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Rerum Britannicarum Medii Aevi Scriptores, or The Chronicles and Memorials of Great Britain and Ireland during the Middle Ages, usually referred to as the 'Rolls Series', was an ambitious project first proposed to the British Treasury in 1857 by Sir John Romilly, the Master of the Rolls, and quickly approved for public funding. Its purpose was to publish historical source material covering the period from the arrival of the Romans to the reign of Henry VIII, 'without mutilation or abridgement', starting with the 'most scarce and valuable' texts. A 'correct text' of each work would be established by collating 'the best manuscripts', and information was to be included in every case about the manuscripts used, the life and times of the author, and the work's 'historical credibility', but there would be no additional annotation. The first books were published in 1858, and by the time it was completed in 1896 the series contained 99 titles and 255 volumes. Although many of the works have since been re-edited by modern scholars, the enterprise as a whole stands as a testament to the Victorian revival of interest in the middle ages.

Polychronicon Ranulphi Higden, Monachi Cestrensis

Ranulf Higden (*d.* 1364) was a monk at the abbey of St Werburgh in Chester. His most important literary work is this universal chronicle, which survives in over a hundred Latin manuscripts, testifying to its popularity. The earliest version of it dates from 1327, but Higden continued writing until his death, expanding and updating the text. It was also continued in other monastic houses, most importantly by John Malvern of Worcester. The English translation made by John Trevisa in the 1380s was also widely circulated and is included in this work, published in nine volumes between 1865 and 1886. The chronicle shows how fourteenth-century scholars understood world history and geography. Volume 9 contains the continuation partly written by John Malvern, with the section from 1381 to 1394 now believed to have been written at Westminster. Glossaries and indexes to the entire work are also included.

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Polychronicon
Ranulphi Higden,
Monachi Cestrensis

*Together with the English Translations
of John Trevisa and of an Unknown
Writer of the Fifteenth Century*

VOLUME 9

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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108048583

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1886
This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-04858-3 Paperback

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RERUM BRITANNICARUM MEDII ÆVI
SCRIPTORES,

OR

CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND IRELAND

DURING

THE MIDDLE AGES.

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THE CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS
OF
GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
DURING THE MIDDLE AGES.

**PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY, UNDER
THE DIRECTION OF THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS.**

ON the 26th of January 1857, the Master of the Rolls submitted to the Treasury a proposal for the publication of materials for the History of this Country from the Invasion of the Romans to the reign of Henry VIII.

The Master of the Rolls suggested that these materials should be selected for publication under competent editors without reference to periodical or chronological arrangement, without mutilation or abridgment, preference being given, in the first instance, to such materials as were most scarce and valuable.

He proposed that each chronicle or historical document to be edited should be treated in the same way as if the editor were engaged on an *Editio Princeps*; and for this purpose the most correct text should be formed from an accurate collation of the best MSS.

To render the work more generally useful, the Master of the Rolls suggested that the editor should give an account of the MSS. employed by him, of their age and their peculiarities; that he should add to the work a brief account of the life and times of the author, and any remarks necessary to explain the chronology; but no other note or comment was to be allowed, except what might be necessary to establish the correctness of the text.

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The works to be published in octavo, separately, as they were finished; the whole responsibility of the task resting upon the editors, who were to be chosen by the Master of the Rolls with the sanction of the Treasury.

The Lords of Her Majesty's Treasury, after a careful consideration of the subject, expressed their opinion in a Treasury Minute, dated February 9, 1857, that the plan recommended by the Master of the Rolls "was well calculated for the accomplishment of this important national object, in an effectual and satisfactory manner, within a reasonable time, and provided proper attention be paid to economy, in making the detailed arrangements, without unnecessary expense."

They expressed their approbation of the proposal that each Chronicle and historical document should be edited in such a manner as to represent with all possible correctness the text of each writer, derived from a collation of the best MSS., and that no notes should be added, except such as were illustrative of the various readings. They suggested, however, that the preface to each work should contain, in addition to the particulars proposed by the Master of the Rolls, a biographical account of the author, so far as authentic materials existed for that purpose, and an estimate of his historical credibility and value.

*Rolls House,
December 1857.*

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POLYCHRONICON RANULPHI HIGDEN
MONACHI CESTRENSIS;

TOGETHER WITH THE

ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF JOHN TREVISA
AND OF AN UNKNOWN WRITER OF
THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.

EDITED

BY

REV. JOSEPH RAWSON LUMBY, D.D.,
NORRISIAN PROFESSOR OF DIVINITY, CAMBRIDGE.

VOL. IX.

(Containing a continuation of the Polychronicon by Johannes Malverne.)

PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S
TREASURY, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

LONDON:

LONGMAN & Co., PATERNOSTER ROW; TRÜBNER & Co., LUDGATE HILL;

ALSO BY

PARKER & Co., OXFORD; AND MACMILLAN & Co., CAMBRIDGE;

A. & C. BLACK, AND DOUGLAS & FOULIS, EDINBURGH;

AND A. THOM, DUBLIN.

1886.

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Printed by
EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE, Her Majesty's Printers,
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

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INTRODUCTION.

When the eighth volume of the Polychronicon was completed it was not contemplated to include in this present volume anything more than the two Glossaries and the general Index. But a further examination of some of the continuations of Higden's work showed that one of them was of a character different to any of the rest, and as it proved that a portion of this had been already printed in Vol. VIII. as Appendix A., it seemed worth while to print what remained of it in the unique MS. in which it is preserved. This MS. is No. 197 in Nasmyth's Catalogue of the Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. There are several pieces bound up in the same volume. That with which we are concerned commences on p. 111. It opens with the coronation of Edward III., and only varies from the text of Higden (Vol. VIII. p. 324) already printed, in giving, as the day of the coronation, the conversion of St. Paul, while it notices that others, *per Cestrensem*, *i.e.*, following Higden, place it on the Purification of the Virgin.

The text of the MS. then continues, with only here and there a verbal modification, exactly like what is printed in Vol. VIII. to the end of page 338. At that point it gives the following additional sentence.

Hic revera Ranulphus monachus Cestrensis suas chronicas terminavit. Hic etenim liberalibus artibus eruditus literaturaque insignis quorundam sodalium suorum instantia pulsatus, de famosioribus orbis historiis, scilicet ab initio macrocosmi usque ad tempora Edwardi regis tertii post conquestum opus æternitaliter commendabile perduxit in lucem: quod opus quia multorum temporum chronicas claudit Policraticon voluit appellari; concludens vero suum opus in septem libellulis, ad

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*exemplum*¹ *primi Opificis cuncta condentis. Post hunc scripsit quidam monachus Wygornensis, Johannes Malverne, quasi duorum annorum omittens tempora, forsā in his nil gestu commendabile peractum fuerat, quod pennarum postulare labores, quare sic procedit. In festo translationis, &c.*

The MS. then proceeds as nearly as possible in agreement with our printed text (Vol. VIII. 340–344) to the words “*adversa propetior,*” after which it is the same in nearly every particular as the Appendix A. of Vol. VIII., which commences on p. 355. The only variations which deserve notice are, the addition on p. 355 of a notice of the death of “*John de Offorde,*” archbishop elect of Canterbury, and the succession in that office of “*Thomas de Bredewardyn.*” Again on p. 359, to the notice of the death of Fitzralph, the archbishop of Armagh, there is added after “*sepulturæ traduntur,*”

In hujus viri transitu fertur quendam cardinalem dixisse: “Hodie cecidit columna magna in ecclesia dei.” Composuit iste libros diversos, unum quidem de quæstionibus² Armeniorum, alium vero de pauperie Christi, sermonesque quamplures edidit, ex quibus et aliis suis tractatibus veraciter agnitum extat quod fuerat scriba probatissimus in regno cælorum.

Another addition is to the character of Alice Perrers (*see* Higden VIII. 385) where there is added after “*fuerat accusata.*”

Hæc enim sui sexus et fragilitatis femineæ penitus immemor olim juxta justiciarios regios sedere in et pro defensione causarum suarum nullatenus erubuit: conformiter et in foro ecclesiastico pari audacitate juxta doctores et judices residebat propria negotia pro libito suo determinans et decernens.

The next variation is on p. 393, where after “*puer octo annorum*” there is inserted, with the marginal note “*Commendatio Regis Edwardi,*” the following passage:

Erat autem iste Rex Edwardus inter omnes mundi magnificos immensæ bonitatis dictus generosus, quod virtute gratiæ

¹ For this statement, Cf. Higden, vol. i., p. 26.

² The title of Fitzralph’s book here alluded to is, “*Summa, seu*

libri xix. adversus errores Armenorum.” It has been printed at Paris, 1612. See Cave, *Scr. Eccl.*, sub anno 1347.

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sibi divinitus concessæ universos prædecessores suos, viros illustres et nobiles, excellebat, corde magnanimus, quod ad infortunia et incommoda casualiter accidentia nunquam expavit, belliger insignis et fortunatus, quod in terra et in mari in hujusmodi bellicis congressibus triumphali gloria victoriam reportavit. Clemens et benignus, familiaris et mansuetus etiam ad omnes, tam ad externos quam ad suos subditos in regno, et alios sub ejus regimine constitutos, Deo devotus, quod ecclesiam Dei et ejus ministros reverenter venerabatur. Tractabilis in curis temporalibus; in consilio vero providus et discretus; in eloquii suavitate affabilis et mitis; in gestu et moribus laudabilis et præsertim ab universis nationibus egregie commendatus, nam multum ejus magnalia extollere curabant dicentes nullam terram fuisse sub cælo quæ unquam tam nobilem tam generosum aut felicem produxit, nec eo extincto talem aut consimilem posteris forsitan suscitabit. Afflictis vero pia gestabat viscera, in beneficiis quoque conferendis liberalis fuerat; in rerum affluentia honorificus et moderatus; circa nova ædificia construenda sollicitus ac curiosus: regnum suum usque in senium gloriose rexit: largus in donis et prodigus in expensis erat, autem in universa morum honestate præclarus; lenitur ferens damna, deditus semel alicui occupationi jugis et assidue circa illam vacabat. Tanta enim gratia erat perfusus, ut si quis ejus faciem viderit sive de illo quaque nocte somniaverit ea die sperabat sibi jucunda solacia et prospera evenire. Luxus tamen et motus suæ carnis etiam senili ætate non cohibuit, unde citius ut creditur propter illius immoderantiam vitam finivit; et sicut in ejus primordio cuncta grata et prospera successive venerunt, ita versus ejus finem, morte appropinquante, mala quam plurima sunt exorta, et in dies excrescere non desistunt.

After this the MS. continues, but without any division into chapters or sections, exactly as the Appendix A. of Vol. VIII. to page 406, which was all that was contained in our MS. A. This brings us almost to the end of p. 130 of the Corpus MS.

It will have been noticed how much this Appendix, so far as is printed in the last volume, differs from Walsingham, whose history is the only one yet included in this series which relates to the times of Richard II. When to this difference there is added that the MS. here printed appears to be unique, and preserves to us the only

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name known of the many persons who undertook to continue the Polychronicon, it will be understood why it appeared desirable, by printing the remaining portion, to make the whole of John Malverne's text accessible.

Of the compiler Pits has the following notice in his Appendix (p. 878 *sub anno* 1342):

Joannes Malvernæus, Milvernæum alii vocant, natione Anglus, Oxonii studiis aliquando bonarum literarum operam dedit, eratque ibi Oriensis alumnus¹ Collegii. Postea factus est S. Benedicti monachus Wigorniensis. Scripsit magnum quoddam opus visionum Anglice, quod absolvisse perhibetur Anno Domini 1342, cui operi titulum fecit Pierce Plowman,² quod opus in aliquibus Angliæ bibliothecis adhuc MS. reperiri ferunt.

Scripsit præterea, ad continuationem Polychronica, chronicorum librum unum, MS. Cantabrigiæ in collegio³ S. Benedicti. De aliis ejus scriptis aut gestis hactenus nihil invenio. Claruit anno Domini præfato 1342, regnante apud Anglos Edwardo tertio.

It will be convenient to notice year by year the matters recorded in this Appendix which do not appear in Walsingham.

In 1381, the events of which are on pp. 1-11, the additional events chronicled are the breaking down by

¹ I find that there are no records preserved at Oriel which go back to the times of Malverne.

² The writer of Piers Plowman was of a different mould from the compiler of a chronicle such as that of John Malverne. The only person of the name (or something like it), whom I have found mentioned at this period, is one "Malveren" spoken of in the Examination of William Thorpe (A.D. 1407) as given in Fox (*Acts & Mon.* i. 629, seqq.). There on p. 630 he is described as "a phisician that was called Malveren, person of S. Dunstanes in London." That these two professions were sometimes combined in the same person we see from the text of the present

volume, p. 3. Once more on p. 643 he is noticed thus: "And then a clerke Malvern (as I gesse) sayde to the Archbishop," and subsequently the name appears on p. 644, and three times on p. 646. But I have found nothing either in connexion with S. Dunstan's in London or with the monastery of Worcester which helps to identify the monk of Worcester with the "person" of S. Dunstan's.

³ The college of S. Benedict, or, as it was better known, Benc't College, is now called Corpus Christi, and the MS. of which Pits here speaks is that from which the Appendix in the present volume is printed.

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an ice flood of Rochester bridge, and the death of lord Latymer. In the description of the insurrection of the peasantry, we learn that they first attacked the archbishop's palace at Lambeth, from which he fled and took refuge with the king in the Tower.¹ It appears too that when the mob broke into the Tower the king was still at Mile End, which is a different version from that of Walsingham (i. 458), who, though giving much detail, does not tell that the heads of the primate and others were fixed up on London Bridge. Walsingham says nothing of the murder of the warden of the Marshalsea, nor of the king's² solemn visit to Westminster. John is the name (not Walter) given to the Tiler at the head of the insurgents in our chronicle, and the details of the story are much briefer, but more natural; while

¹ It is interesting to notice the chronology of this Chronicle where it can be tested. For Malverne gives many more dates than Walsingham, and if those which can be examined prove correct, it adds to the confidence with which the rest may be accepted. The first such date occurs on p. 2 in connexion with the attack on the archbishop. This is noted as happening *pridie idus Junii*, i.e., June 12, which is also marked as the correct day by a fixed feast, the martyrdom of Basilides and Cirinus, and by the moveable feast of Corpus Christi day, i.e., the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, which in 1381 fell on June 12 (see De Morgan's Book of Almanacs, No. 23). Similarly on p. 26 it is noted that in 1383 the *littera dominicalis* was D, which is perfectly correct. And there are many tokens that the writer was living through the events which he describes. Thus p. 2, line 10, the occurrence of "ducis" for "the duke," without any definition, shows

how much "time honoured Lancaster" overtopped every one of the same rank in the eyes of his contemporaries, so that there could be no mistake about who was meant. So the use of "cernerer" just below on the same page seems to bespeak an eye witness. Also "videres" (pp. 4, 5, 7) and on p. 22 the passage commencing "Utique et utinam."

² Throughout this brief chronicle much emphasis is constantly given to the religious character of Richard II. He is very frequent in his visits to Westminster, and his devotions are repeatedly mentioned. Also, wherever the chronicler has occasion, or opportunity, to speak of the king's character, he always paints it in the most attractive colours. See p. 6, where his horror of civil strife is noted; p. 10, which describes his large indulgence towards offenders; p. 26, his prudence and sagacity, and many other passages.

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a very different colouring is given to the dispersion of the rebels from that in Walsingham's narrative. The preacher among the insurgents is John Balne (not Ballé), and the vengeance permitted to the Flemings¹ for what their friends had suffered is a detail unnoticed in Walsingham, as is also the immense prevalence of false accusations, and the council held at Reading, at which the chronicle represents Sir Hugh Segrave to have been appointed lord treasurer, an appointment which Walsingham places in the year after (ii. 49).

Among the records of 1382 (pp. 12–17) the chronicle supplies the notice of the irregularity in the queen's coronation, the archbishop having not yet received the pall from Rome, and also preserves the line written on the queen, and the popular comment upon it. It adds some details (p. 12) concerning the condition and desires for enfranchisement of the people of London: it records the death of the countess of Bedford, and the sufferings of the country from the enormous rainfall of the year. The sudden death of the abbat of Battle, the notice of his character, and of the appointment of his successor, are additions to Walsingham's narrative.

Under 1383, the chronicle (p. 17) gives other reasons for the opposition which was offered in Parliament to the bishop of Norwich's expedition² to the continent, and the anger of the duke of Lancaster at what was done is unnoticed in Walsingham, as is also the appointment of Michael de la Pole to be Lord Chancellor. Though the story of the bishop's campaign is roughly the same

¹ Though Flemish artizans came over with the conqueror, and were settled in and near Norwich, it was not till the reign of Edward III. that they were largely encouraged to come and settle in England. That these foreign workmen should be detested by the inhabitants, and, when an opportunity offered, mercilessly attacked, is no more than we still see happening, though per-

haps in less violent ways, in our own and other countries.

² The French were supporting the antipope (Robert of Geneva), and it was for this reason that the crusade of the bishop of Norwich against the north of France was encouraged by Urban VI. The English nobles did not favour the expedition, as it was not in the interest of England but of Rome.

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the offer of the earl of Arundel (p. 19) to join him as the king's vicegerent, shows that the Parliament felt loth to have English troops abroad under the bishop's sole command. Though Walsingham records marvels enough he does not chronicle the miracle at Ely spoken of on p. 20, nor the king's visits to Nottingham and York, nor the resignation of Sir John Denrose, the governor of Calais, though he had mentioned his appointment in 1379 (i. 427). The speech of De la Pole to the bishop of Norwich is new matter (p. 25), and so is that first mention (p. 26) of the differences between the king and the lords temporal, which afterwards grew to have such important consequences.

Among the events of 1384 (pp. 28-54) the additional particulars commence with the destruction by the Scots of the castle of Lochmaben, and include much information on the troubles in London during the mayoralty of John Northampton, telling how he tried the policy which had been successful on the¹ fishmongers upon the other crafts, and became in consequence unpopular. Nicholas Brembre being elected instead of him, we have a collision between the mayor and his predecessor in the street. Later on in the year (p. 45) we have an account of the arrest of the sheriff, Thomas Husk, and of the charges which he brought against John Northampton. The history of the proceedings which followed shows a very disturbed condition of the city of London, and Northampton's claim not to be sentenced in the absence of the duke of Lancaster (p. 46) points to the immense, and no doubt often improper, influence which one like John of Gaunt could exercise. The sentences of imprisonment passed on Northampton and his abettors do not close the troubles of the year in respect of the

¹ The use of "curia" (p. 29) for the privileges of the fishmongers marks how the crafts of the city had their special rights acknowledged, but the story shows how a

lord mayor, feeling himself backed by the court party, could harass his fellow citizens, and trouble the city guilds considerably.

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mayoralty. At the next election Brembre is opposed by a portion of the electors who preferred Twyford for their mayor, but by dint of strong precautions and a vigorous course afterwards he secures the office for a second year, and has, we are told, the king's approval.

Other matters, not recorded in Walsingham, are the capture by the Spaniards of some English clerks (p. 31), and also of some English ships (32); how the duke of Lancaster in the Scottish war saved Melrose Abbey from destruction (32); how in the parliament of Salisbury he appeared as mediator between opposite parties, and how the earl of Arundel spoke in strong terms of the evil rule prevalent throughout the kingdom (33). Many details are given in the account of the torture of the Carmelite friar who brought charges against John of Gaunt, which show how dangerous a course it was in these unruly days to speak against the powerful, while the anger of the duke (p. 39) with the keeper of Salisbury castle looks like the conduct of a man who was conscious of the evil of which his agents had been guilty. The mention of a miraculous light shining over the dead friar's grave reminds us of some of the stories of Beda, and contrasts greatly with the details of the miracles said to have been wrought there, as they are recorded by Walsingham.

It will be enough to mention the rest of the additional records of this year. There is the complaint of the commons (p. 40): the suggestion by the king of an inquest of *Trailbastoun* (41): a lament over the low condition of the church (42): a dispute concerning the right of the archbishop of Canterbury to visit the diocese of Exeter (42): the help given by the northern prelates against the inroads of the Scots (43): the marriage of the earl of Nottingham (44): the play at Skinnerswell¹ (47): the death of Sir Wm. de Windeshore

¹ As the performers are called "Clerici" the play was probably a "miracle-play." These were not un- frequent in pre-Reformation times. There is a record at Bassingbourne, near Cambridge, of one performed

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(49), formerly governor of Cherbourg: some executions at Fouloke which afterwards form a ground of accusation: the death of the duchess of Brittany (50): and there is also a variation from Walsingham (53) in the day assigned to Wycliffe's death. The chronicle mentions St. Stephen's day (26th December), while Walsingham says it was the day of St. Thomas-à-Becket (29th December), and embellishes his narrative with a story of the blasphemies which Wycliffe was said to have prepared to utter against Becket in his sermon of that day.

For 1385 we have (pp. 54-80) the following matters in supplement of Walsingham. The notice of the support which the queen of Naples at first gave to Pope Urban VI., and afterwards withdrew in favour of Robert of Geneva, the antipope. On p. 56 we have a reason assigned for the hatred felt by those around the king's person against the duke of Lancaster, and much more detail concerning the estrangement between the king and his uncle. The names of the duke's special opponents are given on p. 58, where also we find that the anger against the archbishop of Canterbury had the same origin as that against John of Gaunt. All the narrative about the capture of Barnabo, king of Milan, is additional (pp. 59-60); and so is the notice of the intense heat of the summer, and that a council was held at Reading during this year. A reason is given (p. 61) for Sir John Holand's violence in murdering the son of the earl of Stafford. The capture of Rhodes by the Saracens (62) and the division which the king made of the army provided for the invasion of Scotland, together with several particulars of events in that invasion, *e.g.*, the destruction of Newbottle Abbey, and the disbanding of the troops at Newcastle, are details which find no place in

there in the reign of Henry VII., for the entertainment at which all the neighbourhood round contributed provisions and money, and

which, like that mentioned in the text, was continued for several days.

b 2

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Walsingham. To these may be added the death of Wm. Rud (sometimes spelt Reed or Reade), bishop of Chichester, and his fame as an astronomer; several notices of the shifting residence of Pope Urban (pp. 66, 70) in these troublous days: the raid of the Scots on Carlisle, and Percy's pursuit of them (66-67): the re-election of Nicholas Brembre as lord mayor of London: the submission made to the king by the archbishop of Canterbury (69), over which the chronicler makes a very pathetic lament that the days and spirit of Thomas-à-Becket are no more. On p. 71 we are told that it was the news of the success of Portugal against Spain which induced John of Gaunt to prosecute his claim for the Spanish crown; on p. 72 additional details are the death of the king's ambassador to the pope at Genoa, and the appointment of a new bishop of Chichester; and on p. 74 the ineffectual appeal of the duke of Lancaster for a remission of the sentence on John Northampton and the others who were condemned to imprisonment along with him; the notices of the visit of the king of Armenia which commence on p. 76 are fuller than in Walsingham, who omits also to mention the consecration of Walter Skyrlowe as bishop of Chester, and the appointment of the bishop of Durham to be lord Treasurer (78), as well as the touching and effectual suit for mercy of the contumacious Sir John Holand (79).

Among the events of 1386 (pp. 81-90) we find on p. 81 an entirely different account from Walsingham's of the doings and death of Charles of Durazzo; the mention of the divine favour manifested to the cause of Pope Urban is also peculiar to this chronicle, while where Walsingham is very copious, in the history of this year, on the doings and the charges against Michael de la Pole, the writer of our chronicle says not a word, and barely alludes to the Chancellor's impeachment afterwards. The fragment of the commission for inquiry into the royal revenue

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(pp. 83–89) deals with a subject on which Walsingham is silent, and it is worth noting that though its purport is contained in the statutes at large, yet the form of our text is all couched in the first person plural and so it differs in many respects from that version of it which is given among the statutes. The death of the abbat of Westminster, Nicholas Litlyngton, and the difficulty about the appointment of his successor, in unnoticed by Walsingham, and so are most of the matters recorded on p. 90, the death of the earl of Stafford, the movements of the pope, the change of the king's officers, the death of Sir Hugh Segrave, and the visits of the king to York and afterwards to Nottingham.

In 1387 (pp. 91–113) the occurrences noted in this chronicle and not in Walsingham are the following: on p. 91 the death of the abbat of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, and subsequently (98, 102) the incidents connected with the appointment of a successor, and the difficulties and outlay caused to the society by the action of the court of Rome: on 93, the pardon granted to John Northampton: the king's regret over the commission which had been appointed, followed by councils at Reading, Woodstock, and Nottingham, and the endeavour to form a party in the nation to resist any action which the commissioners might take: the appointment (94) of the duke of Ireland as justiciary of Chester: the events connected with the duke of Lancaster's expedition to Spain (95), to which is subjoined an account of his family and that of Lionel, king Edward's second son, an enumeration which suggests that the minds of men were turned at the time to the thought of who should succeed, if it became necessary to depose the too free-handed Richard. The notice of Henry Percy's exploits at sea (p. 98) is not found in Walsingham, nor the list of questions put to the justiciaries, the answering of which cost them so dear in the end. On p. 102 the pope's movements and the in-

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stallation of the abbat of Westminster: on 103 the enumeration of the various causes which led to the rising of the lords against the king are peculiar to this chronicle. The force of the words "rege volente" in the account of the mayoralty of Nicholas Exton (104) is seen, when the notice by Walsingham (ii. 150) is considered, where he tells how Exton had refused to be a party to the plot against the duke of Gloucester and his companions. Walsingham makes no mention of the inquiry put by the king to the lord mayor and the citizens: nor of the proclamation against the earl of Arundel (105): nor of the advice given to Richard by his adherents: nor does he give the details of the gathering of the forces of the nobles: nor the speech of Sir Richard Scrope (107) explaining the causes of the rising: nor the request of the lord mayor to be relieved of his office: nor the proposition made (109) for the king's deposition and resisted by the Earl of Warwick: nor of the movements of the forces of the nobles (110, 111) to meet the troops gathered by the duke of Ireland, nor of the flight of the latter from England by taking ship at Queenborough.

It is, however, to the year 1388 that the compiler of this continuation has given most attention. The notices of that year extend from p. 113 to 202 of the printed text, and are in marked contrast to Walsingham's chronicle where little more than eight pages are devoted to the same time. On p. 113 we have somewhat more detail of the way in which the forces of the nobles were gathered, and much more (114-115) about the interview which they had with the king at the Tower, previous to the commencement of their work of deprivation and removal of various persons from attendance on the monarch. On 116-117 all the notice of the proposals for peace among the crafts of London is omitted from Walsingham, as is the less important item about the scarcity of water this year in the Thames. The account of the

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impeachment of the archbishop of York, the duke of Ireland, chancellor de la Pole, the justiciary Tresilyan, and the late lord mayor, Nicholas Brembre, is dismissed by Walsingham in a line or two, while to this subject and the further trial of Sir Simon Burle, Sir John Beauchamp, Sir James Bemers, and Sir John Salesbury our chronicler devotes a great deal of space. He first gives the preamble of the charge, then the 39 articles of impeachment against the archbishop and his colleagues, followed by the 16 charges against Burle and the others. And though these are contained in the rolls of Parliament yet the French text here given differs in some points both of language and arrangement from any that has been published, and on this account it seemed worthy of being printed as well as for another reason which will presently be mentioned. On p. 158 our chronicler gives the French text of the act of pardon for all that was done in the proceedings of the year, which is found in substance in the English statutes at large referred to in the margin. But after the original documents the chronicler supplies us in Latin with a sort of commentary with additions on what has been barely recorded in the French. Thus on p. 150 the French document has noticed the removal from office of Robert Belknapp and the other justiciaries, but additional details are given in the Latin of p. 165. So on p. 166 and 168 with regard to Nicholas Brembre; on p. 167 with regard to Tresilyan's sentence and execution, and that of Blake and Uske on p. 169. On 171 and 172 we have accounts of the examination of Lollards before the papal sub-collector, and many particulars concerning the privileges of sanctuary and the light in which those privileges were viewed by the king; a subject which was of much debate at this time in consequence of the seizure out of Westminster of Tresilyan who had fled thither for refuge.

From p. 185 to 187 there is much more about the doings of the Scots, and about the causes of the disaster

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at Otterbourne than is recorded in Walsingham; as well as about the earl of Arundel's exploits on the coast of France, where, however, the names of some of the islands given in the text are not easy of identification.

From p. 189 to 200 this chronicle gives an account of the parliament held this year (1388) at Cambridge. Among the published rolls of parliament this roll does not appear. Something in great part like our text is found in Knyghton's Chronicle,¹ but a comparison of the two shows many variations. What we have in our text purports to be an abstract of the enactments from the French parliament roll, and from its agreement in character with the previous extracts we may judge it to be a good representation of what the roll really was. Hence it possesses both value and interest.²

In the concluding pages of the annals of this year (200–202) there are one or two matters recorded which do not appear in Walsingham. Such are the notice of the embassy to Prussia; some particulars of the death of Sir Thomas Tryvet; the record of the marriage of Katharine daughter of John of Gaunt to the son of the Spanish king; the election of Nicolas Twyford as lord mayor of London, and the raids of Englishmen in France and of the Scots in England.

From p. 202–219 the chronicle deals with the events of 1389.

The matters of interest in this part, that are not found in Walsingham, are the history of a dispute between the abbat of Westminster and the priests of St. Stephen's chapel. On the origin of the disagreement the writer enters into some detail. Much information is given, in addition to the papal bull, concerning the jubilee which was appointed for the coming year, and a brief sketch of the history of jubilees up to this date.

Twysden's *Decem Scriptores*
coll. 2729–2734.

parliament cf. the remarks of Mr. Cooper. (*Annals of Cambridge*, vol. i., p. 133.)

² On the loss of the roll of this

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The ecclesiastical obituary for the year (p. 212) adds some particulars to Walsingham, who is also supplemented in the narrative of the doings on the Scotch border, and in some minor matters, *e.g.*, the deaths of Sir John Harpedene and of Sir Michael de la Pole.

On the year 1390 Walsingham is extremely brief, extending over little more than three pages. Our chronicle gives particulars of the parliament at Westminster in which was enacted the statute against provisions, of which the text is also given. Some interest attaches to the notice of the pleas which were admissible in the Marshalsea; to the gift of a pair of jewelled coronation shoes to the abbey of Westminster, because one of those formerly in use had been lost at the coronation of the king; as well as to the notices of tournaments at home and abroad, and to the adventurous spirit and deeds of Henry earl of Derby, afterwards to be Henry IV. of England. A pestilence in this year carried off many persons of note. A relaxation of his sentence was granted to John Northampton at the request of the duke of Lancaster, and he afterwards was fully reinstated. We have some curious particulars of a life of outlawry, where some persons took to the woods in consequence of an inquisition of *Trailbastoun*.

Other points of interest relate to the regulation of market hours in London, and to the fixing of the price of wool, and where the staple should be held, by an order of parliament in the November of this year.

The records of 1391 (pp. 246–263) contain mostly an account of the visit of a papal nuncio to England and the expostulations and arguments which were used by him in the pope's name against the recent statutes "*Quare impedit*," "*Præmuniri facias*," and the like. Here we have a good picture of the English policy on these questions, and of the small concessions, for appearance sake only, made to the papal claims.

Among matters not contained in Walsingham are

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some doings of English adventurers in Prussia, and the touching story connected with the death of Sir John Clanvowe.

In 1392, the annals of which year extend from p. 263 to 278, the main matters of interest relate to a quarrel of the king against the citizens of London, because of the refusal of the latter to advance money on a loan¹. The story is given at much greater length than in Walsingham, and varies in many particulars.

¹ Fabyan's account of the offence, the mayor being John Heende, is different, and so curious that it seems worth recording.

"In thys yere also and moneth of Junye a baker's man bearyng a basketful of horsebred to serve his masters customers in Fletestrete, whan he came fore agayne the byshop of Salysburyes place standyng in Salysbury aley, a servaunte of the bishoppes starte unto the basket and tooke out one of the loves. And for the baker woulde agayne have recovered hys horse-lofe, the bishoppes servaunte wyth hys dagger brake the bakers head. Than came the inhabitauntes of the strete and wolde have broughte the yoman unto warde for brekyng of the kynges peace. But he was rescowed by lys felowes, and so had unto the byshoppes palayes whyche that day stooode treasurer of Englande.

For thys rescous the people beyng in a furey in greate multytud gathered about þe palayes and wold have entred perforce to have fet out þe yoman. Agaynste whome the byshoppes servauntes made resystence so that the rumoure grew more and more. And the people of the cytee, aswel such as were of evel disposicion as other, encreded into a grete number.

Fame of thys doing than sprang to the mayre which in al hast with divers aldermen and the shreffes sped them thether to se the peace kepte, and dyd that he coude to withdrawe the people. But after þe mayre and the offycers of the cytee drewe thither, in muche more multytud than they had before, so that the more they were in number þe worse they were to rule. In so much that they wolde not be satysfyed, thei might have þe yoman delyvered, whose name was Walter Romayne. And for to bryng about their foly, they made many assautes at the gates of þe said palays, the byshoppe hymself beyng then at Wyndesore. Lastly, after many showtes and lyftes at the gates made, by discrecion of þe mayre and aldermen with other discrete comoners of þe cytie, the people was mynished and sent again every man to his dwellyng, and al was sette in quyete and rest. When worde of this came unto the bishop, in much worse maner then the thyng was in deede, by gevyng light credence without examinacion made in the mater, assooyat unto hym Mayster Arundel the arche-bishop of Yorke and chaunceler of Englande, and so grevously enfourmed the kyng, þt he toke agayne the cytie righte grevouse