

Stanesgate Priory (vol. xiv., p. 218).—As a supplement to my paper on the founder of Stanesgate Priory and his heirs, I should like to add that Mary, widow of Ralf Fitz Brian (who died in 1233) was re-married, without the King's leave, to Ralf de Bereford. They were both summoned to answer for this offence, and had to "make fine" for the King's pardon.¹ We learn from the Close Rolls of 1241 that Ralf had to pay 10*l.* to Bartholomew Peche, who had the wardship of Ralf Fitz Brian's heirs, and that Bartholomew was excused from paying over this amount to the Crown.²

J. H. R.

St. Peter's Church, Colchester.—This church enjoys the singular distinction, not only of being mentioned in Domesday, but of being proved by that record to have been in existence before the Norman Conquest. The Domesday figures also show that it had the largest glebe in the county, the equivalent, in fact, of a rural manor.³ So large an endowment would attract the covetousness of Norman lords, and Domesday shows us a fourth of it already in the hands of 'Eudo dapifer' and the other three-quarters of it *claimed* by Robert son of Ralf de Hatinges (*sic*). With Domesday, of course, Morant was familiar, but he confessed (of St. Peter's) that he could not find "in whom the patronage of it originally was."⁴

He had not, it is true, the knowledge of the great cartulary of St. John's that we now possess, but it is perhaps strange that he did not "put two and two together" in the case of St. Botolph's. For he recites the charter of Richard I. in 1189,⁵ which confirmed to the Priory "all the alms, tithes, and lands which they had of the fees of William son of Robert of Hastings," *etc., etc.* As he was aware that St. Peter's "was given to the Priory" (p. 112) he might have guessed that what was given was the three-quarters share of Robert de Ha[s]tinges recorded in Domesday. With the help of the St. John's cartulary we can clear up the matter absolutely. Perhaps the earliest mention of St. John's share in the church is on p. 87, where Bishop Gilbert Foliot confirms to the abbey "tertiam (*sic*)

¹ *Braeton's Note Book*, Ed. Maitland, Case 1278 (1239-40). For the offence of marrying, without the King's leave, the dowered widow of a tenant *in capite*, see my *Rotuli de Dominabus* (Pipe Roll Society).

² *Close Rolls*, 1237-1242, pp. 377, 408.

³ See *Vict. Hist. Essex*, i., 578.

⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 576, 578.

⁵ *History of Colchester*, p. 112.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 147.

partem ecclesie Sancti Petri intra muros Colcestrie," in a charter of 1165-1173. The next earliest mention of St. Peter's is on p. 539, but both these are unindexed. It is most important for our purpose, for it records an agreement between abbot Gilbert and prior John that St. Botolph's "liberam et absolutam suam *quartam* in ecclesia Sancti Petri recognoscat et remittat Sancto Johanni." The quarter share in St. Peter's, which is here recognised as belonging to St. John's Abbey, is obviously that which was held by "Eudo Dapifer" in Domesday, and must have been given by him to his foundation, although we have no record of the fact. The names of Gilbert and John in conjunction date this document as of the second half of the twelfth century,¹ with which date the witnesses appear to be in agreement. The next document records an agreement between abbot Adam and prior Hasculf (p. 543), and is, therefore, apparently, of 1223-1238.² The quarter-share is here commuted for an annual payment (*pensione*) of five shillings and fourpence from the rector to the abbey. Subject to this, St. Botolph's Priory was to enjoy the right of presenting the 'parson' for ever. The last charter (p. 498) is dated at Colchester, Midsummer day, 1364, and records an agreement between abbot Simon and prior John, which secures to the priory the whole advowson (*totum patronatum*) of St. Peter's, subject to the payment of five shillings (*sic*) a year.³

J. H. R.

A Soken Will.—The will⁴ of Richard de Piryton, Archdeacon of Colchester in the latter half of the fourteenth century, is included in a collection of Soken wills in the possession of the writer, but, otherwise than that it was executed in Thorpe, has small interest for the district. The reason for the presence of the archdeacon in Thorpe at the time, certain knowledge of which would have made the will more valuable, is a matter for conjecture as we write, for the conditions under which we live cut us off from the source richest of all in information concerning the Soken.

It may be, and we think it reasonable to suppose, that the archdeacon and his companions were engaged in a visitation of the manors, or churches, or both, of the Soken, in August, 1387; and, while in Thorpe, he was stricken with the sudden and mortal

¹ See Mr. Robert Fowler's lists in *Vict. Hist. Essex*, ii., 101, 150.

² *Ibid.*

³ *Cartulary*, pp. 499-502. The canons formally admitted the right of the abbey to this payment "a sua prima fundatione."

⁴ P. C. C. Rous, 2.