

V.

NOTICES OF THE UNPRINTED CHARTULARY OF THE PRIORY OF ST ANDREW OF NORTHAMPTON, AND OF CHARTERS BY THE SCOTTISH KINGS AND PRINCES, AS EARLS OF HUNTINGDON, AND OTHER NOBLES, CONTAINED THEREIN. BY JOSEPH BAIN, F.S.A. Scot.

This fine MS., a square folio of 304 leaves of vellum, written in a hand apparently of the 15th century, is preserved among the Cottonian MSS. in the British Museum (Vespas. E. xvii.). From a note on the flyleaf it seems to have been once the property of Christopher, Lord Hatton. Some of the Charters have been printed in the last edition of Dugdale's "Monasticon," and a list of the whole is given in that work, the editors of which say that the Chartulary is "probably the finest of all the Cottonian MSS."

From it and another of the Cottonian MSS. (also as yet unprinted as a whole)—the Register of the Nuns of St Mary of Clerkenwell—much information is to be derived regarding the connection of the Scottish princes as earls of Huntingdon, with those two religious houses. The tenure of this earldom by the Scottish princes, from David I. to his great grandson John "le Scot," for a century and a half, till it fell to coheiresses, and lay dormant till revived in the Hastings family, may probably be illustrated in the Scottish Calendar in progress under the direction of the Lord Clerk Register; but as the documents to be embraced therein are necessarily restricted to those in the Public Record Office, it may be acceptable to refer in the "Proceedings" to some in another place of deposit possessing almost equal interest.

The Chartulary begins with an account of the origin of the founder, Simon de Senlis—of his marriage to Maud the elder daughter of Waldeve, Earl of Huntingdon, with whom he acquired the Honour of Huntingdon—relates that Alicia, her younger sister, was given in marriage by him to Ralf de Thoeny, with 100 librates of land in the honour—that Simon, then earl, in the eighteenth year of the Conqueror's reign, founded the house of St Andrew of Northampton, and submitted it to the house of the Blessed Mary

“de Caritate” [on the Loire]—that he set out for the Holy Land in the time of Henry I., and in returning died at the mother house of La Carite, where he was buried—when the King bestowed Maud his widow, with the ward of Simon “Junior,” on David, brother of the King of Scotland [afterwards David I.]. Though the son and grandson of Simon the first earl were (as related in the Chartulary) earls of Northampton, which title expired with the grandson about 1182, the Honour of Huntingdon seems to have been held from the second marriage of Maud, by her husband David of Scotland, his son Henry, and his grandsons Malcolm, William, and David, with slight intervals of interruption, though the descendants of Simon, or at least persons bearing the same Christian and surname, are found on the English Rolls till after the middle of the 13th century.

The antiquities of this Honour, and its members, are an interesting study to those who wish to learn the history of the Norman colonisation of Scotland by David I.; for it is as witnesses to the charters of that prince and his son that the names of the De Morvilles, De Bruses, Olifards, Ridels, and others, first become connected with Scottish history.

The foundation charter is granted by Simon the earl, and Matildis his wife, and endows the monks of St Mary of Charity at “Hamtonia,” with their church, and all the other churches of the town—the whole tithes of Yerdeleya and Frodigeya, and in Deventreya certain possessions, and the tithe of the granter’s mares. Grimboldus, Achardus, Otgerus, and Burchardus, also confer various churches and tithes. Roger Olifard gives 3s. yearly. The original deed must have borne the crosses of the granters, as may still be seen in the celebrated instrument by William I. and his queen, and many prelates and others, preserved at Canterbury Cathedral, settling the precedence of Canterbury and York. Various charters from the son and grandson of the founder follow. Those of the Scottish princes commence on folio 7, ending with folio 10b; though there are some detached in other parts of the book, besides grants from the De Morvilles and their successors the Lords of Galloway and the Earl of Winchester.

DAVID I. [1108-1124-1153].

- I.—Confirmation, David, “brother of the king of Scotland,” to the monks of St Andrew, of the lands which his ancestors gave them in the Honour of Huntingdon in frank almoigne. To be free of suits of hundreds and all secular services, with frank pledge in their lands of the Honour by his bailiffs visiting. If amercement chances in the visitation, the monks to have the same. Witnesses :—Robert de Basyngham, Richard de Lyndesi, William de Stilevele, Randulf de Esseby, Robert Basset, &c.
fol. 7.
- II.—Charter, David “Earl of Huntingdon,” to the same, of church of Potton, with its chapels. fol. 7b.
- III.—General Confirmation, David “Earl by the Grace of God.” *ib.*
- IV.—Confirmation by same of two parts of the tithes and assarts of Yerdele [Yardley]. Witnesses :—Richard de Pecco, Simon de St Licio, Roger son of Adam, his seneschal, and others. fol. 8.
- V.—Grant by same to Master [name omitted], his clerk, of the church of Potton. *ib.*
- VI.—David, King of Scots, to Robert, Bishop of Lincoln and Hugh, Sheriff of Leicester, and all his servants and lieges, Franks and Angles. Grants church of Pottona to Northampton. Witnesses :—Robert de Rend (?), Hugh de Morville, Robert Corbet, Edward de Capello. “Berwykke.” *ib.*
- VII.—The same. Grant of tithe of his flocks [*pecoribus*] and fruits of the earth. A mill and a carucate of land in Scaldeford in frank almoigne. Witnesses :—Michael de Hamsel, Robert de Brus, Robert fitz Nigel. “Gerdelai.” fol. 8b.
- VIII.—The same. Confirmation of all they had on the day when the granter was made king of Scotland. William nepos Regis [William Fitz Duncan] is among the witnesses. *ib.*
- IX.—The same. 40s. in Bedford. Witnesses :—Herbert the Chancellor (?), Hugh of Leicester, and Grimbaud. “Huntingdon.” *ib.*
- X.—The same. Grant of church of Brawfeld and one virgate, and two carts in Yerdele to gather dead wood. Herbert the Chamberlain, and Robert Brus among witnesses. “Dunfermline.” *ib.*
- XI.—The same, to his Barons. Grant of 10s. to Northampton of the rent which Turch son of Swertling, gave him in exchange for the tithe which

they have of the granter at Totcham. Witnesses :—Robert de Brus, Walter de Bolebec, Hugh de Morville. “Huntingdon.” fol. 8*b*.

XII.—Confirmation, David, brother of the king of Scotland to his seneschal and barons. Grants 20*s*. of his mills of Paxton to Northampton, and three seams of corn [*frumenti*] from his barn of Bartona [Earl’s Barton ?] at Michaelmas annually to prepare wine and wheat to make oblations at the consecration of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, in said church of St Andrew. Witnesses :—Hugh Ridel and others. [This charter is repeated at fol. 223, where Ralf Rydel is also a witness.] *ib*.

EARL HENRY [1124–1152].

XIII.—Earl Henry, son of the king of Scotland, to Robert Folyot, his steward, and his “good men” of Huntingdon. Grants to the monks of St Andrew of Northampton, 40*s*. of the rent of Huntingdon yearly, besides his mother’s alms, which they had in Bedford, now given to Hugh de Broy[z] till he give them an equivalent in a convenient place. Witnesses :—Herbert the Chamberlain and Robert “de Sigillo.”

“Chyngor” [Kinghorn],¹ fol. 10.

MALCOLM IV. [1153–1165].

XIV.—M[alcolm], King of Scots, to his good men of Huntingdon. Confirms the three seams of corn to make oblations yearly at the “Pascha Floridum” [Palm Sunday]. “David Olif[ard]” among witnesses.

“Haringwurth.” fol. 9*b*.

XV.—Same. To his steward and servants of Huntingdonshire. Grants church of Bragfeld and one virgate, and two carts in Yerdele for dead wood. The first witness is “Walter fitz Alan.” *ib*.

XVI.—Same. Confirms his grandfather’s grants. Witnesses :—Walter the Chancellor, H. de Moreville, Robert de Brus, R. de Moreville.

“Huntingdon.” *ib*.

XVII.—Same. To W. Burdet, his seneschal of Huntingdon. If William le Maille has granted three acres to church of Ryhulle, he is to see they

¹ This grant is repeated on fol. 215. There is also on fol. 10 a general Confirmation by this Prince. Witnesses :—William the Chancellor, Robert Foliot, Eustace Fitz John, and Robert de Brus. Also on fol. 223*b*, Hugh de Baylol, for the soul of his brother Bernard, gives to the monks 20*s*. in the vill of Wavendene [no date].

have them without delay. Witnesses :—Walter fitz Alan, Richard de Morville, Odinell de Umfranville. “Cranest[on].” fol. 10.

XVIII.—Confirmation of last grant. Witnesses :—Walter the Chancellor, H[ugh] de Morville. “Huntingdon.” *ib.*

WILLIAM THE LION [1165–1214].

XIX.—William, King of Scots, to his seneschal and barons. Confirms church of Bragefeld, and two carts of dead wood at Yerdele. Witnesses :—David Oliphard, Geoffry Ridel, Hugh Ridel Steward, [Dapifero]. fol. 10b.

XX.—Same. Confirms all his grandfather's grants. Same witnesses as last. *ib.*

HELENA DE MOREVILLE [1194– . . .].

XXI.—Helena de Morvyll, for the soul of her husband, Rolland, gives them a carucate of her demesne in the valley of Lauder, in the vill of Newbygyng, which was Liulf's and Gledewyses, viz., 4 acres of Sveinesbreche, by the highway coming from Newbygyng towards the west, as far as the exit of said vill ; and so ascending between the heads of the crofts to the nearest sichet, and on the other side of the way of the said Morflat, viz., from the way aforesaid towards the east to the nearest spring, and from the green way [*viridi via*] coming from Heghope towards the north, as far as the head of Huntingdon ; and 3½ acres of meadow at the spring next “Derimedue.” Witnesses :—Fergus, brother of Sir Rolland, Henry de Ferlyugton, Alan de Thyreleston, Peter de Hage, William de Cuningesburg, Thomas son of Rolland, Arthur de Ardres, and others. fol. 238.

ALAN OF GALLOWAY [. . . -1233].

XXII.—Aloenus, son of Rolland, Constable of the King of Scotland, gives the monks a carucate in Lauderdale, viz., that which Elena, his mother, gave them. Witnesses :—Gilbert, son of Cospatric, Alexander, son of Cospatric, William de la Mara, Thomas “Anglicus,” Ralf de la Champagne, James the Dean, Hugh and Adam, chaplains, Walter and Etheldred, the granter's clerks, and others. fol. 239 (inserted panel).

ROGER, EARL OF WINTON [1233-1252].

XXIII.—Roger de Quency, Earl of Winton, Constable of Scotland, with consent of Helen, his wife,¹ confirms to the monks of Northampton 3 marks of the farm of Redepeth, and 20s. of the farm of Langeld, and half a mark of the farm of Croubelan (of the gift of Alan, son of Rolland); the above grant of Elena de Morville in Newebygyng. Of the gift of Thomas, son of Rolland, Earl of Atholl, 2 marks in the vill called New Land in the Vale of Tweed, of the land which was Richard de Moreville's. Witnesses:—Saer of St Andrews, John the Monk, Bernard de Rypol, Adam, dean of Brackley, Philip, servant of Richard de Elynton, and others. fol. 240 (inserted panel).

In reference to these gifts a curious transaction took place between the canons of Dryburgh and the monks of St Andrew. In the chartulary of the former house,² two deeds are recorded by which Beatrice de Bello Campo and her son, Richard de Moreville, gave to Dryburgh the church of Bosyate [in Northamptonshire] about A.D. 1150.

As the Northampton monks possibly found their Lauderdale possession an inconvenient one, and the Dryburgh canons doubtless entertained the same opinion of their Northamptonshire church, an agreement, the date of which unfortunately does not appear, seems to have been entered into between the houses. The Dryburgh monks had previously by deed³ granted their church of "Bosgitta" to the canons of St James of Northampton, to be held by payment during the life of a certain Adelard, after the death of Algar, his father, of 20s. annually, and a "bitancia," or 2s. instead. On this person's death the church was to remain the free property of St James, that house paying 2½ marks yearly to Dryburgh after Christmas, whenever [*quando*] the latter house should send its messenger to the abbot of St James. This transaction having probably been in force for some time, how long we know not, for there are no dates, the next deed in the Dryburgh chartulary is an agreement between the canons and the convent of St Andrew of Northampton touching the land of Newbygyng in the vill of Lauder. The latter house grants to Dryburgh the land in Lauder which they have of the gift of Lady Helena de Moreville, as in her charter. Dryburgh paying to the granters 2 marks of

¹ She died before 1252 [Pat. Rolls].

² Bann. Club, pp. 92, 93.

³ Page 66 Dryburgh Chartulary.

silver at the Feast of the Purification yearly, at the house of St James "juxta" Northampton; viz., out of the 2½ marks which the abbot and convent of St James are wont to pay to Dryburgh for the church of Bosgitta, they are to pay 2 marks to the House of St Andrew, and 5s. to the abbot and convent of Leicester, and to retain the remaining 20d. for the monks of Dryburgh till they send for it. Each house has the power of resuming its own property, if any defect occurs in the title, or in the regular payment of the money.

These transactions, however, are also recorded in the Northampton MS., and a date is fixed there for one of them.

On fol. 238b, an agreement is recorded, made in the fourth year after the first coronation of Richard, king of England, on the Chair of St Peter the Apostle [Feb. 22] in a general chapter of the Premonstratensian Order at Newhous, before William, abbot of Leschys; Robert, abbot of Newhouse, and almost all the other abbots of the order in England, between the abbot and convent of Leicester and the abbot and convent of Dryburgh, in the plea depending between them concerning a rent of 10s. claimed by the former against the latter house, of the gift of Richard de Morville from half a carucate of land in Banglane held by the canons of Dryburgh. The abbot and convent of Leicester quit claim the same to them for a rent of 5s. assigned to them by the Scotch abbey out of the rent of 22s. which the canons of St James of Northampton pay to Dryburgh for the church of Bosiate. The seals of the convents of Dryburgh and Leicester, and the abbots of Leschys and Newhous are appended. Witnesses:—Jordan, abbot of Torrenton, Adam, abbot of Wyleby, Abbot (*sic*), Adam de Welleford, Geoffry and Adam, canons of Dryburgh, Philip and William, canons of Leicester, and many others. This charter was made a° M°C°XC°III.

On same folio a letter follows, addressed by Alan, abbot, and the convent of Dryburgh, to the abbot and convent of St James, requesting the latter to pay to the abbot of Leicester 5s. at the Purification yearly, out of the rent which they owe for the church of Bosiate. The writers add a *P.S.* not to wait for the letters that they have from the writers concerning their rent to be delivered to the abbot and canons of Suleby. (No date.)

The next document [on folio 239] is a similar agreement to that which has been already recited from the Dryburgh chartulary,—that house receiving the land in Lauderdale from Northampton. It is very probably the

counterpart of the other. The seals of each capitular body are said to be appended. The witnesses are :—Sir Adam, abbot of St James of Northampton, Sir William, abbot of Crakefergus [Carrickfergus], Robert, prior of Coverham, Osbert, prior of St James, Warin the Canon, Robert de Bevilla, clerk of the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, Simon, son of Seward, Henry de Plumpton, clerk, Sampson de Aula, Walter de Stutesbury, Roger de Alecester. (No date.)

ISABELLA DE BRUS [1245–1252].

XXIV.—Isabella de Brus, in her viduity, for the souls of her ancestors and successors gives to the monks of St Andrew of Northampton in frank almoigne, the pasture of eight animals, viz., four oxen, two cows, and two horses, with her own animals, both in the woods and meadows of her manor of Exton. Appends her seal. Witnesses :—Sir Peter de Thany, her seneschal, Sir William de Lacu and Sir Robert de Beaumeys, her knights, William de Rolleston, and others. (No date.) fol. 247.

This lady was the daughter of Earl David of Huntingdon, and mother of the Competitor. Her husband died in 1245, and she herself in 1252, so the date is nearly approximated.

XXV. Bernard de Brus, knight, son of Bernard de Brus of Exton, gives the monks the church of Exton and all its liberties—tithe of hay in his Park of Bernard's hyll and elsewhere, and the pasture for eight animals as given by his grandmother, Isabella de Brus. Appends his seal. Witnesses :—Sir Stephen, archdeacon of Northampton, Sir William de Bosevyll, sheriff of Rutland, and others. At Northampton on Wednesday next before the Feast of St Mark Evangelist, 1283. In the 11th year of King Edward, son of King Henry. fol. 247b.

The granter is evidently the second Bernard, son of the first, and nephew of the Competitor. According to Camden, the first Bernard received Conington and Exton from his mother the co-heiress of Huntingdon. He was the ancestor of Sir Robert Bruce-Cotton, the celebrated antiquary.

The last document relating to Scottish matters is in fol. 248, being a writ of Edward [II. ?], King of England, appointing Roger Loveday and John de Metyngeham as justices to hold an assize of novel disseisin arraigned by the prior of St Andrew of Northampton against Robert de Brus, John

de Burlege, and Thomas le Provost [Reeve] of Exton, regarding common pasture there. Dated Wodestok, 25th June, 5th of his reign [1311].

To the true antiquary these dry notes of names and dates recall something more—the far-off time when the Kings of Scotland occupied the position, as it were, of the eldest son of a great house—seated at the right hand of the English King in the Palace of Westminster. The homage for Huntingdon and for their lands in Northumberland and Cumberland—the relics of a far wider domain—though in no way touching the kingdom's real independence, gave countenance to the further claims made by Edward I., and aroused the bitter struggle that ended in the complete independence of the smaller country.