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Roger of Hoveden Edited by William Stubbs  
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### Chronica Magistri Rogeri de Houedene

Roger of Hoveden's *Chronica* was begun around 1192 and covers English history from 732 to 1201, when it is assumed he died. The work is largely an annotated compilation of various other chronicles, including the *Gesta Regis Henrici Secundi Benedicti Abbatis* (also reissued in this series). This was formerly attributed to Benedict of Peterborough, which was the view taken by William Stubbs (1825–1901) when he edited this work for the Rolls Series in 1868–71. Since the twentieth century, however, Hoveden has been recognised as the author. As a clerk to Henry II until 1189, and later as a diplomat during the Third Crusade, he was ideally placed to gain first-hand knowledge and also documents, which he provides here in full. Volume 1 (to 1148) comprises copies of chronicles attributed to Symeon of Durham and Henry of Huntington, and draws on the *Historia Saxonum sive Anglorum post obitum Bedae*.

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# Chronica Magistri Rogeri de Houedene

VOLUME 1

ROGER OF HOVEDEN  
EDITED BY WILLIAM STUBBS



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He proposed that each chronicle or historical document to be edited should be treated in the same way as if the editor were engaged on an *Editio Princeps*; and for this purpose the most correct text should be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

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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**CHRONICA**

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CHRONICA  
  
MAGISTRI ROGERI DE  
HOUEDENE.

EDITED

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P R E F A C E.

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## P R E F A C E.

OF the several schools of English Mediæval History, the most ancient, the most fertile, the longest lived, and the most widely spread was the Northumbrian. Notwithstanding the greater antiquity and the dignified pre-eminence of the Southern Churches, it was in the North that the newly-planted learning first became fruitful. In its first bearing it rivalled the maturest productions of the whole middle age; and its first and most lasting production was the work which forms the basis of English history.

The Northumbrian school of Historians.

The name of the Venerable Bede stands at the head of our roll of historians. His education was gathered no doubt hardly and painfully from the instructions of the professors both of the Roman and of the Irish learning, from Trumbert the disciple of Saint Chad, and Acca the disciple of Saint Wilfrid;<sup>1</sup> his life was spent chiefly in the home of piety and learning which Benedict Biscop had provided at Jarrow, on the model of the monasteries of Lerins and Rome. Both the instruction and the discipline were bestowed most fortunately. Eminent in every branch of science then explored, he was most eminent in this. The Ecclesiastical History of Bede is not indeed the oldest historical work on England,

The Venerable Bede.

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<sup>1</sup> “Frater quidam de eis qui me in scripturis erudiebant, et erat in monasterio ac magisterio illius (sc. Ceaddæ) educatus, vocabulo “Trumberct.” Bede, *H. E.*, iv. 3. For Acca, Cf. *H. E.*, iii. 13; iv. 14, &c.

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PREFACE.

Eddius. for the life of Wilfrid by Eddius,<sup>1</sup> also a Northumbrian book, takes precedence of it in date ; but it is the basis of all that follow. No one ever dreamed of superseding or improving upon it; with a wonderful rapidity it circulated throughout western Christendom, and drew for a time the eyes of the learned world on the monasteries of Deira. The schools of York were the result of the general learned movement originated by Bede, and the schools of York produced Alcuin, in his turn the light of the western world.

The schools of York.

Bede's History the foundation of English History.

The Appendix to Bede.

The Northumbrian Annals used by Simeon.

It was by attempts at continuation of the Ecclesiastical History that our existing chronology of the latter half of the eighth century and the early part of the ninth was made possible. From Bede and his continuators it was that when the original project of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle was devised, its authors drew nearly all the information they could find for the ages preceding their own. Alfred translated his book into the native tongue as the foundation of a native literature. And when the time came again for Latin to be the language of history, to Bede and the annalists who had followed him the later mediæval historians turned with one accord.

Of these continuators the two whose works have survived with the most integrity have left the result of their researches, or the jottings down of their memoranda, in the few pages known as the Appendix to the Ecclesiastical History,<sup>2</sup> and in that original work, possibly composed at Hexham, which formed the basis of the first portion of Simeon of Durham's Chronicle. These two fragments bring down the history of the North only to the year 802. Who the writers were we have no

<sup>1</sup> "Æddi cognomento Stephanus . . . invitatus de Cantia, a reverentissimo viro Vilfrido." Bede, *H. E.*, iv. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Bede, *Hist. Eccl.*, ed. Smith, 223, 224 ; ed. Hussey, 313-315 ; ed.

Stevenson, ii. 256. *Monumenta Historica Britannica*, 288. See also Hardy's *Catalogue of Materials for British History*, i. 485. The earliest copy of these memoranda is a MS. of the twelfth century.

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means whatever of judging: nor is it easy to say whether the one work is an expansion or continuation of the other. It is not improbable that Alcuin was instrumental in a remote way in the composition of the later work; the references to events of European rather than domestic interest, and especially to the history of the great emperor, seem to imply it.<sup>1</sup> It ends too about the time of Alcuin's death, as if the writer had not thought it worth while to continue it. There is, however, no distinct trace of Alcuin's hand in it,<sup>2</sup> for it contains few allusions and no direct references to the historical events that are mentioned in his existing letters.

The authors unknown: but possibly in communication with Alcuin.

It is probable that the publication, if I may speak of it so, of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, had the same effect upon the previously existing materials and schemes of history, that the publication of Higden's *Polychronicon* had in the fourteenth, and the invention of printing in the fifteenth centuries. It stopped the writing of new books and ensured the destruction of the old. That the learned school of York continued to exist until the ruin brought by the Danes, we know from the letters of Lupus of Altsig and Wigmund;<sup>3</sup> but if any distinctly Northumbrian history for the ninth century

Publication of the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

<sup>1</sup> Especially the years 754, 768, 771, 772, 792, 795, 799. Yet the annals which are ascribed to Alcuin himself are of the most meagre order, being nothing more than memoranda of the places where the emperor kept Easter from 782 to 797. See Pertz, *Scriptores*, iv. 2. Migne's edition of Alcuin, ii. 1415.

<sup>2</sup> It does contain notices of events known to and mentioned by Alcuin, and not merely in connexion with France: the accession of Ethelred of Northumbria, who was raised from the prison to the throne in 790; Alcuin (epistle in MS. Cotton,

Vesp. A. 14): the destruction of the Northumbrian monasteries in 793; Alc., ep. ix., xii., xiv.: the murder of Ethelred in 796; ep. xlvii.: the accession of Egferth in Mercia; ep. l.

<sup>3</sup> Lupus of Ferrieres, ep. 61. Ad Guigmundum archiepiscopum Eboracensem; a second letter, ep. 62, to Altsig abbot of York, asks for books, especially S. Jerome, Bede, and Quintilian, to be sent by Lantramm to the cell of S. Judoc. Lupus flourished from about 805 to 861. Wigmand was archbishop 837-850. See Raine's *Lives of the Archbishops of York*, i. 111, 112.

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The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle incorporated existing annals.

survived, it was probably embodied in the Chronicle ; and if any distinctly Northumbrian edition of the Chronicle existed, it is to be sought for, most likely, in a few fragmentary notices of events which may have been incorporated from it by Simeon.

Simeon of Durham incorporates large portions of Florence of Worcester : and continues the annals.

Upon the foundation then of Bede and his continuators, Simeon the precentor of the monastery of Durham began at the opening of the twelfth century to raise a lasting compendious work on the history of his country ; he incorporated with it a large portion of the work of Florence of Worcester, and himself continued the chronicle for ten years further. It is possible that Simeon was not the compiler of the work known by his name, but merely the continuator ; for the compilation, up to the beginning of his continuation, is common to two distinct branches of the Northumbrian historians. On Simeon's continuation the Hexham historians, Richard and John, successively priors of that ancient church, have founded their contributions to the history of the century. On the compilation without Simeon's continuation was founded the Chronicle which was the immediate foundation in its turn of the work before us.

The Hexham continuators.

The Durham continuators.

Other continuators ; Newburgh, Hemingburgh, Holyrood, Melrose.

The relation of William of Newburgh's famous history to Bede is that of imitation rather than continuation. Walter of Hemingburgh, however, while incorporating much from William, begins from the Durham compilation. The Chronicle of Holyrood<sup>1</sup> starts, of course with a long break, from Bede himself ; the Chronicle of Melrose<sup>2</sup> from the more ancient continuator ; the Chronicle of Lanercost from the full-grown work of Hoveden. There are no more valuable

Chronicle of Lanercost.

<sup>1</sup> Wharton, *Anglia Sacra*, i. 152 ; edited in 1828 by Pitcairn for the Bannatyne Club ; and by C. W. Bouterwek from a Durlach MS., at Berlin, in 1864.

<sup>2</sup> *Chron. Mailros*, edited by Fulman in his *Scriptores*, and since by Stevenson for the Bannatyne Club, in 1835.

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and authentic writings than these in the whole body of English history. It is, however, in the Chronicles of Hoveden that we have the full harvest of the labours of the Northumbrian historians.

Of the life of the compiler, editor or author of this work, Roger of Hoveden, but few facts are known, and to these I am sorry to confess that I cannot add a single one. All that is to be said is simply this.

The manor and church of Howden, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, with all their appurtenances, were conferred by William the Conqueror on William of Saint Carileph bishop of Durham. These appurtenances included the liberty of Howden and the jurisdiction of the several townships extending to the size of a wapontake, and known as the wapontake of Howdenshire, which lie between the wapontake of Ouse and Derwent and that of Harthill; with the feudal and territorial superiorities, lay and ecclesiastical, of the district. Bishop William divided his acquisition with his cathedral church, retaining to himself the manor, with the civil rights over Howdenshire, and bestowing on the priory of Durham the church of Howden, with those of the several parishes of Howdenshire that looked to it as an ecclesiastical centre.<sup>1</sup> Out of this ecclesiastical centre the bishops of Durham at a later period constituted the collegiate church of Howden, turning some of the dependent parishes into the corpora of seven prebends. For this body was built the magnificent, now unfortunately ruined, church, which disputed with Beverley the palm of architectural beauty in the Riding, until its final fall.

Roger of Hoveden, the compiler or editor of these Chronicles, was either a native of Howden or a member

<sup>1</sup> Hutchinson's *History of Durham*, vol. iii. pp. 445-491. "The wapontake of Howdenshire is not co-extensive with the liberty."

Skaife's *Kirkby's Survey*, p. 241. Cf. pp. 316: and for the character of jurisdiction, pp. 68, 69.

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PREFACE.

His con-  
nexion with  
Howden.William of  
Howden.Bishop  
Hugh de  
Puiset.Roger  
becomes a  
clerk of the  
king.

of a family which had taken its name from the place.<sup>1</sup> We may imagine him the son of a well-to-do tenant of the monastery, and sent for his education to the monastic school at Durham. There he would become acquainted with the mighty bishop Hugh de Puiset, who governed that church for forty-two years, and who was greater as a warrior and politician than as a churchman. Amongst the chaplains of bishop Hugh was one William of Howden,<sup>2</sup> whom we may suppose to have been a brother of Roger; he was in pretty constant attendance on the bishop, and seems to have been possessed of a small estate and the advowson of a church at Clinton.<sup>3</sup> Bishop Hugh had in his manor-house at Howden a convenient resting-place in his journeys to and from London and Normandy. There he spent Christmas at least on one memorable occasion, and there it was that he died. Here accordingly he may have found our author and helped to advance his fortunes.

Roger of Hoveden was destined to a more distinguished service than his hypothetical brother. He became one of the clerks of king Henry II., a member of the household of the most business-like prince of his time,

<sup>1</sup> There are several persons named Howden concerned with the history of Durham and Northumberland: John Howden died about 1371; Surtees' *Durham*, ii. 362. Stephen Houeden was sub-prior of Durham in 1435; *Scriptores Dunelmenses*, ccxxxix. Robert Houeden had owned a messuage in Hartlepool in 1446; *ibid.* ccxcvi. There is a John Howden at Hexham in 1479; *Black Book of Hexham*, p. 57.

<sup>2</sup> "Willelmus de Houeden capellanus" attests several charters of bishop Hugh de Puiset; Hodgson's *History of Northumberland*, II. iii.

93; Hutchinson's *History of Durham*, i. 179. He witnesses an agreement with R. de Fishburne, March 25, 1184; Surtees' *Durham*, i. 282; also the foundation deed of Sherburn hospital, *ibid.* p. 284.

<sup>3</sup> Hodgson's *Northumberland Pipe Roll*, p. 38, for 1185. "Willelmus de Hoveden reddit computum de duobus marcis ut redigatur in scriptum quod Petrus de Humez clamat eum de clamio suo quietum, de advocacione ecclesie de Clinton, et unius bovate terre ibidem. In thesauro liberavit, et quietus est."

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a school of future statesmen, and a school in which work was expected of every man. It is in the year 1174 that we find Roger employed in the king's service. At that time he would meet at court and in the king's chapel some of the most eminent statesmen of that and the following period: the future justiciar Ranulf Glanvill; the treasurer Richard FitzNeal, the author of the *Dialogus de Scaccario* and the lost *Tricolumnis*; Richard of Ilchester, the energetic man of business in the exchequer; Peter of Blois and Thomas le Brun,<sup>1</sup> who could tell of their Italian and Sicilian experiences; Hugh of Nonant, who was ambassador to Germany, and had the credit there of writing a book on the history of the times;<sup>2</sup> Joseph of Exeter, the poet of the Antiocheis; Giraldus Cambrensis, the geographer, historian, poet and libeller. In such a society we can imagine him learning to take a very lenient view of Henry's sins, and combining the fashionable veneration for the new martyr, with a conscientious wish to acquit his master of any share in the guilt of the murder.

Historically, we first strike on him in attendance on the king in France in the autumn of 1174. Henry was at this time employed in the pacification of the provinces which had revolted at the instigation of his sons and wife. It is possible that Hoveden had been with him during the negotiations for peace that preceded the English campaign in the autumn of 1173; for we find

<sup>1</sup> *Dialogus de Scaccario*, p. 17.

<sup>2</sup> The work is, "*Historia Universalis, ad ann. 1197*," and it is printed from a MS. at Fulda, by Hess in the *Monumenta Guelfica*, p. 55. The author is said to be Hugo Novant, Normannus; the information about Henry V., according to Dr. Potthast, p. 381, is good;

but so far as I can see, the history is very meagre, and there is no internal evidence of authorship. Still, as Hugh certainly visited Germany in 1184, Ben. Pet. i. 322, we may give him the benefit of the doubt. He moreover could write, and that pretty sharply when he chose.



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His story  
of the con-  
ference at  
Gisors,  
Sept. 26,  
1173.

him adding to the account of the conference of Gisors some particulars which are not to be found in the chronicle known as that of Benedict, from which most of the details are taken.<sup>1</sup> Earl Robert of Leicester, according to his story, used most violent language to the king, and even laid his hand upon his sword, and would have drawn it upon him had he not been prevented by the bystanders. This circumstance, which is somewhat difficult to reconcile with the exact chronology of the events, is however the only one that can be regarded as evidence of Roger's presence with the court at the time : he adds nothing more to his predecessor's account.

Roger  
nowhere  
mentions  
himself.

It is curious that what little we know of Hoveden is derived from portions of his predecessor's chronicle, which either his own modesty, or some other feeling which we cannot conjecture, caused him to omit in his own record of these events. The occasion of the first of these notices is this.

He is em-  
ployed in  
Galloway.

The district of Galloway, inhabited by a fierce, independent and turbulent race, had since the beginning of the century been governed by a chieftain named Fergus, whose origin is unknown, and whose very nationality is a matter of question. He had fought on the Scottish side in the battle of Standard,<sup>2</sup> and was connected, by marriage with an illegitimate daughter of Henry I.,<sup>3</sup> with the royal family. In the year 1160 the principality of Fergus<sup>4</sup> fell under the victorious arms of Malcolm the Maiden ; he himself retired into Holyrood abbey, and his sons Gilbert and Uhtred succeeding to his title and estates waited for the time which was sure to come, when they might take advantage of a quarrel between Scotland and England to recover their inde-

<sup>1</sup> Hoveden, 306 v°. (ed. Savile).

<sup>2</sup> Richard of Hexham, ap. Twysden, 316, 330.

<sup>3</sup> Robertson, *Scotland under her Early Kings*, i. 357.

<sup>4</sup> Chron. S. Crucis, 1160. Fergus died in 1161. *Ibid.* ad ann.; Hoveden; Chr. Mailr.



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pendence. That time came when William the Lion in 1174 was taken at Alnwick. Immediately upon the news the lords of Galloway expelled the servants of the Scottish king from their territories, and placed their own dependents in the offices of trust and jurisdiction. The forts by which the king had hoped to keep them in check they took and destroyed. This done, they began to quarrel with one another, and Gilbert, the elder, attacked his brother Uhtred in arms. Malcolm, the son of Gilbert, besieged and took the island fortress in which his uncle had taken refuge. The wretched prisoner was blinded and so cruelly mutilated that he soon after died of his wounds.<sup>1</sup>

Story of Galloway.

Before this horrible story was brought to Henry he was inclined to look on his wild cousins of Galloway as hopeful allies, and took measures to induce them to accept him as their lord instead of the king of Scots. The negotiator of this transaction was Roger of Hoveden,<sup>2</sup> whom he sent from France immediately after he had made peace with his sons, giving him as a coadjutor Robert de Vals, who was then the warden of Carlisle, and was appointed in 1176 a justice itinerant<sup>3</sup> for the northern counties. The two envoys immediately on Hoveden's arrival proposed a conference with the lords of Galloway, which Gilbert, eager to obtain a protector against the time when his brother's death must be inquired into, gladly attended. About St. Clement's day, November 23, the meeting was held, and Gilbert offered, if the king of England would accept him as a vassal and deliver him from his subjection to the crown of Scotland, an annual payment of 2,000 marks of silver, five hundred cows, and five

Henry's interest in Galloway.

Roger of Hoveden sent to the sons of Fergus.

He confers with Gilbert.

<sup>1</sup> Ben. Petr. i. 67, 79, 80.

<sup>2</sup> "Dumque hæc fierent, dominus rex misit in Angliam unum de clericis suis, Rogerum de Hoveden nomine, ad Robertum de Vals,

" ut illi duo Huctredum et Gille-

" bertum filios Ferregus conveni-

" rent et allicerent eos ad servitium

" ejus." Bened. Petr. i. 80.

<sup>3</sup> Ben. Petr. i. 108.

The envoys  
hesitate  
about the  
terms of  
alliance.

hundred swine. Hoveden and his companion, appalled probably by the news of the death of Uhtred, did not venture to accept the offer without reporting it to the king. Henry, who most likely would have been glad that the negotiation should have been concluded on the spot, did not choose to outrage the opinion of his subjects by an alliance with a fratricide, the murdered man being his own cousin. He declined to make any peace on any condition with the men of Galloway.<sup>1</sup> The alliance thus broken off, was however subsequently completed, although under different circumstances. In 1176 William the Lion brought Gilbert to Henry's court at Feckenham,<sup>2</sup> where he did homage to the English king, and satisfied him as to the death of his brother, purchasing his goodwill with a present of one thousand marks. He then returned to Galloway, and by way of testing the strength he had acquired by the new connexion, expelled all the foreigners, officers, and vassals of William, who held any tenement in Galloway, giving them the choice between death and banishment.<sup>3</sup>

The mission  
cannot be  
said to have  
been suc-  
cessful.

Hoveden's diplomatic expedition cannot have been a pleasant one, and taken as a piece of management may be termed unsuccessful. He returned to court and waited for another turn of work. During this time he either witnessed or received intelligence of a final concord made between archbishop Roger of York and bishop Hugh of Durham, by which the churches belonging to the see and convent of Durham, situated in the diocese of York, one of the chief of which was Howden, were to be relieved from the synodal fees payable to the archbishop: and the inhabitants of the district, although not relieved from the jurisdiction of the archbishop in matters spiritual, were to be

News from  
Howden.

<sup>1</sup> Ben. Petr., i. 80.

<sup>2</sup> Ben. Petr., i. 126.

<sup>3</sup> Ben. Petr., i. 126.

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punished for ecclesiastical offences only on proper notice being given to the bishop, that he or one of his officials might be in attendance.<sup>1</sup>

From the fact that the subject here adverted to occupied so large a part of Hoveden's thoughts, that some of his longest additions to his predecessor's work concern this point, we might almost suspect that he himself held the living of Howden. He quotes for instance at length the act of archbishop Thomas I. of York,<sup>2</sup> by which in his gratitude to St. Cuthbert he exempts from customary payments all the churches within the diocese of York which the church of Durham either at the time possessed or at any future time might acquire. It is questionable into which of these classes the church of Howden would fall, but by our author's time it had become entitled to all the privileges of the older property of St. Cuthbert, which, after some discussion apparently, were secured to it by the agreement of 1174. A few years later they became one of the subjects of serious contention between bishop Hugh and archbishop Geoffrey.<sup>3</sup>

In 1175 Hoveden was again actively employed. Henry kept his court at Whitsuntide at Reading; and while there, it would seem, determined to proceed in the filling up of the vacancies which had taken place in the course of several years in the headships of the religious houses. Besides the cathedral monastery of Norwich, which had lost its bishop, the abbeys of Abingdon, Grimsby, Crowland, Thorney, Holm, Westminster, St. Augustine's Canterbury, Hyde at Winchester, Abbotsbury, Shrewsbury, and Michelney were without abbots. To our author was entrusted the errand of inviting all these houses to send a deputation

<sup>1</sup> At the end of his own account of the year 1174.

<sup>2</sup> Hoveden, i. 137, 138; *Scriptores Dunelmenses*, App. v.

<sup>3</sup> Ben. Pet., ii. 226; and Hoveden, ad ann. 1191 (fo. 406, ed. Savile).

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PREFACE.

He visits  
the vacant  
monasteries  
in company  
with Robert  
Hinglisham.

of their monks to Oxford, or rather perhaps to Woodstock, on the octave of St. John the Baptist, then and there to choose their new rulers in the king's court.<sup>1</sup> As the companion of his expedition he had a clerk of the archbishop, Robert Hinglisham, afterwards archdeacon of Gloucester, who was to use his master's influence whilst Hoveden used the king's. If they really visited all the monasteries mentioned, the time allowed for the journey was very short. Between the 1st of June and the 1st of July they would have to go round great part of the south of England; and Hoveden would scarcely have time, even if he got so far north as Grimsby or Crowland, to visit the place from which he took his name.

Character of  
the business.

It was of great importance to the king that these elections should be conducted with due regard to canonical form; but it was scarcely less necessary that they should fall upon persons in whom he had confidence. The charge intrusted to Hoveden and Hinglisham was thus a matter of some delicacy; they had, in fact, to manage the several monastic societies so adroitly, that the men who should be sent to represent them would be likely to lend themselves to the king's designs. In this they seem to have succeeded fairly well; the king was not thwarted, although it was only by begging on all sides for votes—a brisk canvass for the court candidates—that he obtained the election of his friends.<sup>2</sup>

Its result.

From the date of this transaction we find no trace of Roger of Hoveden for thirteen years. In the last year

<sup>1</sup> “Et inde (from Reading, June 1) misit rex unum de clericis suis, Rogerum de Hovedene nomine, ad ecclesiam Norwicensem, quæ tunc vacabat, defuncto pastore suo, et ad abbatias quæ tunc vacabant per Angliam cum litteris suis.” Ben. Pet., i. 91.

<sup>2</sup> “Vacantium abbatiarum priores

“ cum magna parte conventuum sub edicto vocati sunt apud Wdestoc, viii. idus Julii. Rex igitur habito tractatu cum archiepiscopo, cum episcopis, sic in abbatibus substituentis canonum observavit censuram, ut emendicatis aliunde suffragiis uteretur, &c.” R. de Diceto, 587.

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of King Henry and the first of Richard he was employed as a justice in itinere for the forests in the counties of Northumberland, Cumberland and Yorkshire.<sup>1</sup> This appointment flowed naturally from his employment in the royal chapel. In the year 1184 Henry had adopted a new scheme for carrying out the forest law, and issued a new set of articles for visitation, which were embodied under the name of the Articles of Woodstock.<sup>2</sup> For the due carrying out of the visitation he divided the kingdom into districts, to each of which he sent four justices, two clerks and two knights. Owing to the jealousy with which the forest jurisdiction was viewed, both by the nobles and by the lower classes, the former of whom it limited in their chief pleasure, whilst the latter it restricted from a tempting source of livelihood, the administration of these judicial visitations required much tact and experience. Roger of Hoveden had as his companion knight on this occasion Erniss de Nevill, a member of a great family which furnished many ministers to Henry, and a relation probably of Alan de Nevill, who had been chief justice of the forests from 1166 to 1176.<sup>3</sup> The amount of business transacted by these justices was not very great, but apparently tedious; for it was not until the sixth year of Richard, 1194,<sup>4</sup> that the fines imposed by them were finally accounted for, although there is no reason to suppose that Hoveden went a second circuit after 1189. We probably have a monument of his industry in acquiring the information necessary for the discharge of his duties,

Roger of Hoveden Justice Itinerant for forests, in 1189.

Character of the forest jurisdiction.

<sup>1</sup> "De placitis Forestæ de Euerwicsire per Ærnissium de Nevilla, et Rogerum de Houedene." Pipe Roll, 1 Ric. I. p. 89; also in Cumberland, p. 140, and in Northumberland, p. 244.

<sup>2</sup> Ben. Petr., i. 323; ii. App. to Pref. clix.

<sup>3</sup> Madox, *History of the Exche-*

*quer*, 84–102. Erniss was father of Hugh de Nevill, who was master forester a few years later.

<sup>4</sup> Pipe Roll of 6 Ric. I., quoted in Hardy's *Catalogue of Materials for British History*, ii. 255. "Euerwic-scire. De placitis forestæ per Ærnissium de Nevilla et Rogerum de Houedene."

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His records  
of Forest  
Assize.

in the copy of the Articles of Assize and Regard of the Forest, which are found, together with a copy of Glanvill's work on the Laws, appended to the collection of laws inserted in his Chronicle at the end of the year 1180.<sup>1</sup> When a new forest assize was published by Richard in 1198, and the office of justice was entrusted to Hugh de Nevill, Hugh Wake, and Ernis de Nevill, Hoveden notices the points in which the king had increased the severity of his father's assize, and had returned to the barbarity of the practices allowed by Henry I.<sup>2</sup>

Nothing is  
heard of  
Roger after  
1189.

With this scanty mention of his name in the Pipe Rolls we lose sight of Hoveden altogether. It is most probable that upon king Henry's death his household was dispersed; his great ministers were made bishops, or otherwise displaced to make way for new men. Ranulf Glanvill's school of administrators disappears before that of William Longchamp. As the records of public business increase in bulk and minuteness of detail regularly from this time, and no mention of Hoveden in any capacity is discoverable in them, we may fairly conclude that he retired from public life at his master's death. And it is to this period that we shall be warranted, I think, in fixing the date of his commencing the compilation of his Chronicle. It is not improbable that Howden was the place of his retirement, and that there, either as parson of the church or as a proprietor on his own estate, he lived whilst he drew up the latter portion of the Chronicle before us. There we can imagine him witnessing the bishop's arrival in 1190, when having returned from Normandy with the commission of justiciar, he found himself completely overreached by Longchamp, and was glad to be suffered to retire quietly

Possibly he  
lived at  
Howden.

<sup>1</sup> Printed in the Appendix to the Preface to Ben. Petr., II. clix.

<sup>2</sup> Hoveden, ed. Savile, 445, 446.