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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.

Chronicles of the Reigns of Edward I and Edward II

This first of two volumes of Latin chronicles illustrating the reigns of Edward I (1272–1307) and Edward II (1307–27) was published in 1882. These works contain material not found in any other source for the period. The first text included here is a collection of the surviving fragments of the *Annales Londonienses*, much of which was destroyed by fire in 1731, but which originally provided a year-by-year narration of the events from 1194 to 1330. Despite a complete break between 1293 and 1301, it remains especially valuable for the years 1289–1316. The *Annales Paulini*, from the hand of a chronicler associated with St Paul's, features closely related and sometimes overlapping material dealing with the years 1307–41. The often corrupt texts were restored, edited and provided with English side-notes by William Stubbs (1825–1901), whose lengthy introduction specifies the contents of each chronicle and details the history of the transmission and publication of the manuscripts.

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Chronicles of the Reigns of Edward I and Edward II

VOLUME 1

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.

Q 4549. Wt. 16202.

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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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CHRONICLES OF THE REIGNS
OF
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VOL. I.

ANNALES LONDONIENSES

AND

ANNALES PAULINI;

EDITED FROM MANUSCRIPTS IN

THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND IN THE ARCHIEPISCOPAL
LIBRARY AT LAMBETH,

BY

WILLIAM STUBBS, D.D., LL.D.,

CANON RESIDENTIARY OF S. PAUL'S, LONDON; HONORARY STUDENT OF CHRIST
CHURCH; FELLOW OF ORIEL COLLEGE, AND REGIUS PROFESSOR OF
MODERN HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

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1882.

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**INTRODUCTION.**  
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INTRODUCTION.

OUR knowledge of the reign of Edward the Second is, to a very great extent, derived from materials of the nature of legal record. There is scarcely one important event of the tragic and vital struggle, in which king and constitution were alike involved, that is not illustrated by legal and formal documents. And the daily life of the king, and the daily proceedings of the great departments of state, are, owing to the abundance of similar evidences, so easily traceable, that, with no great hesitation, the legal and formal documents may be referred each to its own place in the relation of cause and consequence. The volumes of Parliamentary writs edited by Sir Francis Palgrave, the remains of the Rolls of Parliament, and the first half of the second volume of the New Fœdera, form a Corpus Diplomaticum for a reign of twenty years, which, although not quite perfect, may vie in completeness with the collections possible for any other reign. But the tragic interest and the vital unity of the subject are liable to be lost, if the student has only the dry bones of history before him. The reign is not equally well illustrated by the labours of contemporary historians. The long race of industrious compilers of monastic annals seems to have passed away: the contemporaries of Matthew Paris must have been, if not discouraged by the view of his enormous superiority, at least indisposed to devote independent labour to the field which he seemed to have exhausted. And

Record materials for the reign of Edward II.

Historical materials.

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the string of historical scholars once broken is not reunited without a change of character. Other monastic annal-books, which in origin were coeval with those of S. Albans, do indeed, by virtue of their first impulse, continue for a single lifetime after Matthew Paris closed his labours. But, for a long time after that, the compilation known as the *Flores Historiarum*, the exact relation of which to the work of Matthew Paris it would be hazardous and premature even now to define, furnished those clerks who had any wish to commemorate the events of their own time, with a basis, a sort of standard history, which might be continued, but could not be improved on or superseded. Another short period, during which history is sought among the continuators of the Flores, is followed by the compilation of the Polychronicon; and side by side with these two, is multiplied the family of the popular manuals known by the name of "Brute." The continuators of the Flores, of the Polychronicon, and the Brute, help to fill the vacuum caused by the defeasance of the older school of annalists. The reign of Edward II. falls between the age of the Flores and the age of the Polychronicon.

Importance of the continuators of the *Flores Historiarum*.

The *Polychronicon*, and the *Brute*.

Plan of this work.

I propose to include, in a couple of volumes, of which the present is the first, a collection of the most important of the small chronicles which we owe to the labours of these continuators: the acephalous London Annals of the Cotton MS. Otho B. 3; the Lambeth or Pauline continuation of the Flores; the Encomium of Edward I., known as the *Commendatio lamentabilis* of John of London; the *Vita Edwardi III*^{di}, published by Hearne under the name of the Monk of Malmesbury; the *Vita Edwardi de Carnarvan* of the canon of Bridlington with the continuation for the early years of Edward III.; and the Life of Edward II., by Sir Thomas de la Moor, already known to the world by publication in the collections of Parker and Camden.

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Not one of these works can with any certainty be ascribed to a known author; the larger part of them exists only in modern copies from manuscripts which have perished or dropped out of sight. The question of authorship ceases, perhaps, to be of paramount importance when the information contained in the books can be tested so thoroughly as in the present case by contemporary legal record; it becomes a matter of purely literary interest in which the personal authority of the writer is of secondary consequence, and the value of such portions of the narrative as are incapable of external authentication, depends on the generally faithful character of the context where it has been so proved. But, although no longer of paramount importance, the literary history of such works has a considerable interest which grows upon the investigator as he proceeds, and is full of suggestions to the reader who takes the trouble to follow up the investigation. I shall accordingly, as is the rule in such cases, devote a few pages to the question of authorship and the history of the manuscripts; confining myself in the present introduction to the consideration of the two books contained in this volume: the *Annales Londonienses* and the *Annales Paulini*.

Relative importance of the literary history of our materials.

I. The *Annales Londonienses* once formed a part of the contents of the Cottonian MS. Otho B. 3. They constituted the seventh of the nine distinct articles which are enumerated in Smith's Catalogue of the Cotton Library, as contained in that MS. The following list gives only a faint idea of the loss to historical literature consequent on its destruction:—

The *Annales Londonienses*.

“ 1. *Annales a Christo nato ad annum C. 1255*, in quibus multa de rebus Angliæ adnotantur, præsertim post adventum Normannorum in Angliam, et versus finem de obsidione Cestriæ et de gestis Ranulfi comitis de Cestria.

Original contents of Otho B. 3.

“ 2. *Annales ab orbe condito ad annum Christi 1137*.

Original
contents of
Otho B. 3.

“ 3. Chronica Frodoardi monachi Sancti Albani ab
“ Octaviano imperatore ad annum Christi 966.

“ 4. Chronicon Reginaldi archidiaconi Andegavensis;
“ continuatio nempe prioris ad annum 1277. In fine
“ est genealogia regum Francorum de Pharamundo ad
“ Philippum filium Hamonis.

“ 5. Figura de dispositione tribuum Israelis in
“ eremo.

“ 6. Annales ab initio mundi ad Regem Johannem
“ cum figuris et schematismis genealogicis.

“ 7. Annales acephali, qui incipiunt ab anno 1195;
“ continuati ad annum 1307; deinde ab alia manu
“ alii annales ad annum decimum Regis Edwardi II.

“ In quibus res gestæ illius regni accurate tractantur;
“ ad annum vero 1311, h. e., in quarto Edwardi II.
“ inseruntur processus sive attestationes de flagitiis
“ Templariorum, et inquisitiones in concilio provinciali
“ tractandæ, et multa quoque de rebus Londonien-
“ sibus, et circa id temporis multæ ordinationes factæ.

“ 8. De prima institutione Templariorum, ex historia
“ Antiochena circa annum Domini 1120.

“ 9. De prima institutione Hospitaliorum circa
“ annum Domini 612.”

Present con-
dition of the
fragments of
Otho B. 3.

This goodly volume was one of the victims of the
Cotton fire of 1731, which reduced it to a few half-
burned fragments of parchment. These fragments,
nearly all of which belong to the seventh article, were
for more than a century carefully conserved, and finally
by Mr. Maunde Thompson, under the eye of Sir Frede-
rick Madden, separated, inlaid, and rebound in a volume
which contains but thirty-five leaves. Besides these five
additional fragments have been recently found by Mr.
Maunde Thompson. From these we infer that this portion
of the original MS. was of a moderate quarto size, mea-
suring about fourteen inches in height, written in single
column and scantily rubricated in red, containing forty
lines to the page, and written in hands of the first half of

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the fourteenth century. It was, when the catalogue was drawn up, a fragment—acephalous annals beginning abruptly in the middle of a sentence. It had probably been in this condition when it was bound up with the rest of the volume; and it was certainly so when it came into the hand of the copyist to whom we owe the preservation of its contents. The occurrence of the surviving fragments is pointed out in the notes, but it may be as well to put it down here, and to subjoin a notice of the newly found fragments. (1.) The first fragment ends with the record of the year 1218, page 22 below, having begun, so far as can be discovered in the present darkened state of the parchment, about the beginning of the text. (2.) The second begins with the Chester pedigree, A.D. 1301, and contains the annals of 1301 and 1302, from page 126 to 130 of this volume. (3.) The third fragment, which comprises the recently discovered leaves, includes folios 136–148 of the Bridges' transcript, pp. 134–150 of the text, so that only one intervening folio, answering to our pages 130–133 is lost. (4.) The fourth fragment begins at the accession of Edward II., p. 151, and ceases to be legible in the midst of the inquiry about the Templars. A few remaining bits are not assignable to their place in the text at all.

Description
of the frag-
ments.

The matter contained on pages 176–179 has also been found on a leaf which probably was inserted and folded into the MS., as suggested in the note at p. 176.

Most fortunately, some years before the fire, a transcript of this part of the MS. had been taken for John Bridges, Esq. This information we owe to an inscription on a fly leaf of the volume which contains it,¹ and

The tran-
script, MS.
Add. 5141.

¹ "Transcribed from the Cotton Library before the fire [1731] for the use of John Bridges, Esq. The original MS. perished in the flames. It seems to have been a sort of Chronicle or Register of the

more remarkable transactions of the kingdom, kept by the town clerk of the city of London, and to have had many of the particulars entered at the very time they happened."

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History of
the trans-
mission of
the tran-
script.

which likewise records the names of the other possessors, through whose hand it passed before reaching its present home in the British Museum:—"Suum cuique; "G. North, Soc. Antiq. Socius, 1754; donum dedit "Rob. New"; and "M. Lort." These are famous names among the antiquaries of the last century, and, from what we know of the relation of their bearers, we may infer thus much of the adventures of the manuscript. John Bridges, Esq., was doubtless the eminent collector of the materials for the History of Northamptonshire. He died March 16, 1724, and his library, which was extremely valuable, was sold on the 25th of March 1725, and following days.¹ This particular volume does not appear in the sale catalogue, and may perhaps have been excepted from it together with the Northamptonshire collections which remained in the possession of his family. In 1742 these collections were dispersed, and, as we know that some portions came into the hands of Mr. Robert New, this volume may have gone with them. By Mr. New, who was likewise a great collector,² the book seems to have been given to Mr. George North, of Codicote,³ a literary antiquary not less eminent than his two predecessors. Mr. North died on the 17th of June 1772, leaving his library and coins to Dr. Askew and Dr. Lort, the latter of whom got the principal part of the books.⁴ Dr. Michael Lort was Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge in 1759, and, as he succeeded Dr. Ducarel in 1785, I have the honour to count him as one of my predecessors in the custody of the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth. He died November 5, 1790, and his books were sold by Leigh and Sotheby in April and May, 1791. Although I have not been able to trace this MS. in the several catalogues

Mr. Bridges.

Mr. New.

Mr. North.

Dr. Lort.

¹ Nichols's *Literary Anecdotes*, ii. 105, 106, 107.

² Nichols's *Literary Anecdotes*, ii. 106, 107; iii. 630; vi. 100.

³ Nichols's *Literary Anecdotes*, v. 469.

⁴ Nichols's *Literary Anecdotes*, ii. 594-605.

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of these collectors, there can be little doubt that it passed in this way. Who purchased it it 1791 I cannot say, but it became the property of the trustees of the British Museum, also by purchase, in 1793. This transcript is now among the Additional MSS., No. 5444.

It is acquired by the British Museum.

As so much of the original MS. is now lost or illegible, it is scarcely possible to describe the copy as an exact reproduction of it; but it has been collated with the fragments of the burnt volume, and the correspondence between the two, is, so far as it can be tested, exact. The grammatical blemishes, the bad readings, and the unintelligible words¹ which appear in the transcript, are not to be attributed to the transcriber, but to the faulty character of the original. In several places the copy shows signs of a careful revision by a competent reader, who has given in minute facsimile the words which presented no intelligible sense. It will be necessary in the following brief description of the structure of the work to regard the transcript as the sole and sufficient authority on which our text is necessarily based.

Character and faithfulness of the copy.

I must further premise that, in dealing with the text, I have been obliged to take considerable liberties, which, although not greater than the occasion would warrant, are larger than would ordinarily be taken with an original work. In the fragments of the Otho MS. it is clear at first sight that the writer, whoever he may have been, was not a trained scholar familiar with the

Treatment of it in the present edition.

¹ Perhaps the best instances of this weakness of the text occurs at p. 167 below; where in the transcript I found the words, "idem thesaurarius regis post mortem patris sui 302 pavit." This was not only unintelligible but impossible, the use of Arabic numerals at the date of the original being very rare. I endeavoured first to transliterate the 302 into Roman

numerals; the word then became "cccii. pavit;" and such I found was the reading preserved in the fragment of the Cotton MS. The next thing was to look at the sense of the passage, and it became clear that the first letter was an o mis-understood; the two ii represented an original "u," and the real word was occupavit, which accordingly I have placed in the text.

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INTRODUCTION.

Necessary
corrections
to be made
in editing a
faulty MS.

grammatical endings of words or with the recognized way of abbreviating them. By a short and easy method familiar to all who are in the habit of dealing with early local records, court rolls, and similar instruments, the writer has frequently concealed his ignorance of grammar in a curtailing of the inflected forms. This vicious method could not be reproduced with advantage in a text that would be useful to readers of history ; and I have accordingly had to expand many abbreviations with an eye rather to what they actually signified than to the way in which, according to the strict laws of interpretation, they would have to be interpreted. A confusion between *per* and *pro*, *præ* and *post*, where the true meaning of the writer was clear from the context, I have not hesitated to set right ; and, in many cases of the same kind, I have felt obliged to make the correction without incumbering the margin of the printed text with a note on the passage. In excuse for this apparent rashness I may add that, as a very considerable part of the earlier annals contained in this MS. is a verbal abridgment from the Flores Historiarum, my eye in following the transcript through the process of collation became familiar with the eccentricities of the copyist, and I was enabled by that familiarity to bring some light out of darkness even in places where I could not apply to the earlier authority for adjustment. In the same way, and throughout those parts of the work where I had exterior authority to guide me, such as the letters and documents which are extant in other copies, wherever the carelessness of the transcriber has by omission or misreading left his text unintelligible, I have felt justified in inserting, from the corresponding authority, words enough to complete the sense. Unfortunately there are still a few passages where this curative process could not be applied.

My apology for this treatment of the manuscript will of course prepare the reader for the intimation that the

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work before him has no claim to rank high as an original composition. Its value is mainly that of a repertory of important dates and documents. It has not even the dignity of a complete compilation; it is imperfect at the beginning, and there is a very grievous lacuna in the middle of it. These points, however, will be more intelligible if I proceed at once with an account of its contents.

The value of the MS. not literary.

It is altogether uncertain at what point of time the original compiler began his labours, or how much of the first part of the work is lost. It is clear, however, as has been already observed, that, when the transcriber of the Additional MS. wrote out his copy, the MS. Otho B. 3. had already lost all the matter preceding the description of the year 1194. The writer is employed, when we come upon him first, with an abridgment of the Flores Historiarum for the reign of Richard I., and the Flores Historiarum supply the main stem of the narrative down to the year 1301, although the method of abridging, and the measure of added matter, vary considerably in different parts. To state the proportions more precisely: from 1194 to 1245 the text is a servile abridgment of the Flores, with rare additions of particulars touching the history of London, the succession of mayors and sheriffs, and occasional matters of legal procedure. From 1245 to 1260, the whole narrative is very much attenuated; the wording diverges far more widely than before from the wording of the Flores, and, whilst the general sequence of events corresponds with that given in the earlier compilation, it is only by a sentence here and there that the exact reproduction of the language proves our author to have still had some sort of a copy of that work before him. From 1260 to 1263 the abridgment again is close; from 1264 to 1274 it is loose, and contains much additional matter of public interest, not directly concerned with London. From this we may infer that the writer drew upon other authorities besides the Flores, or on some edition of that work other than the one

The matter of the Annales Londonienses.

Relation to the Flores Historiarum.

Variations in the proportion of new matter.

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Additions
made in
the *Annales*
Londonien-
ses to the
Flores.

best known to us in the editions of Archbishop Parker. From 1274 to 1289 the extracts from the *Flores* again become closer copies, but the amount of additional matter is much larger, and bears more distinctly the character of contemporaneous annotation. From 1289 to 1293 all seems original. Between 1293 and 1301 occurs the lamentable hiatus I have already referred to. The documents of the year 1301 are found in the *Flores*, but may have been derived by our compiler from an independent source. It may, I think, be inferred from this that he had before him a copy of the *Flores* which he used as a guide until he reached the year 1289, at which point, we may suppose, either his exemplar broke off, or he began to confine himself to his own recollections from personal observation, or to draw his information from other sources. The unfortunate break, at 1293, prevents us from stating with more confidence that this was the case; but from 1301, where the string of the narrative is recovered, there is no distinct evidence that any part of the materials contained in the *Flores* was known to our author.

Break of the
narrative at
1293.

Break of the
narrative at
1307.

It is possible that there is another lacuna at the year 1307; for, curiously enough, no relation of the death of Edward I. is given under that date. The cataloguer, to whom we owe the account of the MS. given above, has noted that the annals from 1307 were, as he thought, continued by a new hand. A careful examination of the fragments of the Cotton MS. has led Mr. Maunde Thompson, to whose accurate eye the utmost confidence may be given, to the same conclusion. The hand which records the events of the year 1305 and 1306 is not the hand which begins the reign of Edward II. with a quotation from 'Merlin's prophecies. It seems unlikely too that under the year 1307 the writer should have made such an abrupt transition as even to omit any account of the great event of that year, the death of the king. But, although there is a change of hand,

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and a break in the narrative, it is most probable that both are the merely accidental. The character of the penmanship is the same, and the style of annotation the same, before and after this hypothetical lacuna. As the whole style of writing is later by a few years than the events recorded, no portion of it can be regarded as produced earlier than the latest entry; probably it was copied a few years later than that date. As the transcriber leaped without hesitation from 1293 to 1301, giving no notice of a break in his original, we may argue that the book from which he copied was already imperfect. The missing annals of 1307 may even have been written on the other half of the missing sheet which contained those of 1294–1300. Or a second transcriber may have taken up the pen without carefully noticing the point at which his predecessor had laid it down. The question, however, considering the uncertainty of the authorship of any part of the work, is of no real importance. It is enough to note that it is a question.

Continuous character of the compilation.

From the year 1301 to the year 1316, whether they be the work of one writer or two, the annals contain a relation, which is simply invaluable, of the closing events of the one reign and of the early troubles of the next. The selection of documents is most judicious, the local notices are interesting, and the illustrations of constitutional history are most important. At the year 1316 the narrative breaks off again and the remainder of the work contains only a few memoranda of records belonging to the civil history of London at the opening of the reign of Edward III. It may be observed here that the transcript MS. Add. 5444 contains a copy of the last two articles of the Otho MS., the history of the institution of the military orders of the Temple and the Hospital. As these articles, however, are merely extracts from the great work of William of Tyre, have no connexion whatever with what has gone before, and possibly owe their juxtaposition to a mere accident of binding, I have had no hesitation in

Importance and value of the annals from 1301 to 1316.

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Further questions as to the composition of the Annals.

omitting them from the present edition of the *Annales Londonienses*.

Uncertainty as to the form of the Flores on which they are based.

Such is the structure of the work. Its main historical value consists in the portion which extends from 1289 to 1316: to this point I will return by and by. Here, however, four questions arise which may be noted, although they cannot be fully answered. The first of them indeed can only be stated to be put aside: what recension of the Flores Historiarum was used for abridgment. It is a question which will arise likewise in the case of the second work which will be found in this volume, and it is one which is not ripe for an answer. The literary history of the Flores and its recensions may be now nearer completeness than it has ever been, but the solution of the many questions which it must contain is not so near as to enable us to anticipate the information that is required. It is certain, from such an examination as I have been able to make of the MSS. of the so called Matthew of Westminster which I have seen, that, after the point at which Matthew Paris ceases to furnish the bulk of the information, different manuscripts contain widely diverging episodes, and sections conveying very different impressions of most important portions of history. The example of divergence which has most forcibly struck me is that found in the annal of the eventful year 1265, which in several manuscripts is altogether different in method, spirit, and contents from that given in the printed editions, which, in fact, rests on a much smaller mass of manuscript authority. But until a complete collation of the MSS. has been made, which will not be the work of a day, it is almost hazardous to set foot on a territory so debateable as that which formed the battle ground of Sir Thomas Hardy and Sir Frederick Madden. Nor is it necessary for our present design.

The second question is of a like character, and it must also wait for an answer until a smaller but scarcely less laborious piece of work has been done. What is the

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relation of our Annals to the other London Chronicles? For an answer we require the collection and comparison of the various small chronicles of London, which were constantly being added to by contemporary annotators, and which, in their ultimate accumulation, furnished the materials for Fabyan and Stow. Of the earliest London Chronicles we have in print the Latin Annals contained in the *Liber de Antiquis legibus*, edited by Mr. Stapleton, and the French Chronicle of the 14th century, edited by Mr. Aungier, both of them for the Camden Society. Of these the former is earlier and the latter later in date than the *Annales Londonienses* of the present volume. But it cannot be doubted that besides these many other small Chronicles once existed, and some may be extant still. The work before us in its earlier pages contains notices which are not extracted from the *Liber de Antiquis legibus*, which are not contemporary with the events to which they relate, and which coincide in matter but not in words with passages imbedded in Fabyan. As a typical instance, and it is the best I can find, I will take the incident noted under the year 1231. There our compiler has a note of an occasional fire in London: "eo tempore venit ignis dñe " Jove lambunt." Whatever may have been the meaning of the note that the compiler copied, it is clear that he did not understand it. "Venit ignis" is a most curious expression for an accidental fire, and the other words mean nothing at all. On turning to Fabyan we find that he had seen a similar note, but put a distinct meaning on it: "this yere was doon great harm in " London by fire the which began in an house of a " widow named Jone Lambert." The description of the lady as a widow must have been derived from some source independent of our MS., for, although "Jove " lambunt" may be readily understood to be a blundered reading for "Jone Lambert," there are no letters which could be made to denote her widowhood. In

Relation of
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An illustration.

another early Chronicle, that printed in 1827, which extends from the year 1089 to the year 1483, and is like Fabyan's written in English, this casualty is described as the "fyere of dame Jonet Lumbarde." In the list of the sheriffs of London, to be found in the thirty-first report of the Deputy Keeper of the Records,¹ the name of Thomas Lambert occurs in the 6th and 7th years of Henry III., so that not improbably the reading of Fabyan may be right. But when Stow saw the note, he found something very different or read it very differently; with him "de" or "dñe" became "David," "Jone" became "Jonet," and "Lambert" became a "Lombard." It is not easy to say how many pens may have blundered over these few words, or through how many diverging MSS. an originally simple note may have passed before it reached these ultimate forms.²

Common material with Fabyan and Stow.

So far, then, as I can at present see, our author and Fabyan, who wrote nearly two centuries after him, must have had a common chronicle before them, which was not the *Liber de Antiquis legibus*: for I cannot think it likely that Fabyan took notes like the above direct from our MS. I trust, however, that the day is not far distant when a classified catalogue of the materials for the history of London will be forthcoming: until then we cannot determine what were the exact sources from which our compiler drew the material which was not derived from his own observation.

Question of authorship.

A third question concerns the authorship of the compilation itself. It would seem clear on the face of the work that it was drawn up by a citizen, and by a citizen who had ready access to the records of the corporation. This appears not only from the number of documents of civic interest which he inserts in the annals of the years of original annotation, but also from the fact that a great many of them are found in the contemporary collections

¹ p. 309.| ² See below p. 29.