

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-05241-2 - Literae Cantuarienses: The Letter Books of the Monastery of Christ Church,
Canterbury: Volume 3
Edited by J. Brigstocke Sheppard
Excerpt
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LITERÆ CANTUARIENSES.

THE LETTER BOOKS

OF THE

MONASTERY OF CHRIST CHURCH,
CANTERBURY.

U 55671. Wt. 11110.

A

LITERÆ CANTUARIENSES.

(1375.) 944.—PETITIO CAPITULI DOMINO EDUARDO TERCIO DE
 Reg. B. REDDITU TRESDCECIM MARCARUM DE HIBERNIA.
 303.

Petition
 from the
 Chapter of
 Christ
 Church to
 the King
 asking to
 be allowed
 to receive
 the Irish
 rent not-
 withstand-
 ing the
 ordinance
 against
 absentees.

A nostre Seignur le Roy et a son bon Conseil
 supplient ses chapellayns le Priour et Covent de
 Cristcherche de Cantirbirs; qe come ils aient un
 annuel enpension de trezze marcz, a prendre annuel-
 ment de le Abbe et Covent de Voto en Irland, par
 cause des fruictes, oblacions, et obvencions, qe un
 Nichole, en ascun temps Priour du dit Esglise de
 Cantirbirs, par assent de son Covent, dona et granta
 a dit Abbe et Covent des¹ dismes queux il avoit de
 diverces esglises en Irland, rendant annuellement a dit
 Priour et Covent et a lour successours les avaunt-
 ditz trezze marcz, a paier a la Nativite de Nostre
 Dame; et ore tard, par cause dun estatut fait a parle-
 ment tenuz a Geldeford,² les pocessions queux gent
 demoerant en Engleterre avoient en Irland furent
 seisis en la mayn nostre Seignur le Roy, pur ce qe ils
 ne firent mye lour contribucion en defence de la
 terre nostre Seignur le Roy illoeqes; qe plese pur
 lamour de Dieu et de Seynt Thomas le Martyr, et
 en oeuvre de charite, granter bref a les Justices et
 gardeyns de Irland, pur deliverer le dit enpension a
 dyt Priour et Covent; depuis qil est espirituel, et ne
 mye seisable, come chose temporel, par la ley.

¹ *les*, MS.

² As there is no record of a Par-
 liament held at Guildford at this
 time, it is probable that the *statute*

was of the nature of an *order in
 Council*. The King in his reply
 describes it as an *ordinatio* not as
 a *statutum*.

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944.

To our Lord the King and his worthy Council his chaplains the Prior and Convent of Christ Church, Canterbury pray ; that whereas they own an annual pension of thirteen marks, to be annually received from the Abbot and Convent De Voto in Ireland, in consideration of the profits, oblations, and sundry receipts, which one Nicholas, aforetime Prior of the said Church of Canterbury, with the assent of his Convent, gave and granted to the said Abbot and Convent from the tithes which they owned, accruing from several churches in Ireland, for an annual payment to the said Prior and Convent and their successors of the said thirteen marks, to be paid at the Nativity of Our Lady ; and now lately, by reason of a statute made in the parliament held at Guildford, the possessions which people dwelling in England owned in Ireland were seized into the King's hand, because they did not contribute to the defence of the land of our Lord the King there ; may it please him for love of God and Saint Thomas the Martyr, and by way of charity, to issue a writ to the Justices and Custodians of Ireland, so that they may deliver the said pension to the said Prior and Convent ; since it is a spiritual matter, and in no way, as a temporal estate, liable to forfeiture by the law.

A 2

Apr.
1376.

945.—ORDINACIO DE MONACHIS INFIRMIS.

Cart. Ant.
C. 206.
Rules for
the main-
tenance of
sick monks
is the In-
firmery of
the Con-
vent.

Hæc est ordinacio facta in Scaccario, mense Aprili anno Domini M^oCCC^oLXXVJ^{to}, post visitacionem [reuerendi] in Christo patris et domini Domini Simonis permissione divina Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi; videlicet, in præsencia Domini Stephani Prioris, per Fratres infrascriptos. Per Fratrem Johannem Godniston tunc Suppriorum, Willelmum Eythorne, Johannem Guston, Willelmum Richemund, Ricardum Hatfeld, Johannem Molessch, Johannem Bydynden, Johannem Gloucestre, Willelmum de Dovoriam, et Willelmum Woghope. Isti decem Fratres nominati fuerunt, in præsencia dicti Domini Prioris, a senioribus et sanioribus de Conventu ad correccionem infrascriptorum.

Qui ordinarunt, quod quilibet Frater de Conventu claustralis, actualiter infirmus, de licencia Supprioris occupans cameram in Infirmaria, recipiet et habebit de Custode Anniversariorum, pro cibariis emendis et pitanciis suis, diebus carnis, quolibet die quatuor denarios et unum ferculum de liberatione Celerarii, cum pane et cerevisia, sicut moris est. Et cum ad mensam sedere poterit cum aliis fratribus, per licenciam Supprioris et aliorum præsidentium, confratres secum habebit, sicut moris est ab antiquo; nec septa Infirmariæ publice transibit, nec frocco, sed tantum cuculla, exterius uti debet, nisi prius in Conventu ad *primam* fuerit, prout consuetudinis esse dinoscitur. Et notandum est, quod tres lavendarii et balnearius, quando necesse fuerit, custodient dictos Fratres in cameris, et ministrabunt eis per diem et noctem, sicut antea fieri solet; et si isti minus sufficiant pro custodia fratrum prædictorum tunc Supprior qui pro tempore fuerit de aliis custodibus providebit; vel si aliquis dictorum Fratrum infirmorum scolarem habeat in elemosinaria, per discrecionem Supprioris et Elemosinarii, dicto Fratri infirmo ministrare debet; qui vero nullum scolarem habuerit in elemosinaria, habere debet unum scolarem positum

in elemosinariam per alios seculares. Et si remunerari alios custodes Fratrum infirmorum libeat, per discrecionem Supprioris et Custodis Anniversariorum remunerentur.

Item: alii Fratres infirmi claustrales, qui propter infirmitatem non possunt sequi Conventum, et per discrecionem et licenciam Supprioris ad *Mensam Magistri*¹ comederint, quilibet eorum duos denarios per diem recipiet de dicto Custode Anniversariorum per discrecionem tamen Supprioris.

Item: quilibet Stacionarius, qui communia cibaria comedere poterit, pro pittanciis suis duodecem denarios recipiet de dicto Custode per septimanam. Pro quibus exhibicionibus faciendis, ut prædictum est, præfatus Custos Anniversariorum recipiet annuatim quinque marcas, sicut prius fieri solet, de pensione ecclesiæ de Bocton; et alias quinque marcas, vel plus si necesse fuerit, recipiet de Custode Tumbæ Beati Martiris Thomæ.

Et notandum, quod infrascripti Fratres, licet infirmi fuerint, nichil recipient de prædicta exhibicione: videlicet, Supprior, Sacrista, Subsacrista, Præcentor, Celerarius, Subcelerarius, Camerarius, Elemosinarius, Capellanus Domini Prioris, Thesaurarii, Feretrarii, Custos Coronæ Beati Martiris Thomæ, Custos Beatæ Mariæ in Criptis, Custos Ensis et Tumbæ Beati Thomæ, Custos granarii et berthonæ, et omnes Custodes maneriorum qui pro tempore fuerint; omnes alii² Fratres *mere claustrales* per se nuncupantur.

Item: de medecinis Fratrum infirmorum, medicus, qui pro tempore fuerit, cum apotecario, providere debet; et his ad minus in anno cedulam expensarum, sicut prædictus Custos Anniversariorum, Priori et Conventui exhibere debet.

¹ This was a liberally-supplied table placed in a hall adjoining the Infirmary, and reserved for con- | valescents and monks who were taking *deportum*.
² *alios*, MS.

Item: ordinatum est, quod Camerarius recipiet per annum pro plena administracione officii sui trecentas et viginti libras, ad quatuor anni terminos æqualiter, ad Festum Omnium Sanctorum, Purificacionis Beatae Mariæ, Pentecostes, et Assumpcionis ejusdem Virginis: videlicet, de Feretrariis viginti libras; de ecclesia de Westerham viginti libras; de elemosinaria, pro fructibus porcionum rectoriarum ecclesiarum de Estrv et Monketone, [viginti libras]; et residuum recipiet de custodiis aliorum maneriorum.

6 May
1376.
Reg. B.
30.
The King's
favourable
reply to
the peti-
tion of the
Chapter.
It is deci-
ded that
the Irish
rent is a
spiritual
profit, and
therefore is
not touched
by the or-
dinance
against ab-
sentees.

946.—LITTERA REGIS EDWARDI TERCII AD GUBERNA
TOREM HIBERNIÆ.
Rex dilectis et fidelibus suis Gubernatori, Custodi
sive Justiciario, ac Cancellario, et Thesaurario nostris,
ac Baronibus de Scaccario terræ nostræ Hiberniæ,
qui nunc sunt vel qui pro tempore fuerint, salutem.
Ex parte delectorum nobis in Christo Prioris et Con-
ventus Ecclesiæ Christi Cantuariensis, nobis est
ostensum, ut cum Abbas et Conventus de Voto Hi-
bernæ, pro certis decimis, fructibus, oblacionibus, et
obvencionibus ecclesiasticis in Hibernia, quos quidam
Prior dictæ Ecclesiæ Christi Cantuariensis quondam,
de assensu Capituli sui, dedit et concessit eisdem
Abbati et Conventui et successoribus suis, teneantur
eisdem Priori et Conventui in quadam annua pensione
tresdecim marcarum, sibi et successoribus suis ad

12 Mar.
1380.
S. 100 a.
A part of a
statute of
Richard II.
which,
stating that
great in-
jury has

947.—STATUTUM DE ANNO TERCIO REGIS RICARDI
SECUNDI.
. Item: pur ceo qe nostre Seignur le
Roy ad entendu, par la certificacioun de ces foialx
lieges de la terre Dirlande, prelates, nobles, et com-
munes qe la dite terre ad est(e), et est, mult en-

festum Beatæ Mariæ annuatim solvenda; et licet dicta annua pensio, virtute cujusdam ordinacionis nuper apud Gildeford factæ (*quod quilibet habens dominia et possessiones in terra Hiberniæ, in dictam terram Hiberniæ veniret, vel gentes sufficientes ibidem mitteret, ante festum Pascha anno regni nostri Angliæ quadragesimo tercio, vel eodem festo, ad morandum super defensionem terrarum et dominiorum suorum ibidem, sub forisfactura eorundem*) ac si dicta pensio temporalis existeret, cum non existat, capta est in manum nostram; unde nobis supplicarunt ut restitutionem dictæ pensionis sibi fieri jubere velimus. Et quia per nos et consilium nostrum extitit concordatum, quod possessiones ecclesiasticæ in terra Hiberniæ, si quæ occasione ordinacionis prædictæ captæ essent in manum nostram, restituerentur; volentes cum eisdem agere graciose, vobis et cuilibet vestrum mandamus, quod si dicta pensio, occasione ordinacionis prædictæ et non aliter,¹ in manu nostra existat, tunc eidem Priori dictam pensionem, una cum exitibus inde perceptis, sine dilacione deliberantes, ipsum seu ejus attornatum pensionem illam libere percipere et habere permittatis, prout ante ordinacionem prædictam percipere et habere consueverunt, absentia ipsius Prioris, seu ordinacione prædicta, non obstantibus. Teste Rege apud Westmonasterium, vj^{to} die Maii, anno regni Angliæ quinquagesimo, regni vero Franciæ tricesimo septimo.

947.

. Furthermore: whereas our Lord the King has learned by the testimony of his faithful subjects of the land of Ireland, the prelates, nobles, and commonalty, that the said land has been, and is, much

¹ *alia*, MS.

happened to Ireland through the absenteeism of many of the most important persons of the population, decrees that all absentees not having the King's licence shall forfeit two-thirds of their incomes, to be applied to the maintenance of the English supremacy, and that one-third of the incomes even of those who have the King's licence shall be taken for the same purpose.

damagez et empoverez, par my ceo qe plusours des lieges nostre dit Seignur le Roy, eiantez terres, rentes, benefices, offices, et autres possessiouns en la dite terre ne sont pas resceants ne demoraunts illoeqes, einz se absentent et sont hors de la dite terre, preignaunts et treiants devers eux hors de mesme la terre les profits et revenues des dites terres, rentes, possessions, benefices, et offices; les uns lessants les chastelx et fortresses a eux apportenaunts en les dites parties aler a ruine, les profits et revenues et gouvernement, a grand peril de la dite terre et des lieges; par les quelles causes les rebealx Irrois en la dite terre sont encruez, et entront et conquerront de jour en aulter, et les dits foialx le plus anientes davoit et de puissance a resister a lour malice, si qe la dite terre est en point destre perdue, en disheritesoun nostre dit Seignur le Roy et sa corone Dengleterre, si sur ceo ne soit ordeigne de hastive remedie: ORDEIGNE EST, par nostre Seignour le Roy, de ladvis et assent des seignours et noblez de son roialme esteantz en ceo parlement, que tous maneres de gentz, de quelle estate ou condicion qils soient, eiantz illoques terres, rentes, benefices, offices, et autres possessions quelecunqs, se treent devers la dite terre Dirlande, parentre cy et la Nativite de Seint Johan proschein veignaunt, et desore soient resceants et demourants illoesqes, en aide et afforcement des dits foialx et lieges a garder et defender la dite terre encontre les dits Irrois rebelx et qe tous ceux qont chastelx et forteresses en mesme la terre les facent repaier et tenir en estate convenable, et y mettent bon et suere garde, pur la salvacion de mesme les chastelx et forteresses, sur le peril qappent. Et en cas qascuns de ceux qont terres, offices, rentes, benefices, ou autres possessions en la dite terre soient pur resonable cause absents hors de

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injured and impoverished, because that many of the lieges of our said Lord the King, having lands, rents, benefices, offices, and other possessions in the said land, are not resident nor dwelling there, inasmuch as that they absent themselves, and are away from the said land, taking and withdrawing for themselves out of the same land the profits and revenues of the said lands, rents, possessions, benefices, and offices; some of them letting the castles and strongholds belonging to them go to ruin, [together with]¹ the profits, revenues, and government, to the great peril of the said land and of the loyal subjects; from which causes the rebel Irish in the said land are encouraged, and from day to day make incursions and win victories, and the aforesaid loyal subjects more and more diminished in property and power of resistance to their malice, so that the said land is like to be ruined, to the disherison of our said Lord the King and his Crown of England, if in this matter some speedy remedy be not ordained: IT IS ORDAINED by our Lord the King, by the advice and assent of the lords and nobles of his realm in this present parliament, that all manner of persons, of whatever rank or condition they be, who there have lands, rents, benefices, offices, and other possessions whatever, shall betake themselves to the said land of Ireland, between this present time and the Nativity of St. John next coming, and that henceforth they shall be resident and dwelling there, for the helping and assisting of the said faithful and lawful subjects against the said Irish rebels; and that all those who own castles and strongholds in the said land shall cause them to be repaired and kept in proper condition, placing therein a good and sufficient guard for the protection of the said castles and strongholds, upon peril of the penalties thereto belonging. And in case that any of those who hold lands, offices, rents, benefices, or other

¹ Something is here wanting, and brackets, although it is not easy to suggest anything more suitable.

mesme la terre, apres le dit fest, adonques pur le temps de lour absence soient tenuz denvoir et de trouver illoesques gentz defensables en lour lieuz, en defence de mesme la terre, solonc ceo que le necessite requerra, eiant regarde de la quantite et a la value des mesmes les terres, rentes, offices, et aultres possessions; et sils ne facent, soient les deux parties des profits de lour(s) terres, rentes, offices, et possessions avaunt dits levez, et converttez a la garde de mesme la terre, par ladvis des Justices et Governours de mesme la terre, qi pur temps serront; horspris toutes foitz, qe les benefices de ceux qi sont en le service du Roy, ou estudiauntz en universitees, ou hors de mesme la terre par resonable cause de la licence du Roy dessoubz son grand seal, en Angleterre, ne serra pris, nappliez a les dites garde et defence, forsque tant soloment la tierce partie de la value dicellez, les ordinairs et necessariez chargez rebatuz, solonc le certificacioun de lour ordinairs. Donez le xij^{me} jour de Marcz, lan du nostre regne tierce.

20 July 1387. Reg. B. 304 b. The Abbot of the Welsh Tin- terne is bound to pay the Irish rent if the Ab- bot of the Irish Tin- tern fail to do so, and if indiffer- ent arbitra- tors decide that he is bound by a certain old indenture.	948.—OBLIGATIO ABBATIS DE VOTO IN WALLIA. Noverint universi per præsentis, nos Johannem Westbych Abbatem de Tynterna, Cisterciensis ordinis, Landavensis diocesis, teneri et firmiter obligari Johanni permissione divina Priori Ecclesiæ Christi Cantuariensis et ejusdem Conventui in quadraginta libris sterlingorum bonæ et legalis monetæ, solvendis eisdem Priori et ejusdem loci Conventui ad festum Omnium Sanctorum proxime futurum post datam præsentium, apud Cantuariam, sine ulteriori dilatione. Ad quam quidem solutionem prædictarum quadraginta librarum die et loco suprascriptis bene et fideliter faciendam, tenendam, et persolvendam obligamus nos et successores nostros per præsentis. In cujus, etc. vicesimo die mensis Julii, anno regni Regis Ricardi Secundi undecimo.
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