

BUTLEY PRIORY, IN THE HUNDRED OF LOES.

[*Read July 9, 1872.*]

It was in the year 1171, that for the glory of God, and in honour of "Our Lady," the founding of no inferior Priory of Augustinian Canons (two of whose Priors were deemed worthy to be consecrated Suffragan Bishops of the diocese of Norwich) took place, by Sir Ralph de Glanville, Lord Chief Justice of England, temp: Henry 2nd (one whom Suffolk ought to be proud of, born as he was at Stratford St. Mary in the above-named county) upon the lands called Brockhouse, which he held by his wife Berta, daughter of Theobald de Valoins, Lord of Parham.

Founder's Gift. The founder gave to the Priory, as of fee, the advowsons of Farnham, Butley, Bawdsey, Wantisden, Capel, and Benhall.

King Henry II. King Henry II. gave, at the request of the ^{Gift,} _{Burston.} founder, the Rectory of Burston, in Norfolk, confirmed by John of Oxford, Bishop of Norwich, and by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Vicar was paid 26s. 8d. out of the great tithes by the Priory of Butley, which were disappropriated by the Prior and Convent resigning the living and presenting a Rector. Upon Drayles institution in 1510, a pension of 40s. was reserved to the Prior of Butley.*

"Prior de Butelee habet eam in proprios usus, habet mansum cum 50 acris terre, estimatio ejusdem cum vicariâ xxvi marc. Vicarius habet altaragium suum, cum 2 acris terre." †

* *Blom: Norf:* vol. 1, p. 125.

† *Reg: Butley,* fol. 55.

Gilbert, Prior of Butley, gave Stephen de Brokedysh 3 acres of land in Burston for life, the parcel of land which Alfwet Cnot and William, son of Edmer, gave to the Convent, viz. the whole tenement that Wybart, the parson of Burston, held of them and their ancestors, 1307.*

Winfarthing,
Hen: II. It was further endowed in the reign of Henry II. with the Rectory of Winfarthing, in Norfolk, confirmed by John of Oxford, Bishop of Norwich, by his successors, John de Grey and Thomas Blundeville, and by the Archbishops of Canterbury, a pension of 26s. 8d. being reserved from the great tithes for the Vicar. In 1425 Reginald de Grey † recovered the advowson from the Priory, and presented a Rector, the Priory of Butley producing no grant from the King and no appropriation confirmed by the Pope. ‡

“Dominus Will. de Montecanisto est patronus illius; Prior et conventus de Butelee habent eam in propriis usus, habent unam grangiam cum xx acris terre: et tribus acris prati.” §

Henry Walter's
Gift,
Temp: Hen: II. Also in the same reign lands were left to Butley by Henry Walter, in Wingfield, Sidebrooke, and Isted, for his soul's health and his wife Maud's, daughter of Theobald de Valoins, and for the souls of Ralph de Glanville and his wife.

Thomas
Arderne's Gift
1 John. In the year 1200, Thomas Arderne gave to the Priory of Butley the moiety of the Lordship of Bawdsey, which he inherited from his grandmother Amabil, second daughter of Ralph de Glanville.

10 John
Gissing,
1 Henry III. In 1209 a moiety of the patronage of the Rectory of Gissing, in Norfolk, was given to the Priory of Butley, by John, son of Geffory, || and soon after Thomas de Hastyngs with consent and joint act of John, Bishop of Norwich, granted to the Priory the

* *Reg: Butley.*

‡ *Blom: Norf: vol. 1, p. 181.*

† Lord Grey of Ruthyn, cousin and heir to the last Lord Hastings. The marriages of two co-heiresses had brought the possessions of the Montchensies to the family of Hastings.

§ *Norw: Domesd: p. 160. Reg: But: folio 55.*

|| *Fin: 2 John: li. 5, No. 3.*

perpetual advowson of the other part* ; Roger de
56 Hen: III. Skerning, Bishop of Norwich, not only confirmed
 it, but in the year 1271 agreed to appropriate the whole
 to Butley, and endowed the Vicarage with all its offerings,
 mills, a vicarage-house and meadow, an acre of land
 adjoining, 20 acres more of the Church free land, and all
 other small tithes, except hay, which, with all the great
 tithes and rest of glebe, the Rectory Manor and all its
 appurtenances, were to belong to the Prior of Butley, who
 was to present to the Vicarage.

Kilverstone,
 Lady M.
 Caineto's Gift. In the year 1217, Lady Margaret Caineto
 (Cheney or Cressy), daughter and heiress of
 William de Caineto, relict of Hugh de Cressy, gave the
 advowson of the Rectory of Kilverstone, in Norfolk,
 together with a fold-course and common of pasture in the
 said township for sheep, in free alms to the Prior of Butley,
 who appropriated it to his house, and got it confirmed by
 John, Bishop of Norwich, and the Archbishop of Canterbury,
 reserving the right to the Prior of presenting to the
 Vicarage with a pension of 26s. 8d. out of the great tithes,
 and the Rectory-house with one acre of ground adjoining it.
 After this the Prior, wishing to get all into his own hands,
 came to a perpetual composition with the Prior of Cokes-
 ford for the moiety of the tithe of his Manor, one moiety of
 which belonged to the Prior of Coxford and the other to
 the Prior of Butley ; also for the 10s. a-year which the Prior
 of Coxford paid from his watermill in Kilverstone to the
 Abbot of Thetford. In 1407, the then Vicar, William
 Disse, had an augmentation to his Vicarage from the
 tithes and orchards of the town with consent of the Priors
 of Butley and Coxford.†

Dickleborough,
 W. D'Auberville's
 Gift. The Parish of Dickleborough was divided at
 the time of the Conquest into four portions ; that
 portion which laid in the Diss hundred, or *the Portion of*

* Blomfield states that this gift of 1217 ;" but John de Grey, the Bishop
 Thomas de Hastyngs was made "about who confirmed it, died 1214.

† *Blom : Norf :* vol. 1, p. 543.

Semere, was given to the Priory after the death or cession of Ranaulf, the Chaplain, who had been presented to it by William D'Auberville and Maud his wife, daughter of Ralph de Glanville, and belonged to that land which Ranaulf held of Thomas Noell, valued at the Norwich taxation x marc; but at the Lincoln taxation xiii. marc.* It was appropriated to the Convent in 1180 by John of Oxford, Bishop of Norwich, without any Vicar being endowed; they were to find a stipendiary Chaplain, who was only to administer the Sacraments and perform all duties to the parishioners in that part only. From two other portions, viz. *the Portion of the Marsh* and *the Portion of the Fields*, the Abbot of Bury received pensions of xvs. and ixs. yearly. In the year 1454, by consent of all parties, the four portions were consolidated, and the Abbot of Bury gave security to the Prior of Butley that all Rectors should pay to the Priory 3s. 4d. yearly pension, clear from all service.†

^{20 Hen: III.}
W. D'Auberville's
Gift. In the year 1235, William D'Auberville, the grandson of Matilda, eldest daughter of Ralph de Glanville, gave to the Prior and Convent of Butley one-third of the advowsons of Chatgrave, Somerton, and Upton in Norfolk, Wantisden, Capel, Benhall, Bawdsey, and Finborough, with a moiety of the Church of Glemham Parva, three parts of two carucates of land in Somerton and two in Butley. Gilbert the first Prior gave part of the tithes at Finboro' to the Abbot of S. John the Baptist, Colchester, the Prior of Butley reserving 24s. ‡

^{56 Hen: III.}
Lady C. Barnard's
Gift. In the year 1271, Lady Cassandra Baynard gave her share of the advowson of Chatgrave, a messuage and 12 acres of land, valued at 10 marks. The Vicar had a pension of 40s. ‡ and a vicarage also valued at

* Norwich Taxation, "Portio Prioris de Butelee (in Dickleboro') x marc: *Nor: Domesday* or, as the Lincoln taxation says, thus—"Prior de Buttelee habet unam partem in propriis usus, Abbas Sancti Edmundi est patronus trium partium, quilibet rector habet mansum

cum una carucata terre estimatio Portionis Prioris deButtelee xiii marc.

† *Blom: Norf:* vol. 1, 191-193.

‡ *Davy Add: MSS:* 19,100, 19,096.

40s. In the year 1420, John, Bishop of Norwich, dissolved the vicarage, and it became a rectory in the gift of the Prior.

John Stanton's
Gift,
6 Hen: IV. John Stanton gave, in the year 1405, his Manor of Chesilford, and that £8 16s. 8d., should be paid from the lands to the poor people on the seven festivals of the Church. *

John of
Glemham's Gift,
6 Hen: IV. In the same year, the Priory was further endowed by the gift of John of Glemham, of the Manor of Glemham.

Richd. Naunton's
Gift,
7 Hen: IV. In the year 1406, Richard, son of Henry Naunton, gave the moiety he had of the advowson of Wantisden. *

John Skelton's
Gift. And in a year unknown, John de Skelton gave his Manor in Stradbroke to the Priory, so that the Prior and his house should be excused from all suits and services either in the hundred or County Courts. And this was confirmed by John his son.

In the year 1529, Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, with his son, the Earl of Surrey, visited Butley with a large retinue, and sold to the Prior the park called Staverton, in the parish of Eyke.

Henry VII.
Gift,
24 Hen: VII. Henry VII., in 1508, gave to Butley the cell of S. Mary's at Snape (till then belonging to S. John of Colchester), with the Manors of Snape, Scotto, Tastard, Bedingfield, Alborough, and Friston. The Monks being very troublesome, the Prior resigned it in 1509. The cell was suppressed in 1524 by Cardinal Wolsey, who gave it to his great work at Ipswich and Oxford, which every one must wish he had lived to finish. †

Manors,
Advowson
Moieties,
given by
unknown donors viz. It was further enriched by donors unknown with 50 Manors in Suffolk, 1 in Lincolnshire, that of Byke; 23 Advowsons in Suffolk, Dedham in Essex, and Belbagh in Norfolk; 6 moieties,

* These are from *Davy Add: MSS:*
19,100, 19,096.

† *Valor Eccles:* Dugdale and Speed the same.

North and South Glemham, in Suffolk, St. Olave's, London, and St. Stephen's Coleman, ditto; tithes of Hardley and Middleton.*

The rental of the Priory in the year 1291 was:—

| | £ | s. | d. | | |
|---------------|-------|----|-----|----|-------------|
| Suffolk | 89 | 5 | 1½ | in | 61 parishes |
| Norfolk | 4 | 19 | 10½ | in | 6 parishes |
| Lincoln | 5 | 12 | 0† | | |
| | <hr/> | | | | |
| | £99 | 17 | 0 | | |

In the year 1534:—

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|----|-----|
| Spirituals | 122 | 10 | 7 |
| Temporals | 265 | 13 | 10¼ |
| | <hr/> | | |
| | £388 | 4 | 5¼ |
| Outgoings | 69 | 7 | 2½ |
| | <hr/> | | |
| Clear value | £318 | 17 | 2¾‡ |

£3,188 12s. 5d. present money.

The buildings of the Priory covered 20 acres, encircled by a wall of stone, and commenced about 10 perches from the great gateway.

Church. The Church is supposed to have had a nave and two aisles, and chapels dedicated to SS. Anne, Peter, Paul, Sigismund, and All Saints. To the latter we find John de Thetford, Abbot of Holy Sepulchre and Holy Cross Abbeys, Thetford, gave in 1534 two chalices and two relics, one the comb of S. Thomas of Canterbury, the other a silver box full of relics of other Saints. Michael de la Pole, Earl of Suffolk, who was killed at the battle of Agincourt, in 1414, was buried in the Church.

Gateway. The portions only now remaining are the great gateway and one arch. The former is a very handsome piece of Decorated architecture, built of freestone, ornamented with chequer and lozenge work in flint work. On the West

* *Dugdale's Monasticon Anglicanum*,
vol. 3.

† *Davy's Add: MSS* 19,096-19,100.
‡ *Tax: Eccle.*

side, over the gateway, are a series of coats of arms, arranged in five rows, seven in each row; between each shield is a *fleur-de-lis*. They are, no doubt, arms of many of the benefactors to the Priory; the following description is from the Davy MSS. :—

ARMS.—1ST. ROW.

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----------|
| 1. An eagle displayed with 2 heads | ... | ... | |
| 2. Fifteen <i>fleur-de-lis</i> , 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 | ... | ... | |
| 3. Three crowns | ... | ... | Bury. |
| 4. Crucifixion | ... | ... | |
| 5. Three lions guardant | ... | ... | England. |
| 6. Quarterly. 1 and 4 lion rampant, 2 and 3 a castle | ... | ... | Spain ? |
| 7. Three halberds | ... | ... | Denston. |

2ND ROW.

- | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| 1. Per fess in chief, a mullet of 6 points, impaling blank | ... | ... | ... | Vere. |
| 2. Bend cotised | ... | ... | ... | Bohun. |
| 3. A fess between 6 crosslets | ... | ... | ... | Beauchamp. |
| 4. Three lions passant | ... | ... | ... | Plantagenet. |
| 5. Chequy | ... | ... | ... | Warren. |
| 6. Three lions passant in bordure | ... | ... | ... | Holland. |
| 7. Three chevrons | ... | ... | ... | Clare. |

3RD ROW.

- | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| 1. A fess between 2 chevrons | ... | ... | ... | Lady C. Baynard |
| 2. Semé de lis, debriused by a bendlet | ... | ... | ... | Arderne. |
| 3. Two bars, in chief, 3 roundlets | ... | ... | ... | Grey ? |
| 4. | ... | ... | ... | Mortimer. |
| 5. A lion rampant, in sinister chief an annulet | ... | ... | ... | Percy ?* |
| 6. Three water bougets, 2 1. | ... | ... | ... | Roos. |
| 7. A lion rampant, in dexter chief an annulet | ... | ... | ... | Bigod ? |

4TH ROW.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| 1. A saltire engrailed... | ... | ... | ... | Tiptoft ? |
| 2. Three cinquefoils, 2 and 1 | ... | ... | ... | Bardolf. |
| 3. On a fess, 3 roundlets | ... | ... | ... | Huntingfield ? |
| 4. A lion rampant | ... | ... | ... | Mowbray ? |
| 5. A cross engrailed | ... | ... | ... | Ufford. |
| 6. A fess | ... | ... | ... | |
| 7. Three round buckles | ... | ... | ... | Jernegan. |

* In Taylor's *Index Monasticus*, page 94 FitzWalter

5TH Row.

- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|------------------|
| 1. Three inescutcheons, 2 and 1 | ... | ... | D'Avillers: |
| 2. Gone* | ... | ... | ... |
| 3. A plain cross | ... | ... | Norwich. |
| 4. A chief indented | ... | ... | Glanville |
| 5. A cross flory (in Johnson's drawing moliné) | ... | ... | No name in Davy† |
| 6. A fess. nebulée between 3 escallops | ... | ... | ... |
| 7. Three inescutcheons, 2 and 1 | ... | ... | Lowdham. |

OVER LITTLE GATEWAY.

Arms—Little doorway.

Gateway. A cross moliné, surmounted by a bendlet worked into the great Gateway, and over the modern door the following shields:—

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------------|
| 1. Forth, impaling Glemham, on a chev. between 3 roundlets, a crescent Crest of Forth, a boar's head erased, muzzled. | | | |
| 2. Crest on small shield, on a wreath, a dove rising | | | |
| 3. On a cross, 5 mullets | ... | ... | Broadshear. |
| 4. Three fleur-de-lis | ... | ... | Gwaringale. |
| 5. Crest | ... | ... | Forth. |
| 6. Three lions rampant † | ... | ... | ... |

Following is the

LIST OF PRIORS.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|------|
| Gilbert, appointed by Ralph de Granville | ... | ... | 1171 |
| William, elected by Priory § | ... | ... | 1195 |
| Robert | ... | ... | 1213 |
| Adam | ... | ... | 1234 |
| Peter | ... | ... | 1251 |
| Walter | ... | ... | 1263 |
| Robert | ... | ... | 1268 |
| Richard de Yaxley | ... | ... | 1303 |
| Nicholas de Witnessham, 3 Id : Dec : | ... | ... | 1307 |
| Richard de Hoxne, 16 Kal : Aug : | ... | ... | 1309 |
| William de Geston, 9 Kal : March : | ... | ... | 1311 |

* Johnson has 3 fleur-de-lis.

† In Taylor's *Index Monasticus*, page 94 ... Braham cross flory

‡ *Davy Add: MSS: 19,100.*

§ Confirmed by Bull of Pope Celestine III. "Et quod liceat canonicis aliquem ex suis virum bonæ conversationis loco decidentis Prioris libere subrogare nullius Ecclesiasticæ vel laicæ potestatis prohibitionem vel contradictionem obstante."

|| By Bull of Boniface, 3 Kal : Feb : 9. Pont. "Quod mitrâ, annulo, baculo pastorali, et aliis Pontificalibus insignio libere possit uti, dummodo aliquis antistes vel apostolicæ sedis legatus præsens non fuerit."

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Matil de Gosted | ... | ... | ... | 1321 |
| Alexander de Stratford, 5 Sept. | ... | ... | ... | 1332 |
| Matthew de Pakenham | ... | ... | ... | 1338 |
| Alexander de Drinkstone, Sept : | ... | ... | ... | 1353 |
| John Baxter | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| William de Halesworth, 31 Jan : | ... | ... | ... | 1374 |
| „ de Raydon, 31 March | ... | ... | ... | 1410 |
| „ de Poley, 20th Aug. | ... | ... | ... | 1444 |
| Thomas de Framlingham, 21 June | ... | ... | ... | 1483 |
| Edward Lycheheld, Bishop of Chalcedon, Suffragan to | | | | |
| Richard Nix, Bishop of Norwich | .. | .. | .. | 1504 |
| Robert Brommer,* | ... | ... | ... | 1508 |
| Augustus Rivers, 7 Sept : | ... | ... | ... | 1509 |
| Thomas Manning, <i>alias</i> Sudbury, Suffragan Bishop of | | | | |
| Ipswich | ... | ... | ... | 1528 |

And then, in the year 1539, the Commendator and eight Canons regular, signed the surrender, and Butley and its fair lands passed from religious into secular hands. It was granted in 1540, among other Abbey lands, to Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, and in 1544 it was purchased by William Forth, of Hadleigh, in whose family it remained some time. In 1737, it was in possession of George Wright. After the death of his widow it went to John Clyatt, heir-at-law, who sold it to Mr. Strahan. It became also the property of Lord Archibald Hamilton, who sold it to Lord Rendlesham, in whose family it still remains.

* This one committed suicide at Ipswich, and was buried in the parish churchyard by the Canons, but the Bishop ordered the body to be disinterred, and it

was buried at the four crossways in Hanfen Street. No reason is given for the deed.

RICHARD J. DAY.