

INTRODUCTION.

THE ARCHDEACONRY OF RICHMOND.

THE Archdeaconry of Richmond was erected about the year 1088, and was endowed by Thomas, Archbishop of York, with the valuable impropriations of Easingwold, Bolton, Clapham, and Thornton Steward. It was, at once, the wealthiest and most extensive Archdeaconry in the kingdom, originally comprising, besides the western parts of Yorkshire and Lancashire, the greater portion of the counties of Cumberland and Westmorland. But in the year 1127, Henry I took Allendale and Cumberland out of the Archdeacon's jurisdiction, in order to found the See of Carlisle. And in compensation for the loss thus sustained, Archbishop Thurstan conferred upon the Archdeacon all the privileges and prerogatives of a bishop, save that he could not, by Canon Law, ordain, consecrate, nor confirm. He had his own Consistory Court at Richmond, where wills were proved, licences and faculties granted, and all matters of ecclesiastical cognizance dealt with. He had also the sole supervision of the clergy within his jurisdiction, including institution to, and removal from, benefices.

The Archdeacon of Richemont, says Leland (1535), hath goodly revenews, and hath a peculiar jurisdiction in Richemontshire, as exempte from the Bishope.

A few years later, however, namely in 1541, Henry VIII established the bishopric of Chester, and the pastoral and judicial powers were transferred thither from York. The office of Archdeacon of Richmond was technically abolished, or, perhaps, more properly, incorporated in the new bishopric. But in practice it continued to exist, and the limitations imposed upon the dignitary were slight. His revenues, it is true, underwent serious diminution, and his position was now that of a commissary, elected by the Bishop of Chester; but with these restrictions he continued to exercise the same authority, judicial and otherwise, which had been enjoyed by his predecessors, so long as it should not trench upon the privileges

of the Bishop of Chester.¹ And he also retained a stall in York Minster. So matters continued until the foundation of the See of Ripon, in 1836, when the jurisdiction was transferred to it.

That portion of the archdeaconry which was locally in the county of York consisted almost entirely of the deaneries of Catterick, Richmond, and Boroughbridge; and the churches which have been here selected for description were all in the old deanery of Catterick, except Kirkby Wiske, in Richmond Deanery, and Hornby, which was a Peculiar of the Dean and Chapter of York.

It is a consequence of the unusual position which Richmondshire occupied as a Peculiar amongst archdeaconries that the documentary connection with either York or Chester is very slight. It was only in exceptional circumstances (as during a vacancy in the archidiaconal office) that the Archbishop or Bishop interfered. The Consistory Court was held at Richmond, and the wills between 1127 and 1541 were deposited in St. Catherine's Chapel in Richmond parish church. In the last-named year they were taken to Trinity Church, Richmond. In 1709 or 1710 the court was transferred, for the sake of convenience, to Kendal; and in 1718 it was carried to Lancaster, for a similar reason. The corporation of Richmond was, however, never satisfied with this arrangement, and after much litigation,² lasting from 1743 till 1750, the Spiritual Court was divided; the Yorkshire portion being brought back to Richmond; the Lancashire and Westmorland part remaining at Lancaster. It is extremely probable that most of the evidences followed the wanderings of the Court. It is even said that many of the wills and inventories were lost or irreparably damaged at this time (1750), while being conveyed across the moors in open carts.³ The wills which got back to Richmond were, in any case, very numerous. The late Canon Raine has recorded that he had "three months hard labour" in going through them, in 1852. Those relating to the Richmond, Catterick, and Boroughbridge deaneries were then "in a very fair state

¹ Rymer's *Fœdera*, xiv, 717.

² There is a rare tract, entitled "The case between the Mayor and Corporation of Richmond and the Principals and Officers of the Consistory Court of the Archdeaconry of Richmond, 1748."

³ The Rev. H. Lawrance says that he does not think large quantities of the documents were then lost, but prefers to suppose that they were left at Lancaster; especially as it is the evidences relating to the western Deaneries which are, for the most part, missing.

of preservation, and many of them of considerable antiquity. They are tied up in bundles in alphabetical order; and an index, though somewhat faulty and incomplete, has been made of them." This passage occurs in the preface to *Richmondshire Wills*, edited by Canon Raine, and published by the Surtees Society in 1853. The Testaments there printed can, however, be only a small proportion of the whole; and it is believed that most of the originals are now at Somerset House.

By the Court of Probate Act, 1857 (20 and 21 Vict., cap. 77), which came into force 1st January, 1858, the Consistory Court of Richmond was abolished, along with all other Peculiars. Mr. J. Bailey Langhorne, Deputy-Registrar at Richmond, who had the sorting of the registers and the sending them to their respective destinations, was a careful man, a member of the Surtees Society, and interested in such things. It can only be regretted that the Nemesis, which has followed the records of the archdeaconry all through the centuries, pursued them also on this occasion. The Call Books and Registers of Institutions, and so forth, which would have been specially interesting to the purposes of this work, have all disappeared, and nothing is known of their fate. James Torre, who, in 1680, compiled his manuscript, which is now in the Dean and Chapter Library at York, refers to three register books then in existence, namely:—

1. The Register of Archdeacon Humphrey de Cherleton, commencing 2 April, 1361.
2. The Register of Archdeacon Thomas Dalby, extending from 1390 to 1399.
3. The Register of Archdeacon Henry Bowet, 1418–1442.

Even so recently as 1853, the late Canon Raine observes "One of the early registers of the archdeacons alone survives. It consists of 160 pages, written on vellum, and is in very excellent preservation. It commences in 1442, in the archidiaconate of Thomas Kemp, and contains proceedings of the five succeeding archdeacons, Grey, Lawrence Booth, Arundell, John Booth, and Sherwood. The documents enrolled in it are principally institutions, commissions to inquire into rights of patronage, licences to celebrate mass in oratories, and to collect alms, papal bulls, and other miscellaneous instruments," together with seven wills. Our diligent inquiries have failed to elicit the whereabouts of this volume, if it be still in exist-

ence. We have ascertained definitely that it is not at the Chester, nor at the Ripon Diocesan Registry. At the latter place are deposited various Act books and transactions of the Consistory Court, covering the period 1533-1609; but no other early records.

It may be a matter of convenience that a list of the archdeacons of Richmond should be here printed. The following is based upon the old authorities, to which we have been able to apply both corrections and additions; but we should hesitate even now to say that it is either complete or free from error. It is offered only in the absence of something better.

1088—CONAN, the Archdeacon, occurs in this year, and in 1099.

1130—THURSTAN, occurs *c.* 1130 and in 1146.

1146—CONAN, the Archdeacon, occurs in a deed of Earl Alan.

1150—RALPH, the Archdeacon (*Clarkson*).

1153—BARTHOLOMEW, occurs in 1153 and in 1166.

—JEREMIAH, occurs at an early unknown date.

c. 1185—GODFREY DE LUCY, nominated to the See of Carlisle, 1186.

1189—WILLIAM DE CHEMILLEIO, appointed 1189; Bishop of Avranches 1196.

1196—EUSTACE, appointed 1196; Bishop of Ely 1198; *d.* 1214.

1198—HONORIUS, appointed 1198.¹

1198—ROGER DE ST. EDMUNDO, occurs in 1198 and 1206.

1213—RICHARD DE MARISCO, became Bishop of Durham 1217.

1217—WILLIAM DE ROTHERFIELD, occurs in 1217 and 1220; and William the Archdeacon is still mentioned in 1231.
(See page 96.)

1237—WALTER DE WOBURN, occurs 1237.

1240—ROBERT HAGET, became treasurer of York Cathedral 1241.

1241—JOHN LE ROMAYN, occurs 1241 and 1249.

1256—WILLIAM, occurs 1254 and 1259.

1261—RALPH, occurs *c.* 1261 and in 1264.

1262—SIMON DE EVESHAM, occurs 1262 and 1267; died 1272.

1272—THOMAS PASSELEW, appointed 1272.

¹ The Dean of York protested against his installation; but for a time, at least, he was styled Archdeacon of Richmond. See page 135.

- 1278—GEOFFREY DE S. MEDARDO, occurs 1278 ; died 1281.
- 1281—HENRY DE NEWARK, resigned 1290.
- 1290—GERARD DE VYSPEYNS, admitted 1290.
- 1307—FRANCIS GAYTANI,¹ died at Avignon 1317.
- 1317—ROGER DE NORTHBURG, appointed 1317 ; became Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield 1322.
- 1322—ELIAS TAILARANDI, provided by the Pope 1322 ; became Bishop of Auserre 1328.
- 1328—ROBERT DE WODEHOUSE, admitted 1328 ; died 1346.
- 1346—JOHN DE GINESWELL, Roman Cardinal, provided 1346.
- 1349—HENRY DE WALTON, collated 1349. Vacant by death of Cardinal John.
- 1359—HUMPHREY DE CHERLTON, appointed 1359. Vacant by death of Walton.
- 1383—JOHN BACON, admitted February, 1382-3. Exchanged, 11 January, 1384-5, with
- 1385—JOHN DE WALTON, became Bishop of Sarum, and Master of Rolls, 1388.
- 1388—THOMAS DE DALBY, Archdeacon of Ely, installed 13 September, 1388, and again adm. by King's letters, 5 May, 1396. Will proved 20 May, 1400.
- 1400—STEPHEN LE SCROPE,² collated 19 May, 1400 ; died 1418.
- 1418—HENRY BOWET, collated 1418.
- 1442—THOMAS KEMPE, previously Archdeacon of York. In 1448 "provided" to the See of London.
- 1450—WILLIAM GREY, Archdeacon of Northampton, adm. 3 March, 1449-50 ; Bishop of Ely 1454.
- 1454—LAWRENCE BOOTH, adm. 1454. Dean of London 1456 ; Bishop of Durham 1457.
- 1457—JOHN ARUNDEL, M.D., adm. 1457. Bishop of Chichester, 1459.
- 1459—JOHN BOOTH, adm. 1459. Bishop of Exeter 1465.

¹ A Roman Cardinal, appointed by the Pope in 1307. On 25 April, 1309, Edward II, *sede vacante* appointed John de Sandale, but the Cardinal was in possession.

² Nicholas Bubwith had papal provision of the Archdeaconry in March, 1401-2, but held it only two days, when he

exchanged it with Stephen le Scrope for the prebend of Driffield. Scrope was thereon readmitted 18 March, 1401-2. His will was proved 1418. His body to be buried in St. Stephen's chapel of York Cathedral, "near his father, Archbishop Scrope."

- 1465—JOHN SHIRWODE, adm. 1465. Bishop of Durham 1484.
1485—EDWARD POLE, adm. 6 January, 1484-5; died soon after.
1485—JOHN BLYTH, adm. 1485. Bishop of Sarum 1493.
1494—CHRISTOPHER URSWICK, adm. March, 1493-4. Resigned
1500.
1500—JAMES STANLEY, adm. 1500. Bishop of Ely 1506.
1506—THOMAS DALBY, collated 1506; died January, 1525-6.
1526—THOMAS WINTER, adm. March, 1525-6. Resigned 1529.
1529—WILLIAM KNIGHT, adm. 1529. Also Archdeacon of Chester,
in the diocese of Coventry and Lichfield. He resigned
both dignities into the King's hands 20 May, 1541, and the
King incorporated them in the new Bishopric of Chester.