

## A CLAIM TO " ROYAL FISH " STRANDED OFF DUNGENESS.

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THE cartulary of St. Leonard's, York, in the Cotton MSS. at the British Museum (Nero D. III), has bound up with it two leaves of parchment purporting to be copied from a " white book " marked ΘV, and presumably a lost cartulary of Battle Abbey. They are bound up in the wrong order, and they appear to be a statement of the claim of the abbot of Battle to a share of all whales and other royal fish driven ashore on the borders of Dunge Marsh, which was appendant to the abbey's manor of Wye. The writing of these leaves appears to be of the late fourteenth or early fifteenth century, but I have not been able to discover or even to guess on what occasion or before what court they were produced. The substance of the statement is as follows :—

William the Conqueror founded Battle Abbey in memory of his victory on that spot and gave it, amongst other things, the manor of Wye in Kent, with all its customs and liberties as a royal manor. This included the whole of any " Craspeis " or royal fish coming ashore on any of the land of the manor, and the tongue and two thirds of the body of any such fish stranded within the boundaries of " Horsmede, Blakewase and Bradelle " as far as " Witheburne " whoever might own the land.

Before the manor left the king's hands, while Richard of Dover was reeve, a fish was thus stranded on land held by Hugh de Montfort of the Archbishop. Richard claimed the king's share but was forcibly repulsed, and so, when making his account as reeve before the treasury at Winchester, claimed an allowance of £30 for the loss of this advantage. Hugh was compelled to make good the loss and fined £100.

This right was expressly transferred to Battle in the charter which gave Wye,<sup>1</sup> as also the king's right to two-pence apiece on all forfeitures and pleas pertaining to the summons of Wye.

Under William Rufus a fish came ashore at "Blake-wase", and a royal serjeant called Alfred Nuspier claimed the king's share and took it by sea to Southampton. Abbot Gausbert, hearing this, waited on the king first at Charing, then "at the house of Croc the huntsman",<sup>2</sup> and lastly at Salisbury, and obtained a writ ordering the proper share to be given him. He reached Southampton at midnight, and found the fish had been taken to the king's larder at Winchester. As the writ only mentioned Southampton, a new writ was needed, and the abbot had to send to the king who was staying at the bishop of Winchester's manor of Taunton. The king sent Ivo Taillebois with a writ to Hugh the larderer ordering the fish to be given up. Copies of both writs are appended.

In the reign of Henry I, Hamo *dapifer* being sheriff of Kent (c. 1100-1115), a fish came ashore at Romney, which the sheriff seized and ordered to be taken to Canterbury. Sired the priest, reeve of Wye, claimed the king's share as due to the manor, and the sheriff allowed the claim. Thomas, a monk of Battle was sent to Romney to take possession and found John de Tremmrede and Richard, son of Rabel, arranging to take away the whole fish, as previously ordered. They refused to listen to him and he went to Canterbury and complained to the sheriff of the conduct of his men. The sheriff sent to reprimand them, and the monk got his share.

Another fish came ashore on the land of the abbey at "Nesse" (Dungeness?), near the boundary between Dunge Marsh and Romney Marsh. The Archbishop's men of Romney and "Ledis" (Lydd?) came down and attempted to carry off all or part of the fish on the pretext

<sup>1</sup> *Mon. Angl.*, III, 244. This Charter is marked as spurious by H. W. C. Davis in *Regesta Reg. Anglo-Normann.* I, No. 62.

<sup>2</sup> Probably Crux Easton in Hampshire.

that it had come ashore on the Archbishop's land. A man of Dunge Marsh, Aliosicus (?) opposed them and the men of Battle secured the fish. Abbot Warner (1124-1138) sent his servants who put the whole fish in the abbey larder, and made the king (then in Normandy) a present of 20 loads (*summas*) from the tongue, and gave liberally of the rest to churches in England and Normandy. Here follows king Henry's charter confirming the liberties of the men of Dunge Marsh, which are the same as those of Hastings and repeating the provision as to royal fish. The precept being addressed to Hamo *dapifer* and attested by Robert, count of Meulan, cannot be later than A.D. 1118. We must assume that it issued on some occasion before the time of abbot Warner.

In the same reign another fish was stranded on the boundary between Kent and Sussex, and was claimed simultaneously by William, son of Robert, son of Ralph of Hastings and by Reimbert de Berhe, abbot Warner's reeve of Wye. Four lawful men were chosen on each side and decided that the fish was half in Kent and half in Sussex. It was taken to Winchelsea and divided equally between William and the abbot.

On Friday, February 9th, 1258,<sup>1</sup> a fish forty feet long and about six feet thick was cast up at Dunge Marsh at day-break and remained unperceived except by the bailiff and the abbot's men till nine o'clock, owing to snow and a violent wind. Then came burgesses of Romney and tried to get possession. The bailiff, fearing a breach of the peace, forbade them in the name of the king and of abbot Ralph (1235—c. 1261) to touch the fish or infringe the custom of the manor. The elder men obeyed, grumbling, but bargained to have part of the fish given or sold to them. The bailiff said that was beyond his power, but presumed so far on his master's liberality as to make presents to the more important men. The rabble, however, threatened force; and the bailiff, mindful of the rough ways of sailors, to avoid bloodshed, made a speech in which he asked his "good friends and neighbours" to help him to cut up the fish, and told

<sup>1</sup> The ninth was actually a Saturday.

them they should be rewarded for their trouble. The men of Winchelsea arriving later were given the same terms as those of Romney. The constable of Dover and the sheriff claimed the fish for the king, but the bailiff pleaded the abbot's liberty and succeeded in keeping the peace for five or six days and in preventing anyone from carrying off portions of the fish without his leave. The bulk of the fish was sent to Battle, and the abbot sent a servant with part of it as a present to the king, half the tongue and four large pieces of blubber. The king lost his temper and said "By God's head I owe the abbot no thanks! It is my right, and anyone who has laid hands on the fish without my knowledge has wronged me." He was informed that the abbot had charters, one of which had the king's own seal, and answered: "If the right is mine, I owe the abbot no thanks; if it is his, I thank him heartily for his handsome present, and will repay him on a suitable occasion." The abbot sent presents of parts of the fish to the archbishop of Canterbury, the bishop of Chichester, the chancellor, the treasurer and others, to the number of 120.

Notwithstanding this, the abbot was summoned before the king's court to answer for not giving up the fish. The charters were pleaded and pronounced good, but the court ordered an inquisition to prove user. Here follow the writ to the sheriff dated 16th March, 1258,<sup>1</sup> and the inquisition, taken at Romney, 27th May, 1258, by which it was found that the abbot had used this liberty, and had acted correctly in taking away the fish.

Such is the case as stated, and like all such statements, it is on the face of it suspect. It is noticeable that none of the charters quoted at length appears in the "Royal Charters" section of the Battle Abbey cartulary now in the Huntington Library. On the other hand, except for the name of Waldric as chancellor of William Rufus,<sup>2</sup> and

<sup>1</sup> The date is in the impossible form "xvii. Kal. April", and, if genuine, is therefore probably 17 April, with which the date of the inquisition fits pretty well.

<sup>2</sup> On which see *Engl. Hist. Rev.*, XXVI, 84.

the reference to Abbot Warner, there are no obvious anachronisms, and the names of the sheriff and under-sheriff in 1258 (Nicholas de Molis and Walter de Berstede) are correctly given. The lively details of the personal acts of the kings mentioned recall the picturesque style of the Battle Abbey chronicle, though they are obviously by a later hand. But to determine the exact degree of credit to be given to the several parts of the statement would require more local knowledge and a more thorough investigation of the Plea and Memoranda Rolls than the writer can claim credit for.

COTTON MS. NERO D.3, ff. 225, 224.

f. 225. [Rubric.]

*De quodam Crasso pisce, vulgariter a Craspeys, qui applicuit apud Deng[e] mar[eis]*

Postquam nobilis princeps Willelmus Anglicum regnum deo favente armis sibi subjugavit, in loco Belli quasi memoriam victorie ecclesiam sancti Martini construxit, eamque variis donis et diversis muneribus et libertatibus decoravit. Inter que quoddam manerium in Cancia Wy nominatum cum saca et soca et omnibus regalibus consuetudinibus et libertatibus quas ipse in eo habuit eidem ecclesie regia magnificencia contulit. Hujus manerii jus semper extitit, ut si in aliqua terra que ad ipsum manerium pertinet piscis qui vulgariter 'craspeis' vocatur appulerit, regis totus esset, si vero infra terminos de Horsmede et Blakewase et Bradelle usque Withiburne appulisset, linguam et dues partes ipsius piscis, regis videlicet porciones, possessor manerii de Wy haberet, ut subjectis exemplis lucide cognosci potest.

Regnante glorioso rege Willelmo fundatore ecclesie Belli, Ricardo autem de Dover manerii de Wy preposito, nondum tamen ipso manerio ecclesie Belli a rege collato; contigit hujusmodi piscem super terram Hugonis de Mundford quam de archiepiscopo tenebat appulisse. Mox Ricardus ad locum quo piscis devenerat festinanter ivit,

Hugonemque ibi reperiens rogavit ut sibi partem piscis, videlicet duas partes et linguam ejus regi debitam traderet. Set ille ejus dicta parvipendens vi atque armis totum sibi piscem vendicavit. Adveniente autem tempore quo Ricardus debitum censum illius manerii reddere deberet ad locum thesauri Wint[onie], cetera reddidit, xxx<sup>ta</sup> vero libras super partem piscis injuste sibi ab Hugone ablatam, regios thesaurarios sibi debere numerare edocuit. Asciscitur regis precepto [W]intoniam hicque agitatur de pisce percepto questio, ibique regalis curie judicio piscis restituitur. Et regis forisfacture Hu[go] adjudicatus, centum denariorum libras regi persolvere cogitur. Quin eciam omnes qui inde aliquid presumpserant regis forisfacture subjacere debere decernuntur.

Cum autem ipsum Manerium de Wy cum omnibus membris suis ecclesie Sancti Martini de Bello gloriosus rex Willelmus dedisset, hanc consuetudinem de craspeis et omnes regales consuetudines et libertates quas in eodem manerio et in omnibus membris ejus in bosco et in plano ipse rex habuit, eidem ecclesie concessit et dedit. Inter quas consuetudines nominatim in Lingemareis (*sic*) quod est unum membrum de Wy, concessit et dedit omnes maritimas consuetudines quas illic habuit, cum omni warec quod illic contingeret, et ut piscis predictus si illic appulerit, abbatis et monachorum de Bello sit totus. Similiter et si infra terminos predictos craspeis quodcu[m]que ad] terram de Wy appulerit, duas partes illius cum lingua illis dedit, et tam libere semper habere concessit sicut ipse liberius possidere potuit. De omnibus eciam forisfacturis et placitis omnium hundredorum qui pertinent ad summoniciones de Wy, dedit idem rex eidem ecclesie duos denarios quos ipse semper habere solebat.

Tempore vero regis Willelmi junioris, hujusmodi piscis qui vocatur craspeis in loco qui dicitur Blakewase appulsus est, de quo regis partem quidam regis serviens Aluredus nomine cognomento Nuspier una cum sociis suis, regis scilicet famulis sumens et navi imponens, ad Hantonam usque devexit. Quod cum Gausbertus, tunc ecclesie Belli

abbas, comperisset, regum prius in Cancia apud Cerringes, deim in domo Croc venatoris, ad postremum Salesberie hac de causa requisivit, tandemque impetravit quod volebat. Cum breve regis partem piscis ecclesie Belli reddi precipiente Hantonam profunda nocte pervenit, set piscem jam Wintonie delatum et in regis lardario illatum comperit. Itaque festinus Wintoniam Hushoni lardario regis breve ostendit, set illo abnuente nisi sibi missum, nec de Wintonia set de Hamtona precipientem (*sic*), abbas ad regem apud Tantuna manerium Wintoniensis episcopi denuo mittit. Statimque rex per Ivonem Taileboys breve ad Hugonem lardarium fieri mandat, ut sine mora piscem de Cancia allatum abbati de Bello tradat. Hoc precepto viso, Hugo de lardario extractum piscem abbati tradidit, quem ille continuo ad ecclesiam de Bello transmisit.

Exemplar vero brevium regis Willelmi junioris de Craspeis reddendo hoc est, que Hugoni lardario misit :

W. dei gracia rex Anglorum Hugoni lardario salutem. Mando tibi et precipio ut reddas Gausberto abbati de Bello partem piscis que ablata est ad Hamtona de Cancia, que jure ecclesie de Bello debetur, sicut pater meus rex Willelmus ei concessit et dedit. Teste Wald' cancellario apud Salesberiam. Item : W. dei gracia rex Anglorum Hugoni lardario salutem. Mando tibi et impero sicut ante hoc tibi imperavi ut de lardario meo partem de craspeis reddas Gausberto abbati de Bello que de Hantona Wintoniam delata [est] omni demoracione et calumnia remota, quia que pater meus ecclesie de Bello concessit et dedit, nolo per me irrita fieri—vide ergo super forisfacturam meam, ut inde amodo clamorem non audiam. Teste Ivone Tailebois apud Tantuna.

Regnante eciam domino nostro rege Henrico, Cancie vero vicecomite Haymone dapifero, hujusmodi piscis apud Rumenel applicuit, quem vicecomes in manum regis saisitum Cantuarie deportari jussit. Tunc Siredus presbyter qui Wy prepositus erat, vicecomitem adiit postulans ut regis partem manerio de Wy debitam Sancto Martino reddi juberet. Intelligens autem vicecomes illum justa postulare,

precibus ejus annuit, et ecclesie suam partem benigne concessit. Missus ad recipiendum ecclesie Belli monachus Thomas nomine, Romenel pervenit atque Johannem de Tremrede et Ricardum filium Rabel qualiter totum piscem inde asportarent disponentes invenit. Ecclesie rectum et vicecomitis concessum ejus retulit, set nil ab eis nisi contumeliosa verba impetravit. At tamquam dei et regis vicecomitisque parte illis prohibens ne partem ecclesie Belli debitam quoquo ferrent, Cantuarie ad vicecomitem tetendit, atque suorum hominum violenciam illi retulit. At ille indignatus legatum illis proprium direxit, mandans ut ulterius monacho ecclesie partem tollere non impedirent. Sic monachus desiderii sui compos effectus cum predicta parte piscis domum gaudens est reversus.

Item regnante eodem rege Henrico alter craspeis mire magnitudinis in Lingemareis super terram ecclesie Belli appulsus est, juxta locum qui dicitur Nesse, prope divisam que est inter Lingemareis et Romenel. Quo appulso homines archiepiscopi de Romenel et Ledis cum armis et vi partem piscis aut totum, si possent, tollere volentes cicius illuc advenerant, ostendere certantes piscem super terram archiepiscopi appulisse. Quod Aliosicus (?) homo de Lingemereis comperiens, ad locum festine cum pluribus tetendit, et violenciam hominum archiepiscopi videns, eis totum piscem defendit et ecclesie de Bello totum deberi diracionavit, et quod super terram de Lingemareis appulerit omnibus ostendit. Qui rationi et veritati contradicere non valentes, confestim sine omni calumnia locum et piscem reliquerunt, et homines Sancti Martini sicut rectum fuit totum piscem saiserunt. Quo cognito abbas Warnarius ministros suos illuc direxit, qui totum piscem susceperunt, et in lardarium de Bello intutelunt. Abbas vero sua benevolencia, non consuetudinaliter, set gratis xx. summas de lingua illius regi Henrico in Normanniam misit. Ac deinde baronibus et episcopis atque abbatibus ecclesiisque pluribus tocuis Anglie atque Normannie de illi craspeis satis dapsiliter pro velle suo et monachorum suorum largitus est et reliquum ad usus ecclesie remansit.



## CONFIRMATIO REGIS HENRICI

Henricus dei gracia rex Anglorum, Haymoni dapifero et omnibus ministris suis de Anglia salutem. Precipio vobis ut faciatis homines de Lingemareis quod habeant leges suas per totam Angliam per mare et per terram sicut habent homines de Hasting', et ut sint liberi et quieti ab omni consuetudine terrene servitutis, id est de geldo et scoto et hidagiis et denegeldis et sires et hundrez et de exercitu et mурdro et warp' et lestagio et theloneo et opere poncium et castellorum et parcorum et omnibus ali's operibus et auxiliis et consuetudinibus. Set et servicium quod debebant sicut homines de Hasting' per mare facere, pater meus et frater meus monachis de Bello concesserunt, et ego idem concedo. Et firmiter precipio ut nullus eis injuriam faciat super forisfacturam meam. Quod si craspeis ibi appulerit, totum possideant abbas et monachi. Si autem infra terminos de Horsmede usque Witheburne quod pertinet ad socnam de Wy advenerit, similiter duas partes et linguam possideant, sicut pater meus rex Willelmus eis dedit et carta sue confirmavit et frater meus similiter concessit. Warec vero ubicumque venerit in terra de Lingemareis totum absque calumnia abbatis et monachorum sit. Teste Rodberto comite de Mellend, apud Exhehoy (*sic*).

Item tempore ejusdem regis H. alter craspeis appulsus est in divisa de Kent et Suthsexe. Quo cognito Willelmus filius Roberti filii Radulfi de Hasting' illuc cum omnibus suis venit. Et antequam quomodo homines hoc animadvertissent quantum valuit navi imposuit. Quod mox ut compert Rei[m]bertus de Berhe, qui tunc prepositus de Lingemareis erat, ad locum cum suis festinanter tetendit et Willelmum piscem tollentem invenit. Cui ex parte dei et regis defendit ut piscem illum, quia super terram pertinentem ad socnam de Wy appulerat, nullatenus tolleret, antequam rectum ecclesie de Bello diracionaret. Quo dissimulante tandem eis in communi convenit, ut iiij legales homines ex utraque parte eligerentur qui locum quo piscis appulerat considerarent. Quo facto cum juramento ostenderunt medietatem super terram pertinentem ad ecclesiam

Belli et medietatem super terram Willelmi de Hasting' appulisse. Quo agnito [MS. agnita] totum in communi piscem navi impositum ad Winchels' asportaverunt ubi Reimbertus medietatem ejus cum hominibus abbatis Warnarii in lardarium de Bello intulit et reliquum Willelmo remansit, etc.

f.224.

Anno gracie millesimo ducesimo quinquagesimo septimo, regni vero regis Henrici filii regis Johannis quadragésimo secundo, tempore dompni Radulfi noni abbatis ecclesie Belli appulit quidam piscis qui dicitur craspeis apud Dengemar' quinto Idus Februarie, feria sexta, luce diei jam inchoante. Eratque idem piscis mediocris magnitudinis, quadraginta videlicet pedes [MS. pedis] habens in longitudine, altitudinem vero ad virilis stature proceritatem. Quo comperto ballivus manerii ejusdem, missis illuc servis suis necnon et aliis de tenura illius manerii hominibus, ipsemet quoque festinus accessit. Eratque omnibus hoc incognitum exceptis hominibus abbatis ab illa hora qua appulit usque post diei horam nonam, nive densissima non sine bruma ventoque urente medio tempore hujus rei noticiam prohibente. Potuit tamen hujusmodi res vicinos diu non latere, quineciam burgenses de Rumenal grandi cum strepitu catervatim ruentes senes cum minoribus secures aliaque arma non postponentes, ad hoc spectaculum occurrerunt, et de sua presumptione confidentes magnam piscis hujus partem ut sperabant per vim et audaciam ablaturi [MS.—os], quod nequaquam ita evenit. Videns namque ballivus abbatis de Bello cujus est dictum manerium de Dengemar' tantam multitudinem undique confluuisse, timens ne sibi suisque vim inferrent, precepit eis ex parte domini regis et dicti abbatis ne de dicto pisce aliquatenus se intromitterent contra consuetudines et libertates ecclesie Sancti Martini de Bello. Dicebatque idem Willelmus idem jus eandemque libertatem ad ecclesiam pertinere de Bello, qualem dominus rex in suis dominicis dinoscitur habere. Quibus auditis modicum quidem siluerunt, et majores natu

regie prohibicioni abbatisque reverencie deferre non sine murmure decreverunt pacientes [MS. pecientes] sibi aliquam piscis particulam pro munere dari vel vendi. Quibus respondit ballivus sua non interesse hoc facere sine domini sui speciali mandato. Confisus [MS. confisis] tamen de domini sui clemencia quibusdam qui majores videbantur de eodem dapsiliter largitus est. Inferior vero multitudo non sic quievit. Immo minas murmuri [MS. murmurari] miscentes, quasi ad vim inferendam se parabant. Sciens itaque dictus ballivus hoc genus hominum, id est nautarum ad mala perpetranda pronissimum, et quod sanguinem fundere ducerent pro nichilo, indignacionem et querelas eorum volens mitigare, sic eos alloquitur. "Quia amici nostri et vicini estis, et amicitiam vestram ad multa habemus necessariam, adjuvate nos pacifice ad hunc piscem in frustra [MS. frustra] dissecandum et nos pro labore vestro de eodem pisce prout decet liberaliter vobis impertiemur et libenter." Quod et gratanter annuerunt. Accesserunt et homines de Wincheles' volentes [repeated] et ipsi per vim de dicto pisce se intromittere. Quibus idem responsum quod est hominibus de Rumenal. Concessum tamen est ipsis ut ad piscem manum imponerent, et sic mercedem laboris de pisce demum reportarent. Et si temeraria audacia homines de Wincheles' adeo impulisset [MS. impulissent] ut contra voluntatem ballivi abbatis vim sibi suisque intulissent, homines de Rumenal pro jure et libertate abbatis de Bello contra eosdem viriliter dimicassent et libenter. Conestabularius Dovorice vicecomesque Cancie ceterique regis ballivi, cognito hujus rei eventum, miserunt illuc qui prohiberent ballivum abbatis ex parte domini regis ne de dicto pisce se intromitteret. Quibus singillatim responsum est predictum piscem super tenementum et libertatem abbatis de Bello appulisse et quod abbas eandem libertatem habet in terris et dominicis suis de tali pisce si appulerit quam dominus rex in suis maneriis habere dinoscitur, et propter hoc ab incepto desistere nec velle nec debere. Nec pretereundum est quod inter omnes homines per quinque dies vel per sex illuc certatim properantes, nullus repertus sit qui contra voluntatem

ballivi abbatis de predicto pisce aliquid violenter dicatur asportasse, nec aliquis in pede vel pugno vel quoquam alio membro lesionem aliquam inveniatur sustinuisse. Copiosa igitur piscis parte apud Bellum translata, decrevit abbas domino regi regieque curie magnatibus de dono sibi celitus concesso liberaliter impertiri; missoque apud London' quodam servo cum non modica predicti piscis quantitate, regeque ibidem invento, medietatem lingue cum aliis quatuor magnis peciis de lardo eidem presentavit. Quo viso rex irasci [MS. irati] multum pretendens continuo sic juravit. "Per caput dei non regracior abbati: quia jus meum est; michique injuriati [MS. injurati] sunt, quotquot manus ad hunc piscem preter conscienciam nostram extenderunt." Cui curialiter responsum est abbatem de Bello hanc libertatem per cartas antecessorum suorum regum Anglie, necnon et easdem cartas ab ipsomet consignatas habere ut si piscis qui dicitur craspais super terram Dengemere appulerit, ipsius abbatis et monachorum suorum sit totus, et quod nullus se intromittat de pisce tali, vel aliis rebus que super terram eorum ibidem advenerunt. Adjunctumque est quod temporibus antecessorum suorum hujusmodi pisces ibidem sepius appulerunt, et semper sine contradiccione ad Bellum delati fuerunt. Hiis rex auditis mansuete respondit "Si jus nostrum est, non regracior abbati. Si jus abbatis est multum regracior eidem pro exenio tam munifico, prout dignum est grates et gracias temporibus rependemus oportunis." Sicque cum magna gracia a rege discessum est. Misit eciam dompnus abbas archiepiscopo Cantuariensi, episcopo Cicestrensi, cancellario, domini regis thesaurario et aliis vicinis et compatriotis suis de predicto pisce usque ad sexties viginti exenia et eo amplius a quibus omnibus ob hujus rei graciā favorem et amiciciam specialiolem adeptus est.

#### INQUISICIO VERO CAPTA APUD ROMENALL

Post modicum tempus emulorum multiplici procuratum est instinctu ut abbas regiam vocaretur ad curiam, ostensurus quo jure sive per quod warentum predictum

piscem contra regiam prohibitionem presumeret retinere. Abbas vero incuntanter cum cartis quibusdam ad curiam predictam sufficientem dirigens responsalem predictas cartas regi regisque consiliariis optulit inspiciendas. Quibus lectis et diligenter examinatis, ab omnibus acclamatur cartas illas bonas et sufficientes esse, et ob honorem et reverenciam conquistoris Anglie fundatoris ecclesie de Bello, cartas et libertates ecclesie predictae ab omnibus conservandas esse et manutenendas. Hoc solum inquirendum esse, utrum abbas et predecessores sui hactenus hac libertate usi fuerint necne. Unde et instanti vicecomiti Cancie regie directe sunt litere ad inquirendum de visneto illo ubi predictus piscis applicuit, utrum abbas et antecessores sui hac libertate bene et in pace usque ad idem tempus usi fuerint, et inquisitionem inde factam sub suo sigillo et illorum qui in [in]quisitionem positi fuerant regiam sine mora transmitteret ad curiam. Quod et factum est.

EXEMPLA LITTERARUM VICECOMITI CANCIE A REGE  
DIRECTORUM

H. dei gracia etc. vicecomiti Cancie. Cum nuper tibi preceperimus quod distringeres abbatem de Bello quod veniret coram nobis ad ostendendum quo jure vendicat sibi piscem qui vocatur craspais qui nuper applicuit in terra sua, et idem abbas jam coram nobis exhiberi fecerit cartas predecessorum nostrorum regum Anglie per quas hujusmodi pisces ad ipsum pertinent, dum tamen ipse et predecessores sui predicta libertate hactenus usi fuerint; tibi precipimus quod per sacramentum tam discretorum militum quam aliorum liberorum et legalium hominum diligenter inquiras, utrum predictus abbas et predecessores sui predicta libertate hactenus usi fuerint necne. Et inquisitionem inde aperte et distincte factam, nobis sub sigillo tuo et sigillis eorum per quos facta fuerit sine dilacione mittas, et hoc breve. Et districionem predictum predicto abbati interim penitus relaxes. Teste meipso apud Westm' xvij. Kal. Aprilis. A° regni nostri xliij°.

Nomnia xij juratorum ad inquirendum si abbas de Bello et predecessores sui hactenus usi sunt libertate habendi piscem qui vocatur craspeis, necne, sunt scilicet Johannes Peyv', Hamo Wudeman, Willelmus Rob', Willelmus de Sado-kesheft, Thomas Cylwyne, Cylwyne Uppeduer, Willelmus Goufri, Robertus Galioth, Godfredus Bachon, Robertus Anfr', Eadmundus Delafeld, et Laurencius de Cangle, qui dicunt per sacramentum suum quod dictus abbas et predecessores sui hactenus usi sunt predicta libertate et quod hunc piscem per cartas suas et libertates in bona pace et modo consueto et debito asportaverunt usque ad ecclesiam de Bello, prout solebant tempore Henrici regis filii Willelmi regis primi. Facta autem fuit hec inquisicio apud Rumenel in ecclesia Sancti Johannis in crastino Sancti Augustini Anglorum apostoli A°. domini m°cc° quinquagesimo viij° regni vero regis Henrici filii regis Johannis xlij° presentibus domino abbati Radulfo cum quatuor monachis, Waltero de Perstede tunc vicecomite sub Nicholao de [Molis] Alvredo de Dene, Johanne de Suanes, Willelmo de Horlanes-tun', militibus et aliis clericis et laicis quam plurimis.

[Rubric]

*Hec omnia ut prefertur scribuntur in quodam albo libro signato cum ΘV*