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Lechlade Hospital

by H. Salter
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LECHLADE HOSPITAL.

WE are indebted to Mr. H. Salter, of Dry Sandford, Abingdon, for a transcript of three bulls of Popes Gregory IX. and Innocent IV., addressed to the Prior and Brethren of the Hospice of St. John by the bridge of Lechlade, and found among the muniments of New College, Oxford. In sending them he writes as follows :—

“ I send copies of the three bulls about Lechlade Hospital. They are original bulls, but without the leaden bullæ.

“ It will be noticed that these deeds throw the history of the Hospital farther back than was known to the writer in the Gloucester *Victoria County Hist.*

“ New College has no other deeds about Lechlade, and it is not known how these found their way there. There are about fifty deeds of various counties in the muniment room which have no connection with New College properties, twenty from Kent, twenty from Lincolnshire, and about eight from Berkshire.”

The following are the bulls :—

Gregorius episcopus servus servorum dei dilectis filiis priori & fratribus domus hospitalis sancti Iohannis iuxta pontem de Lechelade Wigorniensis diocesis salutem & apostolicam benedictionem. Iustis petentium desideriis dignum est nos facilem prebere consensum & vota que a rationis tramite non discordant effectu prosequente complere. Eapropter dilecti in domino filii vestris iustis postulacionibus grato concurrentes assensu, personas uestras et locum in quo diuino estis obsequio mancipati cum omnibus bonis, que impresentiarum rationabiliter possidet

aut in futurum iustis modis prestante domino poterit adipisci sub beati Petri et nostra protectione suscipimus. Specialiter autem possessiones, terras et alia bona domus vestre necnon libertates et immunitates a venerabili fratre nostro. . . . Wigorniensis episcopo loci diocesano et dilecto filio H.¹ archidiacono Battioniensi ac patronis eiusdem domus et aliis Cristi fidelibus pia nobis liberalitate collatas sicut ea omnia iuste ac pacifice obtinetis uobis et per uos eidem domui uestre auctoritate apostolica confirmamus et presentis scripti patrocinio communimus. Nulli ergo omnino hominum liceat hanc paginam nostre protectionis et confirmationis infringere uel ei ausu temerario contraire. Si quis autem [&c.]. Dat' Lateran' iii. Non. Junii pontificatus nostri anno septimo.

Innocencius episcopus seruus seruorum dei dilectis filiis . . . priori et fratribus hospitalis sancti Iohannis iuxta pontem de Lechelada ordinis sancti Augustini Wigorniensis diocesis salutem & apostolicam benedictionem. Deuocionis uestre precibus benignum impertientes assensum auctoritate uobis presencium indulgemus ut ad receptionem seu provisionem alicuius in provisionibus aut ecclesiasticis beneficiis per litteras apostolicas compelli decetero non possitis, que plenam de hac indulgentia non fecerint mentionem. Nulli ergo omnino hominum liceat hanc paginam nostre concessionis infringere vel ei ausu temerario contraire. Si quis autem hoc attemptare presumpserit indignationem omnipotentis dei et beatorum Petri et Pauli apostolorum eius se nouerit incursum. Dat' Lugdun' vii. [] pontificatus nostri anno [].

Innocentius episcopus seruus seruorum dei dilectis filiis . . . priori et fratribus hospitalis sancti Iohannis iuxta pontem de Lechelades Wigorniensis diocesis salutem et apostolicam benedictionem. Iustis petentium desideriis dignum est uos facilem prebere consensum & uota que a

¹ Hugh de Wells, died 1234.

rationis tramite non discordant effectu prosequente complere. Eapropter dilecti in domino filii uestris iustis precibus inclinati personas uestras & locum in quo diuino estis obsequio mancipati cum omnibus bonis que impresentiarum rationabiliter possidet aut in futurum iustis modis prestante domino poterit adipisci subbeati Petri & nostra protectione suscipimus. Specialiter autem terras, possessiones, redditus & alia bona uestra et omnes libertates ac immunitates a predecessoribus nostris Romanis pontificibus uobis concessas, necnon libertates et exemptiones secularium exactionum a regibus & principibus uel aliis fidelibus rationabiliter uobis indultas, uobis & per uos hospitali uostro auctoritate apostolica confirmamus et presentis scripti patrocinio communimus. Nulli ergo [&c.] Dat' Lugdun' ii. Non. Novembris pontificatus nostri anno quinto.

Mr. Cuthbert Atchley, to whom the bulls have been submitted, kindly sends us the following translation of their substance :—

BULLS RELATING TO THE PRIOR AND BRETHREN OF THE
HOSPICE OF ST. JOHN BY THE BRIDGE OF LECHLADE.

BULL BY GREGORY IX.

DATED FROM THE LATERAN PALACE, 3rd JUNE, 1233.

Wherefore, beloved sons in the Lord, meeting your rightful requests with a free assent, we take under the protection of blessed Peter and ourself your persons, and the place wherein ye are engaged in divine worship, together with all the goods which at the present time it reasonably possesses or will in the future be able to acquire by rightful methods (if the Lord gives). Specially moreover, as regards the possessions, lands, and other goods of your house, as well as the liberties and immunities granted you in pious liberality by our venerable brother . . . bishop of Worcester, diocesan of the place, and our beloved son H[ugh de Wells] archdeacon of Bath, and the patrons of the same house, and other faithful

of Christ, as ye obtain all those things rightfully and peacefully, we confirm them to you, and through you to the same your house, by apostolic authority, and fortify it by the patronage of this present writing.

BULL BY INNOCENT IV.,

DATED FROM LYONS IN THE 7TH YEAR OF HIS PONTIFICATE
(1249-50).

We bestow a kindly assent to the prayers of your devotion, and grant you by the authority of these presents, in order that ye shall not be able to be compelled for the rest to receive or provide for anyone in provisions or ecclesiastical benefices by apostolic letters, which do not make full mention of this indulgence. Therefore it shall be unlawful to any man to infringe this document of our concession, or to act contrarily towards it with rashness and daring.

The remaining bull, also by Innocent IV., is dated from Lyons, ij. Nov. 1247. It is to the same effect as that of Gregory.