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COWLING CASTLE.

THE following transcripts of vouchers and receipts for moneys expended on the erection of Cowling Castle were exhibited when we visited that ancient dwelling in August last. Their appearance caused discussion at the time, and some doubt was raised as to their authenticity, because their dates did not exactly correspond with the period at which some of our members have conjectured that the Castle was built. To set the matter at rest, we give them as they were found among the muniments at Surrenden, leaving them to tell their own tale; and we complete their authenticity by furnishing a facsimile of one of them, in the unquestionable handwriting of the period. Still further to perfect our evidences of date, we give from the Patent Rolls a transcript of the original license to crenellate, thus furnishing a series of incontestable evidence as to the precise period when the castellation of Cowling was first made.

With these documents in hand, a very interesting survey might be made of the Castle, and much of the detail and measurements of its works verified and exactly dated.

I.

[Cowling.—10 October, 48 Edw. III., 1374.]

Sachent touz gents moy WILLIAM ROBERTS, plomer de Loundres, avoir resceu de mons^r JOHN seigneur de COBEHAM, qaraunte

oept south¹ et dis deners en plein paiement des touz maners bargainz faitz pentre nous dil comensement de mounde taunke al jour de fesaunte du cestis.

Des queux qaraunte oept south et dis deners, en plein paiement, come avaunt est dit, moy reconusse estre pleinement paie. Et le dit mons^r JOHN, ses heirs et executours estre quites par cestis presentz as touz jours.

En tesmoigne de quele chose, a ceste escript jay mis mon seal.

Done a Coulyng, le disme jour Doctobre, lan regne le roi Edward tierce puis le conquete qaraunte oeptisme.

[*Indorsed.*] Laquitaunce W. Plomer de Loundres, de xlviij^s x^d en plein paiement.

II.

[London.—11 May, 2 Ric. II., 1379.]

Sachient totez gentez, moy THOMAS WREK, mason, de Loundrez, avoir ressu de mons^r JOHAN DE COBEHAM, seigneur de Cobeham, cessaunte south en partie du paiement de quatorze livre, siz souz, oept deners, que remeynt aderer² oultre certeyns paiementz faitz come piert par acquitaunce, en lez queux lavaundit mons^r JOHAN mest³ tenuz pour une overayne⁴ come piert par certains endentures. Dez queux cessaunte souz en partie du paiement, come avaunt est dit, moy THOMAS reconusse estre paie, et lavaundit mons^r JOHAN, ses heirez et executours quitz as touz jours par icestez presentz.

En tesmoigne de quel chose, moy THOMAS susdit ay mys mon seal.

Done a Loundrez, le unzime jour de May, lan du regne le roi Richard secunde, puis le conquete secunde.

[*Seal*: Red wax,—a Roman gem, genius holding a bunch of grapes and rod. Legend—*De par denz.*]

[*Indorsed.*] Aquitaunce de lx^s puis le payement feyt al dit

¹ South-souz—shillings.

² aderer, *i. e.* à derrier, 'in arrear.'

³ mest, *i. e.* m'est.

⁴ overayne, *i. g.* ouvre, 'work.'

Thomas que remeyneyt aderer xiiij^{li} vj^s viij^d. Et sy remeynt aderer onkor xj^{li} vj^s viij^d.

III.

Patent for Crenellating Cowling Castle,—Rot. Pat. 4 Ric. II.
(1380-1) *pt. 2, m. 24.*

De Manso Kernellando—Cobeham.

Rex omnibus ad quos, etc.—Salutem. Sciatis, quod de gracia nostra speciali concessimus et licenciam dedimus, pro nobis et heredibus nostris, quantum in nobis est, dilecto et fideli nostro Johanni de Cobeham, quod ipse mansum Manerii sui de Coulyng, in Comitatu Kancie, muro de petra et calce fortificare, firmare, et kernellare, et mansum illud sic fortificatum, firmatum, et kernellatum, tenere possit, sibi et heredibus suis, in perpetuum, sine occasione vel impedimento nostri vel heredum nostrorum Justiciorum, Escætorum, Vicecomitum, aut aliorum ballivorum seu ministrorum nostrorum quorumcumque. In cujus, etc. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium, x die Februarii.¹

Per breve de privato sigillo.

IV.

[Coulyng.—29 September, 5 Ric. II., 1381.]

Sachount toutez genz, moy HENRY DE IVELEGH, masoun et citezein de Loundres, avoyr ressu de mons^r JOHAN DE COBEHAM, et par ses maynz payez de xx libres desterlyng, en le nom de THOMAS WREWK, masoun, des queux xx^{li}, come avaunt est dit, moy avaundit HENRY reconuz estre perpapez² et lavaundit mons^r JOHAN, ses heysr et executours quites atouz jours.

En tesmoynance de quele chose, a ceste lettre daquitaunce, moy avaundit HENRY ay mys monn seal.

¹ This document is transcribed from the original Patent Roll in the General Record Office; all the rest are from the Surrenden Collection.

² perpapez, 'fully paid.'

Done a Coulyng, le jour seynt Michael larchaungele, lan du regne le Roy Richard secoude puis le conquete quintte.

[*Seal*: Red wax,—a dog seiant. “S”]

[*Indorsed.*] Aquitaunce, Henry Ivelegh de xx^{li} paye par Thomas Wrewk.

V.

[23 July, 6 Ric. II., 1382.]

Ceste endente⁹ fait parentre mons^r JOHAN DE COBEHAM, seigneur de Cobeham, dune parte, et WILLIAM SHARNHALE, dautre part, tesmoyne que lavaunt dit mons^r JOHAN et lavaunt dit WILLIAM, ont acompte et mesure les murs et tours deinz le mote de Coulyng, par mestre HENRY YEVELE, masonn.

Cestassavoir, del tour en le Southestcorner taunk al mur del graunt Chambre en le northcorner, oue les deux rondes tours del hauteuse de deux perches oue crest et tout, qui amoute a cynkaunte et quartre perches, prenaunt pour le perche viij^{li}.

Et le hautement de les deux tours viij pees et j quart dun pee plus haute que les murs, qamonte treys perches, issuit que la somme des perches amoute, en tout, a Cynkaunt et sept perches, qui amoute en argent quatre Centz Cynkaunt et Sys livres. De quele somme lavaunt dit mons^r JOHAN ad paie al dit WILLIAM SHARNHALE, en partie de paiement de la somme suisdite, deux Centz Cessaunt et dys livres, dys south, et quatre deners; des queux CClxx^{li} x^s iiiij^d lavaunt dit WILLIAM SHARNHALE soy reconuz estre paieez, et lavaunt dit mons^r JOHAN, ses heires et executours, quites a touz jours par cestes presentes aquitaunces endentes, et entrechaungeablement enseales et baillez¹ entre les parties suisdites.

Done lendemayne de la maudeleyne, lan du regne le roi Richard secoude puis le conquete sisme.

[*Indorsed.*] Endentur come aquitaunce de Scharnhalle de payment de cclxx^{li} x^s iiiij^d.

¹ Enseales et baillez, ‘sealed and delivered.’

VI.

[25 November, 6 Ric. II., 1382.]

Sachount toutez genz, moy THOMAS CROMPE, masoun, avoyr ressu de mons^r JOHAN DE COBEHAM, syngn^r de Cobeham, oyt libres desterlyng, en perpayement de toute la grande porte del outerwarde de Coulyng, le quel moy avaundit THOMAS et LAURENZ ATTE WODE avours prys pour fayre, come apert par les dittez endenturs canselles, des queux oyt libres, en perpayement del dit overayne, come avaunt est expresse, moy avaundit THOMAS reconuz estre perpayes, et lavaundit mons^r JOHAN, seys heys et executours quietes a touz jours par cestes presentys aquitaunce, sur quel moy avaundit THOMAS ay mys mon sceal.

Done le jour seynte Katerine, lan de rengne le roy Richarde secunde, puis le conquete sysme.

[*Indorsed.*] Aquitaunce Thomas Crompe dil grande porte de Coulyng, de le perpayement pour iceles.

VII.

[Coulyng.—29 September, 8 Ric. II., 1384.]

Sachent touz gens, nous THOMAS CROMP et WILLIAM SCHARNALL, massonz, avoir resceu de mons^r JOHN DE COBEHAM, seigneur de Cobeham, cessautes diz et oept south, en perpaieement pour larsure de siz centz et cinquante quarters de lym, de nous pris par WILLIAM BROWN, pour lez overaygne le seigneur a Coulyng, dil feste saint Michael, lan du roi qui ore est septisme taunge le feste saint Michael proschein ensuit qest le jour de fesance du cestis. Dez queux cessaunte diz et oept south, en perpaieement, come avaunt est dit, nous nous reconons estre perpaiez. Et lavaundit mons^r JOHN, sez heirs et executours, estre quites par ces presentz, as touz jours.

En tesmoigne de quelle chose, a yceste aquitaunce avons mys noz sealz.

Done a Coulyng, le jour saint Michael larchaungel, lan du regne le Roy Richard secunde puis le conquete oytisme.

[*Indorsed.*] Aquitaunce Crompt et Scharnal, en perpaie-

ment pour arsur de lym, dez le jour Seint Michael a^o vij^o taunqz le feste Seint Simon et Jude [28th Oct.] a^o viij^o pour tout le seson entier.

VIII.

[London.—16 October, 8 Ric. II., 1384.]

Sachount toutez genz moy WILLIAM BESTCHERCHE, masoun, avoyr ressu de monsieur JOHAN DE COBEHAM, seigneur de Cobeham, cessaunte south desterlyng, en perpayement de toutes maneres dettez que lavaundit mons^r JOHAN estoit al avaundit WILLIAM BESTCHERCHE tenuz pour soun overayne fet de masonerye a chastel de Coulyng, des queux cessaunte south, en perpayement, come avaunt est dit, moy avaundit WILLIAM BESTCHERCHE me reconuz estre perpayes, et lavaundit mons^r JOHAN, ses heyrz et executours estre quitez a touz jours.

En tesmoynance de quele chose a yceste lettre de aquitaunce ay mys mon seal.

Done a Loundres, le sezzime jour Doctobre lan de rengne le Roy Richard secoude oytisme.

[*Indorsed.*] Laquitaunce William Bestcherche, masoun, de son overayne de Coulyng.

IX.

[29 September, 9 Ric. II., 1385.]

(The original is in Latin, of which the following is a literal translation.)

Know all men by these presents, that I, THOMAS CROMPE, mason, have received, on the day of the making these presents, of Sir JOHN DE COBEHAM, Lord of Cobeham, six pounds, thirteen shillings, and four pence sterling, in part payment of my work at the Castle of Coulyng, of which six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence, in part payment, as is premised, paid to me, I acknowledge myself to be paid, and that the foresaid Lord of Cobeham, his heirs and executors, are acquitted thereof by these presents sealed with my seal.

Dated on the feast of St. Michael, in the ninth year of the reign of the King of England, Richard the second, after the conquest.

[*Indorsed.*] Acquittance of Thomas Crompt, mason, of ten marks paid to him, in part payment of his work of Coulyng, in the ninth year.

The sum total of this expenditure will be found to be as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
<i>Plumber.</i> —1374.—William Roberts	2	8	10
1379.—Thomas Wreck, £3 on account of	14	6	8
1381.—Ditto (by Henry Ivelegh)	20	0	0
1382.—William Sharnhale, £270. 10s.			
<i>4d.</i> on account of	456	0	0
<i>Masons.</i> { 1382.—Thomas Crompt, for the great gate	8	0	0
1384.—Thomas Crompt and William Sharnhale, limeburning	3	18	0
1384.—William Bestcherche	3	0	0
1385.—Thomas Crompt, on account of a larger sum	6	13	4
	<u>£514</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>

The Manor of Cowling was, from an early period, part of the possessions of the Cobhams, who only occasionally resided at the Castle. We have an old lease, dated 23rd May, 1429, by which Thomas Brook, Lord Cobham, lets to John Smith of Cowling, two houses, with a marsh called Leth for four years from Michaelmas next, at £5 per annum. One of the clauses in this lease is curiously indicative of the scantiness of furniture needed in those days. Among the conditions is one, that the tenant or his executors “straminabunt aulam et cameras

de Castro de Coweling, cum cirpis de novo colligatis, contra quemlibet adventum predicti domini ad Castrum predictum.”

To strew the floor with fresh rushes was nearly all the preparation needed to receive the lord on his arrival. The arras, the costers, dorsers, and bankers, and coverlets, etc., were shifted and brought with him; a few benches and stools, and steddles, and a few chairs formed the standing furniture of the house; and he could migrate from one mansion to another with his other furniture as readily as a soldier shifts his tent and its gear.

L. B. L.