

EVERARD BISHOP OF NORWICH.

By L. LANDON.

Owing to the identity of the name and to the fact that he had been one of the royal chaplains bishop Everard for a long time was affirmed to be Everard the son of Roger de Montgomery, Everard fitz count as he was usually called, till in 1872 a writer in *Notes and Queries* adduced arguments which showed this identification to be untenable.¹ It is not necessary to repeat the arguments here. Since then no attempt has been made to find out who he was.

Although there is nothing in the shape of definite proof there are some slight indications which suggest that he may have been Everard de Calna, who also probably was one of Henry I's chaplains.

Bartholomew Cotton² appears to be the only one of the chroniclers to record that bishop Everard at some time in his life had been archdeacon of Salisbury. It is not easy to find information about archdeacons at this early date but it happens that William of Malmesbury³ relates a story of a miraculous cure by S. Aldhem performed upon Everard, one of bishop Osmund's archdeacons.

To be an archdeacon Everard would be at least 25 years old and bishop Osmund died in 1099. From these two factors we get the year 1074 for the latest date of his birth, it was probably a year or two earlier.

Calne being in the diocese of Salisbury there is nothing improbable in a member of a family taking its name from that place, if destined for the church, being appointed to an archdeaconry of that diocese.

¹ *N. & Q.*, Vol. X, p. 26.

² *Rolls Series No. 16*, p. 67.

³ *Gesta Pontificum*: *Rolls Series No. 52*, p. 424.

Later references to Everard as archdeacon do not exist with perhaps one exception. Everard, archdeacon, is a witness to a charter of Henry I. giving a general confirmation to Colne priory, Essex.⁴ The Charter was given at Reading probably in the year 1111.

Everard de Calna is a witness with many others at Avranches on the 2nd March, 1112, to another charter of Henry's confirming its possessions to the Abbey of Holy Trinity Savigny,⁵ and in June, 1120, at Rouen, he is the sole witness to the letter which Henry I sent to the archbishop of Canterbury giving his consent to the investiture of Eadmer in the bishopric of S. Andrews.⁶

This letter was written about five months before the king crossed over to England on the occasion of the loss of the White Ship.

According to Delisle,⁷ where there is one witness only to a royal document it may be assumed that the witness is an officer of the Chancery. This is quite compatible with his being an archdeacon and one of the royal chaplains.

There is another charter of Henry's,⁸ a grant to Robert fitz Richard, the ancestor of the fitz-Walter family, dated at S. Vaubourg, near Rouen, in the first week of Lent to which are witnesses with several others, Everard de Calna, William de Pirou, Edward of Salisbury, and Robert de Candos.

To this charter Dr. Farrer assigns the year 1126 and if this year is correct the claim of Everard de Calna to be bishop of Norwich fails.

⁴ Add MS. 5860, f. 110b. Coles collections.

⁵ Dr. Farrer's Itinerary of Henry I, p. 63.

⁶ Itin., p. 89.

⁷ Recueil des Actes de Henri II. Introduction p. 94.

⁸ Itin., 'p. 112.

Henry I is shown by the evidence of charters to have been at S. Vaubourg on two occasions, 1120 and 1126⁹ and in the earlier of these two years three of the witnesses named above were certainly present with Henry whilst in the later year the two last only can be shown to have been present.

In the absence of any argument in favour of 1126 the balance of evidence is very slightly in favour of 1120 for the date of this charter.

Making the assumption that 1120 is the correct year, from that year till 1144 the name of Everard de Calna disappears entirely from the records.¹⁰ This could be explained by his death, perhaps in the wreck of the White Ship, or by his having been made bishop of Norwich when he would use the name of his see instead of his surname.

Eadmer¹¹ gives the fullest account of bishop Everard's elevation to the bishopric of Norwich. He was consecrated by the archbishop of Canterbury, at Canterbury, on the 12th of June, 1121, in the presence of the bishops of Rochester, Hereford and Chester and is described as one of the royal chapel. Bartholomew Cotton, as mentioned above, speaks of him as archdeacon of Salisbury. He has been called by some archdeacon of Norwich, but of this there is no evidence. He was certainly nominated by the king but a form of election, at any rate, was observed; the letter to the archbishop announcing the result is extant.¹²

In 1130 he made a payment to the exchequer to have his father's land,¹³ so that his father must have

⁹ Itinerary of Henry I, p. 88 and 112.

¹⁰ It is noticeable that the name of Everard fitz count also disappears from about the same time, he may very likely have perished in the loss of the White Ship.

¹¹ *Historia Novorum in Anglia*—Rolls Series No. 81, p. 293.

¹² See Appendix.

¹³ Pipe Roll, p. 91.

died recently. He was a married man and the father of a family, the charter of William d'Aubigny, given on the occasion of his wife's funeral at Wymondham priory,¹⁴ includes among those for whose salvation he prays, the children of the venerable Everard* bishop of Norwich and the name "Edone (?Eudone) filio episcopi" is found among the witnesses to a charter of Stephen count of Brittany to S. Edmund's abbey, dated at S. Edmunds, 1135.¹⁵

Everard had a brother Arthur¹⁶ and several nephews. The following occur as witnesses to the bishop's charters. Reginald and Adam the bishop's nephews,¹⁷ Nigel the bishop's nephew . . . Richard, Everard and Herbert the bishop's nephews,¹⁸ Peter the bishop's nephew, Everard the bishop's nephew,¹⁹ Adam and Walter the bishop's nephews.²⁰

Evidently he found it congenial to pass his days surrounded by his family.

From the time that Everard became bishop of Norwich the name of Calna appears among the witnesses to his and his successors' charters. In that referred to above¹⁸ another witness is Adam de Calna and the same witnesses another charter of the bishop's

¹⁴ Mon. Ang., vol. III, p. 330.

* As Bp. Everard took part in the Council of London in 1129 (R. de Hoveden I, 185), called to enforce the celibacy of clergy, it is not credible that he was a married Bishop; and the words quoted probably mean that he was a widower, and that the children were born before he became Bishop. The letter of Pope Paschel II to St. Anselm in 1109 shows that most of the English clergy still practised matrimony at that time and it is quite possible that Everard may have been a married Archdeacon; but, as far as I know, there is no authenticated or probable instance of a married Bishop.—F.S.S.

¹⁵ Camb. Univ. Lib. Mm., 19 fo. 108b. I am indebted to Prof. F. M. Stenton for knowledge of this interesting charter in which count Stephen describes himself as son of count Eudes. There has been some doubt on his paternity; see G.E.C. Complete Peerage, vol. vj., p. 343.

¹⁶ Cott. ch., II, i.

¹⁷ Cott. ch. II, 21, No. 9.

¹⁸ L.F.C. ch. xij., i.

¹⁹ L.F.C. ch. xii., ii.

²⁰ Hist. MSS. Comm., No. 62, Lothian MSS, p. 39. These relations afford further evidence that the bishop was not Everard fitz count.

as Adam de Calna "clericus."²¹ Peter de Calna is a witness,²² Walter de Calna also a clerk, witnesses charters of Everard's two successors William²³ and John.²⁴

Besides these Nigel de Calna is well known as one of Henry I's chaplains; Everard de Calna, "juvenis," Peter de Calna occur in 1155 as witnesses to Salisbury Cathedral charters²⁵ whilst at a later date, 1242, Reginald de Calna occurs as holding a fee in Yatesbury in Wiltshire.²⁶

It may be chance only that the Wiltshire name of Calna appears in Norfolk after Everard's promotion to the bishopric and that so many of the names of the bishop's nephews should be the same with those borne by members of the family of Calna but it may also be accounted for by Everard himself having belonged to that family and being addicted to nepotism.

The name Calna is always clearly so spelt and is not a variant of Caune (de Caen, de Cadamo) the name of a Norfolk family, still perpetuated in Kirby Kane.

It was stated above that from the year 1121 the name of Everard de Calna disappears from the records. It appears again in a charter by which the empress Maud "domina Anglorum" made certain grants to Humfrey de Bohun, among them "Stokes which was of Everard de Calna." Dr. Round assigns this charter to the first half of the year 1144. He identifies Stokes, tentatively, with Limpley Stoke in Wiltshire,²⁷ but it may perhaps with more probability be identified with Earl Stoke in Melksham in the same county.

²¹ Mon. Ang., vol. III, p. 612.

²² Topham Ch. 3.

²³ Binham Cart. Claude D. xiiij, fo. 168.

²⁴ Ancient Deed A, 14020.

²⁵ Sarum Charters, Roll Series, No. 97, p. 19.

²⁶ Book of Fees, p. 710.

²⁷ Ancient Charters, Pipe Roll Soc., p. 45.

This Everard cannot be the bishop who was still in the occupation of his see at that date and is unlikely to be a man who had held a position in the chancery as it is hardly probable that one whose duties made him an attendant on the king should have entirely escaped mention for all these years. It is more likely to be one of the family who still held land in Wiltshire.

The last historical incident in which bishop Everard took part was in the proceedings which followed the murder of the boy saint, S. William of Norwich, and led to his canonization. He presided at the synod, held at Norwich in April, 1144, about one month after the murder, which made the first enquiry into the circumstances of the death and ordered the first translation of the body from Thorpe wood, where the murder was committed and the body first buried, to the monks' cemetery.²⁸

Therefore it was after this that he resigned the see or, as one account has it, was deposed.

The "Registrum Primum" in the library of the Dean and Chapter of Norwich, compiled probably about the year 1300, states²⁹ that in the year A.D. 1145 Everard relinquished the bishopric and ended his life in the following year at Fontenay.

The Cistercian abbey of Fontenay, near Mont-Bard, Côte d'Or, "the second daughter of Clairvaux," was first founded as a hermitage in 1118; the buildings of the abbey, which still exist in great part, having been begun in 1130. The great church which, according to the inscription on his tomb, was the work of bishop Everard himself was begun in 1139.³⁰ The anniversary of his death was celebrated on the 4 Ides of October (12th October).

²⁸ Life of S. William of Norwich, pp. 43, 50.

²⁹ fol. 26b.

³⁰ L'abbaye de Fontenay, par l'abbé J. B. Corbolin, Cîteaux. 1882.

According to the abbé Corbolin he died some months before the consecration of the church (21 September, 1147) and was buried provisionally in the chapel of Saint Paul which was the first building to be raised in 1130, to provide a burial place for members of the community. His body and his tomb were subsequently removed to their present position in front of the high altar of the church, where it occupies the position usually accorded to the founder. His tomb is still preserved with its inscription: "Hic jacet dominus Ebrardus Norwicensis episcopus qui edificavit templum istud."

The abbé's description of the tomb is in the following words.³¹

"La plus importante de ces tombes est assurément celle d'Ebrard de Norwich fondateur de l'église. Il est revêtu de ses ornements épiscopaux, mitre surbaissée et ornée de pierreries, chape brodée, manipule et étole également brodées, aube en dentelle, crosse enrichie de diamants, anneau pastoral au doigt; à droite et à gauche de la tête deux anges semblent envoyer au ciel, sur un tourbillon d'encens, ses vertus et la reconnaissance de l'abbaye."

The consecration of the great church was performed by Pope Eugene III in person, on Sunday the 21st of September, 1147, in the presence of ten cardinals and eight bishops. The names of the latter are known. S. Bernard of Clairvaux also was present at the ceremony. The record of the consecration was engraved upon a stone which was discovered in the last century and a full account of it is to be found in Proceedings of the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society (Vol. V, p. 41) where also a rough drawing of the tomb is given.

Pope Eugene was at Citeaux from the 14th to the 17th of September, in 1147, on the 19th he was at

³¹ Ibid., p. 29.

Saint Seine and on the 22nd again at Citeaux.³² The inscription at Fontenay furnishes another point in his itinerary. This inscription is the only record extant of those who were present on this occasion and the name of Everard is absent. Had he been present it would hardly have been omitted. This fact goes a long way to corroborate the statement of the Norwich Register that he died in 1146. On another page of his work (p. 137) the abbé Corbodin repeats that he expired some months before the consecration of the church and quotes in support "Manuscrit de Chatillon."³³

The provisional burial in Saint Paul's church again is strong evidence of his having died before the consecration of the great church, but unfortunately we do not know whether the abbé has authority for saying this or whether he has filled in the picture in accordance with his sense of the fitness of things.

He makes one or two extraordinary statements, for example (p. 26), presumably to account for the money he was able to spend on the church, that Everard, though he had renounced the mitre, had not renounced his revenues and he goes on to say, assuming him to be Everard de Montgomery, that as a member of the great family of Arundel he was in possession of a private fortune. This must be wrong. It is more probable that he had accumulated some wealth during the twenty-four years in which he enjoyed the revenues of his see and that on his retirement to Fontenay he dedicated this money to finishing the building which, if begun, in 1139, must have been well advanced by the year 1145. It is of course possible that he paid an earlier visit to Fontenay and contributed to the cost of the work before he actually went to live there.

³² *Tresor de Chronologie par Mas Latrie, vol. II, p. 1079.*

³³ He has also a footnote referring to "*Recherche sur Ebrard, par John Henry Druiry, Esq.*" i.e., the article in Vol. V of the *Norfolk Archæological Society's Proceedings.*

Another curious statement for which it would be interesting to have some authority is that he built his castle, 'son castel.' on a hill to the south, of which the ruins still announce the importance, and from there directed the construction of the church. This is hardly compatible with his having become a monk of the order.

Henry of Huntingdon³⁴ is the only one of the chroniclers who says that Everard was deposed, "a most cruel man and on that account deposed," are his words. Henry was a contemporary and he knew a great deal about bishops, but it is hard to credit that a man of over 70 who had been a bishop for twenty-four years should have been deprived of his see for such a reason.³⁵

If deposed, political reasons would seem to be more likely and on the false assumption that Everard belonged to the Montgomery family writers have had no difficulty in providing them but there is nothing in the shape of evidence to be found in their support unless what the Norwich Register has to say can be so considered. This contains (fo. 27) the "apologia" of Everard, written no doubt at Fontenay and addressed to pope Eugene. In this he speaks of himself as lately bishop of Norwich now by the love and will of Christ mingled with the poor; being too greatly perturbed by the war in England he gave away two manors belonging to his church, Blickling and Cressingham, to two powerful knights of those parts, with the object in so doing of safe-guarding the remaining possessions of his church and with the hope at some future time of being able to recover the demesne of the lands. He assures the pope that he did this without the consent or knowledge of the convent and the archdeacons and humbly asks for absolution.

³⁴ Rolls Series, No. 74, p. 316.

³⁵ It may be noted that Sefrid bishop of Chichester is alleged to have been deposed in the same year, 1145.

The Red Book of the Exchequer (p. 392) furnishes the name of the knight to whom Blickling manor was alienated; "post mortem ejus (Henry I) tempore guerre, dedit Eborardus episcopus Johanni filio Roberti manerium de Bliccling, de dominio episcopi Norwicensis pro servitio j. militis, quod modo (1166) tenet Willelmus frater ejus."

John fitz Robert was the sheriff and an adherent of Stephen in the civil war. He died in 1146 or 1147 leaving no heirs and was succeeded by his brother William de Chesney who also was sheriff under both Stephen and Henry II.

It is not known to whom Cressingham was granted, probably it was recovered and re-incorporated in the demesne of the church before the date of the above return.

Everard's identity is never likely to be certainly known. If there were definite evidence that Everard de Calna had been a royal chaplain, Everard fitz count being eliminated, that and the considerations here put forward would afford a strong presumption that he was the bishop, but he is never called a chaplain though his attendance on the king suggests that he may have been. The two charters to which reference has been made are not serious obstacles, the first may with great probability be assigned to the year 1120 and the second of 1144 may perfectly well refer to some other member of the family.

The late Dr. Jessopp, both in the Dictionary of National Biography (article Eborard) and in the Victoria History of Norfolk (Vol. II, p. 223) states definitely that there is evidence that Everard was present at the consecration of the church of Fontenay and asserts that he died in 1150. In the latter work he refers to the abbé Corbolin's monograph on Fontenay and to the article in vol. V. of the Norfolk Archaeological Society's Proceedings. In neither of these is

there any evidence that Everard was present and the abbé states quite clearly that he had died before that event.

Bartholomew Cotton is the only historian who gives 1150 as the date of his death ; he arrived at it by adding twenty-nine years, as the length of Everard's episcopacy, to 1121 the year of his consecration ; his words are : " Hic [Everardus] decessit apud Fontanum anno pontificatus sui 29, 4 Ides Octobris." (12th October.

His successor William Turbe was consecrated in 1146 so that, on whatever date Everard died, his episcopacy could not exceed 25 years, and incidentally the 12th of October, 1150, would actually fall in the thirtieth year from his consecration. But Cotton has spoken in the preceding paragraph of bishop Herbert's twenty-nine years' occupation of the see and probably made some confusion with that. In another place (p. 67) he gives the year 1149.

John of Oxnead³⁶ says that he died at Fontenay in the year 1146, this agrees with the Norwich Register, and as Dr. Jessopp does not produce any authority in support of his statement that Everard was present at the consecration of the church, the balance of evidence is certainly in favour of that year.

Bishop Everard remains a shadowy figure in history, practically nothing is known about him beyond the fact that he was present with other bishops on certain important occasions and these occasions are rare. Evidently he was not a leading man of the period ; on the contrary he would appear to have found himself at a particularly disturbed period of history in a position with the difficulties of which he was not a strong enough character to cope. It is more probable that he resigned the bishopric than that he was deposed.

³⁶ Rolls Series, No. 13, p. 53.

APPENDIX.

Venerando sancte Cantuariensis ecclesie metropolitano Radulfo clerus et populus ecclesie Noruicensis debitam subjectionem: vestre paternitate est cognitum quantum temporis est ex quo accidentibus uariis euentibus ecclesia Noruicensis suo sit uiduate pastore ac destitute rectore quod non solum ad nostrum uerum et ad uestrum ac omnis hujus dioceseos detrimentum pertinere dinoscitur cum totius prouincie sollicitudine metropolitano constet esse commissam: propterea eligimus hunc E[uerardum] presentem presbiterum ecclesie canonicum nobis sufficientissime cognatum natalibus et moribus nobilem apostolica et ecclesiastica disciplina imbutum fide catholicum natura prudentem docibilem patientem moribus temporatum uita castum sobrium humilem affabilem misericordem, litteratum in lege dei instructum in scripturarum sensibus cautum in dogmatibus ecclesiasticis exercitatum et secundum tramitem scripturarum traditionemque orthodoxorum et canonum ac decretorum sedis apostolice presulum constitutiones sano sensu ecclesiasticas regulas intelligentem sanoque sermone docentem atque seruantem amplectentem eum qui secundum doctrinam est fidelem sermonem et cum modestia corripientem eos qui resistunt et qui sane doctrine aduersantur eis resistere et redarguere prelaudentem hospitem modestum domui sue bene prepositum, non neophitum habentem testimonium bonum in gradibus singulis secundum traditionem ecclesiasticam ministrantem ad omne opus bonum et ad satisfactionem omni poscenti rationem de ea que in illo est spe paratum quem nobis quantotius petimus ordinari pontificem quatinus auctore domino regulariter nobis preesse ualeat et prodesse et nos sub eius regimine salubriter militare possimus quia integritas presidentium salus est subditorum et ubi est incolumitas obedientie ibi sana est forma doctrine: ut autem

omnium nostrorum uota in hanc electionem conuenire
noscatis huic decreto cononico promptissima uolun-
tate singuli manibus propriis roborantes subscripsimus.
Hanc subscriptionem ego X eiusdem ecclesie
cum fratribus meis notavi.

Harley Roll A.3.