

III.

NOTICE OF THE DEVASTATIONS EFFECTED BY SCOTTISH RAIDS INTO NORTHUMBERLAND, IN THE 14TH CENTURY. BY JOHN FENWICK, Esq.,
COR. MEM. S. A. SCOT.

The communication of Mr Fenwick, read to the Meeting, consisted of a translation of an Instrument appropriating the Rectory of Conyngnam, by Henry, Earl of Northumberland, to the Priory of Hexham, dated 27th August 1378. The following extracts from this deed are interesting, as having reference to the Border History at that early period.

“ To all the children of Holy Mother Church to whom these present letters

shall come, Thomas, by Divine permission Bishop of Durham, sendeth greeting in the Saviour's holy arms, Be it known to you by these presents, that a petition lately presented to us by the noble and potent Lord Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, set forth that the possessions, rents, and profits of the monastery of Hextaldesham, of the order of St Augustine, in the jurisdiction of York, in an unfertile place, and situate not far from the Scottish March, by reason of the frequent invasions of the Scots, and almost uninterrupted dangers of war, and the pestilences, which, it is well known, prevail there, are so notoriously and enormously reduced, that the religious men, the prior and convent of the said monastery, cannot thereby be properly sustained, nor can they in the said monastery, whither guests, as well nobles as others, according to the custom of those parts, do day by day resort, maintain hospitality, and support all those necessary things which are incumbent upon them: Wherefore the same Lord Earl Henry, compassionating the depression of the said monastery, instantly besought us that we would be pleased, for the causes aforesaid, to unite, appropriate, and annex to the said prior and convent, and their successors for ever, the parish church of Ovyngham in our diocese; whereof the said prior and convent, by the donation by the said Lord Henry, the late patron thereof, to the same monastery canonically made, have the right of patronage:" . . .

" And, moreover, because by the same allegation set forth and proved, it doth evidently appear that the said church of Ovyngham at present so abounds in means that thereby the indigence of the said monastery may not only be relieved, but that, beside the aforesaid vicar, some of the canons ministering in the said church may be conveniently sustained, to the number in the said petition mentioned; therefore, with the express consent of the aforesaid attorney, we decree and ordain that after the said prior and convent shall have obtained peaceable possession, besides the aforesaid vicar, there may be placed, deputed, and in all future times held by the prior of the said monastery for the time being, three canons of the said house, so that thereby the number hitherto wont to be kept in the house be not diminished; which three canons in the said church of Ovyngham, for the augmentation of divine worship, and the health of the most serene prince, our Lord Richard, by the Grace of God the illustrious king of England, and of the noble Gilbert de Umfravill, Henry de Perci, Earls of Angus and Northumberland, as long as they shall live, and for their souls when they shall die, of their progenitors and heirs, and of our successors, may celebrate masses continually, and at canonical hours on Sunday festivals may be present in the said church, and may otherwise serve in divine offices, and may daily say the suffrages of the dead for the souls aforesaid, and the souls of all the faithful departed; for which three canons the prior for the time being shall be held to

provide victuals, clothes, and lodgings, and other necessaries honest and convenient.

“ Moreover, we do decree and ordain, that when the said Lord Gilbert de Umfravill, Earl of Angus, late patron of the said church of Ovyngham, by whose prudence, devotion, and charity to the said prior and convent, the union or appropriation of the said church of Ovyngham was originally designed and effectually ordained, shall have entered the way of all flesh, the said prior and convent in the said monastery, and four of the religious aforesaid, namely, three canons and the vicar, in the church of Ovyngham, immediately, and also in the day of the anniversary of the same Gilbert, every year for ever, shall, with due solemnity, repeat the office of the dead, with a mass in one pittance over and above the ordinary allowance for improving their refecton, the said prior and convent ten shillings, and the three canons celebrating mass at Ovyngham, forty pence of the profits of the aforesaid church, may receive for all time: Let also each of the aforesaid three canons in all their masses say that collect, *Quippe sempiternæ Deus cui nunquam sine spe misericordie supplicatur*, &c.; and daily, after dinner or otherwise, let them be obliged, and we do oblige them, to say the psalm *De profundis clamavi*, with the Lord’s Prayer and the angelic salutation, and the prayer aforesaid, with this clause at the end, “ Let the soul of the Earl Gilbert and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace through the mercy of God :”

“ Moreover, if it should happen, which God forbid, that by the incursions of enemies or otherwise, the means of the said church should be notoriously diminished or decreased in value, then during the decrease which succeeds, we will and decree that it be observed as follows—namely, that as long as the fruits, rents, and profits of the said church, above the vicarage portion and other burdens necessarily lying upon the said church, extend to the clear annual value of 30 marks, the prior for the time being shall be held to maintain these three canons, as is above expressed; but if they do not extend to 30 marks a-year, he shall be held to maintain two canons, provided such profits extend to 20 marks a-year; but if they do not reach the value of 20 marks a-year, he shall be held to maintain one canon if they reach 10 marks; otherwise, as long as they are less than 10 marks, we will that the prior for the time being shall be free and discharged from the burden of finding another canon there except the vicar.

“ And We, Prior Robert and the Chapter of the Church of Durham, having attended the said Lord Bishop, touching the aforesaid appropriation and other things concerning the same, do certify that we have had diligent and solemn treaty, and that the causes of the same were and are reputed true, lawful, and sufficient by the same, and that we did give our unanimous consent to the said

appropriation and union at the aforesaid treaty, and the said appropriation and union, and all and singular by the said venerable father above ordained, and in the said letters contained, we do, as far as in us lies, approve, ratify, and confirm. In testimony whereof our common seal is appended to these presents, dated in our chapter-house of Durham, 17th October 1378."
