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ON THE SURRENDEN CHARTERS.

THE two ancient documents illustrated in this paper are from the Surrenden Collection, of which, by the kindness of Sir Edward Dering, I have been, for many years, allowed the unrestricted examination; his generous confidence has even permitted me, during that time, to retain its choicest specimens in my own custody for literary purposes. The best return that can be made for this confidence, and the most agreeable to Sir Edward Dering, is to put our native county in possession of all the abundant materials for its history which this Collection has developed; I shall therefore, under the sanction of our Council, from time to time supply our annual volume with the most interesting selection which I can make from the charters and other documents thus entrusted to my care.

It is evident, from private correspondence, and little notes jotted here and there in family day-books and accounts, that Sir Edward Dering, the founder of the Surrenden Library, devoted himself, at a very early age, to literary pursuits, and laid, while very young, the foundation of that scholarship which distinguished him among the country gentlemen of his age. In his private accounts, soon after he came of age, we have proofs that he was commencing the formation of his library, even during his father's lifetime. There are constant entries of considerable sums expended in the purchase of books, running through a period of ten or twelve years, during which time, if we may judge from the mutilated catalogues yet remaining, and the character of the volumes

ever and anon turning up at book-sales, with his stamp upon them, he had collected a very valuable library, now, alas! entirely dispersed.

Other documents of the same date prove that he had at that time acquired a considerable proficiency in Anglo-Saxon literature. Judging from the large accumulation of materials for county history, there is every appearance that he contemplated a work of that nature. Among them is a collection of tracings of brasses and monuments in Kent churches, many of the originals of which are no longer in existence. In this pursuit he was assisted by Philipot, whose hand is patent throughout, especially in the drawings of brasses and coat-armour.¹

Philipot perhaps owes much of the materials of his History to his early association with Sir Edward. Be this as it may, it is quite clear that, at the period of which we speak, Dering, in conjunction with Philipot, was ardently devoting himself to the preparation of a history of this county.

In pursuance of this object, or with some more enlarged view, he obtained, in 1627, a warrant from the Council, authorizing him to examine the Public Records without the usual charge of the exorbitant fees then demanded of all searchers. This warrant, with the autograph signatures of the Council, is still preserved among the muniments at Surrenden.

The ensuing twelve years of Sir Edward's life were devoted to the pursuit of these antiquarian studies, until his embarkation on the stormy sea of politics in 1640.

About the year 1630 he was Lieutenant of Dover Castle, evidently at that time a rich depository of re-

¹ My friend Mr. Herbert Smith, under the kind sanction of the late Cholmeley Dering, Esq., the owner of the manuscript, has copied them all, with a view to future publication, as valuable records of monumental memorials. Some of these monuments are no longer extant, and all are much defaced. Four specimens of these tracings are inserted in our present volume.

cords. Sir Robert Cotton, who seems to have been on terms of intimacy with Sir Edward, probably took this opportunity, of his friend being in authority there, to apply to him for contributions to his matchless collection then in course of formation.

In the Cottonian Manuscripts (Julius C. iii. p. 191) occurs the following letter from Sir Edward Dering to Sir Robert, announcing his discovery, among the records of Dover Castle, of an original copy of Magna Charta,¹ and indicating that there had been a previous correspondence between them on the subject of the charters then in the Castle.

“ Sir,—I received your very wellcome lettre, whereby I find you abundant in courtesyes of all natures. I am a greate debtor to you, and those obligacions likely still to be multiplyed; as I confesse so much to you, so I hope to witness itt to posterity.

“ I have sent up two of your books, which have much pleased me. I have heere y^e charter of K. John, dat^d att Running Meade; by y^e first safe and sure messenger it is yours. So are the Saxon Charters, as fast as I can cobby them; but, in the meane time, I will close King John in a boxe, and send him. I shall much long to see you at this place, where you shall comand the heart of

“ Your affectionate freind and servant,

“ EDWARD DERING.

“ Dover Castle, May 20, 1630.”

At this period, then, he was evidently acquainted with Anglo-Saxon, and though a student of manuscripts, not yet a collector. No antiquary would have so freely transferred to a brother collector such a precious document as an original of Magna Charta.

Unfortunately the invaluable record thus presented by Dering is no longer in Cotton's Collection. When, and how, and whither it was removed, it is impossible now to conjecture; it certainly was not among the manuscripts destroyed by the fire, for long before that

¹ Or rather the “Articles;” *vide* note, p. 53.

period, even as early as 1696, it had disappeared. Dr. Smith, in his Preface to the Catalogue of the Cottonian Manuscripts (1696), deploring the spoliations which the Library had then sustained, says:—"Memini me chartam authenticam R. Joannis, in qua jura et libertates Angliæ stabiliuntur, sigillis Baronum qui tum aderant appensis munitam, à D. Edwardo Deering Cantiano, equestris dignitatis viro, in tesseram observantiæ et amoris quibus erga D. Cottonum fundatorem ferebatur, A. D. 1630 datam, olim sæpe vidisse et manibus meis tractasse, quæ nescio quo malo dolo sublata est."

This description would seem to imply that the Record given by Dering to Cotton, was not the great Charter itself, but the "Articles" presented by the Barons,—the schedule of their demands,—"*capita quæ Barones petunt.*" The Charter itself must have been under the Great Seal alone, whereas the "Articles" assumed the form of a Covenant,—"*Barones petunt, et dominus Rex concedit.*" They would therefore have been sealed with the Great Seal, as well as with the seals of the Barons, or rather, would have been in two parts, one under the Great Seal, the other under the seals of the Barons, which last answers to the description in Smith's preface, though it certainly does not satisfactorily correspond with the terms employed in Sir Edward's letter, especially where he speaks of his charter as "*dat^d att Running Meade,*" which is not the case with any of the Copies of the Articles with which we are acquainted. Still, under the impression that the decisive terms in which Dr. Smith writes would hardly have been adopted by him without the most certain knowledge that the document which he was describing was really the donation of Sir Edward Dering, I conclude that that donation was the original of the "Articles" demanded by the Barons,—the part which they sealed; ¹—"The Counter-

¹ It is not difficult to account for the presence of this record at Dover

part," that which was allowed and sealed by John, being the identical copy now in the British Museum. If, however, Dering's donation was the Great Charter itself, then, according to Dr. Smith's description, that also, on its original execution, must have been attested by the seals of both parties.

Under such tutelage as Cotton's, and with the vast accumulation of muniments in Dover Castle daily courting his inspection, Dering's previous taste soon expanded itself into a passion for collecting; nor is it surprising that, while indulging it, where no public value¹ was placed upon the treasures about him, he fully availed himself of the facilities which his office afforded him. Among the stores at Surrenden is a transcript of Stephen de Penchester's Laws for governing the Castle, in Norman French (the only copy I have yet been able to discover, and which I purpose to print in a future volume), a

Castle. Hubert de Burgh had been King John's principal Commissioner in settling the disputes with the Barons at Runnymede. The Great Charter was sealed on June 15th, 17 John. Just fifteen days after that event, John appointed him, by Letters Patent (Rot. Pat. 14 Jo. m. 21), Constable of Dover Castle. His fidelity and courage in defending it are matter of history.

On the actual day of the execution of the Charter, the King had created De Burgh Chief Justiciar of England. What more likely than that he should have consigned the "Articles," with the seals of the Barons attached, to the custody of his faithful Justiciar, who, on his appointment, fifteen days afterwards, to the wardenship of Dover Castle, carried it with him there, and deposited it among the archives of that fortress for security?

¹ Very small store seems to have been placed, at any time, on the muniments in Dover Castle. I well remember, many years ago, being informed by the then Deputy-Constable of Dover Castle, that in his early days, a room in the Castle gateway was crammed full of ancient charters, and that tailors, cobblers, and other consumers of parchment, used to resort thither, and supply their needs by a small bribe to the porter. Lyon, in his history of Dover, tells the same tale of neglect, and dates it as far back as the beginning of the last century. In modern times Mr. Rodd has recorded wholesale burnings of Dover Castle muniments. This indifference to the value of these documents must have been equally great in the time of Charles I., or Sir Edward Dering could not have so readily enriched Sir Robert Cotton's collection with this important national record.

number of plea rolls of the Castle-gate Court, and a very large quantity of the Castle muniments and accounts.

There is also at Surrenden an agreement between Sir Edward and other eminent antiquaries of the day, in which they constitute themselves a "Society of Antiquaries," and draw up rules for their government. It is in the autograph of Sir Edward Dering, as follows:—

"Antiquitas Rediviva.

"Att a chapter held y^e first of May, An^o Dⁿⁱ 1638, by the [Schollers] Students of Antiquity whose names are underwritten, itt was agreed, and concluded upon, to hold, keepe, and with best credite to preserve these articles following, viz. :—

"1^o. Imprimis, That every one do helpe and further each others studyes and endeavours, by imparting and communicating (as time and other circumstances may permitt) all such bookes, notes, deedes, rolles, etc., as he hath; for y^e expediting whereof, and that each may knowe what to borowe of other, for his best use and behoofe, itt is first concluded and promised eache to send unto other a p^rfect inventory and catalogue of all such notes, bookes, collections, etc., as they now have.

"2^o. Item, That no p^rson of this society do shewe or otherwise make knowen this or any y^e like future agreement, nor call in, nor promise to call in, any other person to this society, w^hout a particular consent first had of all this present society.

"3^o. Item, That every one do severally gather all observable collections w^h he can, concerning y^e foundation of any religious house, or castle, or publicke worke, and all memorable notes for historicall illustration of this kingdome; or y^e geneologicall honour of any family therein: especially concerning y^e countyes of Kent, Huntingdon, Northampton, and Warwicke: and y^e same to communicate unto such of this society who is most interested therein.

"4^o. Item, That every one do carefully and faythfully observe and recorde all persons which have beene dignified with y^e title of knighthood, with a breife of y^e time, place, county, etc., y^e same to be disposed into such methode as att y^e next consultation shall be agreed upon.

"5^o. Item, That every one do endeavour to borrowe of other strangers, with whom he hath interest, all such bookes, notes,

rolles, deedes, etc., as he can obteyne, as well for any of his parteners as for himself.

“6°. Item, Whereas itt is entended, with care, cost, and industry, to pfect up certeine select, choise, and compleate treatises of armory and antiquities, which can not well be done without some preceding rough, unpolished, and fowle originall copyes: Itt is now agreed, concluded, and mutually promised, that y^e s^d principall bookes so compleated, shall not, upon forfeite of credite, be lent out from among this society to any other person whatsoever.

“7°. Item, That y^e afores^d roughe copyes be not imparted to any stranger without y^e gn^{ll} consent of this society.

“8°. Item, That care be providently had, not to lend, much lesse to parte with, any other peece, treatise, booke, roll, deed, etc., unto any stranger, but to such p^rsons, from whom some reasonable exchange probably be had or borrowed.

“9°. Item, That every of the rest do send unto S^r Christopher Hatton a pfect [note] transcript of all such heires femall of note as he can find, with y^e probates of every of them, to be methodized by him.

“10°. Item, For y^e better expediting of these studyes, by dividing y^e greate burden which through such infinite variety of particulars would arise, to the discouragement and oppressing of any one man's industry, itt is concluded and agreed to part and divide these labours as followeth, viz. that S^r Christopher Hatton shall take care to collect and register all old rolles of armes, and old parchment bookes of armes, being of equall valew, antiquity, and forme with y^e rolles.

“11°. Item, For y^e same reasons, that S^r Thomas Shirley shall collect together and enter (att large or in breife, according to such copyes as can be had) all patentes and copyes of new grantes or confirmacons of armes and creastes.

“12°. Item, For y^e same reasons, that S^r Edward Dering do gather and compose a full, compleate booke of armes, by way of ordinary.

“13°. Item, For y^e same reasons, that Mr. Dugdall do collect and copy all armoriall seales, with a breviate of y^e deedes, and y^e true dimensions of y^e seales.

“14°. Item, For y^e same reasons, that S^r Edward Dering do, sometime this somer, beginne a new system or body of Armory, with such brevity, p^rspicuity, and proper examples, as may best

be chosen: to which purpose y^e other associates have promised to send unto him such helpe, by way of originalls or coppyes of all extraordinary formes of sheildes, charges, supporters, augmentations, diminutions, differences, etc., as they can furnish forth; the same to be reveiued att y^e next chapter.

“15°. Item, For y^e same reasons, that S^r Thomas Shirley do gather the names and armes of all (or as many as can be had) mayors, sheriffes, and aldermen of London and Yorke, and of all other cittyes and townes, throughout all ages.

“16°. Item, For ye same reasons, that S^r Christopher Hatton do collect together all names and armes of knightes, to which purpose all y^e rest of y^e society are to send unto him such supply as they have: except itt be for y^e knightes of King James and King Charles, which are, by y^e paynes of Mr. Anthony Dering, already putt into good order, for which S^r Edward Dering undertaketh.

“17°. Item, Whereas many usefull and pleasurable notes are passed and comunicated betweene y^e fores^d [schollers] students of antiquity: Now, to y^e intent that continuall recourse may ever (as occasion shall arise) be had to y^e study, bookes, and collections of him that shall so send or impart y^e same, for y^e iustifying of any transcript so received: and for y^e more quicke finding and reveiwe of y^e same, itt is further concluded and agreed, that every one shall forthwith fayrely marke every severall booke, roll, treatise, deede, etc., in his library: First, with one gn^rll note or marke of appropriation, whereby att first veiwe to know y^e owner thereof; and then, with such other additionall marke as shall be thought fitt: that is to say,— S^r Edward Dering to marke all such as belong unto him in

this forme¹



S^r Christopher Hatton²



S^r Thomas Shirley³



And M^r Dugdall⁴ thus



And for petty small marks, these, in order as above, viz.,

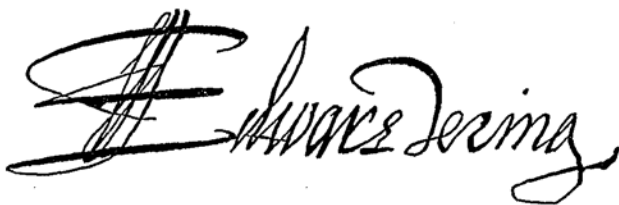
X — H — S — D.

“18°. Item, When any p^rson receiveth any transcript or note from another of this society, which he is to keepe as his owne,

and thereof to make use, he shall imediately marke y^e same note, and all future transcripts thereof, with y^e cheife character or marke of the sender, as above; and y^e sender of every note shall take care that all notes by him sent shall be written (as neare as may be) in y^e same paper for size of bignesse as he shall first use, whether y^e note sent do fill y^e whole sheete or but a line therein.

“19°. Item, Least that too much care of sending one to another may begett some mistake in lending one thing twice, itt is resolved and agreed, that he who sendeth or lendeth any booke, note, or roll, etc., to any other of this society, shall, att y^e sending or returne of the same, marke the same with y^e principall character or marke of the person to whom he shall so lend itt; and if itt be copyed out of any of his bookes, then to sett a little marke of y^e same forme in y^e margent of y^e s^d booke.

“20°. Lastly, To prevent y^e hazard of loosing time, by y^e trouble of severall men’s taking coppinges of one and y^e same thing, itt is concluded and agreed, that whosoever peruse any booke, treatise, or deed, etc., and do transcribe y^e same, he shall, att y^e very last line, if it be booke or treatise, etc., or on y^e dorse or y^e labell if itt be a deede, sett one of these two markes, **D.** or **Œ.** that is to say, if y^e copy be taken verbatim, then y^e capitall letter **D.** but if breviated, then **Œ.**



wth Dugdale



¹ The saltire was Sir Edward Dering's coat-armour, or rather the coat of Morini, adopted by him.

² "Sir Christopher Hatton."—This was the first Lord Hatton, so created 1643, and great-great-grandson of John Hatton, brother of the Lord-Keeper, temp. Eliz. The garb, his mark, was from his coat-of-arms. He was Dugdale's first and great patron.

³ Sir Thomas Shirley's mark is the coat of Shirley, paley a canton ermine.

⁴ "Mr. Dugdall."—The great antiquary, Sir William Dugdale; his mark was from his coat-of-arms, a cross moline.

In the recent sale of the library of the late Cholmeley Dering, Esq. (the legatee of the personalties of his father, Sir E. Dering, who died 1811), there were many books of arms, and a transcript of all the early charters in the Surrenden Collection, with the seals carefully tricked. These were a part of the fruits of the above Resolutions; but a far more elaborate and splendid volume probably owes its existence to the same source. Dugdale, in his *Life*, by himself (p. 14, ed. 1827), says that in the summer of 1641, he, "taking with him one Mr. William Sedgwick, a skylfull armes paynter, repaired first to the Cathedrall of S^t Paul, in the City of London, and next to the Abbey Church of Westminster, and there making exact draughts of all the monuments in each of them, copied the Epitaphs, according to the very letter, as alsoe all armes in the windows or cutt in stone; and so done, rode to Peterborough in Northamptonshire, Ely, Norwich, Lincolne, Newarke-upon-Trent, Beverley, Suthwell, Kingston-upon-Hull, York, Selby, Chester, Lichfield, Tamworth, Warwick, and did the like in all those Cathedrall, Collegiate, Conventuall, and diuers others parochiall Churches, wherein any tombes or monuments are to be found, to the end that the memory of them, in case of that ruine then imminent, might be preserved for future and better times."

A note in the Ashmole Manuscript of this *Life*, No. 7501, says, "which drafts are in the custody of the Lord Hatton."

The volume in which these "drafts" are collected is one of exquisite beauty, and of inestimable value, as the only existing record of monuments long since passed away, and is happily preserved in our own county, in the collection of the Earl of Winchelsea, the representative of the Hattons, and with it another of no less value, containing a large collection of transcripts, made in facsimile, from ancient charters, with drawings of the seals beautifully executed. These transcripts were made for Sir C. Hatton, in 1640-1, and are above five hundred in number, from original charters, many of which are now lost. My valued friend Sir Frederick Madden, to whose kindness I am indebted for the principal materials of this note, tells me that formerly there must have been still another volume of these precious records, for Lord Winchelsea's manuscript does not contain Westminster, Ely, Norwich, Beverley, or York.

The length of this note will, I hope, be pardoned, considering the testimony which it bears to the valuable results of this early society of antiquaries, thus founded by Sir Edward Dering within the borders of our own county.

From the above statements, it would seem probable that this great collection of manuscripts was formed between 1630 and 1640,—the fatal year in which Dering began his vehement opposition to Laud, and constituted himself the adviser and leader of the restless and complaining in his county. It could hardly have been commenced *before* 1630, because no collector would have ungrudgingly “closed King John in a box and sent him away;” its formation could not have continued *after* 1640, because Sir Edward was then entirely abandoned to the all-absorbing politics of the day, taking an active and leading part on the side of the Parliamentarians,—far too active to leave him any the slightest leisure for attention to his literary pursuits.

The sources from which this collection was chiefly supplied, seem to have been the charter-chests of Christ Church and St. Augustine’s, Canterbury,—the Muniment-room of Cobham,—and the stores of Dover Castle. The muniments of Sir Edward’s own ancestral estates supplied also a large addition to his accumulations.¹

Such was the great Surrenden Collection; for nearly two centuries it has been the constant resort of historians and topographers. It is cited by them again and again. Chartularies and Documents without end are referred to, which are no longer there; they have been abstracted, by one means or another, for many years.

¹ Cade’s insurrection, it is said, caused great havoc among the Canterbury Records. The Reformation, too, had a share in their further dispersion. As to Cobham, the cruel attainder of its Lord, in the beginning of James I.’s reign, will readily account for the abstraction of its muniments while Dering was yet a child.

It is important to note with exactness these dates and details, lest a charge of illegitimate appropriation be laid upon our collector.

Let us rather take up our motto, and (in the words of our great philosopher) regard with reverence the indefatigable diligence of Sir Edward Dering, by which these treasures, dispersed and unowned, long before he was born, “*tanquam tabulæ naufragii*,” have been rescued from the deluge of time, and preserved for our instruction.

Happily, a large number of them have found a home either in the boundless collections of Sir Thomas Philipps, or the British Museum, in the latter of which, at least, they will be safe from further spoliation. It seems as though they had been, from time to time, freely lent and never returned. On the deaths of the authors or scholars who used them, they were probably found by their executors, without evidence of ownership, and so sold with other assets. If the information given me be correct, Bloomfield had free access to this Collection in preparing his 'History of Norfolk,' for I am told that numerous charters are among his papers, with the distinguishing mark appointed by Sir Edward to designate his own manuscripts, ⊗. No doubt he borrowed them, and on his death the right ownership was unknown, and they are to this day in Bloomfield's Collection, as I am informed, mingled with his other papers. Seal-collectors, too, have been cruelly unsparing in their plunder.

But, with all these drains and spoliations, a grand collection still remains, amply testifying to the lavish zeal and ardour of its founder, and sufficient to secure the gratitude and admiration of every scholar.

In examining them, the diligent antiquary and genealogist will be rewarded by the discovery of many facts which have hitherto escaped research, and will find abundant materials for elucidating those which are already familiar to us.

As an interesting picture of the mode in which many country gentlemen of that day employed their time, I cannot refrain from giving here the following extract from a letter written in the year 1639, in which Sir Edward's cousin, the learned Sir Roger Twysden, invites him to Roydon Hall, to discuss the propriety of starting their cousin Sir Harry Vane (the Treasurer) for the county, in the forthcoming Parliament.

"Where you speak of coming over hyther (though with an

if) on Saturday, I intreat you, if it please you, to doe me that fayour; or rather, because I fear if it bee on Saturday you will bee going on Munday, defer your journey tyl Munday, and stay to goe on Saturday. Wee shall spend the tyme in reading, walking, or somewhat else that will beguile it."

How like the captivating picture which Cicero draws of Scipio and Lælius in their academic retreat: "Quid ego de studiis dicam, cognoscendi semper aliquid, atque discendi, in quibus remoti ab oculis populi omne otiosum tempus contrivimus"! And then in a postscript:—

"If you take so much paynes as to visit your affectionate cosen, pray bring your history of William Thorne, and I will shew you an old manuscript, sometyme of the same abbeyes, conteyning many prety miscellaneas, writ about Ed. 3 hys tyme, out of which perhaps Thorn took some part of hys History."

The two interesting facsimiles which accompany this paper are, one from Sir Edward's own muniments, and the other from those of Cobham.

The former is a grant by Godwin (probably the Earl of Kent) to Leofwine the Red, of certain swine-pastures at Swidrædingden (which is, no doubt, Surrenden), at a fixed rent, which Leofsunu appears to have held on the same terms. With reference to this charter, my late lamented friend J. M. Kemble, in a letter to me, writes as follows:—

"Leofsunu was no doubt Leofwine's father, or brother, or other near relation. Leofwine the Red was not Earl Godwine's son, who had estates at Horton; both are mentioned, as well as Leofsunu, in a charter of Godwine, containing marriage settlements on the espousals of his sister with Brihtric (Codex Dipl. Ævi Saxonici, No. 732), to which document Sired and Ælfsige cild are parties. The date of the said Charter is about 1016-1020."

Our charter is of about the same date.¹ The lands to

¹ Livingus, *alias* Leovingus, the principal witness, was Archbishop (the twenty-eighth) from 1013 to 1020.

7 Her spritelad ondyfan seppite fgoopine geann leoppine peadan daes daennes æt fsihpædingdanne on ece 7 ipe. to
 habbanne 7 to fellanne on dæge 7 æfter dæge dam de hum leofost 7 y. æt þon seate de leofsunuhim geldaan 7 colde. þis
 seopepætz penega 7 pa pund tealta ambra cornes. 7 uann leoppine þæt daennes don de bocan to handa gesa æt þi
 hir dæge. nu 7 byres to ge pite nisse. byrings byreop. 7 ælmaer abbud. 7 se hined æt cristes cyrcean. 7 se hined æt rce
 augufine. 7 ipe. 7 æt fise alo. 7 æt heluc. 7 manig ober godman binnan byrus 7 butan .

L I W D O T P A D T L I V O

(Endorsement.)
 Goduune uedde leofuuno
 spipredig deae. æglice.

Je vus prie de veillir sçavoir que j'ice d'ancien je emendi p' le saller s'mond Bachel q' s'ont a moi a sheno au ie lu' p'lar de leschango
 dont vous sçavez et j'ice d'ancien il emort son saller s'ond p'aris e lu' ad ch'ise q'il a s'ot uno toute la haste q'il p'na p' la d'oe
 cause et le dit s'mond au ^{enq' d'ancien} s'p'fame son p'ier emorep'at d'ens leur compaignons quel pt d' le .pe. d'ia se vous f'ave p'roner
 p'lier la s'ome dont est'at p'le s'fine q'il nen busigne me d' vous d'illez ne emorez d'ais d'ays p' celle cause et d' d'euement vous
 s'ouez le dit p'ciement d'ill'ne une en les m'ans et d'ra compaignons quel heu d' le .pe. d'ia s'pus d' j'esh' one. Un s'ont
 s'p'ra vous veulle s'aper en s'ance. Es' a sheno en s'nde haste j'ice d'ancien. sur mon d'ep'ir

A mon v'f'li amy Johan sag' de Cobhame

Wilh' & Cuthame.

which it refers are probably the estate constituting, in after-times, the manor of Surrenden, here called, "thæs dænnes æt Swithrædingdænne." I subjoin a copy of it in modern English characters, with a literal translation.

"Her swutelath on thysan gewrite, y^t Godwine geánn Leofwine readan thæs dænnes æt Swithrædingdænne, on éce yrfe, to habbanne & to sellanne, on dæge & æfter dæge, tham the him leofost sy, æt thon sceatte the Leofsunu him geldan scolde, y^t is feowertig penega and twa pund, and eahta ambra cornes. Nu ánn Leofwine thæs dænnes thon the Bóctun to handa gegá æfter his dæge. Nu is thyses to gewittnesse, Lyfinge, bisceop; & Ælfmær, abbud; & se hired æt Cristes cyrcean; & se hired æt Sce Augustine; & Sired; & Ælfsige cild; & Æthelric, & manig other godman binnan byrig & butan."

The line of capitals cut through has been

✠ CYROGRAPEHUM,

one half of the letters remaining on this portion of the charter, the other half on the counterpart retained by the other party, to attest identity. The charter is endorsed:—

"Godwine vendidit Leofuino swithredigdene—anglice—"

¹ "Here by this writ it appeareth, that Godwine granted to Leofwine the Red, the pasture² at Swithrædingden, in perpetual inheritance, to have or to give, during life or after life, to whom he best pleased,³ at the same rent as Leofsunu was to have paid him, that is, forty pence and two pounds, and eight ambers of corn. Now Leofwine grants this pasture to him unto whom Bóctún⁴ may go, after his day. Now the witnesses to this are, Lyfing the Bishop, and Ælfmær the Abbot, and the brother-

¹ For this translation, and most of the annotations on it, I am indebted to Mr. Kemble.

² *i. e.* Land fit for the pasture of swine, that being the strict legal meaning of "dæn," when neuter, which this clearly is, from the genitive "dænnes."

³ Literally, "to him who might be chosen by him," "sy" being the subjunctive of the verb "to be."

⁴ *i. e.* Boughton; Boughton Aluf.

hood at Christ Church, and the brotherhood at St. Augustine's, and Sired, and Ælfsige the Child,¹ and many a good man beside, both within town and without."

The "godmen" are especially the "boni et legales homines," the jury, whose presence implies that this instrument is the record of a solemn transaction before the boroughmoot, or even the shiremoot. Leófwine most likely lived at Bóctún, *i. e.* Boughton, and the result of the instrument would have been, to attach Surrenden pastures to that estate for the future, which could only be done by a formal act.

The other document, of which I have given a facsimile, is an autograph letter of William of Wykeham, addressed to Sir John de Cobham, the King's Ambassador to the Court of Rome (41 Ed. III.).² The date of the letter is evidently 1367. It is of exceeding interest, as tending to illustrate the assertion made by Froissart, that Edward III. obtained the Pope's grant of the Bishopric of Winchester to Wykeham, by remitting to the Duke of Bourbon a large portion of his ransom, as one of the prisoners of Poitiers, on condition of the Duke's using his influence with Urban for the appointment.

"En ce temps, regnoit en Angleterre un pretre qui s'apelloit messire Guillaume Wikans. Icelui messire Guillaume estoit si tres bien en la grace et amour du roi d'Angleterre, que par lui estoit tout fait, ni sans lui l'on ne faisoit rien. Quand icelui

¹ "Cild," or "Child," was a young noble's title.

² Sir John de Cobham, Lord Cobham, in June, 1367, was Ambassador from the King, on a special mission to the Court of Rome, as we find by an entry of letters of safe-conduct on the Patent Roll, 41 Ed. III., 1st pt. m. 14:—

"De salva gardia pro ambassatore Regis.—Rex universis, etc. etc. Sciatis, quod cum mittamus dilectum consanguineum et fidelem nostrum Johannem de Cobham ad Curiam Romanam in ambassiam nostram cum literis et aliis negociis nostris in dicta Curia prosequendis et fideliter, Deo annuente, expediendis, etc. etc.

"Tested at Westminster, 3rd June."

This enables us to fix the date of our letter as having been written in June, 1367.

office de chancellerie et le dit eveché furent vacans, tantôt le roi d'Angleterre, par l'information et prière du dit Wikans, escript au duc de Bourbon,¹ qu'il voulsist tant pour lamour de lui travailler, qu'il allât devers le saint pere le pape Urbain, pour impetrer pour son chapelain l'eveché de Wincestre, et il lui seroit courtois a sa prison. . . .

“ Si se partit le dit duc a son arroy, et exploita tant par ses journées qu'il vint a Avignon, où le pape Urbain pour le temps se tenoit. . . . Auquel saint pere le duc de Bourbon fit sa prière, a laquelle le pape descendit, et donna au dit duc l'eveché de Wincestre, pour en faire à sa volonté, et sil trouvoit tel le roi d'Angleterre qu'il lui fût courtois et aimable à sa composition pour sa delivrance, il vouloit bien que le dit Wikans eut le dit eveché. Sur ce retourna le duc de Bourbon en France, et puis en Angleterre, et traita de sa delivrance devers le roi et son conseil, aincois qu'il voulût montrer ses bulles. Le roi, qui moult aimoit ce Wikans, fit tout ce qu'il vout, et fut le dit duc de Bourbon quitté de sa prison. Mais encore il paya vingt mille francs, et messire Guillaume Wikans demeura eveque de Wincestre et chancelier d'Angleterre.”²

This passage from Froissart at once explains the studiously mysterious terms of our letter, which, in return, supplies resistless evidence of the truth of the chronicler's assertion. I had intended entering more fully into the dissection of Wykeham's letter, but my friend Mr. Wykeham Martin having kindly promised to contribute an article on the subject, I leave it in his able hands to complete the elucidation.

L. B. L.

¹ He was at the time in France, on his parole, “ par grace que le Roi lui avoit faite, il retourné en France.”

² Vol. i. liv. i. chap. celviii. f. 562.