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Excerpt

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POLYCHRONICON RANULPHI HIGDEN
MONACHI CESTRENSIS.

VOL. VII.

A

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POLYCHRONICON RANULPHI HIGDEN
MONACHI CESTRENSIS.

LIBER SEXTUS.

CAP. X.

[*De rebus Angliæ ecclesiasticis præcipue de Dunstano
Archiepiscopo.*]

CIRCA hæc tempora Odo archiepiscopus Cantuariensis obiit. Hic quidem natione Danus, sed tandem¹ feritate deposita aliquando Edwardo seniori militaverat. Nec multo post clericaliter attonsus Wyltoniensis præsul effectus est, regem Adelstanum² amicum sibi fecerat,³ ⁴potissime per elapsum⁵ gladii amissi in regiam⁶ vaginam; ita ut Cantuariensis⁷ sortiretur; quam ut sanctius subiret, cum omnes antecessores⁸ sui monachi

Omnes prædecessores

¹ *tante* (sic), A.

² *Ethelstanum*, B.

³ *effecerat*, A.B.

⁴ C.D. add.: Quem cum semel contra regem Hiberniæ Anlaf progredientem ensem suum ex nimia securitate amississe cerneret, precibus ad Dominum fuis vidit gladium celestem vaginæ regiæ illap-

sum divinitus. Qua de causa factus est regi de reliquo amior, sedemque Cantuariensem adeptus est.

Quam ut sanctius, &c.

⁵ *regii*, add. B.

⁶ *regiam*] om. B.

⁷ *Cantuariensem sedem*, A.B.

⁸ *prædecessores*, B.

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TREVISA'S TRANSLATION.

Capitulum decimum.

ABOUTE pat tyme deide Odo, archebisschop of Caunterbury; TREVISA.
 pis was of þe nacioun of Danes, but he dede¹ away his wylden-
 nesse at þe laste, and servede kyng Edward at þe laste² in
 chivalrie; and nouȝt long þerafter he took þe tonsure of clerk,
 and was i-made bisschop of Wynchestre. He hadde i-made³
 Athelston⁴ his frend by þe comynge of þe swerd þat was i-lost
 into þe scaberge⁵ aȝen; so pat he was i-made archebisschop of
 Caunterbury; and for he wolde take þat dignytee þe more holy-
 liche, for al his predecessoures [hadde y-be monkes, he passed

ANONYMOUS TRANSLATION OF THE FIFTEENTH
CENTURY.*Capitulum decimum.**Item Willelmus ubi supra.*

Odo the archebischop of Cawnterbery diede abowte pis MS. HARL.
 tyme. This Odo was a Dane by nativite and nacion, but 2261.
 cruellenes putte awaye, he was in servyce with kyng Edwarde
 the senior, and after that made preste, and soone after bischop
 of Worcestre. Which made kyng Ethelstan his speciale lorde
 and frende for the restorynge of his swerde that was loste, as
 hit is schewede afore in the tyme of kyng Ethelstan, in so
 moche that he was made archebischop of Cawnterbery.
 Whiche willenge to take that benefice in grete perfeccion,
 perceyvynge alle his predecessours to have been monkes, passede

¹ *dide*, β.; *dude*, γ.² *at þe laste*] þe elþere, α.; þe
elder, γ.³ *kyng*, add. β.⁴ *Adelston*, γ⁵ *scabarge*, β. and γ.

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fuissent, ipse mare transito apud Floriacum juxta Aurelianum monachalia induit; rediit,¹ regi adhæsit; tandem cum Edredo rege Northimbriam profectus, sacros cineres Wylfridi episcopi advexit Cantuariam. De qua re inter Cantuaritas et Eboracenses jugis adhuc² concertatio vertitur,³ utrum ossa majoris Wylfridi apud Ripensem⁴ ecclesiam tumulati,⁵ aut⁶ minoris Wylfridi, qui presbyter et successor Johannis in Eboracensi sede fuerat, sint ossa antedicta. Hic etiam Odo Edwynum regem præcipitis luxus infamem a Christianitate suspendit. Ob quod Edwynus in omnes Angliæ monachos vicem reddidit, dum nemo regi præter Odonem et Dunstanum in tota Anglia resistere auderet, quia, ut ait Seneca, “Gallus⁷ in proprio sterquilinio plurimum valet.” Itaque⁸ Odo templum suum aliquando discoopertum, toto quo tectura parabatur tempore, ita⁹ precibus operuit

Odonis monachi fuerant.

Translatio sancti Wylfridi de Eboraco ad Cantuariam.

¹ *et*, add. B.² *adhuc*] om. B.³ *habetur*, C.D.⁴ *Ryponensem*, B.⁵ *quondam sepulti*, C.D.⁶ *et*, A.⁷ *præter . . . Gallus*] om. B.⁸ *Iste etiam*, C.D.⁹ *itaque*, A.

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pe see, and took¹ monk his wede at Floriacensis]² besides Aurelian. *Trevisa.* Odo was lewedliche³ i-meoved þefore to make hym a monk, ffor Crist, ne non of alle his postles, was nevere monk nor⁴ frere. þan it folowep⁵ in þe storie: Odo com aʒen, and was nyh⁶ þe kyng, and wente at þe laste wip kyng Edredus into Norþomberlond, and brouʒte wip hym to Caunturbury þe holy axes of seint Wilfrede⁷ þe bisshop: þerof is ʒit contynual strif bytwene hem of ʒork and of Caunturbury, wheþer þe more Wilfridus bones, þat was i-buried in þe chirche of Rypoun, beþ þese forseide⁸ bones, oþer þe bones of þe lasse Wilfrede, þat was seint Iohn his⁹ preost, and his successour in þe see of ʒork. Also þis Odo suspendede¹⁰ kyng Edwynus of Cristendom, for he was to fervent in leccherie, and out of a good fame. Þefore Edwynus took wreche of alle þe monkes of Engelond, [for in al Englonde]¹¹ was no man þat hym dorste¹² wipstonde¹³ outtake Odo and Donston. For, as Seneca seip, a cok¹⁴ is most myʒty on his dongehille.¹⁵ Also in a tyme Odo his temple was unheled, and al þe tyme þat þe helynge was in makynge¹⁶ of þe temple¹⁷ he heled it so wip his bedes þat þere

TREVISIA.

—

the see, and goynge to the monastery Floriacense, nye unto Aurelians, toke the habite of a monke, and returnynge from that coste, come and drawede to the kyng of Ynglonde. Whiche goynge at the laste with kyng Edredus into Northumbrelonde, brouʒhte the holy powdre of the body of seynte Wilfride the bisshop unto Cawnterbury with hym: wherefore a grete stryfe is hade at this tyme betwene men of Cawnterbury and of Yorke, wheþer þese boones were the boones of seynte Wilfride beryede at the chirche of Ripen, or the boones of yonger Wilfride, that was the preste and the successor of Iohn in the seete of Yorke. This Odo suspende kyng Edwyne for excesse in the synne of lecchery, wherefore Edwyne rewarded that to the monkes of Ynglonde, when hit was so that noo man in the realme durste resiste the kyng, but Odo and seynte Dunstan. Also the chirche of this Odo beynge uncoverede, was coverede thro his preyer while the chirche was in coverenge, f. 308 b.

MS. HARL.

2261.

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¹ *touk*, γ.² From *a.*, *β.*, and γ.³ *lewidlich*, β.⁴ *ne*, β.⁵ *volweþ*, γ.⁶ *neiz*, β.⁷ *Wilfride*, β.⁸ *þues vorsede*, γ.⁹ *Joones*, β.¹⁰ *suspendide*, β.; *suspendedd*, γ.¹¹ From *a.*, *β.*, and γ.¹² *þurste*, γ.¹³ *wistonde*, β. and γ.¹⁴ *kok*, β. and γ.¹⁵ *donghulle*, γ.¹⁶ *was a makynge*, β.¹⁷ *of þe temple*] and þe temple an helynge, *a.*; in helyng, β.

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ut nec pluviæ stillicidium loci madefaceret ambitum, Miraculum per preces sancti Odonis.
 cum tamen plurima vis imbrium et turbinum illis
 diebus totum concuteret mundum. Alio quoque tempore
 dum Odo Dunstanum Wygorniensem consecraret præ-
 sulem, ita consecrationis egit ordinem ac si Cantuariensem
 consecrasset archipræsulem. Et cum a suis super hoc
 culparetur, “Scio,” inquit, “filii, quid in me agat Spiritus Consecra-
 tio sancti
 Dunstani
 in Cantuar-
 iensem
 ecclesiam
 providentia
 Spiritus
 Sancti.
 “Sanctus;” nec vero præsigio matura defuit fides, quam-
 vis¹ Elsinus Wentanus præsul interpolate sedem illam
 palpasset. Nam defuncto Odone Elsinus prædictus paratis
 advocatis quorum manus palpaverat, surrepto regis edicto,
 Cantiam² intrusus est, primoque exceptionis die non
 abstinuit quin conceptas furias mente confotas evomeret,
 tumbam beati Odonis pedibus pulsans, animamque ejus Successor
 Odonis
 Elsinus. Cui
 successit
 Brithlinus.
 tali voce lacessens:³ “Pessime senex, animam effudisti
 “sero satis, te⁴ meliori locum fecisti.⁵ Itaque quod diu

¹ licet, C.D.² Cantuariam, B.; Cantuari-
ensi, C.D.³ ait, add. C.D.⁴ de, A.⁵ dedisti, B.

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fil nouȝt oon drope of reyn in al þe place¹ aboute, and ȝit þat tyme was so greet tempest² and reyn of weder þat it semede þat al þe worlde³ schulde goo to gidres.⁴ Also in anoper tyme, whanne he⁵ sacrede seint Donston bisshop of Worcestre,⁶ he dede so þe ordre of þe service as þey he⁷ hadde i-sacred þe archebisshop of Canturbury; and whanne his clerkes blamede hym þerfore “I wote, sones,” quod Donston, “what þe Holy Gost “worcheþ on me.” And into⁸ þe trewe forbedyngge lakkede no sobre fey, þeiȝ Elsynus bisshop of Wynchestre evere among fondede to have þe⁹ see.¹⁰ For whanne Odo was dede þis Elsinus ordeyned hym advoketes,¹¹ and groped here hondes, and gat slyliche a maundmente of þe kyng, and was i-put¹² in at Caunterbury. In þe firste day þat he was in þere he sparede nouȝt, but he caste out of his woodnesse þat he hadde longe i-kept in his herte, and putte wip his feet¹³ on sent Odo his tombe, and despisede¹⁴ his soule, and spak to hym in þis manere: “þou worste olde man, thy soule is a goo late inow; þou hast “i-made a place to a betre þan þou were. What I¹⁵ have longe “desired now I have it maugre þyn teeth.¹⁶ Þerfore I kan þe

TREVISIA.

in so moche that oon drope of reyne felle not into the church, a grete reyne contynuyngge alle moste thro alle the worlde. In an other tyme this Odo doynge the ministry at the consecracion of seynte Dunstan, that tyme bisshop of Worcestre, schewyde as grete solemnite to seynte Dunstan as and if he scholde have consecrate the bisshop of Cawnterbery; whiche reprovede in manner þerfore seide, *Y knowe what the holy¹⁷ dothe in me.* But this Odo archebisshoppe of Cawnterbery dedde, Elsinus bisshoppe of Wynchestre ȝiffenge grete ȝiftes to his advokates, and gettyngge the favor of the kyng, was electe to the archebisshop of Cawnterbery. Whiche goynge to the towmbe of blissede Odo after his eleccion, and tredyngge on hit violently with his feete, seide, “O thow wickede olde man, “thow haste loste thy sawle; þow hase made over late a place “to thy bettyr; that y have desyrede longe y have nowe

MS. HARL.
2261.

¹ *plas*, γ.
² *tempast*, γ.
³ *worl*, γ.
⁴ *togidres*, β.
⁵ *þe*, β. and γ.
⁶ *Wircetre*, β.
⁷ *a*, γ.
⁸ *in*, α. and β.
⁹ *þat*, α. and β.

¹⁰ *vondede to habbe þat se*, γ.
¹¹ *avokatis*, β.; *avoketes*, γ.
¹² *y-poi*, γ.
¹³ *veet*, γ.
¹⁴ *dispised*, β.
¹⁵ *yeh*, γ.
¹⁶ *maugreb þi teeb*, β.; *magre þyn teþ*, γ.
¹⁷ Sic in MS.

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“ concupivi te invito jam teneo, unde tibi malas grates ago.”
 Sed illo die exacto¹ cum hujus rabiei efflator cubili se
 dedisset, vidit beati Odonis effigiem improperare convi-
 cium, minari exitium.² Ille autem, qui³ volatico phan-
 tasmate se putabat derideri, nihilominus ad recipiendum
 pallium Romam pergens per Alpes transivit, ubi nivali
 frigore congelatus, exenteratorum equorum spirantibus
 extis⁴ pedes, quibus tumbam Odonis pulsaverat, involutus
 obiit. Cui⁵ successit in Cantuariensi sede Brithlinus⁶
 Wyntoniensis præsul. At quia⁷ ad tantum pondus
 minus sufficiens erat, jussu regis ad Wyntoniam rediit, et
 sanctus Dunstanus ad Cantuariam transiit Romamque⁸
 profectus⁵ pallium a Johanne papa recepit. Inde rediens
 a rege obtinuit ut⁹ sanctus Oswaldus fratruelis Odonis¹⁰
 sedem teneret Wygornensem. *Willelmus de Pontifi-*
*cibus, libro primo.*¹¹ Dunstanus¹² igitur primo Glas- Dunstanus.

¹ *transacto*, B.² *exitium*, from B. ; *exitum*, MS.³ *qui*] om. B.⁴ *adhuc exteris*, C.D.⁵ *Cum igitur Elsinus dimissa Wintonæ sede ad Dorobornensis transiret, Brithelmus Dorsetensis episcopus succedens sede Cantuariensis audita Elsinis morte nancisci satagebat, undique ad tantum pondus minus sufficiens erat, jussu regis ad primam sedem, relicta Cantuariensi, rediit. Dehinc beatus Dunstanus sedem patriarchalem suscepit, Romam profectus, &c.*, C.D.⁶ *Brithelmus* (sic), A. ; *Brigh-telynus*, B.⁷ *Atque*, B.⁸ *a Wigorniensi et Londoniensi sedibus transiit Romamque*, B.⁹ *et*, A.¹⁰ *quem sanctum noverat virum*, add. C.D.¹¹ C.D. omit reference. Scribes post Bedam, p. 20.¹² *Hic autem Dunstanus indefessis proficiens virtutibus cor regis*, C.D.

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“ful evel þonk at þis tyme.” Bote whan þat day was a goo TREVISIA.
and þis blowere of woodnesse i-brouȝt on his bedde, he sigh
þe schap of seynt Odo, and blamed¹ hym and despised² hym,
and manassed³ þat he schulde deie. But he wende þat he⁴
were i-scorned of a fleyng⁵ fantasye, and spared nouȝt þer
fore but he wente toward Rome to fonge þe palle⁶ of þe pope,
and passede by þe hilles Alpes, and was i-frore⁷ in a colde
snowe; and in hors bowels, þat were i-oponed for to have som
hete, he wrapped his feet⁸ þat he hadde with i-putte⁹ seint
Odo his tombe, and deide so þere. After hym Brythelynus,¹⁰
bisshop of Wynchestre, was archebisshop of Caunterbury; and
[for]¹¹ he was nouȝt suffisaunt to so grete a charge,¹² he went
aȝen to Wynchestre by heste of þe kyng, and Donston, bisshop
of London and of Wircestre, was i-made archebisshop of Caunter-
bury, and wente to Rome, and fenge¹³ the pal of pope Iohn. He
com aȝen, and gat of þe kyng þat Oswold, þat was Odo his
broþer sone, schulde be bisshop of Wirceetre. *Willelmus
de Pontificibus, libro primo.* Donston was first abbot of

“ageyne thy wylle; y thonke not þe þerof.” That day paste, MS. HARL.
Elsinus goynge to hedde, and at reste, see an ymage of blissede 2261.
Odo to rebuke hym and manassenge hym to dye. But this
Elsinus, supposynge that to be a fantasticalle illusion, and
goynge to Rome to receyve his palle by Alpes, congelede for
colde, havyng his feete fixede amonge the bowells of dedde
horses, with whom he did treyde the tumbes of blissede Odo,
diede þer miserably. Whom Brintheelinus bisshop of Wyn-
chestre did succede; whiche inapte to so grete a cure returnede
ageyne to Wynchestre by commaundemente of the kyng, and
seynte Dunstan was made archebisshop of Cawnterbery.
Whiche goynge to Rome receyvid his palle of pope Iohn; and
returnede from Rome, obteyned of the kyng that Oswaldus,
son of the broþer to Odo, scholde reioyce the seete of Wor-
cestre. *Willelmus de Pontificibus, libro primo.* Seynte
Dunstan, firste abbot of Glaston, after þat bisshop of Worcestre

¹ blame, a., ß., and γ.² despise, a.; dispise, ß.; des-
pyse, γ.³ manace, a. and ß.; manase, γ.⁴ þey, a.; he, ß.⁵ vleyng, γ.⁶ fang þe pal, ß.⁷ y-vrore, γ.⁸ veet, γ.⁹ y-put, ß.¹⁰ Brithelinus, ß.¹¹ From a., ß., and γ.¹² charche, γ.¹³ vyng, γ.

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toniæ abbas, deinde Wygorniensis et Londoniensis præsul,
 tandem Cantuariensem sedem¹ indefessis comens virtu-
 tibus, cor regis Edgari² ad consona salutis urgere, mores
 regis ad subditorum exemplum et speculum effigiare, et
 cum excessisset corripere studuit, unde et illum septenni Penitentia
regis
Edgari sep-
tennis. pro illicito sanctimonialis concubitu pœnitentia multavit.
 Ex quo exemplari vulgus coercuit, milites composuit,
 fures refrenavit, ordo monasticus reviruit pro eo quod
 haberet rectores religiosos, scientia claros, quos nec desidia
 tardos nec audacia præcipites effecerat. Itaque inter
 hanc regis et archiepiscopi morum correspondentiam
 clericis optio dabatur ut aut animum mutarent aut locis
 suis valefacerent, melioribus habitacula relinquentes,
 ut sic non degenerarent a decore ædium mores inhabi-
 tantium. Agri tunc proventu³ uberi respondebant cul-
 toribus, omnis copia plenis effulsit cornibus, elementa

¹ *sedem*] om. A.² *Edgari*] om. B.³ *proventu*] om. B.