matrimonium supradictum". In this way a spiritual relationship had been incurred as was made clear by a constitution of Archbp. Reynolds (1322): "parvuli quoque confirmati, tertia die post confirmationem, deportentur ad ecclesiam, & frontes eorum per manus sacerdotum in baptisterio propter reverentiam chrisomatis abluantur..... Item ad confirmationem nullus puer teneatur a patre vel matre, victrico vel noverca. Et volumus quod haec prohibitio saepe per sacerdotes in ecclesiis publicetur, ut sciant parentes, ac alii, qui pueros tenent ad confirmandum, quod spirituale vinculum in hoc sacramento ita contrahitur, ut in baptismo." (Constitutions of Archbp. Walter Reynolds; Gibson, Codex i p. 454, from Lyndwood, Const. Prov. p. 34).

Notes on Transcription.

Scribal peculiarities and variations of construction and spelling have been preserved and only an occasional 'sic' has been inserted to indicate the more unusual of these.

The scribes of Register Bransford show that in some respects they allowed themselves considerable latitude. Thus 'p' and 'b' are often interchangeable, as in 'publicare' (puplicare). So too are 'm' and 'n' in certain cases (imperpetuum, inperpetuum), as are 'c' & 's' (cituato, situato), 'd' & 't' (sicud, sicut), 'e' & 'i' (deaconi, diaconi: faciat, faceat), 'y' & 'i' (Wygorn', Wigorn') &c. An 'h' is sometimes added, as in 'Inibi' (inhibi), and also omitted as in 'heres' (eres). No rule seems to have been observed with regard to the duplication of medial consonants. Thus we find 'ellectus' & 'electus': 'littera' & 'litera': 'collecta' & 'colecta' &c. Other variations include the insertion of a 'c' in exercendum (excercendum), 'sumptibus' written as 'sumptubus', and the not infrequent use of the present participle active where we should expect the corresponding passive form. There are two instances of 'infra' with the ablative and 'in' is sometimes used with the accusative or ablative regardless of construction. Then there is what Lily calls the "doubtfull gendre" (Short Introduction of Grammar, 1567. Facsimile, New York 1945), for 'dies' is often masculine and feminine even on succeeding lines.

At this period- the first half of the 14th century- it is obvious that 'c' was written in many cases where we might expect 't', as in 'circumspeccio' &c., and this form has been retained by the editor. It is also difficult to distinguish 'v' and 'u', so much so that it has been found convenient to follow modern practice in this respect. With regard to 'i' and 'j', the latter has been used, as a matter of convenience, in the case of proper names 'Johannes' 'dies Jovis' &c.

Concerning the vexed question of gerunds and gerundives, the evidence from the register suggests that the former were preferred in most cases, but that the scribes were not dogmatic about the matter. In extending the enigmatic "exigend'" &c. the 'gerund' has been used except in cases where there are indications that such was not the scribe's intention.

Extracts from the register of
Bp. Wolstan de Bransford.

The Edition number & that of the folio in the original MS. precede each extract.

fo. Ir.

5 17 Feb. 1339 Introduction to the register. (I)

HIC INCIPIT REGISTRUM REVERENDI PATRIS ET DOMINI DOMINI WOLSTANI IN EPISCOPUM ECCLESIE CATHEDRALIS WYGORN' ELECTI CONFIRMATI XIII KALEN' MARCII ANNO DOMINI MILLESIMO CCC^{mo}. TRICESIMO OCTAVO, INDICIONE SEPTIMA, PONTIFICATUS SANCTISSIMI IN CHRISTO PATRIS ET DOMINI NOSTRI DOMINI BENEDICTI DIVINA PROVIDENCIA PAPE XII ANNO QUINTO, REGNI AUTEM REGIS EDWARDI TERCII POST CONQUESTUM TERCIODECIMO.

fo. Ir.

6 16 Feb. 1339 Commission to receive canonical obedience from the clergy of the diocese.

Frater Wolstanus permissione divina in episcopum ecclesie Wygorn' electus confirmatus, dilectis sibi in Christo fratribus Simoni Crompt et Johanni de Westbury monachis ecclesie supradicte, necnon magistris Ricardo Mayel et Willelmo de Bergeveny clericis, salutem et gratiam salvatoris. Ad petendum, exigendum, recipiendum et admittendum in forma debita omnem et omnimodam canonicam obedienciam ab omnibus viris ecclesiasticis tam religiosis quam secularibus tocius civitatis et diocesis Wyg' nobis debitam quovismodo vobis et cuilibet vestrum coniunctim et divisim vices nostras committimus cum cohercionis cuiuslibet canonice potestate. In cuius rei testimonium sigillum nostrum presentibus duximus apponendum. Dat' Lond' xiiii Kalen' Marcii anno domini MCCCXXXVIII.

fo. Ir.

7 16 Feb. 1339 Commission for William de Bergeveny to hear, take cognisance of, and determine suits in the Consistory courts of the city & diocese of Worcester.

COMMISSIO FACTA AD AUDIENDUM COGNOSCENDUM ET TERMINANDUM OMNES CAUSAS ET LITES IN CONSISTORIIS. Frater Wolstanus permissione divina in episcopum ecclesie Wyg' electus confirmatus, dilecto sibi in Christo magistro Willelmo de Bergeveny clerico, salutem et gratiam salvatoris. Ad audiendum cognoscendum et fine debito terminandum omnes causas et lites in consistoriis civitatis et diocesis Wyg' quibusvis motas aliquialiter seu movendas, ac ad omnem iurisdictionem episcopalem in civitate et diocesi supradictis per vos vel alium plenarie exercendum, vobis vices nostras committimus cum cohercionis cuiuslibet canonice potestate. In cuius (&c. as in 6).

(I) There is another introduction, dated 27 Mar. 1339, on fo. 3r. (no. 20)

fo. Ir.

8 16 Feb. I339 Commission for Henry de Neubold to grant probate (I)
of wills & to act as sequestrator of the diocese.

COMMISSIO AD EXIGENDUM ET RECIPIENDUM PROBACIONES TESTAMENTORUM. Frater Wolstanus (&c.) dilecto sibi in Christo magistro Henrico de Neubold clerico salutem et gratiam salvatoris. Ad exigendum et recipiendum probaciones testamentorum quorumcumque in seu de civitate vel diocesi Wyg' decedencium, ipsaque testamenta approbandum et insinuandum, administracionemque (2) bonorum quorumcumque seu condito testamento seu ab intestato decedencium executoribus committendum, ac ad cetera omnia et singula faciendum et exercendum que ad officium sequestratoris in civitate et diocesi supradictis pertinere noscuntur de consuetudine et de iure, vobis vices nostras committimus cum cohercionis cuiuslibet canonice potestate. In cuius (&c. as in 6)

fo. 3r.

2I 2I Mar. I339 Memorandum of the bishop's consecration on Palm
Sunday at Canterbury.

Memorandum quod die Dominica in Ramispalmarum, videlicet xxi die mensis Marcii anno domini millesimo CCC^{mo}. tricesimo octavo, Cantuarie fuit consecratus venerabilis pater dominus Wolstanus dei gracia Wygorn' episcopus.

ibid.

22 28 Mar. I339 Memorandum of his enthronement on Easter Day at
Worcester by the archdeacon of Canterbury,
Bernard Sistre.

Item, memorandum quod die Pasche, videlicet xxviii die mensis Marcii supradicti anno domini M^o.CCC^o.XXXIX, in ecclesia cathedrali Wygorn' dictus pater dominus Wolstanus dei gracia Wyg' episcopus per venerabilem virum dominum Bernardum Sistre archidiaconum Cantuar' fuit intronizatus seu installatus.

ibid.

23 19 Sept. I339 Appointment of John de la Lowe as Official.

COMMISSIO OFFICIALITATIS. Frater Wolstanus permissione divina Wygorn' episcopus dilecto nobis in Christo magistro Johanni de la Lowe iuris civilis professori, rectori ecclesie de Hefheld Wynton' diocesis, salutem gratiam et benedictionem. In hiis omnibus et singulis que ad officialitatis officium in nostra Wygorn' diocesi pertinent vobis de cuius fidelitate et industria confidenciam gerimus specialem vices nostras, necnon specialem potestatem inquirendi corrigendi puniendique subditorum nostrorum quorumcumque excessus, committimus per presentes cum cohercionis canonice potestate. Dat' apud Hertlebur' xix^{no}. die Septembris anno domini millesimo CCC^{mo}. tricesimo nono, et consecracionis nostre primo.

(I) Reissued after the bp.'s consecration. fo. 3v. no. 26, dated
30 March.

(2) MS. 'administracionum'.

fo. 3v.

25 30 Mar. 1339 Licence for celebration in the oratory of John de Honesworth within the parish of Halesowen.

LICENCIA JOHANNI DE HONESWORTH CONCESSA QUOD POSSIT DIVINA FACERE CELEBRARI IN ORATORIO SUO PER BIENNIUM. Frater Wolstanus permissione divina Wyg' episcopus dilecto filio Johanni de Honesworth nostre diocesis salutem gratiam et benedictionem. Devocionem tuam quam ad audiendum divina habere dinosceris in dominó commendantes, ut in oratorio tuo infra mansum tuum de Walbrok in parochia de Halesowen dicte nostre diocesis per ydoneum presbiterum divina possis facere celebrari, submissa tamen voce, exclusis dicte ville parochianis et aliis extraneis preterquam hospitibus, absque preiudicio loci matricis ecclesie, licenciam tibi libereque familie tue et presbitero huiusmodi certis ex causis et legitimis concedimus specialem: proviso tamen quod in magnis festis ad vestram ecclesiam accedatur matricem quodque presbiter celebraturus ibidem coram loci rectore vel vicario iuramentum prestet antequam ibidem celebret corporale de indemnitatem quantum in eo est ipsius rectoris, vicarii, et ecclesie predictorum. Presentibus per biennium tantummodo duraturis. Dat' apud Pechesleye III Kalen' Aprilis anno domini M^o.CCC^{mo}.tricesimo nono, et consecracionis nostre primo.

fo. 4v.

32 4 Apr. 1339 Appointment of Peter de Penebrugg as constable of the bp.'s castle at Hartlebury.

PETRO DE PENEBRUGG PRO CONSTABULARIA CASTRI DE HERTLEBURY. Universis pateat per presentes quod nos frater W. &c. constituimus dilectum nobis in Christo Petrum de Penebrugg' constabularium castri nostri de Hertlebury cum omnibus ad eandem constabulariam pertinentibus, capiendo de nobis sicut consimiles constabularii eiusdem loci temporibus predecessorum nostrorum pro illo officio capere consueverunt. In cuius rei testimonium has litteras nostras eidem Petro fieri fecimus patentem quamdiu nobis bene placuerit duraturas. Dat' apud Pechesle quarto die Aprilis anno regni regis Edwardi tercio post conquestum terciodecimo, et consecracionis nostre primo.

fo. 5v.

43 I May 1339 Commission for Master Richard de Legh, vicar of Standish, to act as a penitentiary among his parishioners.

COMMISSIO PENITENCIARIE. Frater W. &c. dilecto filio magistro Ricardo de Legh vicario de Standisch nostre (diocesis) salutem gratiam et benedictionem. De vestra circumspeccione et industria plenam in domino fiduciam obtinentes, in hiis que ad officium penitenciarie pertinent, corruptoribus monialium et casibus in quibus sententia excommunicationis incurritur ab homine vel a iure, et eciam pendentibus vel descendentibus ex iudicaria potestate, ac aliis in quibus requiritur dispensacio pontificalis exceptis, vobis in parochianis vestris dumtaxat committimus vices nostras donec eas duxerimus revocandas. Dat' apud Hertlebur' primo die mensis Maii anno domini supradicto et consecracionis nostre primo.

fo.7v.

63 I2 Jly.1339 Commission for the dean of Worcester & for the dean of the jurisdiction of St. Helen's, Worcester, to secure the persons of criminous clerks from any secular authority.

COMMISSIO AD EXIGENDUM CLERICOS. Frater W. permissione &c. dilectis filiis decano Wyg' et decano iurisdictionis ecclesie Sancte Helene Wyg' salutem &c. De vestris circumspecta industria et zelo ecclesiastice libertatis plenius confidentes, ad petendum exigendum et recipiendum auctoritate nostra et ecclesie nostre cathedralis Wyg' coram et a quibuscumque iusticiariis domini nostri regis Anglie illustris vel aliis eiusdem iudicibus secularibus vel ballivis aut aliis quamcumque nocionem habentibus vel potestatem secularem quoscumque clericos vel alios quoslibet qui de iure seu consuetudine ecclesie Anglicane ecclesiastica gaudere debeant libertate in diocesi nostra pro quocumque crimine seu transgressionem captos et incarceratos, capiendos et incarcerandos, dampnatos seu dampnandos, secundum iura et consuetudinem regni Anglie libertati ecclesiastice liberandos, et omnia et singula faciendum et (I) expediendum in premissis et ea qualitercumque tangentibus et que in eis et circa ea necessaria fuerint et oportuna, vobis coniunctim et divisim et cuilibet vestrum insolidum vices nostras committimus cum coercionis canonice potestate. In cuius rei &c. Dat' apud Broedon xii die Julii anno domini supradicto et nostre consecracionis primo.

ibid.

65 I Jly.1339 Commission for Hugh de Penebrugg to act as the bishop's adjutor & special commissary.

COMMISSIO. Frater W. &c. dilecto nobis in Christo magistro Hugoni de Penebrugg clerico salutem gratiam et benedictionem. In omnibus causis et negociis coram nobis ex officio nostro vel ad partis instanciam in curia nostra motis vel movendis, necnon ad inquirendum, corrigendum et puniendum excessus nostrorum subditorum, vobis committimus vices nostras cum coercionis canonice potestate, et vos adiutorem seu commissarium nostrum in curia nostra predicta deputamus specialem. Nolentes per cessionem seu deputationem huiusmodi iurisdictioni seu nocioni officialis nostri seu commissarii generalis in aliquo derogari. In cuius rei testimonium sigillum nostrum fecimus hiis apponi. Dat' apud Broedon primo die mensis Julii anno domini supradicto &c.

(I) 'exercendum' crossed out.

fo. 8r.

67 29 Apr. 1339 Commission for William de Cheltenham to act as steward of all the temporalities of the bishopric in the county of Gloucester.

COMMISSIO SENESCALLIE FACTA WILLELMO DE CHELTENHAM. Universis pateat per presentes quod nos frater W. permissione &c. dilectum nobis in Christo Willelmum de Cheltenham senescallum omnium temporalium nostrorum in comitatu Glouc' fecimus ordinavimus et constituimus, dantes et concedentes eidem Willelmo plenam potestatem faciendi exercendi et expediendi omnia et singula que ad huiusmodi officium quovismodo pertinere noscuntur, capiendo de nobis singulis annis robas ac sustentacionem pro se et equis suis prout decet et decem marcas sterlingorum ad quatuor anni terminos, videlicet ad festa Nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste, Sancti Michaelis, Nativitatis Domini, et Annunciacionis Beate Marie, per equales porciones eidem Willelmo solvendas per manus prepositi nostri de Salso Marisco. In cuius rei testimonium has litteras nostras patentes fieri fecimus quamdiu nobis placuerit duraturas. Dat' apud Broedon xxix die mensis Aprilis anno domini supradicto, et anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum terciodecimo, et consecracionis nostre primo.

fo. 9v.

85 22 Sept. 1339 Intimation to the prior & convent of Worcester of the bp.'s intention to visit them on the Thursday after the feast of St. Denys (14 Oct.)*

LITTERA VISITACIONIS DIRECTA PRIORI ET CONVENTUI ECCLESIE CATHEDRALIS WYG'. Frater W. &c. dilectis filiis priori et capitulo ecclesie nostre cathedralis Wyg' salutem graciam et benedictionem. Nedum ad corrigendos subditorum excessus eo debet prelatus diligencius assurgere quo ipsos dampnabilius desereret incorrectos, verum eciam religionem sanctam plantare et fovere plantatam, que recta sunt nutrire, et ea destruere que profectum virtutis impediunt, sicque futurorum malorum dissuasio et bonorum in melius provocacio procuretur. Sane licet religionis sancta plantacio in vestro ab olim firmissime radicata nullatenus presumatur a nobis in radice vel ramis quicquam lesionis habere, ad nostre tamen serenacionem consciencie, ad nostri debitum officii exequendum, et ad vos iuxta nostrum modulum reficiendos pabulo verbi dei, necnon ad nos mutuo consolandum, disposuimus vos videre. Vobis et vestro collegio tanquam capiti ceterorum cum sit a capite inchoandum tenore presencium volumus esse notum quod disposuimus deo duce nostram diocesem visitare. Quapropter vobis omnibus et singulis in virtute obediencie firmiter iniungendo mandamus quatenus vos monasterium vestrum ac cetera visitacioni nostre in hac parte necessaria preparantes, confratresque vestros absentes si qui fuerint ad capitulum revocantes, compareatis coram nobis die Jovis proximo post festum Sancti Dionisii proximo futurum cum prorogacione et continuacione dierum sequencium si necesse fuerit in capitulo vestri monasterii nos cum ea qua decet reverencia recepturi, visitacionem nostram canonicè subituri, ulteriusque facturi in premissis quod canonicis convenit institutis. Et quid super hiis

* The feast falls on the 9th.

decreveritis faciendum nos citra festum Sancti Dionisii predictum per litteras patentes harum seriem continentes cerciorare curetis. Dat' apud Hertlebur' xxii die Septembris anno domini millesimo CCC^{mo}. tricesimo nono, et consecracionis nostre primo.

fo. I9v.

I40 I Sept. I340 The bp. grants custody of his houses & rents in London & in the parish of B. Mary in the Strand to William de Netherton.

CUSTODIA DOMUS IN LONDON'. Pateat universis per presentes quod nos frater Wolstanus &c. assignavimus dilectum nobis in Christo Willelmum de Netherton custodem hospicii nostri sive domorum nostrarum in parochia Beate Marie ate Stronde in suburbio London' necnon receptorem omnium reddituum nostrorum in civitate et suburbio predictis, ac arreragiorum eorundem, dantes eidem Willelmo plenam potestatem dicta redditus et arreragia nomine nostro petendi, et pro eisdem quociens opus fuerit distribuendi et distributiones (I) retinendi quousque de eisdem nobis fuerit satisfactum. Percipiendo pro officio illo, quamdiu bene et fideliter se gesserit in eodem sicut alii qui officium illud temporibus predecessorum nostrorum habuerunt percipere consueverunt. In cuius rei testimonium presentibus sigillum nostrum est appensum. Dat' in castro nostro apud Hertlebury primo die Septembris, anno domini millesimo CCC^{mo}. XL^{mo}., et nostre consecracionis secundo.

fo. 22v.

I54 5 Jly. I340 Ordination of the chantry founded by Thomas de Berkeley of Coberley at the altar of the B.V.M. in the church of St. Giles there.

ORDINACIO CANTARIE BEATE MARIE DE CUBBERLEGH. Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quorum noticiam presentes littere pervenerint, frater Wolstanus permissione divina Wygorn' episcopus salutem in domino sempiternam. Noverit universitas vestra quod litteras nobilis viri domini Thome de Berkeleye de Cobberleye recepimus, inspeximus et vidimus diligenter, tenorem qui sequitur continentes: Christi fideles noverint universi quod ego Thomas de Berkel' de Cobberl', attendens secundum apostolum quod omnes stabimus ante tribunal Christi (2) in magni et extremi iudicii examine, recepturi pro eo quod in corpore gessimus secundum merita vel demerita gaudium vel merorem, volensque diem messionis extreme operibus misericordie quantum possum utiliter prevenire, et illud in terris seminare intuitu eternorum quod reddente domino cum multiplicato fructu recolligere valeam cum gloria in futuro, et de temporalium bonorum meorum usibus sic disponere ut michi ad adminicula spiritualium subsidia prosint in celestibus et in terris grata prestant proximis alimenta. Quapropter, de consensu et per cartam domini nostri domini Edwardi tercii regis Anglie illustris, cuius carte tenor inferius continetur, ordinavi et ordino per presentes unam perpetuam cantariam ad altare Beate Virginis in ecclesia Sancti Egidii de

(I) Probably 'distringendi et districciones' was intended.

(2) Romans xiv, IO.

Cobberleye per capellanum ydoneum celebrandam, quam de terris meis dominicis, redditibus et proventibus manerii mei de Cobberl', ac bonis aliis, fundavi pariter et dotavi. Tenor vero carte domini nostri, domini Edwardi regis supradicti, talis est: (I) Edwardus (&c.)... omnibus ad quos presentes littere pervenerint, salutem. Licet de communi concilio (sie) regni nostri statutum sit quod non liceat viris religiosis seu aliis ingredi feodum alicuius, ita quod ad manum mortuam deveniat, sine licencia nostra et capitalis domini de quo res illa immediate tenetur: volentes tamen dilecto et fideli nostro Thome de Berkel' de Cobberl' gratiam facere specialem, concessimus et licenciam dedimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est eidem Thome, quod ipse unum mesuagium, duo tofta, quatuor virgatas terre et duas marcatas redditus cum pertinenciis in Cobberl' dare possit et assignare cuidam capellano divina in honore Beate Marie Virginis pro anima ipsius Thome et animabus antecessorum suorum et omnium fidelium defunctorum in ecclesia Sancti Egidii de Cobberleye singulis diebus celebraturo, habenda et tenenda eidem capellano et successoribus suis capellanis divina in ecclesia predicta sicut predictum est celebraturis imperpetuum. Et eidem capellano quod ipse predicta mesuagium, tofta, terram et redditum cum pertinenciis a prefato Thoma recipere possit et tenere sibi et successoribus suis predictis imperpetuum sicut predictum est, tenore presencium similiter licenciam dedimus specialem. Nolentes quod predictus Thomas vel heredes sui, aut prefatus capellanus seu successores sui, racione predicti per nos vel heredes nostros inde occasionentur in aliquo seu graventur: salvis tamen capitalibus domini(s) feodi illius serviciis inde debitis et consuetis. In cuius rei testimonium has litteras nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ipso apud Wodestok' xxiii^{mo}. die Maii anno regni nostri x^{mo}. (2). Et ut circa premissa ordinacionis mee modus et devocionis affectus vobis cerenius (3) illucescant carte mee formam sub tenore qui sequitur duxi presentibus inserendam, cuius est eciam tenor talis: Sciant presentes et futuri quod ego Thomas de Berkel' de Cubberlegh dedi, concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi pro me et heredibus meis imperpetuum domino Waltero de Bradeweye capellano et successoribus suis capellanis perpetuo singulis diebus missam Beate Marie Virginis et missas de Sancta Trinitate, de Sancto Spiritu et Sancto Johanne Baptista, prout inferius continetur, pro me in vita mea, et anima mea post mortem meam, patris et matris ac aliorum parentum meorum, necnon pro animabus omnium fidelium defunctorum cantaturis seu celebraturis (4) in ecclesia Sancti Egidii de Cubberlegh

(I) C.P.R. I334-38, p.268.

(2) I336.

(3) Rectius 'serenius'.

(4) MS. 'celebraturus'.

ad altare Beate Marie Virginis eiusdem ecclesie, unum mesuagium, duo tofta, quatuor virgatas terre et duas marcatas annui redditus cum pertinenciis in Cubberl' exeuntes, videlicet, de tenemento Willelmi Clocleford unam marcam, et de tenemento Walteri le Walkar unam marcam, percipiendo dictas duas marcas a dictis tenentibus et heredibus suis ad quatuor anni terminos equales et usuales, cum wardis, maritagiiis, escaetis, sectis curiarum et herietis cum acciderit (sic) et cum omnibus aliis pertinenciis suis, habenda et tenenda omnia predicta mesuagium, tofta, terram et redditus cum omnibus pertinenciis suis (I) ut predictum est predicto Waltero de Bradeweie capellano et successoribus suis capellanis missas ut premittitur in ecclesia predicta ad altare predictum celebraturis (2) seu cantaturis de capitalibus dominis feodi illius per servicium debitum et consuetum libere, quiete, bene et in pace imperpetuum. Et ego vero predictus Thomas et heredes mei predicta ad altare predictum celebraturis contra omnes warentizabimus, aquietabimus et defendemus imperpetuum. In cuius rei testimonium huic carte sigillum meum est appensum. Dat' apud Cubberlegh die Dominica proxima (fo.23r.) ante festum Sancti Martini episcopi et confessoris (3), anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post Conquestum xi. Hiis testibus: domino Waltero tunc rectore ecclesie de Cobberl', Johanne Deslkeston, Henrico de Brocworth, Johanne Lohaut, Willelmo de Solers, et aliis. Ad quam quidem cantariam predictum dominum Walterum capellanum venerabili in Christo patri domino Wolstano dei gracia Wygorn' episcopo presentavi et per ipsum ad eandem admitti, institui, et corporaliter induci in eadem sicut decet capellanum perpetuum procuravi, sicque toto vite mee tempore quociens ipsam cantariam vacare contigerit domino Wygorn' episcopo qui pro tempore fuerit (4) presbiterum ydoneum presentabo, ac eciam post decessum meum heredes mei domini de Cubberl' predicta consimiliter presentabunt. Et si (5) ego vel heredes mei predicti presentare omiserint per mensem a tempore vacationis huiusmodi cantarie, volo et ordino quod rector ecclesie de Cubberlegh ad eandem tunc presentet, qui si forte per mensem dimiserit vel negligens fuerit in presentando, quo casu episcopus Wygorn' qui pro tempore fuerit sede plena, vel ipsa vacante prior Wygorn', ipsam cantariam conferat suo iure. Ac volo et ordino quod dicti domini Walteri successores capellani in dictam cantariam(6) residenciam

(1) 'Habenda - suis' interlin.

(2) The scribe wrote 'celebraturus' as above but deleted one of the minims by subpunctuation.

(3) 9 Nov. 1337. The feast falls on the IIth.

(4) The MS. has 'in' here. Perhaps 'unum' was intended.

(5) 'si' interlin.

(6) Accusative 'sic'. The ablative was normally used in this construction.

fo. 23r.

faciant personalem et cotidie celebrent et ministrent iuxta ordinacionem subscriptam, et de hoc faciendo in institucione sua coram ordinariis ad sancta dei evangelia prestent corporaliter iuramentum prout fragilitas humane condicionis permittet. In quibus residencia et celebracione si defecerint continuo per quindenam illi ad quos spectat presentacio seu collacio presentent seu conferant sine mora, nisi forte iusta causa et rationabilis fuerit absentandi vel cessandi auctoritate ordinaria approbanda vel reprobanda prout viderit expedire. Quodque predicti Walteri successores capellani singuli temporibus suis (sint) in ecclesia parochiali singulis diebus festivis, et in festis novem leccionum, in matutinis (1) missa et vespere presentes et cum aliis ministrent, nisi ex causis legitimis fuerint impediti. Et quod singulis diebus quibus artati sunt per ordinale de usu Sar' dicant officium mortuorum pro animabus subscriptis. Diebus vero dominicis singulis ebdomadis per annum missam de Sancta Trinitate; diebus vero Jovis missam de Sancto Spiritu; diebus vero Martis missam de Sancto Johanne Baptista; ceteris vero diebus in singulis ebdomadis missam de Sancta Virgine; in ecclesia predicta ad altare predictum pro salubri statu meo dum vixero, et cum carnis debitum exsolvero pro anima mea, patris matris parentum meorum, cunctorumque benefactorum dicte cantarie, omniumque fidelium animabus celebrent, vel si legitime impediti fuerint, faciant per alios celebrari, nisi infirmitate vel aliqua inevitabili causa fuerint perturbati. In omnibus autem missis quas dicturi sunt, hoc precipio firmiter observari, quod pro me Thoma superstate dicant collectam que sic incipit: OMNIPOTENS SEMPITERNE DEUS MISERERE FAMULO TUO THOMA &c., et post mortem meam collectam que sic incipit: OMNIPOTENS SEMPITERNE DEUS CUI NUNQUAM SINE SPE MINIME SUPPLICATUR &c., nomen meum exprimentes in eadem. Dicere autem teneantur prefatus presbiter et successores sui presbiteri imperpetuum singulis annis post mortem meam in die obitus mei officium mortuorum cum novem psalmis et novem leccionibus et totidem responsoriis pro anima mea, et quod a nullo recipiant pecuniam pro divino officio celebrando, sed porcione per me eis assignata penitus sint contenti. Quod si quis eorum secus egerit et super hoc convictus fuerit, amoveatur et locū sui alius subrogetur. Si quis autem eorum ad tantam etatem sive infirmitatem devenerit quod personaliter non poterit missas (2) celebrare, dicat privatas oraciones quas poterit et singulis septimanis faciat duas missas, unam videlicet pro animabus predictorum, et aliam de Sancta Maria, celebrari, et propter etatem vel infirmitatem huiusmodi nullatenus

(1) Rectius 'matutinis'.

(2) MS. 'missarum'.

amoveatur. Et quod heredes mei predicta omnia supervideant et curent et procurent, quod secundum ordinationem meam in huiusmodi cantaria ad honorem dei et pro me et anima mea et animabus omnium fidelium defunctorum laudabiliter serviatur. Et quod domos (sic) edificia et clausure dicte cantarie congrue sustententur, ne pro defectu cooperture vel alias corruant vel deficient per negligenciam capellani; et si casu fortuito per ignem, ventum, vel alio modo inopinato, aut propter vetustatem, edificia huiusmodi ruere contingat, vel alias sine culpa capellani quovismodo fuerit deteriorata, volo ordino et heredes meos et assignatos dominos de Cubberl' onero quantum possum, quod ipsi heredes et assignati huiusmodi edificia de proprio meremio suo et sumptibus suis edificent et emendant, ne pro defectu eorum huiusmodi cantaria in animarum periculum negligetur. Et quod episcopus loci diocesanus in suis (fo.23v) visitacionibus et aliis temporibus cum voluerit de premissis omnibus inquirat, et si quos defectus invenerit in premissis deficientes puniat condecenter, et capellanos delinquentes amoveat si quantitas delicti exegerit eorundem. Et quia volo quod hec mea ordinacio rata et firma imperpetuum perseveret, ex parte dei patris omnipotentis et Beate Marie Virginis et omnium sanctorum sub interminacione divini iudicii in die ultionis precipio ne quis meus heres, consanguineus vel affinis seu quevis (sic) alius, cuiuscumque condicionis vel status existat, hanc ordinationem meam, ad honorem dei omnipotentis et pro salute anime mee, parentum et benefactorum meorum factam, aliququaliter impediatur vel impugnet vel eam in aliquibus articulis suis quovismodo infringat. In quorum omnium testimonium sigillum meum presentibus est appensum. Hiis testibus: domino Waltero tunc rectore ecclesie de Cubberlegh, Johanne Delkeston, Henrico de Brocworth, Johanne Lovat, Willelmo de Solers, et aliis. Dat' apud Cubberlegh die Dominica proxima ante festum Sancti Martini episcopi et confessoris anno regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xi^{mo}. (I). Nos frater Wolstanus episcopus supradictus, laudabile propositum et pium desiderium domini Thome de Berkel' de Cubberl' predicti quo ad fundacionem, dotacionem et ordinationem cantarie de qua in dictis litteris plenius continetur, merito commendantes, huiusmodi cantariam, ipsiusque fundacionem, dotacionem et ordinationem quantum in nobis est auctoritate nostra ordinaria approbamus, ratificamus et ex certa sciencia confirmamus. Inhibemus eciam omnibus et singulis subditis nostris ne fundacionem, dotacionem, et ordinationem supradictas aliquo modo maliciose infringant, capellanos-ve (2) dicte cantarie in suis iuribus et porcionibus percipiendis impediatur seu perturbant (3) animo iniurando, sub pena excommunicationis sentencie maioris, quam contraveniens quilibet in hac parte merito poterit formidare. In quorum omnium testimonium sigillum nostrum fecimus hiis apponi. Dat' apud Blockel' v^{to}. die Julii, anno domini millesimo CCC^{mo}. XL^{mo}. et nostre consecracionis secundo, ac regni regis Edwardi tercii post conquestum xiiii^{mo}.

(I) 9th Nov. 1337.

(2) 've' interlin. above 'ut' crossed out.

(3) Recte 'perturbent'.

fo.39v.

322 I Oct. I340 Licence for certain Carmelite friars of Bristol to preach & to hear confessions in the diocese.

LICENCIA AD PREDICANDUM ET CONFESSIONES AUDIENDUM. Frater Wolstanus &c. dilectis nobis in Christo fratribus Willelmo de Lobbenham sacre pagine professori (1), Matheo de Gloucestr', Johanni de Soutborn', Roberto de Abyndon, Roberto de Burmynton, et(2) Johanni de Wygorn' ordinis Beate Marie de Monte Carm' Bristoll' presbiteris, salutem gratiam et benedictionem. Ad predicandum publice verbum dei subditis nostre diocesis, ipsorumque confessiones vobis volencium confiteri audiendum, ipsosque absolvendum, et imponendum pro commissis iuxta discrecionem vestram vobis a deo datam penitentiam salutarem, in partem sollicitudinis nostre iuxta formam constitutionis SUPER CATHEDRAM (3) ac privilegii specialis per sedem apostolicam nobis indulti, vobis et vestrum singulis de quorum circumspeccione et industria plene confidimus, ac per nos in forma premissa admissis, potestatem concedimus per presentes. Dat' apud Hertleb' primo die Octobris, anno domini supradicto.

fo.39v.

323 30 May I340 The archbishop of Canterbury (John Stratford I333-48) sends a charter of the liberties of the church & gives details of portion of a tenth to be retained because of the intended diversion of part of the cardinals' procurations to the king's use.

LITTERA PRIVATA ARCHIEPISCOPI QUE FUIT RECEPTA APUD ESTYNTON PENULTIMO DIE JUNII IN FESTO APOSTOLORUM PETRI ET PAULI UNA (CUM) CARTA DOMINI REGIS DE LIBERTATIBUS ECCLESIE ANGLIE ET UNA CUM BREVI DOMINI REGIS PRO DECIMA LEVANDA EIDEM PER CLERUM CONCESSA. Frater karissime. Circa reformationem status ecclesie Anglie operationes nostras et studia dirigentes, cartam domini nostri regis Anglie de amplioribus libertatibus eidem concessis, quam idem dominus noster rex per harum baiulum vobis mittit, non sine magnis laboribus impetravimus, sicut erat in ultima convocacione cleri nostre Cantuar' provincie per nos facta (4) unanimiter ordinatum: unde vestram fraternitatem in domino exhortamur ut cartam huiusmodi in vestra cathedrali ecclesia sub salva custodia faciatis reponi ut ecclesia anglicana futuris temporibus sua gaudeat uberius libertate. Ad hec audivimus a nonnullis quod dictus noster rex procuraciones cardinalium instantis anni sibi ex mutuo intendit accipere a manibus collectorum, eciam si resistant, quod nobis et vobis ceterisque nostris suffraganeis in grave preiudicium verisimiliter redundabit. Nos una cum dicto nostro rege sic deliberavimus ista vice quod de decima persolvenda

(1) 'Willelmo - professori' interlin.

(2) 'et' interlin.

(3) Clement, III, vii, 2.

(4) According to Stubbs (ii, p. 381 n.4) this Convocation met Jan. 27 I340. The petitions of the clergy were incorporated in a statute of May I341 (Statutes i, 292 sqq.) which the king revoked 5 months later (Stubbs ii, pp. 383, 391).

eidem tantum retineatur in manibus collectorum huiusmodi quantum de procuracionibus ipsis recipitur nomine dicti regis, unde dictis cardinalibus possit debite responderi et periculum imminens caucius evitari: quod per vos fieri consulimus et hortamur. Ad ecclesie sancte regimen vos conservet altissimus ut optamus. Script' apud Lamht' xxx die Maii.

fo.4Ir.

329 IO Jly.1340 Appropriation of the church of Campden to the Benedictine monastery of St.Werburgh, Chester.

APPROPRIACIO ECCLESIE DE CAUMPEDENE. Frater Wolstanus &c. dilectis in Christo abbati et conventui monasterii Sancte Wereburge Cestr' et eiusdem loci conventui (sic) ordinis Sancti Benedicti Coventr' et Lich' diocesis, salutem gratiam et benedictionem. Sane vestra peticio nobis exhibita continebat quod cum vobis et dicto vestro monasterio iuxta portum maris situato onera gravia et inportabilia, tam per divitum (I) magnatum et pauperum ad idem monasterium confluencium accessum et in dicto monasterio vestro commorancium transitum maris expectandorum, quam per tallias varias et collectas multipliciter vobis impositas immineant, que futuris temporibus crescente hominum malicia iminere verisimiliter formidantur, post fundacionemque ipsius monasterii vestri per inundacionem et impetum maris cui resistere non potestis nec poteritis quovismodo xxx carucatas terre et amplius de territorio et terris villarum et maneriorum de Bromburgh, Estham, Whiteby et Ines (2) situatarum et situatorum iuxta litus maris per x miliaria in longitudine et in latitudine (3) circumquaque per spacium dimidii miliaris et amplius ad dampnum C librarum singulis annis irrecupabiliter amisistis et de diebus in dies amittitis et amittetis ratione maris impetus antedicti, maneriaque diversa videlicet de Brocton, Dissard, et ecclesia de Haliwelle in Wallia situata (4) per guerras inter reges Anglie et principes Wallie vobis et monasterio vestro irrecupabiliter sunt ablata, ac ecclesie vestre maxima pars et totum campanile eiusdem tam evidentem ruinam adhuc minantur, quod quilibet assistens mortis periculum verisimiliter poterit formidare: quorum pretextu ad agnoscendum onera vobis incumbencia absque remedio intrinseco vobis non suppetunt propria facultates, vobis ut de alicuius subvencionis auxilio, ad onera supportanda predicta providere misericorditer dignaremur. Cumque premissa omnia ut suggeritur per inquisitionem quam in hac parte legitime fieri fecimus comperimus ita esse, nos ad premissa nostre consideracionis oculos dirigentes, eorum et caritatis intuitu ac divine pietatis obtentu, ecclesiam parochialem de Caumpeden nostre diocesis, que de vestro patronatu existit et que vestro monasterio in annua pensione x solidorum argenti pensionaria fuerat, prehabito tractatu diligenti

(1) Perhaps 'diutinum' was intended.

(2) Bromborough, Eastham, Whitby, Ince, in the Wirral peninsula.

(3) 'et - latitudine' interlin.

(4) Broughton, Dyserth, Holywell, in Flintshire.

et solempni cum priore et capitulo ecclesie nostre cathedralis Wygorn' ipsorumque inter(fo. 4Iv.)veniente consensu, pro vestris et dicti monasterii oneribus facilius supportandis, vobis ac monasterio vestro quantum in nobis est concedimus et in usus proprios cum suis obvencionibus universis ad ipsam nunc pertinentibus inperpetuum assignamus; ita videlicet quod cedente vel decedente dicte ecclesie nunc rectore ipsius possessionem cum omnibus suis iuribus et pertinenciis antedictis auctoritate propria nullius ad hoc requisito consensu libere apprehendere et nancisci ac in dictos usus ad supportacionem dictorum onerum leviolem convertere valeatis, iuribus et consuetudinibus nobis et successoribus nostris et ecclesie nostre Wygorn' archidiacono loci ac aliis quibuscumque debitis in omnibus semper salvis. Salva eciam et reservata de ipsius ecclesie de Caumpeden fructibus perpetuo vicario in eadem ecclesia servituro congrua porcione, quam ad viginti libras sterlingorum estimamus et taxamus, in certis proventibus fructibus et obvencionibus eiusdem ecclesie suo tempore per nos et successores nostros ordinanda et stabilienda, de qua idem vicarius commode sustentari et incumbencia sibi onera virtute ordinacionis nostre seu successorum nostrorum per eundem agnoscenda valeat supportare. Servata eciam nobis et successoribus nostris potestate augendi porcionem predictam cum et prout nobis et eis ponderandis debite ponderatis in eventum videbitur expedire. Qui eciam vicarius ad vestram domini abbas et conventus presentacionem per nos et successores nostros institui debeat et induci. In quorum omnium &c. Dat' apud Blokkel' x^{mo}. die Julii anno domini supradicto.

fo. I64r.

I204 I7 Nov. I343 Writ informing the bp. of the recovery by the abbot of Halesowen from John Botetourt of the patronage of the church of Clent.

VENIT APUD HERTLEBURY ULTIMO DIE MENSIS JANUARIII.
 RECUPERACIO PATRONATUS DE CLENT. Edwardus dei gracia rex Anglie et Francie et dominus Hibernie venerabili in Christo patri W(olstano) eadem gracia episcopo Wygorn' salutem. Sciatis quod abbas de Hales Oweyn in curia nostra coram iusticiariis nostris apud Westmonasterium per consideracionem eiusdem curie nostre recuperavit presentacionem suam versus Johannem Botetourt ad ecclesiam de Clent que vacat et ad suam spectat donacionem. Et ideo vobis mandamus quod non obstante reclamacione predicti Johannis in hac parte ad presentacionem predicti abbatis ad ecclesiam predictam ydoneam personam admittatis. Teste J. de Stonore apud Westmonasterium xvii die Novembris anno regni nostri Anglie xvii^o. regni vero nostri Francie quarto.

fo. ccxxxv r. al. I66

I2I3 Undated (I344?) Ordination of the vicarage of Acton
Turville.

Universis sancte matris ecclesie filiis ad quos littere presentes pervenerint, frater Wolstanus permissione divina Wygorn' episcopus salutem in eo qui est omnium vera salus. Ad perpetuam futurorum memoriam que ad dei laudem salubriter processerunt volumus scripturis memoriter roborari, ne de cursu temporis labili priventur memoria et sub casuali dubio revocentur. Cum itaque ecclesiam parochialem de Acton Turvill nostre Wyg' diocesis assensu capituli nostri Wygorn', concurrentibus omnibus et singulis que in hac parte requirebantur de iure, perpetuo custodi ecclesie parochialis de Tormerton dicte nostre diocesis et capellanis eiusdem ecclesie (fo. ccxxx v. I66) (I) necnon ipsi ecclesie de Tormerton certis et legitimis de causis annexerimus, univerimus, incorporaverimus et concesserimus in proprios usus perpetuo possidendam, congrua porcione perpetuo vicario eiusdem ecclesie (2) qui inibi curam habeat animarum per nos in certis fructibus, proventibus et obvencionibus ipsius eidem assignanda: nos, ex sollicitudine pastoralis cupientes inceptum negocium effectui prospero mancipare ac ecclesie de Acton predicte indemnitati animarumque parochianorum eiusdem salubriter prospicere, ut tenemur, porcionem ac sustentacionem congruam pro vicario perpetuo inibi ministranti qui curam animarum habeat eiusdem ac ipsius successoribus in vicaria predicta qui pro tempore fuerint imperpetuum ordinamus, assignamus, stabilimus et consistere volumus in fructibus, proventibus redditibus et obvencionibus ipsius ecclesie infrascripte. Reservatis videlicet primo et principaliter dictis custodi et capellanis omnibus et omnimodis decimis garbarum et feni ex et in parochia de Acton predicta provenientibus, una cum terris quibuscumque dominicalibus arabilibus, pratis et aliis ad dictam ecclesiam pertinentibus. Hoc excepto, quod vicarii prefate ecclesie qui pro tempore fuerint habebunt aulam et omnes cameras, coquinam et stabulum cum pomario 'Orchart' wlgariter nominato dicte aule adiacenti, cum libero ingressu et egressu ad eadem. Habebunt eciam dicti vicarii temporibus suis in quolibet campo dicte ville de Acton quinque acras terre arabilis et unam acram prati falcabilis annuatim de dicta terra dominicali ecclesie prelibate et cum pastura tante terre competenter iuxta consuetudinem dicte ville; quod idem vicarii temporibus suis imperpetuum habeant, percipiant et possideant omnes et omnimodas alias decimas, redditus, proventus et obvenciones, tam maiores quam minores, ad dictam ecclesiam de Acton quomodolibet pertinentes. Ordinamus eciam et statuimus quod dicti custos et capellani omnia onera ordinaria et extraordinaria dicte ecclesie de Acton qualitercumque incumbencia, excepto onere unius dimidie marce argenti pro indemnitate capituli ecclesie nostre cathedralis Wyg' eidem annuatim in festo Sancti Michaelis archangeli quam dictos vicarios solvere volumus, imperpetuum subibunt et penitus

(I) 'Ordinacio vicarie ecclesie de Acton Turvill' in margin.

(2) MS. repeats 'vicario eiusdem ecclesie'.

subportabunt. Excepto eciam quod vicarii qui in dicta ecclesia pro tempore erunt invenient luminaria panem et vinum pro celebracione divinorum secundum quod rectores dicte ecclesie consueverant invenire. In quorum omnium testimonium sigillum nostrum fecimus hiis apponi. Dat'.

Volume 2 fo. 2r.

I330 4 Oct. I342 Commission to John de Severley, the bishop's chancellor, of powers of enquiry, correction & punishment within the diocese. (I)

COMMISSIO GENERALIS IN OMNIBUS CAUSIS ET NEGOCIIS. Frater Wolstanus (&c.)..dilecto filio magistro Johanni de Severleye cancellario nostro, salutem graciam et benediccionem. Ad inquirendum, corrigendum et puniendum crimina quecumque et excessus quorumcumque subditorum nostrorum, necnon ad cognoscendum in causis quibuscumque ad nostram iurisdictionem sive nocionem qualitercumque spectantibus, tam matrimonialibus quam aliis, motis seu movendis, et ad ipsas causas discuciendum et fine debito terminandum, vobis de cuius discrecione fidelitate et industria plenam in domino fiduciam optinemus, vices nostras committimus cum cohercionis canonicè cuiuslibet potestate. Dat' apud Wythindon' iiii die Octobris anno domini MCCCXLII^{do.}, et nostre consecracionis quarto.

ibid.

I33I 27 Jne. I349 Appointment of Richard de Bromwich as bailiff of the franchise of Oswaldslow. (2)

CONCESSIO BALLIVE DE OSWALDESLOWE. As touz y ceux qi cestes presentes lettres verrount ou orrount frere Wolstan par la seoffraunce de dieu evesque de Wyrcestre salut z en dieux. Sachetz qe nous avoms grauntez a nostre cher et bien ame vadlet Richard de Bromwych' la baillie de la garde de nostre fraunchise de Oswaldeslowe a avoir et tenir a lui taunt come nous plerra, par quoi vous requerons et prioms qe pur tiel ly vueilletz tenir et a ly faire en touz poyntz come apent au baillif de celle fraunchise. En tesmoignance de quel graunt avoms as cestes noz lettres fait mettre nostre seal. Don' a Hertlebury le xxvii jour de Juyn, lan du regne le roi Edward tierce puis la Conqueste vyntisme tierce.

- (I) This commission also precedes the Acta of the bishop's Court of Audience (vol. 2 fo. 8r., I365).
- (2) The 'Hundred of Oswaldslow', containing 300 hides, was given to Bp. Oswald by King Edgar. See Thomas, Account, p. 48 & Monasticon (ed. Caley) i, p. 600, num. xxxii, Indiculum Libertatis de Oswaldeslawes Hundred. (from Heming Chart. i, p. 292).

vol. 2 fo. IIv.I413 22 May I349 Collation of the archdeaconry of Worcester to
Master John de Severley.

COLLACIO ARCHIDIACONATUS WYGORN'. Frater Wolstanus (&c.).. dilecto nobis in Christo filio magistro Johanni de Severley clerico, salutem gratiam et benedictionem. Morum honestas, litterarum sciencia, ac nonnulla alia probitatis merita graciososa que de te hactenus audivimus et cognovimus, nos excitant plurimum et inducunt ut personam tuam prosequamur graciosius cum favore. Cum igitur archidiaconatus Wygorn' vacare plenius dinoscatur, nos premissa de te condigne pensantes, ipsum archidiaconatum vacantem et ad nostram collationem pleno iure spectantem, tibi isto vicesimo secundo die mensis Maii anno domini MCCCXLIX cum omnibus iuribus et pertinenciis suis conferimus intuitu caritatis, teque per pillei nostri tradicionem investimus canonice de eodem. Iure, consuetudine et ecclesie nostre cathedralis Wygorn' dignitate in omnibus semper salvis. In cuius rei testimonium sigillum nostrum fecimus hiis apponi. Dat' apud Hertlebury die et anno supradictis et nostre consecracionis anno undecimo. Et statim eisdem die et loco scriptum fuit priori Wygorn' pro ipsius installacione.

vol.2 fo. I9v.I568 6 Aug. I349 Record of the bisnop's death at Hartlebury.

Memorand' quod vi^{to}. die mensis Augusti anno domini millesimo CCC^{mo}. XLIX^{no}., Indiccione secunda, Pontificatus domini Clementis pape VI^{ti}. anno octavo, apud Hertlebur' in castro, venerabilis pater dominus Wolstanus dei gracia Wygorn' episcopus diem suum clausit extremum.

(End of volume 2)

APPENDIX 13Extracts from other
MS. sources.Reg. Montacute
vol. i.fo. Ir. (See p. xi note 4.)II Mar. 1334 Bp. Montacute appoints Wolstan de Bransford, prior of Worcester, as his vicar general.

Simon permissione divina Wygorniensis ecclesie electus confirmatus, reverende discrecionis viro domino priori ecclesie cathedralis nostre Wygorn' salutem in omnium salvatore. Cum ex quibusdam causis legitimis a diocesi Wygorn' aliquamdiu oporteat nos abesse, de vestris fidelitate et prudencia fiduciam plenam habentes, vos spiritualitatis Wygorniensis diocesis nobis sic absentibus facimus et constituimus nostrum vicarium generalem, vobisque ad faciendum exercendum et expediendum omnia et singula que ad huiusmodi officium de iure vel consuetudine pertinere noscuntur committimus vices nostras cum cuiuslibet coercionis canonice potestate. In cuius rei testimonium sigillum officii nostri archidiaconatus Cantuar' presentibus apposuimus. Dat' Oxon' xi die Marcii anno domini millesimo trecentesimo tricesimo tercio.

fo. 6v. (See p. xx note 7.)8 May 1334 Memorandum of Bp. Montacute's consecration at Thame.

Memorandum quod viii Idus Maii anno domini MCCCXXXIV apud Tame fuit consecratus venerabilis pater dominus Simon dei gracia Wygorn' episcopus.

fo. 29v. (also vol. ii, fo. 22r.)

(See p. xiv note 7)

24 Dec. 1336 Petition of the convent of Worcester for the bishop's permission to rebuild the 'domuncula' of the Sacristan, which was a danger to the stone-cutters working there, incorporated in Montacute's licence dated 'Die Martis in vigilia Natalis Domini MCCCXXXVI^{to}.'. (I)

Simon &c. dilectis filiis priori et capitulo ecclesie nostre cathedralis Wygorn' salutem (&c.).. Nuper nobis ex parte vestra porrecta peticio continebat, quod cum casa sive domuncula lathomorum officio sacriste nostre Wygorn' ministrancium propter sui vetustatem in tantum ruinosa existat quod nisi celerius innovetur timetur de casu periculoso ipsius ad oppressionem laborancium in eadem; nec audetis ut asseritis dictam domunculum dictam domunculam innovere absque nostra licencia speciali, pro eo quod ipsa licet in vestro communi cimiterio cituetur iunctitur tamen muro nostre curie ex aliqua sui parte, propter quod nobis humiliter supplicastis quatenus vobis et nostro sacriste licenciam dictam domunculam innovandi ...(&c.) dignaremur. (&c.)

(I) The sacristan, who was appointed by the Bishop of the diocese, was in charge of building works.

Liber Ruber al. Liber Albus Episc. Wigorn. (See Bibliography
MS. resources.)

fo. cxl r. (See p. xcvi note 3 & p. xlii note 3.)

31 May 1344 The proctor of the Abbey of Halesowen consents to the annual payment of two marks on account of the appropriation of the church of Clent with the chapel of Rowley.

THOMAS BOLEVINCH. Ultimo die mensis Maii anno domini millesimo CCC^{mo}. quadragesimo quarto coram venerabili patre et domino domino Wolstano dei gracia Wygorniensi episcopo in camera rectorie de Blockeleigh Wygorniensis diocesis infrascriptus personaliter comparens, reservacioni et ordinacioni annue pensionis duarum marcarum, prout in appropriacione ecclesie de Clent cum capella de Roulegh' religiosis infrascriptis et eorum monasterio per dictum fratrem facta plenius continetur, nomine dominorum suorum consencit expresse pariter et assensit: presentibus religiosis viris fratribus Ricardo Colyns sacrista Wigorn' et Nicholao de Stanlak' Wig' commonachis et discretis viris magistro Hugone de Penebrugge rectore ecclesie de Hertlebury et Henrico de Newbold rectore ecclesie de Weston' super Abbonam testibus ad premissa.

The numbers of the author's calendared edition of Bishop Bransford's register collated with the folios of the original MS.

Note.

As has been explained (p. xxxvi et seq.) the register has a double numeration, Arabic and Roman. Where these coincide only the Arabic numbers are given; where they differ both Arabic and Roman numbers are detailed. After folio I47 al. cxlvi the Roman numerals are made to precede the Arabic because the latter are in considerable disorder. For fuller details see Appendix I.

<u>MS. folio.</u>	<u>Reg. Bransf. Edition.</u>
Fly-leaf verso.	I-4
I recto	5-10
I verso	II-I7
2 r. <i>iii</i>	I7-I8
2 v. <i>iii</i>	I8-I9
3 r.	I9-23
3 v.	24-27
4 r.	27-31
4 v.	32-37
5 r.	38-40
5 v.	40-45
6 r.	45-50
6 v.	51-57
7 r.	58-61
7 v.	62-66
8 r.	67-73
8 v.	74-78
9 r.	78-81
9 v.	82-88
10 r.	89
10 v.	90-94
II r.	94-98
II v.	98-101
I2 r.	102
I2 v.	102-104
I3 r.	105-107
I3 v.	108
I4 r.	108-III
I4 v.	II2-II6
I5 r.	II6
I5 v.	II7
I6 r.	II7
I6 v.	II7-II8
I7 r.	II9
I7 v.	I20-I21
I8 r.	I22-I26
I8 v.	I26-I33
I9 r.	I34-I38
I9 v.	I39-I42

APPENDIX I4 (cont.)

(clix)

<u>MS. folio</u>	<u>Reg.Bransf. Edition.</u>	<u>MS. folio.</u>	<u>Reg.Bransf. Edition.</u>
20 r.	I42-I47	44 r.	36I-364
20 v.	I47-I52	44 v.	365-366
2I r.	I53	45 r.	366-368
2I v.	I53	45 v.	368-374
22 r.	I53	46 r.	374-379
22 v.	I53-4.	46 v.	380-388
23 r.	I54	47 r.	388-395
23 v.	I54-I57	47 v.	396-402
24 r.	I58-I59	48 r.	403-407
24 v.	I59-I60	48 v.	408-4I6
25 r.	I60	49 r.	4I6-4I8
25 v.	I60	49 v.	4I9-424
26 r.	I6I-I7I	50 r.	425-43I
26 v.	I7I-I78	50 v.	432-439
27 r.	I78-I83	5I r.	439-442
27 v.	I83-I94	5I v.	443-448
28 r.	I95-20I	52 r.	449
28 v.	202-2II	52 v.	449
29 r.	2II-2I6	53 r.	450
Attached portion of MS.	2I7	Attached portion of MS.	45I
29 r. (cont.)	2I8-222	53 v.	452-459
29 v.	223-228	54 r.	460-464
30 r.	228-232	54 v.	465-477
30 v.	232-240	55 r.	478-484
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34 v.	282-286	59 r.	524-525
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36 r.	292-296	60 v.	53I-532
36 v.	296-299	6I r.	532-533
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37 v.	304-3I2	62 r.	535-540
38 r.	3I3-3I8	62 v.	54I-554
38 v.	3I8	63 r.	555-56I
39 r.	3I8-32I	63 v.	562-564
39 v.	32I-324	64 r.	565-568
40 r.	325	64 v.	568-57I
40 v.	325	65 r.	572-574
4I r.	326-329	65 v.	575-576
4I v.	329-335	66 r.	577-580
42 r.	336-34I	66 v.	580-58I
42 v.	34I-348	67 r.	58I-583
43 r.	348-35I	67 v.	583-592
43 v.	35I-360	68 r.	593-595
		68 v.	595-597

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69 v.	599-602	95 v. lxxxxxvi	778-779
70 r.	602.	96 r. lxxxxxvii	779-780
70 v.	603-608	96 v. lxxxxxvii	78I
7I r.	609-6I7	97 r. lxxxxxviii	78I
7I v.	6I8-6I9	97 v. lxxxxxviii	78I-782
72 r.	6I9-623	98 r. lxxxxxix	782-783
72 v.	623-627	98 v. lxxxxxix	784-786
73 r.	627-633	99 r. c	786
73 v.	634-640	99 v. c	786-788
74 r.	640-643	I00 r. ci	788-790
74 v.	644-649	I00 v. ci	790-792
75 r.	649-654	I0I r. cii	792
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78 r.	660	I04 r. cv	8I8-82I
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79 r.	660-66I	portion of MS.	822
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80 r.	66I-662	I05 r. cvi	826-83I
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85 r. lxxxvi	684	IIO r. cxi	835
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I22 r. cxxiii	906	(Rearranged folios, at present bound after volume 2.)	
I22 v. cxxiii	906		
I23 r. cxxiiii	906	cxlvii r.	47 I004-I007
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I24 r. cxxv	906	cxlviii r.	48 I008
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I25 r. cxxvi	906-907	cxlix r.	34 I008
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ccxxii r.	I52 II33-II35	ccxlvii v.	I78 I283-I286
ccxxii v.	I52 II35-II38	ccxlviii r.	I79 I287-I289
ccxxiii r.	I53 II39-II4I	ccxlviii v.	I79 I290-I29I
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19 r.		I550-I561
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END OF VOLUME 2.

ADDITIONS & CORRECTIONS.

p. cxxiv (APPENDIX 9). Add:-

<u>House.</u>	<u>Office of:</u>	<u>New Holder.</u>	<u>C. of V.</u>	<u>Date &c.</u>
LONGBRIDGE Chapel or Hospital. (V. App. IO)	W.	Thomas de Baldene, pst.	Exchange.	12 Jly. 1339 (Collation by bp. 'ista vice'.) R.B. 204.
<u>Note.</u> Previous Warden, William Barneby, who resigned his benefice because of an exchange for the chapel of the B.V.M. at Norton (York dioc.).				

Idem.	'rector sive custos'	Robert atte Nelme, pst.	?	14 Jly. 1349 (Inst. by bp. after present. by Thomas de Berkeley, kt.) R.B. 1512.
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p. cxxv.

WARWICK. St. Michael's Hospital.	M. or W.	Nicholas de Southam of Warwick.	D.	4 Jne. 1349 (Inst. by bp. after present. by Thomas, E. of Warwick.) R.B. 1437.
<u>Note.</u> Previous Master, William de Knytecote.				

pp. xxxi & xxxii. THE BLACK DEATH.

(Tables giving details of institutions in 1348-9)

The June 1349 figure (46) includes an institution to the hospital of St. Michael, Warwick. (See above)
The July figure (68) includes the institution of the 'rector sive custos' of the chapel of Longbridge (no reason given for vacancy).
See above.

For details of elections to monasteries, hospitals &c. during this period see Appendix 9 under: Astley, Bristol (S. Mary Magdalene), Cook Hill, Longbridge (above), Studley, Warwick (Holy Sepulchre), Warwick (S. John's Hosp.), Warwick (S. Michael's Hosp.) (See above), Whiston (See Nash i, p. 217), Worcester (S. Oswald's Hosp.).

These can be tabulated as follows:

<u>Date.</u>	<u>Vacancies.</u>	<u>Cause of Vacancy.</u>
1348	None.	
<u>1349</u>		
March	I Hospital	Not given.
May	(I Nunnery (2 Hospitals)	Death. Resignation: Not given.
June	(2 Priors (I Hospital	Infirmary: Amoval. Death.
July	(I Priory (I Nunnery (I Hospital or Chapel.	Death. Death. Death. Not given.
<u>Total.</u>	<u>10</u>	