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**Supplementary Notes on the Hospital of St. Mark of Billeswick, or
Gaunt's Hospital**

by J. Maclean
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She was supposed to be Dame Margaret, wife of Sir Robt. Poyntz, for whose obsequies, with his own and those of his family, by his will, dated Oct. 19th, 1520, he richly endowed the chapel of Jesus and the Church of the Gaunts. When King Henry VII. visited Bristol, on the Whit-Tuesday, 1486, he dined at the residence of Sir Robt. Poyntz, at Iron Acton. The house is yet standing.

The Hagioscope, in the side chapel, is engraved in the *Glossary of Architecture*, vol. I., p. 350.

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

ON THE HOSPITAL OF ST. MARK, OF BILLESWICK, OR GAUNT'S, HOSPITAL.

BY SIR JOHN MACLEAN, F.S.A.

WE are enabled to add some particulars to, and make a few corrections in, Mr. Taylor's interesting Paper on Gaunt's Hospital, or, as it is now called, the "Mayor's Chapel."

Tanner states that Gaunt's, or Billeswick, Hospital, was founded by Maurice de Gaunt before 1229, and that the foundation charter, in his time, was preserved in the Treasury of the Dean and Chapter of Wells; and he establishes the date by saying that the charter of Robert de Gurnay, confirming the grant of his uncle Maurice de Gaunt, was witnessed by Anselme, Bishop elect of St. David's, who was elected in that year. He states that the house was founded for one Chaplain and that 100 poor people were to be fed every day, for which use Maurice de Gaunt gave the Manor of Poulet, in co. Somerset, with certain mills, to the Canons of St. Augustine, to whom he made his hospital entirely subject. Robert de Harptree, who assumed the name of Gurnay, and confirmed his uncle's charter, increased the number of Chaplains from one to three, and directed that the Hospital should be free from the Abbey of St. Augustine (see charter in Dugdale's *Mou.*, vol. vi., p. 687).

The earliest direct information which we have upon the subject of this Hospital, is derived from a confirmation to William Lane,

Master of the Hospital of St. Mark, and the brethren of the said house, upon inspeximus of an ancient charter whereby Robert, the son of Robert, Earl of Gloucester (the consul), announced to his father, the son of the king, and to all his friends, French and English, that he had granted to Robert Fitz Harding¹ and his heirs, all the ville of Poulet, consisting of 15 librates of land and 100s. rent of land in Buro, in plain and meadow and in fields, with toll and theme, in sac and soc, and infangenethef, to be held by the service of one young sparrow hawke yearly, which land was then held by the said William Lane, the Master and the Brethren of the Hospital. The original charter is undated, but it was witnessed by Wadr. de Cure, Robert Pendrerall, Hugh desloges, Hubert Dapifer, Adam de Eli, Robert de Amari, and Robert de Saltmarsh (Saltemareis). The confirmation was tested by the King at Westminster, 6th May (1405).²

The Manor of Winterborne Gonner, in co. Wilts, was held by Henry de la Mere, who dying without issue, it reverted to the King, Henry III., who granted it to his eldest son, Edward;³ and we have an ancient charter, dated 25th October, 52nd Henry III. (1268), whereby, Edward, described as Edward, the eldest son of the King, for the good of his soul and of the souls of his ancestors, granted to God and to the Blessed Mary, and to the Church of St. Mark, of Billeswick, juxta Bristol, and the Master and Brethren there serving God, and for the sustentation of the poor, the said manor of Winterborne, in free and perpetual alms for ever. This charter is witnessed by Thomas de Clare, Robert Agillon, Roger de Leburne, Robert de Waleraund, Robert Tibatot, Pagan de Chawras, Hugh son of Otto, and John de la Lynde; and was confirmed upon inspeximus, on 30th May, 1290, the following being witnesses: John, Bishop of Winchester; Reginald, Bishop of Bath and Wells, Chancellor; Anthony de Beck, Bishop of Durham; Edmund the King's brother; William de Valence the

¹ Robert Fitz Harding, son of Robert Fitz Harding, married Alice, sole heir of Robert de Gaunt by his first marriage with Alice, daughter and sole heir of William Pagenel. He was the father of Maurice de Gaunt, and Emma, or Eva, the mother of Robert de Gurnay.

² Rot. Pat., 6 Henry IV. Part 2. m. 23. ³ Rot. Pat., 51 Henry III., m. 15,

King's uncle ; Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford ; Lacc, Earl of Lincoln ; and Richard de Wood.¹

In 1286, we find that the Master and Brethren had letters of protection for three years. Tested at Gloucester, 27th September.²

In 1298, a vacancy having occurred in the mastership of the Hospital by the death of the master, John Abadam (Ap Adam)³ and Elizabeth, his wife, claimed against John Belet, Henry Gyuerney, Walter de Kent, Walter de Chippenham, and William de Belvero, brethren of the hospital, the sole right of presentation, saying that Anselme de Gurnay, grandfather of the said Elizabeth, whose heir she is, presented the last master, a certain John de Lechelade, by whose cession it is now vacant. The brethren say the assize is unjustly taken against them because, they say, Robert de Gurnay, ancestor of the said Elizabeth, whose heir she is, granted in pure and perpetual alms to the Master of the said house the Manor of Poulet, for the sustentation of the said Master and three chaplains to celebrate perpetually, and for the refecton of 100 poor persons every day, so that on the demise of the Master, the chaplains, for the time being, should elect one of themselves, or some other fit master, and present the said elect to the said Robert or his heirs, to be presented by the said Robert to the Diocesan of the place, to the end that he should be admitted as Master ; and they say that they have elected William de Bolvero, and are willing to present him to the said John Abadam, &c. ; but, they say, that the aforesaid Robert Gurnay granted that, if he should presume to contravene, for any unreasonable cause, the said election, the Bishop of Worcester should, nevertheless, admit the said elect upon the presentation of the brethren, and they proffered a charter of the said Robert de Gurnay testifying to the form of election and presentation. They admitted that the said John Abadam and Elizabeth, had the

¹ Rot. Cart., 18 Edward. I., Part I., No. 69.

² Rot. Pat., 4 Edward I., m. 9.

³ John Ap Adam, here mentioned, married Elizabeth, daughter and heir of John de Gurnay, aged 16 on her father's death, 1290. John Ap Adam was a man of considerable importance. He was summoned to Parliament, from

right of presentation in this manner, and the said John and Elizabeth expressed themselves content.¹

But this was not the only question which now arose touching the election of a Master of the Hospital. The King conceived that he had some right to hold the custody of the House during the vacancy in consequence of the Master holding the Manor of Winterbourne Gonner of the king in capite, and he issued a commission to enquire whether the custody pertained to John Abadam and Elizabeth his wife, solely, as the inheritance of the said Elizabeth; and upon an Inquisition taken at Lutegershale, on Sunday next after the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M., 27th Edw. I. (1299), the jury found that upon a vacancy occurring in the Mastership of the said House, the Brethren had the license of the said John Apadam and Elizabeth, his wife, to elect a fit Master, and present him to the said John and Elizabeth, and that such had been the custom from the time of the foundation of the said House; and the jury further say that the Master and Brethren hold one carucate of land in Winterbourne Goner of the king by petty sergenty and rent of 12s. per annum.² Accordingly, on 17th September in the same year, the sheriff was commanded to restore to the Master and Brethren all the issues of the house which had been taken into the king's hands.³

The next record, in chronological order, which we find relating to this Hospital, is a license of the King, dated 7th February, 1314-15, authorising the Master and Brethren to appropriate to the house the Church of Stokland, of which they held the advowson.⁴ In the same year, upon the payment of a fine, the Master and Brethren obtained a license to exchange one mill in Netherwere, with its water course, with John, Bishop of Bath and Wells for forty acres of pasture and four score acres of moor in Comp-
6th Feb. (in this year), 27th Edward I. (1299) to 3rd Edward II., and likewise 26th Jan. 1297, though it is doubtful if it was a regular summons to Parliament. Ob. cir. 1309, leaving Thomas his son and heir, who became of age 1324, and was living 1330. He was never summoned.

¹ De Banco Roll, 27 Edw. I., Easter, m. 8. ² Escheats, 27th Edw. I., No. 132. ³ Rot. Claus., 27th Edw. I., m. 6. ⁴ Rot. Pat., 8th Edw. II., part I., m. 4.

ton and Ceddre.¹ And on the 8th September 1326, the Bishop obtained another license authorising him to exchange the advowson of the Church of Overstowey, with the Master and Brethren, for four score acres of moor, the site of one mill, and the water-course thereto pertaining in Compton, Ceddre, and Netherwaye.²

In 1324 a dispute arose between the Master and Brethren, and one John de Poulet, relative to certain rights of common, claimed by the said John, in the demesne lands of the Master and Brethren in Poulet. The contention was submitted to arbitration, and it was finally agreed that John de Poulet having acknowledged his services, should have common of pasture for so many animals as could subsist thereon, and estover for his own use growing in the demesne lands of Northam, in Poulet, which he then possessed, from Michaelmas day to the feast of the Purification of the B.V.M., in all lands, not sewn, in Southam; and that if the said John should not find sufficient pasture in the cultivated lands at Southam for the said animals, the Master and Brethren grant to him, in augmentation, for the time being, sufficient pasture in Northam, they reserving a right of way for their wagons, in consideration of which John de Poulet granted to the Master and Brethren the whole land of Northam, without challenge, for ever.³

It is stated in an Inquisition returned into Chancery, in the following year, that it had been discovered that a certain progenitor of the King had, conjointly with Maurice de Gaunt, Chr., given to the Master of the Hospital of St. Mark, at Bristol, and his successors the manor of Stokeland Gaunt, for the celebration of Divine Service in the said Hospital, and other works of piety: viz., to distribute weekly, on Wednesdays and Fridays, 100 breads and 100 messes (?ferculis) of potage to 100 poor persons, and it was alleged that the said works of piety had been totally subtracted by William Lane, then Master of the said Hospital; further, that a certain progenitor of the King had founded the Hospital, and given lands and tenements in Gaunteshame, and Colle, juxta Bruton (Soms.), to the Master of the said Hospital,

¹ Ibid., Part I. No. 3. ² Ibid, 20th Edw. II., m. 17.

³ Rot. Pat., 4th Henry V., m. 36.

and his successors, to maintain 13 chaplains to celebrate divine service for the soul of the said progenitor and his progenitors and their heirs for ever, and that the said William Lane, for the past twenty years, had subtracted the services of 10 of the said chaplains; and further that the annual value of the said manor of Stokeland Gaunt, and the lands in Gauntesham and Colle, was £40 beyond reprises. We have seen from the foregoing records that this claim, and the charge against the master based thereon, were without foundation. The matter was referred to the King's Justices and Serjeants-at-Law, and it resulted in its being commanded by precept, tested at Westminster, 21st June, 1406, that the manor and lands, which had been seized into the king's hands, should be restored to the Master and brethren.¹

We now pass on to 1534, in which year, Mr. Taylor states, on the authority of Barrett, that the Hospital was surrendered by John Coleman, then Master, and his brethren, into the hands of the King's Commissioners. This statement was manifestly inaccurate, for it is inconsistent with Lady Guildford's letter, just preceding, which was written subsequently to Cromwell's Injunctions, and shews that the Hospital still existed. Cromwell was not appointed Vicar-General and Visitor of the Monasteries until 1535. He appointed Commissioners under him, and the Visitation did not commence until October in that year.² These discrepancies led us to look more closely into the History of the Hospital, and we find that the deed cited by Barrett was not the *deed of surrender*, but of the acknowledgment of the King's Supremacy. It is dated 11th September, 1534, and is still preserved in the Record Office.³ It is in excellent condition, signed by John Coleman, Master; John Helys, Richard Fechatt, Robert

¹ Rot. Claus., 7th Henry IV., m. 11.

² Rapin's History of England, Vol. I., p. 807; Burnet's History of the Reformation, Vol. I., Book iii., p. 181, in which the Injunctions are printed, p. 184.

³ This document is among the Chapter House Records, No. 18 of the deeds. See also Appenlix II. to the 7th Report of the Deputy-Keeper of the Public Records, p. 281.

Benet, and Thomas Pynchyn, his brethren ; and it has the seal of the Hospital appended thereto. The seal is unbroken, but the impression is almost entirely effaced.¹ We have, however, after much enquiry, succeeded in discovering, in the collection of Mr. Robert Ready, of the British Museum, another example, and from the two can give a tolerable restoration of the seal. It is of the vesica form, 2ins. by 1½ins. The device consists of two crocketed canopied niches, supported by crocketed buttresses. In the sinister nich is a seated figure of the Evangelist, represented as writing his gospel on a desk or stand before him, holding in his right hand a stilus or pen. In the dexter nich before him is a lion



sejant rampant, In the space above, between the two canopies, is a heater-shaped shield, which is now pressed quite flat, but which was probably charged with the arms of the House ; and in a compartment below the figures are two other similar shields in a like condition. These, probably, contained the arms of the two founders ; the sinister is shown to be paly.² Between these shields is another nich, much smaller than those above mentioned, in which is a kneeling figure,

looking to the right.³ The whole is circumscribed by the following legend in lombardic capitals.

S' COE · DOM · SCI · MARCI · DE · BILLESWYK · IVXTA · BRISTOLL'

Sigillum Commune Domus Sancti Marcii de Billeswyk juxta Bristoliam.

¹ This seal is mentioned by Tanner as defaced in his time.

² These shields may probably be explained by those stated by Barrett to remain in painted glass in the tracery of the east window of the chapel. The first, he says, contained the arms or badge of the house : *gu, three geese, ar.* ; another the arms of Robert de Gurnay : *or, three pales, az.*, and the third the arms of Berkeley, whilst over this window, on the outside, run in lead, is the date 1423 (Barrett's Hist. of Bristol, p. 344).

³ There is a somewhat similar design on a foreign seal of Friars Preachers in Mr. Ready's collection.

The deed of surrender is, unfortunately, not forthcoming, but its date was 9th Dec., 31st Henry VIII (1539) as appears from the following Survey of the possessions of the Hospital, made thereupon:—

Billeswick, otherwise called the Gauntes, nigh Bristol, late Religious house.	}	{ Surrendred to Thuse of the Kinges Majestie, and of his heyres for euer, by Dede thereof made, bering Date vnder the Conuent Seale of the same late Monastery, the ixth Daye of Decembre, in the xxxjth yere of the Reigne of o' most Dredde Soueraigne lord King Henry the viijth. And the same Daye and yere clerely Dissolued and Suppressed.
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The clere yerely value of all the possessions belonging to the seid late Religious house.	}	{ Aswell spirituall as temporall ouer, and besides xix li vj s. viij d. in fees and annuytes, grunted to Diu'se Parsons, by conuent seale of the same Late Monastery, for Terme of liffe.	} clxv. ij. iiij. ob.
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whereof in.

Pencions assigned to the late Religious Dyspetchd.	}	{ That is } To	}	{ John Colman, clerke, late Master there, by yere. Richard fletcher, late steward of household here. John Elis, clerke, assigned to be curate of the Parish of Seint Marke, there. So longe as he shall s'ue the same Cure. Thomas Pinchyn, clerke.	} { xl. { vj. xiiij. { iiij. { viij. { which if he refuse thenne, to have but vj. { vj.	} ix. xiiij. iiij. ob.
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And Soo Remayneth Clere—ciiiij. ix. ob.

Recordes and Euydences	}	{ belonging to the seid late House.	}	{ Remayn in the Treasury there, vnder the custody of Edward Carnc, Doctour of Law. The Keyes whereof remayn in the custodie of Richard Poulet, esquier, Receyuo'.
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Churches, Houses, & Buyklinge.	}	{ Appoynted to remayne vndefaced.	} viz.	{ The churche there appoynted for the Parish Church. { The Lodginge, called the Master's Lodginge, w' Halle, Buttre, Pantre, & Kitchyn.	} { As heretofore hath bene vsed. { Cōmytted to the custodie of the seid Docto' Carne.	} To thuse of the Kinge Magestie.
Decmed to be sup'fluous.	}	{	}	{ Deuyded in to honest Ten'nteryes w' convenient Rente yerely reserued.	}	}

Leades Remayn ^g .	{	To thuse of the Kinge's Magestic.	{	None, but onoly vpon the seid church, which is the parish church, as aboue- seid estemed to vij. ffoders	} n. ¹
Belles.	{	Remayn ^g .	{	In the steeple there—vj., whereof assigned to the parish there—iij., and Remayneth to the vse of the Kinge ma ^{te} iij poiz by est.	} MM weight.
Juelles reserued.	{	To Thuse of the Kinges Ma. ^{te}	{	None.	
Plate of Siluer reserued.	{	To the same vs ^c .	{ viz. {	Siluer gilte -lxxvij oz. Silucr ^p cell gilte-clvj. oz. Siluer, white—ciiiij. vij. oz.	} ccccx. oz.
Ornamentes reserued.	{	To thuse aforseid.	{ viz. {	None.	
Sm ^a off alle the Orna- mentes, Goodes, and Catalles.	{	lately be- longing to the seid late House.	{	Sold by the seid comys- sioners, as p ^t iculerly ap- perith in the booke of sales thereof made redy (to be shewed. ———)	} xxxiiij ^u v ^a . v ^d .

Whereof in

Paymentes	{	To the late Religious & seru ⁿ tes Dispatched.	{ viz. {	To—iij Religio- ous Parsons, late Preestes of theseid late House of the Kinge Mages- ties Reward—	} vj. ^u	}	} xvj. ^u ix. ^u iiii ^d
				To—xvj. menne & chil- dern, seru ⁿ tes and Querers- ters of the seid late house for their wagez and lyucres—			
	{	of Dettes owing by the seid late house.	{	To Diu ^s e p ^s ons for victualles hadde of theym to the vse of the seid Mo ^s tery w ^t xij ^u payd to the late M ^r there for the payment & Discharge of alle the Residue of the Dettes owing by the seid late house, by conuen ⁿ te.			} xiiij. ^u

And Soo remayneth clere ——— lvjs^a j^d

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			The Vicarage of Ou'stowey. _____								

Augmentation Office, Miscellaneous Books, 494, fo. 53.

Copied with the exact arrangement of the original, as to columns, spelling, &c., except that in some instances the words have been extended.

It appears from Lady Guildford's letter, (ante p. 242) that the Chapel of the Hospital was used for public worship, and this is stated in the Survey. The original intention was to convert it into a Parish Church, for which purpose it was "appoynted to remayne vndefaced;" but, as we shall presently see, the intention was subsequently abandoned, and the church sold.

The manors and lands of the Hospital were thus disposed of:—

The manor of Poulet was valued, after all deductions, in the clear annual value of £75 17s. 9½d., from which was made a deduction of £7 9s. 9½d., leaving clear £68 6s.; and by Letters Patent, dated 8th June, 32nd Henry VIII. (1540), was granted to Richard Cupper for the sum of £1366, being at the rate of 20 years purchase, and a reserved rent of £7 11s. 9½d.¹

In consideration of the sum of £1000 sterling, the following manors and lands were granted by Letters Patent, dated 6th May, 33rd Henry VIII. (1541) to the Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol: viz, the site of the late Hospital, the *Church*, Steeple, and Churchyard thereof; the manors of Erdecote Gauntes, and Lee, in co. Glouc., and Stokeland Gauntes and Overstowey, and the advowsons of the Vicarages, thereof in co. Soms., and the manors of Winterborne Gonner, alias Cherburgh, in co. Wilts, with all the messuages and lands pertaining thereto, which belonged to the late Hospital; also the manor of Hampe, in co. Soms., which belonged to the late monastery of Athelney, &c. Also, a close of

¹ Rot. Pat.. 32nd Hen. VIII., part II., m. 2.

pasture, called Ayschen Close, and a pasture thereto adjoining, on the hill of St. Michael, in the suburbs of Bristol, near Magdalen Lane, which belonged to the late Priory of St. Mary Magdalen, Bristol; also the house and site of the late Friars Minors in Bristol, and a parcel of land called "lyme Kylls," and the prize of all the fishes within the town liberty and common of Bristol, which prize of fishes belonged to the late house of Friars Carmelites in Bristol; the messuage and house called "Hooper's Hall," within the said site, and all churchyards, gardens, orchards, within and near the said site.¹

¹ Rot. Pat., 33rd Hen. VIII., part I., m. 33.