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978-1-107-64316-1 - The Precedence of English Bishops: And the Provincial Chapter

Chr. Wordsworth

Excerpt

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I. DR E. W. BENSON, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, TO THE REV. CHR. WORDSWORTH, M.A.

ADDINGTON PARK, CROYDON.

27 Nov., 1886.

MY DEAR CHRISTOPHER W.,

Would you look at these papers for me? I have entertained a contrary opinion, but I am disposed to think the points of apparent difference really mean that the Bishop of Winton was Chancellor, but that in the vacancy of the See of London he acted as Bishop of London (Dean) should have acted, and was called for the time Subdean.

That he was Subdean in the vacancy only—and Lincoln Vice-Chancellor ordinarily, but Chancellor in the vacancy of Winton.

Still I am not sure that this is exactly compatible with the extract from Arundel.

It would be very strange if such a usage had got out of gear, or [had] been altered between Arundel and Parker.—Would it not?

I shall be so grateful for your investigation and opinion. I do not know whether anything else can be made out or discovered in the Library.

Your ever affectionate

EDV. CANTUAR.

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[The question had been put to the Archbishop by Dr E. Harold Browne, Bishop of Winchester, in a letter dated “Farnham Castle, Surrey, Nov. 16, 1886.” The letter is not forthcoming; but I gather from notes which I made at the time that the Bishop of Winton was of opinion that, in consequence of the *προεδρία* of London and Winton, the offices of Dean and Subdean (or Chancellor) were given them in the Provincial Chapter; that the capitular prelates (Sarum, Lincoln, Worcester and Rochester) gained no fresh precedence. At one period, Winton, as Prelate of the Garter<sup>1</sup>, took precedence of *all* bishops, and thus became Dean of the Chapel Royal.

But 31 Hen. VIII. (1539), cap. 10 § 3, orders that the King’s Vicegerent shall sit on the form

<sup>1</sup> The order of the Garter was instituted in, or before, 1347.

K. Edward III., its founder, established as its principal officer a *Prelate*, under whom were a *Registrar* and an *Usher*. At a later date, a second principal officer, the *Chancellor*, was added; and likewise *Garter*, as one of the subordinate or inferior officers of the Order. All five are sworn of the Council of the Order.

William of Edyngdon and his successors as Bishops of Winchester from the first foundation of the order have held the office of *Prelate* of the Garter, as Earls of Southampton, according to the Statutes of the Order:—“*Quisquis autem presul Wintoniensis ac Southamtonie comes et cet. eo tempore fuerit, is et Prelatus ordinis esse debet.*” (Statut. Lib. N. p. 232, art. 18, ap. El. Ashmole, *Appendix to History of the Garter*, fo. 1672, p. 34; id. *Hist.* p. 234, S. H. Cassan, *Lives of Bishops of Winchester*, ii. 289—93.)

The *Chancellorship* of the Order of the Garter was conferred on Bishops of Salisbury from 1475 to 1535, and after being held for 150 years by laymen, it was restored to Sarum under a royal decree of 19 Nov. 1669, to take effect at the next vacancy. When Berks (and Windsor with it) was transferred to Oxford in 1836 the Chancellorship of the Order was allowed to the Bishops of Oxford. (W. H. Jones, *Fasti Eccl. Sarisb.* 1879, p. 61.)

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to the right of the Throne with the Archbishop, who shall sit next; then, York, London, *Durham*, Winton, &c.

Bishop E. H. Browne thought that this Act of King Henry VIII. was the first to give Durham precedence of Winchester, and that while its authority is of general application as to precedence in other cases, it does not over-rule the Canon as to a seat in Synod, which in terms suited to his invariable sweetness of manner he claimed for his see in cases where Anglican prelates might be assembled synodically<sup>1</sup>.

Three or four of the following extracts were submitted by the then Bishop of Winchester, the remainder were forwarded by me to the Primate in 1886. I have now brought them so far up to date, as I have been able.]

## II. WILLIAM OF MALMESBURY.

[*De Concilio Regni*, A.D. 1072 *habito*.]

HABEBAT autem ex antiquo, sicut in libro primo dixisse me memini<sup>2</sup>, Cantuariensis archiepiscopus hos episcopus:—

Londoniensem, Wintoniensem, Rofensem, Scire-

<sup>1</sup> The third Lambeth Conference, or Pan-Anglican Synod was within measurable distance at the time, meeting, as it did, in July, 1888. I well remember the *jucunda senectus* of Bishop Browne of Winchester, who had ordained me deacon when he was at Ely. It was at an earlier period in his life when Dr Jacobson, an Oxonian Professor and Bishop of Chester, exclaimed after making his first acquaintance with his Cambridge equal, "I have often heard of 'the milk of human kindness'; but now I've seen the cow!"

<sup>2</sup> Will. Malmesb. *De Gestis Regum* i. § 99—103, Rolls Series, i. pp. 100, 101.

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burnensem, Wigornensem, Herefordensem, Lichetfeldensem, Selesiensem, Legacestremsen, Elmanensem, Sidnacestremsen, Domuccensem : additi sunt, tempore regis Edwardi senioris<sup>1</sup>, Cornubiensis, Cridiensis, Wellensis in West-Saxonia, et in Mercii Dorcestrensis, ut secundo libro dixi<sup>2</sup>.

Eboracensis autem archiepiscopus habebat omnes trans Humbram episcopos suæ ditioni subjectos,

Ripensem, Haugustaldensem, Lindisfarnensem, illum de Candida Casa quæ nunc Witerne dicitur, et omnes episcopos Scotiæ et Orcadum ;

sicut Cantuariensis habet episcopos Hiberniæ et Walarum.

Perierunt autem jamdudum episcopatus Ripensis et Haugustaldensis vi hostilitatis ; et Legacestrensis, et Sidnacestrensis et Dommuccensis, quo nescio modo.

Porro autem tempore regis Edwardi simplicis<sup>3</sup>, Cornubiensis et Cridiensis uniti sunt, et translatus est episcopatus in Exoniam.

Sub rege Willelmo, in isto eodem concilio pronuntiatum est, secundum scita canonum, ut episcopi transeuntes de villis constituerent [*al.* 'construerent'] sedes suas in urbibus diocesum suarum : Licitfeldensis ergo migravit [*al.* 'transiit'] in Cestram, quæ olim Civitatis Legionum dicebatur ; Selesiensis in Cicestram ; Elmanensis in Tethford primo, nunc ab Herberto episcopo in Norwic ; Scirburnensis in Salisbiriæ ; Dorcestrensis in Lincoliam. Nam

<sup>1</sup> Edward the Elder, son of Alfred: cf. *Gesta Regum* ii. § 129, vol. I. 140—1, from Leofric Missal, fo. 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Gesta Regum* ii. § 129; Rolls S. i. p. 141.

<sup>3</sup> *i.e.* Edward Confessor. Cf. § 196; II. p. 236.

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Lindisfarnensis pridem veteri tempore transierat in  
Dunelmum, et nuper Wellensis in Bathoniam.

(*Gesta Regum*, lib. iii. § 300, vol. II. pp. 352-3.)

[*De proëdria singulorum episcoporum in concilio.*]

IN hoc conventu Lanfrancus, qui erat adhuc  
rudis Anglus, quæsivit a senioribus episcopis qui  
esset ordo sedendi in concilio, antiquo more  
statutus: illi vero, excusata difficultate responsi, in  
diem distulerunt posterum. Et tunc, diligentissime  
advocata memoria, hunc se vidisse morem asseruere;  
ut Cantuariæ archiepiscopus, concilio præsidens,  
habeat

a dextro latere archiepiscopum Eboraci, et  
juxta eum episcopum Wintoniæ,  
a sinistro autem Londoniensem:

quod si, ut contingit, pro aliqua necessitate Cantua-  
riensis primas adventum suum negaverit [*al.* 'excusa-  
verit'], vel obitu defuerit, Eboracensis archiepiscopus,  
concilio præsidens, habeat

a dextra Londoniensem episcopum,  
a sinistra Wintoniensem;

ceteri secundum tempora ordinationum, sedilia sua  
agnoscant. (*Gesta Regum* iii. § 301; vol. II. p. 353.)

[York had claimed Worcester and Dorchester  
as suffragans, but the pope having referred the  
dispute to the English Council, it was after much  
discussion then agreed (at Windsor, in 1072) "ut  
quia citra Humbram essent, hi episcopi Cantuariensi

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applicarentur, omnes vero Transhumbranos Eboracensis obtineret.” (§ 302 ; II. p. 354.)]

[If we may judge from the order of signatures of Bishops, &c. at the Council of Windsor in 1072, Winchester had not then acquired this precedence which was to be determined in the following year.

The order of signatures in 1072 had been :—  
 1. King ; 2. Queen ; 3. Legate ; 4. Canterbury ;  
 5. York ; 6. London ; 7. Sherborne (Sarum) ;  
 8. Worcester ; 9. Hereford ; 10. Wells ; 11. Dorchester (Lincoln) ; 12. Winchester ; 13. Elmham (Norwich) ; 14. Chichester ; 15. Rochester ; 16. Exeter ; 17. Bayeux ; 18. Coutances.

(Wilkins, *Concilia* i. 325.)

Gervase of Canterbury (*Acta Pontificum*, col. 1654, cited by Wilkins, *Conc.* i. 369) in his account of the Council of London under Lanfranc, omits all mention of any special priority for Winchester.]

### III. COUNCIL OF LONDON, 9 Will. I. (1075).

Concilium Londini celebratum A.D. 1075, præside Lanfranco Dorobernensis ecclesiæ archipræsule.

ANNO incarnationis Dominicæ .Mlxxv. regnante [glorioso Anglorum rege] Willielmo, anno [regni eius] ix<sup>o</sup>, congregatum est in Lundonia [in ecclesia beati Pauli apostoli] concilium [totius Angliæ regionis, episcoporum videlicet et abbatum, necnon et multarum religiosi ordinis personarum, jubente, atque eidem concilio] præside, Lanfranco archiepiscopo [sanctæ] Dorobernensi[s ecclesiæ archipræsule, totiusque Britanniæ insulæ primate]

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considentibus secum [viris venerabilibus]

Thoma Eboracensi archiepiscopo

Willielmo Londoniensi episcopo

† Goisfrido Constantiensi<sup>1</sup>, qui cum transmarinus  
esset episcopus in Anglia multas possessiones habens  
cum ceteris in concilio residebat †

Walkelino Wintoniensi

Hermannno Siraburnensi

Wlstando Wiricestrensi

Walter(i)o Herefordensi

Gisone Wellensi

Remigio Dor(ca)censi, seu Lincoliensis

Herfasto Helmeanensi, sive Nor(ch)wicensi

Stigando Seleugensi (*al.* Selengensi)<sup>2</sup>

Osberno Exoniensi

Petro Licedfeldensi (*al.* Licitfeldensi);

Rof(f)ensis ecclesia per id[em] tempus pastore carebat;  
Lindisfarnensis (qui et Dunelmensis) episcopus,  
canonicam excusationem habens, concilio interesse  
non poterat [*al.* 'potuit'].

Et quia multis retro annis in Anglico regno usus  
conciliorum obsoleverat, renovata sunt nonnulla quæ

<sup>1</sup> Geoffrey de Montbray, who became bishop of Coutances in 1048, presided as Chief Justiciar in 1071. He came over with William, and acted as interpreter at his coronation in 1066. He held (*e.g.*) in Wilts the manors of Draycot Cerne, Withenham and Winfield in Bradford hundred, Malmesbury, Pertwood, Littleton Drew, and Winterbourn (? Dauntsey). W. H. Jones, *Wilts Domesday*, 26—7. Geoffrey headed the rising of barons against William II., by whom he was pardoned. He maintained the privileges of the clergy, at Salisbury, in 1088.

†—† Geoffrey of Coutances is passed over in MSS. of *Gesta Pontificum* in this connexion.

<sup>2</sup> It will be observed that *after* the council, Stigand subscribes the resolutions or canons as 'Cicestrensis.' (Wilkins *Concil.* i. 373—4.)

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antiquis etiam canonibus noscuntur [*al.* 'fuerant,' *al.* 'sunt diffinitionibus'] definita [*al.* 'diffinita'].

Ex concilio igitur Toletano IV. [a<sup>o</sup>. 633]<sup>1</sup>, Milevitano [a<sup>o</sup>. 402]<sup>2</sup> atque Bracharensi [a<sup>o</sup>. 599]<sup>3</sup> statutum est, vt

Singuli secundum ordinationis suæ tempora sed-eant, præter eos qui ex antiqua consuetudine, sive suarum æcclesiarum privilegiis, digniores sedes habent.

De qua re interrogati sunt senes et ætate pro-  
vecti, quid vel ipsi vidissent, vel a majoribus atque antiquioribus veraciter ac probabiliter [ipsi] accepis-  
sent [*al.* 'audissent,' *vel* 'vidissent']. Super quo responso petitiæ sunt indutiæ, ac concessæ, usque in crastinum.

Crastina autem die, concorditer perhibuere, quod Eboracensis archiepiscopus ad dexteram Doro-  
bernensis sedere debeat ;

Lundoniensis episcopus ad sinistram ;

Wentanus, juxta Eboracensem.

Si vero Eboracensis desit,

Lundoniensis, ad dexteram,

Wentanus, ad sinistram.

(*After some regulations respecting monasteries*)

Ex decretis summorum pontificum, Damasi [videlicet,] et Leonis, necnon ex conciliis Sardicensi (a<sup>o</sup>. 347)<sup>4</sup> atque Laodicensi (a<sup>o</sup>. 366)<sup>5</sup> in quibus

<sup>1</sup> 'Omnes episcopi pariter introeant, et secundum ordinationis suæ tempus (*al.* 'tempora') resideant.' *Concil. Tolet. IV.* c. 4, ed. Bruns, i. 222.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Codex Eccl. Africane* cc. lxxxvi., lxxxix., ed. Bruns, 177—8.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Concil. Bracar.* c. 34, Bruns, ii. p. 34.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. *Concil. Sardic.* c. 1, ed. Bruns, i. p. 88 (89).

<sup>5</sup> *Concil. Laodicensi* c. 57, Bruns, i. 79.



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prohibetur episcopales sedes in villis existere, concessum est regia munificentia et synodali auctoritate [præfatis tribus] episcopis de villis ad civitates transire<sup>1</sup>:

Herimanno, de Siraburna [*al.* 'Schireburne']  
ad Serisberiam [*al.* 'Sarisberiam,' *vel* 'Salisberiam']

Stigando, de Selengeo [*al.* 'Selesia'] ad Cices-  
tr(i)am [*al.* 'Cicestrum']

Petro, de Licitfelde [*al.* 'Licefeld,' *vel* 'Lich-  
feld'] ad Cestr(i)am [*al.* 'Cestrum'].

[De quibusdam, qui in villis seu vicis adhuc degebant, dilatatum est usque ad regis audientiam, qui in transmarinis partibus tunc temporis bella gerebat.]<sup>2</sup>

(*After 6 other canons, the subscriptions of prelates follow:—*)

Date of Conse- cration	
1070 } Aug. 29)	✠ Ego Lanfrancus Dorobernensis archiep. subscripsi.
1070	✠ Ego Thomas Eboracensis ecclesie episc. subscr.
1051	✠ Ego Willielmus Lundeniensis eccl. ep. subscr.
1070 } May 30)	✠ Ego Walkelinus Wintoniensis eccl. ep. subscr.
[1048]	✠ Ego Gaufridus Constantiensis ep., et unus de Angliæ terræ primatibus subscr. <sup>3</sup>
1045	✠ Ego Hermannus Sarisberiensis ['Siraburnensis'] eccl. ep. subscr.

<sup>1</sup> See p. 4, above.

<sup>2</sup> Lincoln cathedral was begun cir. 1074; foundation charter, Sept. 1090. Consecration, 1092. See of Wells removed to Bath, 1088.

<sup>3</sup> The name of the Norman bishop of Coutances appears between London and Winton in the previous list of prelates present at the Synod. But in subscribing the acts after precedence was determined he takes a position *after* the four more honourable English sees.

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Date of Conse- cration	
1062 Sep. 8	✠ Ego Wlstanus Wigornensis ['Wircustrensis'] ep. subscr. <sup>1</sup>
1061	✠ Ego Walterus Herefordensis ep. subscr.
1061	✠ Ego Giso Wellensis ep. subscr.
1067	✠ Ego Remigius Lincol(n)iensis ep. subscr.
1070	✠ Ego Herfastus Norhwicensis ep. subscr.
1070	✠ Ego Stigandus Cicestrensis ep. subscr.
1072	✠ Ego Osbernus Exoniensis ep. subscr.
1072	✠ Ego Petrus Cestrensis episcopus subscripsi.

Then follow the signatures of Aschenil, Anschitil, or Anschibil, archdeacon of Canterbury ('Doroberniensis eccl.') and 21 abbots.

[The preceding account of the Council of London in 1075 is extracted from Spelman's printing of the Worcester MS. register in his *Concilia* ii. 7–9. Cf. Wilkins, *Concil.* i. 373–4. I have inserted in brackets some various readings from Spelman's print of another exemplar from W. of Malmesbury and Bigne, iii. 1280. Spelman, *Concil.* ii. 9, 10; Wilkins, *Concil.* i. 374. This I have again compared with Malmesbury's *Gesta Pontificum* i. ff. 22<sup>b</sup>—23<sup>b</sup>. Rolls Series, pp. 66–8.

The signatures of those present in this Council are not given (according to Spelman) except in the Worcester Register. The list of those present is found in the same authority. Spelman's third exemplar, a 12th century MS. in Cambridge Univ. Library (Ff. i. 25), names only the two archbishops, and the bishops of *London* and *Worcester* (passing

<sup>1</sup> It seems that the Bishop of Worcester placed himself before two of his seniors by consecration. Or are we to suspect the scribe of the Worcester MS. of partiality in transcribing the record?