

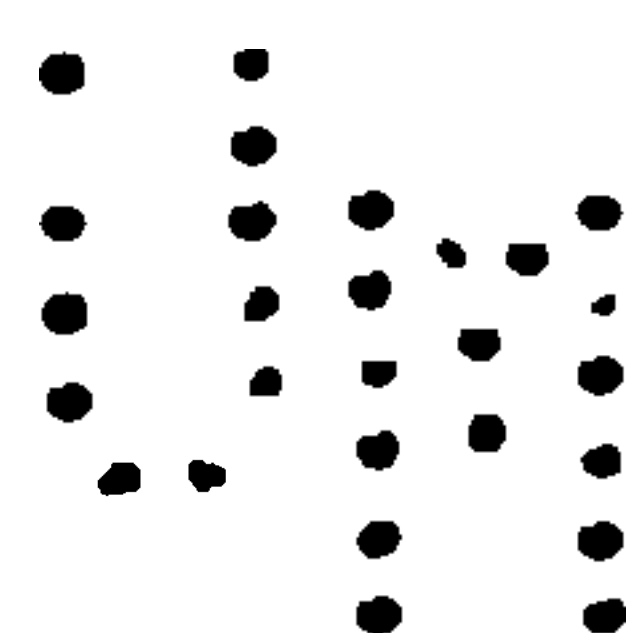
# Forgotten Books

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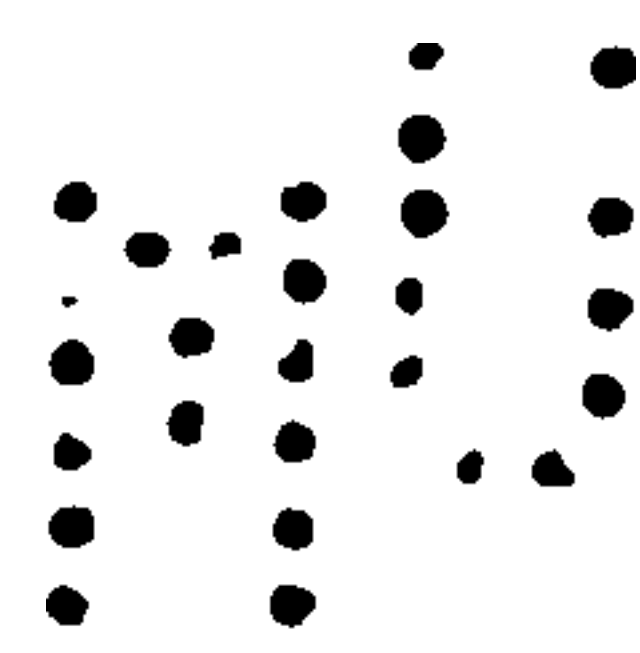
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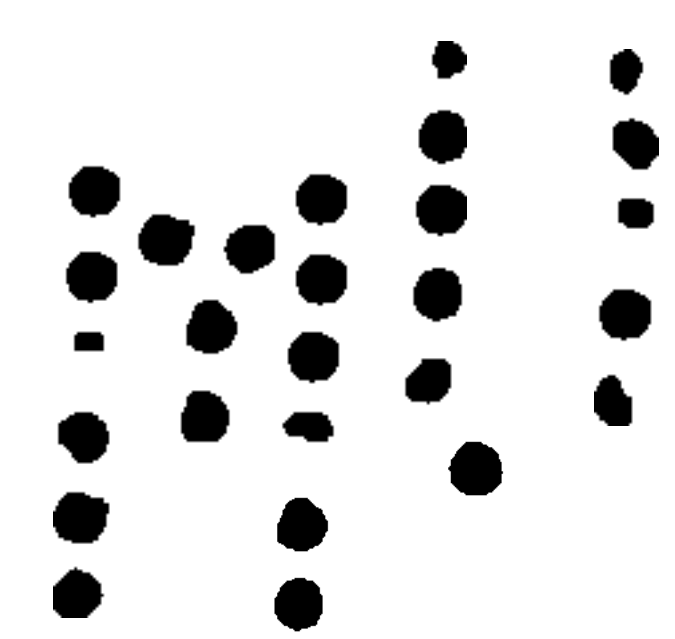
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Nº XLVII 700-15

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-os id est beneuoz. tom ezumnes paeed' eozonet leg. -

Nº CXC 805.

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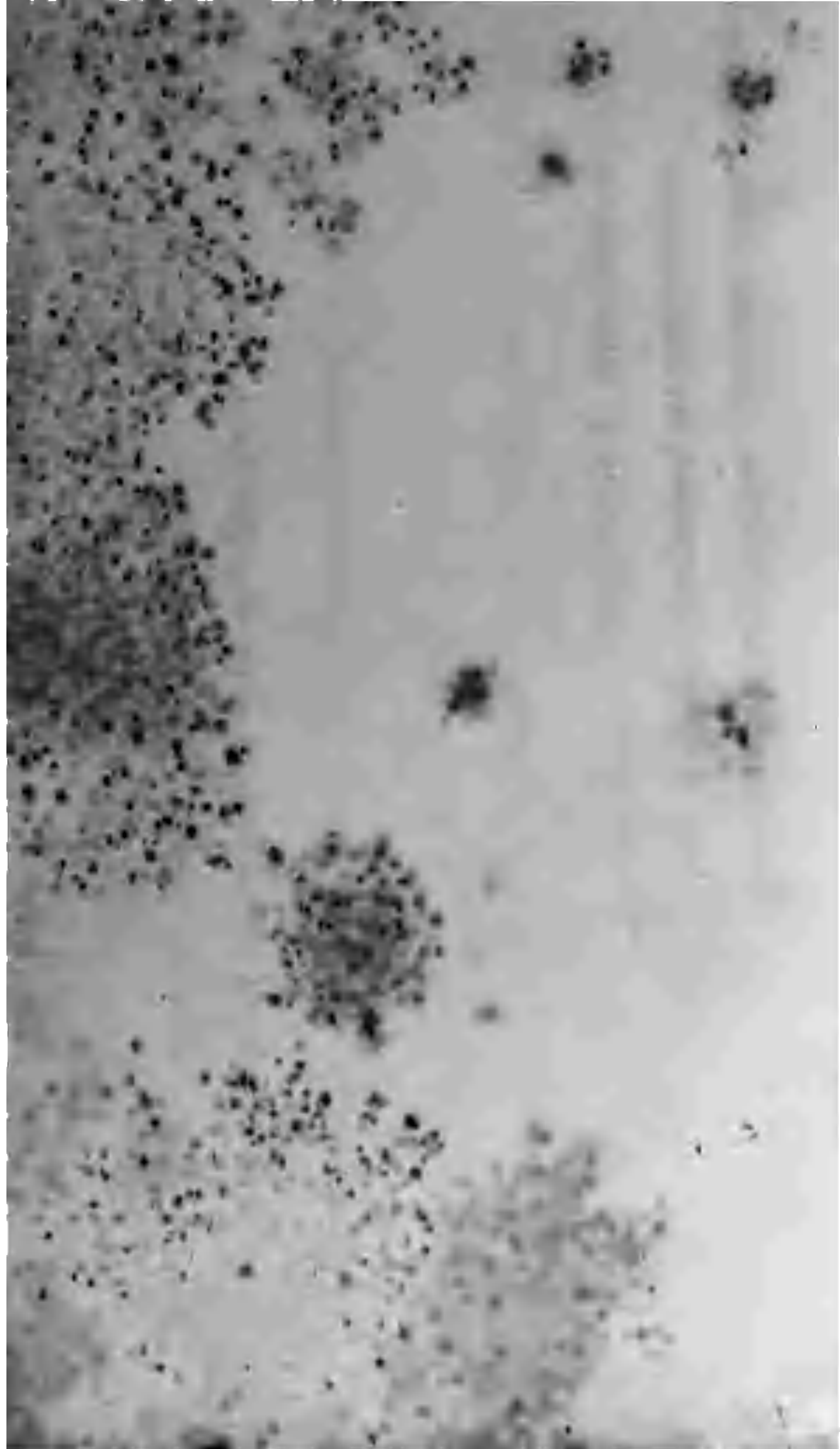


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ðe ðær goðes dros sionðan ƿeða men ƿi ðaðæp hlafordas -  
ƿeƿon ƿeƿa monna ðe hroƿa lond to ðære cƿeƿan saldon -  
Ond ðætae mon unce TIDE ƿinb Tuelpmonað mon ƿe meonðiae -  
on godcundum godum ƿe on ælmeſſan suæ in on hrona dooð.





N° LXX. 736.

✠ ego uxor episcopus consensi et subscripsi.

✠ ego siqibed consensi et subscripsi

✠ ego bercol consensi et subscripsi

N° CXVI. 767.

immone  
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R. G. nante propfyturim dno nofio. gory  
So offu dnuu Subfipwite guntu nkmgr

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# C O D E X D I P L O M A T I C U S A E V I S A X O N I C I.

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## INTRODUCTION.

**THE** systems of law and polity which prevailed during the Anglosaxon period are not completely contained in the codes of the Anglosaxon kings, or the ecclesiastical decrees of the Anglosaxon bishops. These are, in truth, little more than collections of articles declaratory of the law, as it was understood in practice; or corrective of errors which lapse of years and forgetfulness of the law had introduced; or alterations of the law to keep pace with the altered state and grade of morals and civilization. We learn from them only certain salient points of the polity of our forefathers; and, generally speaking, such points only as mark an innovation upon the old and established order. In attempting therefore to form an accurate conception of the Anglosaxon law, in its manifold bearings, we are compelled to resort to other evidence than is supplied by the written law itself.

The most important subsidiary evidence which we can now obtain, is furnished by the public and private instruments of the period alluded to; those documents in short which pass under the general name of charters. To these we must look for almost all our

information respecting the law of real property; the descent and liabilities of lands; the nature of tenure and service; the authority of the king, the nobility and the church; even the power of the popular councils. From the Anglosaxon Wills alone we derive a reasonable account of the household arrangements, and disposition of real and personal estate. From the records of the synods or councils, and of the county courts, we gain our only insight into the nature and forms of process.

But however great the light which these documents throw upon the foundations and gradual growth of our law, their value is no less, as bearing upon the mere details of early English history. That which they are to the codes of the kings in a legal sense, they are also to the annalists in a historical sense. They furnish in short the best means of correcting or testing the assertions of individual writers. They are to ancient history what letters, state papers, and pamphlets are to modern history, without these, the most deceptive of fabrics.

Though not immediately connected with the objects for which this collection has been formed, I may be allowed to call attention to one very important service rendered us by a portion of these documents. I mean the Wills, which are almost exclusively drawn up in Anglosaxon; and which, from their great antiquity, and peculiarities of dialect, are of immeasurable value to those who attempt to trace the language of our various tribes, in its relation to the dialects of the continental Germans, and its gradual progress towards the refined but weakened form, made current through the influence of the West Saxon court.

But in order that proper use may be made of these documents, it is above all things necessary that we



should be assured of their authenticity ; doubts, not unreasonably, entertained upon this point, have deprived many modern historians of the surest as well as the most important basis for their labours. Whether this can be remedied entirely, and such strict rules given as to be of universal application, I know not ; but I think some general observations may be made which will serve as an approximation to a system of criticism.

Too much ignorance prevails in England respecting the habits of our Saxon ancestors ; too many of our most polished scholars have condescended to make themselves the echoes of degenerate Greeks and enervated Romans, and to forget the amphibology that lurks in the word *barbarous* ; while want of power to comprehend the peculiarities of the Saxon mind—without which no one will comprehend the peculiarities of the Saxon institutions,—has led others to describe the ancestors of the English nation as savages half reclaimed, without law, morals or religion. To this assertion it is enough to oppose the fact, that nearly all European civilization went forth from our shores, when the degraded remnants of Roman cultivation survived only to bear witness in their ruins to the crimes of the respective nations, and the punishment which the crimes of nations never yet have failed to bring down upon them. How evidently the finger of God showed itself in the irruption of the barbarians, may best be learnt from the records of Procopius, Salvianus and other contemporary writers. In reading the accounts given by these hostile witnesses, we cannot escape from the conviction that the appointed work of the Teutons was to reinfuse life and vigour and the sanctity of a lofty morality into institutions perishing through their own corruption. And the Anglo-



saxons were not the least active in fulfilling their part of this great duty.

There is no good reason to doubt that at the period when the Teutonic tribes first attracted the attention of the south, they already possessed, more or less fully developed, the principles and germs of that system of polity, which has at length found its completion in the institutions of this country, in spite of all its changes, still of all European nations the most true to its Germanic prototype. One fact, common to the Celtic, German and Wendish tribes, appears to have interested the Roman observer, who could find no parallel to it in his own country, so much as to have caused some exaggeration in the record of its effects. The typical principle of the Roman law was "the property or land of the individual citizen, the *ager*, bounded and defined by civil and religious ceremonies." The typical principle on the contrary of the Teutonic law was "the land held in common, in German the *gau*:" out of this, in its developement or its disturbance, arose the democratic and elective, or the aristocratic and monarchical power in Europe. The Roman law considered the individual member of the state, the citizen: the Teutonic law based itself upon the family bond. Cæsar and Tacitus, having their eyes fixed upon this essential difference, concur in declaring that the Germans allowed of no individual possession, but held all their lands in common. But here the operation of time must be taken into account; and even supposing it to have been universally true in the time of Tacitus, which he himself furnishes us strong reason for doubting, it could not be true from the first moment that a conquering armament settled in a foreign and conquered country. The prince that led his *comites* to victory,—and his *comites* were hardly





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than tradition, and liable to all the accidents by which tradition is affected, nay which themselves constitute tradition. We cannot believe that any wide dispersion of the power of writing existed at that period. Runes, fitted for short inscriptions on stones or blocks of wood, were not very manageable means to such an end, even admitting that the Anglosaxons understood the art of fabricating parchment or papyrus. On certain great occasions it is possible that a stone or liminary column may have been set up, in witness of a contract; but it would be absurd to assert that this took place on all occasions of transfer. The word *writan*, to write, signifies properly to cut, carve or engrave<sup>3</sup>; and the runes themselves, as their very name denotes *secret*, (*rûn mysterium*, *rûn stæfas*, *mysterious staves*,) were probably known to very few persons.

But that Augustine and his companions, when they introduced Christianity among the Saxons, introduced with it, writing, annals, an era, and the necessary forms of civilization, it is not unreasonable to believe. Some of the documents themselves which profess to belong to this very early period, bear the marks of a Roman and ecclesiastical origin. They differ in some material points from the forms afterwards current in Europe: while, at the same time, in some very remarkable respects, they bear a resemblance to the most ancient papyri.<sup>4</sup> That at the end of the seventh and commencement of the eighth

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<sup>3</sup> Vid. Glossary to *Beowulf*, by J. M. Kemble.

<sup>4</sup> More especially in grammatical solœcisms, and false constructions, corresponding examples of which are furnished in abundance by Maffei's *Storia di-*

*plomatica*, Marini's *Papiri diplomatici*, the *España Sagrada* and *Memorias de la Réal academia*, the *Diplomata chartarum ad res Francicas spectantia*, Brequigny's, Muratori's and Pertz's great collections, etc. etc.



centuries, lands were conveyed by charter in England, we learn from Beda's letter to Ecgberht: his words are, "ipsas quoque literas priuilegiorum suorum, quasi ueraciter deo dignas, pontificum, abbatum, et potestatum saeculi obtinebant subscriptione confirmari." And these words, which evidently show that this was no new arrangement, appear to me to be applicable to the whole period between Augustine and Beda. For the extreme importance attached to the destruction of all remnants of heathendom, to which the symbolic transfers more especially belonged, rendered it from the very first necessary to substitute for them such forms as the Church had sanctioned; since in all times, the possession and transfer of land become one of the deepest foundations of the whole social polity.

I therefore see no reason to doubt that land was transferred by documentary forms, either with or without symbolic forms<sup>6</sup>, from the very first introduction of Christianity among the Anglosaxons. Our business is now to investigate wherein those forms consisted.

Throughout Europe the documentary dispositions of the Latins prevailed. The conquerors readily adopted such portions of the law of the conquered, as applied to those new relations of life which the conquest itself had created, and those social wants which had not been provided for in their own unwritten, customary law. The formal study of the

<sup>6</sup> Among the documents in this collection are some which lead me to believe that the symbol continued to be used together with the charter. That this custom fell into desuetude and was reintroduced by the Normans,

proves nothing against its existence at very early periods. This is on the contrary rendered highly probable by a similar provision which did prevail till a late time among the Salic Franks and Lombards.



Roman law still survived in the seventh century. Aldhelm<sup>6</sup> remarks upon the time and pains it cost to master it, and declares it to have been a pursuit of his own. Wilfrið of York was celebrated for his proficiency in it, to which, in part at least, he probably owed his unpopularity in England and the undeviating support he received from the Papal Court. The peculiar habits and disposition of each individual people, and manifold accidental circumstances, had undoubtedly tended to introduce great variations into the received system; but in the main the formularies were those of the empire and the Church. For amongst the Lombards, Franks, East and West Goths, and other nations that successively prevailed to dismember the enfeebled colossus of the empire,—in spite of all the changes which time, conquest, or opinion introduced,—the Church, as a body, continued to live under the *Lex romana*, or Roman system of rights, privileges, immunities and duties; and in direct proportion to the influence of the clergy was the predominance of Roman and ecclesiastical forms<sup>7</sup>. The Roman law was necessarily in many respects more favourable to the clergy than the national law of the conquering tribes, which could contain but few provisions suited to the circumstances of their condition: it was moreover the code of the orthodox, while the German invaders were for the most part tainted with semi-Arian if not Arian heresy. Add to this that the clerical profession was one of power and dignity, and to which a gentleman might devote himself without impeachment of his gentility; and that all nationality was generally found to merge in the new feelings appertaining to

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<sup>6</sup> Epistol. vid. Whart. Ang. Sac. ii. 6.

<sup>7</sup> Vid. Savigny. Gesch. d. R. R. i. 115.



the class: as Savigny well observes, “Whatever nation they might belong to by birth, their priestly character made them belong to *a new nation*—the clergy<sup>8</sup> :” hence, both for themselves and those whom they could influence, they retained as much as possible of *their* national forms, viz. the Roman. The collection of Marculfus professed to embody these for the Merovingian Franks; other collections have retained the precedents of the Carolingian princes; the still older formularies of Cassiodorus did the same for the Ostrogoths in Italy. The *Liber Diurnus* of the Church supplied similar patterns for ecclesiastical instruments, unmixed with national peculiarities.

A similar work might perhaps be compiled from the Anglosaxon charters, so regular and strict are they in form: and as their authenticity seems capable of being tested in some degree by such internal evidence, it will be advisable to subject these forms to a detailed examination. A Saxon charter properly so called and distinguished from a will or the record of a synodal decree, consists of all or some of the following portions:

- I. The Invocation. II. The Proem. III. The Grant. IV. The Sanction. V. The Date. VI. The Teste.

And first of the Invocation. By this name I call the short ejaculation which usually forms the first member of the document. These are very numerous and various, and among them I find the following,

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<sup>8</sup> Landulfus et Petrus clericus germani . . . . . qui professi sumus ex natione nostra legem uiuere Langobardorum, sed ego Petrus clericus per clericalem honorem lege uideor uiuere Romana. Lupi. p. 223, cited by Savigny, i. 120.



In nomine domini! or In nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi, Salvatoris! or Regnante domino nostro! In nomine Trino divino! In nomine sanctae et indiuiduae Trinitatis! In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus sancti! etc. etc. These short sentences in general do not offer any tangible points on which to found an argument as to the authenticity of a charter, but if omitted altogether they are presumptive evidence either that the document is a forgery, or that it has come down to us in a mutilated form.

II. The Proem. The second member of an Anglo-saxon charter is a general observation, somewhat similar in effect to the movent clause of a Norman one. It usually states the virtue of charity, especially to the Church; or it expatiates on the nothingness of earthly possessions, and the advantage of purchasing with them, heavenly treasures. Or it sets forth the transitory nature of things temporal, and the uncertainty of all human conditions, and impresses the necessity of having formal recognitions of grants and contracts. In many cases these proems contain indirect references to canons of the church; some of them are directly founded on texts of scripture, which are sometimes quoted at length. As a general rule it may be observed that before the tenth century the proem is comparatively simple; that about that time, the influence of the Byzantine court began to be felt, and that from the latter half of that century, pedantry and absurdity struggle for the mastery. The forms which survive are for the most part reducible under three great heads.

1st. That earthly goods are transitory, but things eternal are abiding: hence that things transitory ought to be freely given to purchase things eternal.

Or ; we brought nothing with us into the world, and can take nothing with us from the world : hence, etc.

2d. That all grants ought to be recorded ; otherwise the transitory nature of all things human might lead to their violation ; whereby men might innocently fall under the penalty of damnation.

3d. The duty of charity, as enforced by the command, *Date et dabitur vobis*, etc. : especially to the clergy.

A large miscellaneous head, however, remains, especially comprising the charters of the tenth and eleventh centuries ; and which, depending merely upon the pedantic fancies of the various scribes, can hardly be subdivided to any useful purpose. I shall not place here any very large collection of these proems, having pointed out their general character and form : but a very few will serve to show clearly what is meant by the division I have adopted.

1. *Apostolus Paulus de extremo iudicio manifestissime loquens, ita dixit ; omnes enim stabimus ante tribunal Christi, ut recipiat unusquisque prout gessit, siue bonum siue malum. Etiam ipse dominus in euangelio suo manifestat, dicens ; Ibunt impii in supplicium aeternum ; iusti autem in uitam aeternam. Hoc sane tremendum et terribile dei omnipotentis iudicium omnibus est nobis perhorrescendum. Quapropter, etc.* *Aeðilraed of Mercia, 691-692.*

2. *Quotiens sanctis ac uenerabilibus locis uestris aliquid offerre uidemur, uestra uobis reddimus, non nostra largimur. Quapropter, etc.*

*Oeðilraed of Essex, 692—693.*



3. Omnia enim, ut ait apostolus, quae uidentur, temporalia sunt; quae autem non uidentur aeterna sunt. Pro qua re, etc.

Oshari of the Hwiccas, 693.

4. Quamuis solus sermo sufficeret ad testimonium, attamen pro cautela futurorum temporum, ne quis forte posterum fraudulentam ignorantiae piaculum perperam incurrat, idcirco scedulis saltem uilibus, pro ampliore firmitatis supplemento, necessarium reor adnectere. Quapropter, etc.

Suaebraed of Essex, 704.

5. Tempora temporibus subeunt, abiit et uenit aetas, sola sanctorum gloria durat in Christo. Ideoque, etc.

Aeðilheard and Aeðilueard, 705—709.

6. Ait enim apostolus; nihil intulimus in hunc mundum, uerum nec auferre quid possumus. Et beatus Iob dixit: nudus egressus sum ex utero matris, et nudus reuertar in terram. Quapropter, etc.

Aeðilbald of Mercia, —.

7. Nihil intulimus in hunc mundum, uerum nec auferre quid possumus: iccirco terrenis ac caducis aeterna coelestis patriae praemia mercanda sunt. Quapropter, etc. Aldraed of the Hwiccas, 759.

8. Omnem hominem qui secundum deum uiuit, et remunerari a deo sperat et optat, oportet ut piis precibus assensum ex animo hilariter praebet; quoniam certum est, tanto facilius ea quae ipse a deo poposcerit consequi posse, quanto et ipse libentius hominibus recte postulata concesserit. Quod tunc bonorum omnium largitori deo acceptabile fit, cum pro eius amore, et utilitate famulantium ei peragitur. Quocirca, etc.

Aeðilbald of Mercia, 748.

9. Quamuis parua et exigua sint quae pro amissis offerimus, tamen pius omnipotens deus non quanti-





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gere praesumat, quae uenerabilium uirorum fuerint uerbis confirmata. Heaðored, 789.

16. Iuste a nobis pietatis opera persoluenda sunt. Idcirco, etc. Offa of Mercia, —.

17. Ea quae secundum ecclesiasticam disciplinam ac synodalia decreta salubriter definiuntur, quamuis solus sermo sufficeret, tamen, pro euitanda futuri temporis ambiguitate, fidelissimis scripturis et documentis sunt commendata. Quapropter, etc. Deneberht, 803.

18. Licet sermo sapientium consiliumque prudentium stabilis permaneat, tamen ob incertitudinem temporalium rerum diuinis numinibus muniendo praescrutando, pro ignotis et incertis euentis stabilienda roborandaque in deo unico et uero sunt. Quapropter, etc. Cœnwulf of Mercia, 814.

19. Cum cuncta cotidie fugitiuae uitae tempora prosperis et aduersis causis consistere cernimus, rapidissimo cursu annorum spatia regnorumque ubique gaudia finita esse, manifestissimis signis declaratum est. Quapropter, etc. Ecgberht, 833.

20. Regnum dei quaerendum est super uniuersa lucra terrena, Paulo testante apostolo; quae enim uidentur temporalia sunt, sed quae non uidentur aeterna sunt. Quid prodest homini totum mundum lucrare, si anima eius detrimentum patietur? Quapropter, etc. Wīglāf of Mercia, 836.

21. Omnia regna huius labentis uitae, regnorumque dispensatores ab initio istius saeculi cum uelocitate deficientes ceciderunt; ideo fugitiuis et mortalibus rebus aeterna gaudia promerenda sunt. Quapropter, etc. Aeðelberht of Wessex, 862.

22. Saeculi namque labentis tempora sicut umbrae fugientes sic uelociter tranant; uarieque euentum status in cogitationes hominum conscendunt. Ideo omnes firmas statutiones nostras litterarum serie



confirmamus, ne posteris cadant ex memoria praecedentium decreta patrum. Graecorum talibus exemplis statuta sunt, qui quod scire uolunt, litteris tradunt, ne ex memoria labetur. Estque nobis necesse praemeditandum in fugabundis temporibus saeculi, quomodo ad aeternam felicitatem peruenire ualeamus; quia cuncta quae uidentur fugitiua sunt et caduca, quae autem non uidentur perenniter sunt manentia, etc. Aeðelred of Mercia, 883.

23. Quamuis uerba regum et procerum decreta uelut fundamenta montium ad modicum fixa uideantur, tamen plerumque tempestates et turbines saecularium rerum regnorum statuta pulsantes quatunt. Quapropter, etc. Eâdweard of Wessex, 904.

24. Omnibus namque sapientibus notum ac manifestum constat, quod dicta hominum uel facta pro multiplici aerumnarum perturbatione et cogitationum uagatione frequenter ex memoria recedunt, nisi litterarum apicibus et custodiae cautela scripturarum reseruentur, et ad memoriam reuocentur. Quomobrem, etc. Werfrîð, 904.

25. Flebilia fortiter detestanda totillantis saeculi piacula, diris obscenæ horrendæque mortalitatis circumsepta latratibus, non nos patria indoeptae pacis securos, sed quasi foetidae corruptelae in uoraginem casuros, prouocando ammonent, ut cum toto mentis conamine cum casibus suis non solum despiciendo sed etiam, uelut fastidiosam melancoliæ nausiam abhominando fugiamus, tendentes ad illud euangelicum, Date et dabitur uobis. Qua de re, etc.

Aeðelstân of Wessex, 931.

26. In sanctae et indiuiduae Trinitatis uocamine! Ego Eâdwîg, egregius Angulsaxonum basileus, caeterarumque plebium hinc inde habitantium, crebro quidem coepi rimari quod ea quae uidentur tempo-



ralia ac caduca sunt, et quæ non uidentur aeternaliter mansura. Idcirco, etc. Eâdwîg, 956.

It is now necessary, in order to show that these forms were not confined to England, to produce a few similar examples from documents belonging to other German tribes.

A. In nomine sanctae Trinitatis! Prosperum, salubre et satis iocundum censuimus, ut homo de caduca quapiam re saeculi, ad peccata sua redimendum ualeat offerre; aut quid promptiore consilio, ut homo de mundanis rebus saeculi comparet paradysum, et de terrena substantia se transferat in coelestia? Itaque, etc. Formul. Marculf. ii. 2.

B. Nihil, ut ait Apostolus, in hoc mundo intulimus, nec quicquam ex eo auferre nobiscum poterimus, nisi quod, ob animae salutem, locis sanctorum, deuote domino offerentes, impertire uidemur. Ergo, etc.

Formul. Marculf. i. 14.

C. Prosperum quidem et salubre consilium, imoque satis iocundum esse dinoscitur, ut de caduca quispiam saeculi facultate deo conferat, quo peccata redimere sua ualeat et abluere, Et quod prudentius consilium, quam ut homo de mundanis rebus comparet paradysum, et de terrena substantia transferat aliquid in caelestia? Igitur, etc.

Grammo, 697. (Brequigny, i. 349.)

D. In nomine deitatis sanctae Trinitatis! Ego Bertrada seu Berta, seu et filius meus Charibertus, recogitans molimina peccaminum nostrorum, ut parua pro magnis, terrena pro coelestibus, caduca pro futuris, in ara summi dei omnipotentis offerre mereamur, ut ab ipsis subleuare adipiscamur iugi miserationum domicilii dei. Igitur, etc.

Berta, 721. (Brequigny, i. 431).

From these examples it appears that the distinctive mark of the proem is its being followed by the words *Ergo, Idcirco, Ideo, Quamobrem, Quapropter, Pro qua re, etc.*

I do not perceive that any Anglosaxon king peculiarly affected one form of proem, as is acknowledged to have been the case among the Franks. It is impossible to mistake the charter of a Meroving or Caroving, from the strictness of style adopted by them in their chancery. But in this respect, each English prince appears to have done what seemed good in his own eyes; or, to speak more strictly, the form depended solely on the caprice of the person who happened to draw up any particular instrument. The Franks and Italians, having a class of officials, to whom this duty was committed, more rarely varied the words and form of their instruments.

It has been said that the proem of an Anglosaxon charter answers in spirit to the movent clause of a Norman one; that is, it expresses in general terms the reason for granting the charter. It does not however exclude the possibility of such a clause being itself found in a subsequent member of the charter, whether in general or special terms. As I do not look upon these clauses as substantive and necessary parts of a charter, a few instances only need be given of them.

1. *pro remedium animae meae.*

Hloðhari of Kent, 679.

2. *pro absolutione criminum meorum, et pro amore dei uiuentis.*

Aeðilraed of Mercia, 691—692.

3. *pro remedio animae meae.*

Oshari of the Hwiccas, 692.

4. *pro remedio animarum nostrarum.*

Suaebraed of Essex, 704.



5. pro redemptione animae meae et pro expiatione facinorum meorum.

Aeðilbald of Mercia, 755—757.

6. pro expiatione piaculorum meorum.

Cyniuulf of Wessex, 778.

7. pro amore coelestis patriae, pro remedio animae meae.

Offa of Mercia, 779.

8. pro salute animae meae priorumque meorum.

Offa, 780.

9. pro amore domini nostri Ihesu Christi, et pro absolute meorum criminum.

Abp. Aeðilheard, 805.

10. pro remedie animae meae et pro absolute peccaminum meorum.

Cœenuulf of Mercia, 808.

11. pro remedio et salute animae meae, speque et amore futurae aeternique remunerationis in coelis.

Abp. Wulfred, *abt.* 825.

12. pro aeterna redemptione animae meae et criminum meorum absolute.

Aeðilberht of Wessex, 862.

13. pro dei omnipotentis amore, et beatæ dei genitricis Mariæ ueneratione, sanctorumque omnium auctoritate, necnon pro uenerabilis episcopi Eadulfi placabilis pecuniæ datione.

Aeðelstân, 933.

14. ob coelestis remunerationis præmium.

Eâdgâr, 971.

15. meo fideli . . . . . ob eius fidele obsequium.

Abp. Lyfing, 1042.

A. pro remedium animae meae.

Papyrus. First half of the vth century.

Maffei. S. D. p. 143.

B. pro animae nostrae remedio, uel pro meis peccatis minuendis.

Marculf. App. No. XIII.

C. ob amorem coelestis patriae. Marculf. ii. 2.

D. pro remedio animae nostrae.

Pipin, 691 (Brequigny, i. 318.)

Sometimes both proem and movent clause appear to coalesce; in other words the movent clause takes place of the proem itself. In this case there is no *Quamobrem*, *Quapropter*, or *Igitur*, but the name of the granter follows immediately upon the invocation. Thus,

1. In nomine domini dei nostri Ihesu Christi! Ego Uihfredus rex Cantuariorum, prouidens mihi in futuro, decreui dare aliquid omnia mihi donanti.

Wihtred of Kent, 697.

2. In nomine altithroni regis aeterni! Ego Uulfred, gratia dei archiepiscopus, de meis multifariis necessitatibus frequenti meditatione mentis meae cogitans, Quapropter, etc.

Wulfred, abt. 825.

3. Regnante in perpetuum domino nostro Ihesu Christo! Ego Eðelwulf rex occidentalium saxonum, necnon et cantuariorum, cum consensu et licentia meorum optimatum, seu pro expiatione piaculorum meorum, et obsolutione criminum meorum, dabo et concedo, etc.

Aeðelwulf, 853.

Many charters of Offa, Wigláf, Berhtwulf and Æðelwulf are drawn up in this form. It is hardly necessary to observe that such clauses are entirely independent of any one reciting a consideration for the grant, such as we occasionally find introduced, apparently in the hope of giving greater validity and permanence to the transaction: although there is no evidence of the existence, in these times, of any law which made grants without consideration void. Finally, it may be observed that most Anglosaxon charters have both invocation and proem; that some have an invocation and no proem; others on the contrary a proem and no invocation. A few genuine charters have neither the one nor the other; but the



cases are rare, and in a majority of them, the documents must either be looked upon as mutilated, or rejected as positive forgeries.

From the Anglosaxon proems a few general rules may be deduced.

1. That the early charters have generally a simple form.
2. That in the cases which are exceptions to this rule, it depends more upon the nature of the contents, than upon their amount or complication, whether the document is, or is not, to be received as genuine.
3. That allusions to the approaching end of the world, are not to be taken as evidences of forgery; such being found in Gregory's letters, and in Marculf's and other formularies.
4. That complicated proems, filled with greek words, such as *cosmi*, *protoplastos*, *soter* and the like, are confined to the period subsequent to the commencement of the tenth century. If found in documents professing an earlier date, they are strong evidences of forgery.
5. That narrative proems are suspicious, whatever be the supposed date of the instruments in which they are found.

III. The Grant. This is in effect the important part of every charter, and it involves several considerations, as The Grantor and Grantee, the estate conveyed, the reservations and limitations in the grant, etc. All these several points appear to be provided for by distinct forms. And first of the Grantor and Grantee. The usual form in which





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stance of a grant is recorded in a compressed and narrative form; though at the same time, for the greater authority, or to point out the particular document alluded to, the names of the witnesses may be appended in the first person, and even a portion of the charter quoted verbatim.

As far as these points go, the only possible test is anachronism; that is when in a forged charter parties are named who were, in fact, not contemporaries; for example, where a king of a short reign is introduced making a grant to a bishop, who was not a bishop during that reign, but before or afterwards, etc.

A circumstance, not entirely without importance, is the style or addition to the name of the grantor, where this, at least, happens to be a king or other distinguished historical personage. At the same time it is a part of the subject on which I do not propose to lay much stress; partly because I am satisfied that no very great strictness of form prevailed among the Anglosaxons themselves in this respect; and partly because we do not possess sufficient data for raising and establishing a rule. It would indeed be unreasonable to expect us to decide with certainty upon a point involved so deeply in obscurity, as the relations of the manifold Saxon tribes during the continuance of the several kingdoms; when, as an Annalist not inaptly expresses it, "*plures proceres certatim regiones occupabant, unde innumerabilia bella fiebant: proceres uero, quia multi erant, nomine carent.*" (Hen. Hunt. ii.) History knows little of the various *reguli* who within their petty territories exercised the regal power; and nearly as little of the extent and nature of the authority claimed or vindicated by the sons and brothers of ruling sovereigns. Oswine, rex Cantua-



riorum, if ever there were such a person, is known to us from these charters alone; and so little known to us from them, that the compiler of the chartulary in which they are found, confounds him with St. Oswine of Northumberland, and notes discrepancies in the dates upon that supposition. Suaebhard, rex Cantuariorum, is mentioned as an intruder by various chroniclers; he himself in his charters asserts his paternal right to the throne. Sigired calls himself rex dimidiae partis Cantiae, at a time respecting whose events the annalists are silent. During the same period we find Eardwulf, and Heardberht, reges Cantuariorum: if mentioned in the chronicles at all, these persons must be taken to be intended by the *reges exteri* who rather plundered than ruled Kent. Aeðelberht the second son of Wihtred, not only calls himself king of Kent, but grants lands by that title during the lifetime of his father, and Eâdberht his elder brother. In one original charter he dates his reign from Wihtred's death in 725; twenty years before, according to the Chroniclers, he came to the throne. It is perhaps not impossible that in the very early periods of Anglosaxon history, the name of king (*cyning* from *cyn*, *generosus a genere*) may have been assumed by the sons of sovereigns, whether or not accompanied with an appanage, rights and jurisdiction: just as at present in Germany all the children of a noble parent bear the title of the father. In rather later times, however, I should be inclined to confine it to such princes as were crowned in the lifetime of their father, and associated with him in the government.

Various Kings appear to have used various titles in proportion as they extended their power and influence. Aethilbald styles himself sometimes King of the Mercians, sometimes of the Angles, sometimes



of the Southangles: and this he might justly do, since the Mercians, whose king he was, were the most important of the English Angle tribes; and the Southangles, if ever separated in their government, were an appanage of the reigning Mercian family: Peada, Penda's son, was during his father's lifetime king of the Middle and Southangles. Others add indefinitely *caeterarumque gentium in circuitu persistentium*, even though the first title were one (as *rex Angulsaxonum*) which comprised all the populations really subject to their rule: but this, which is undoubtedly of later growth, smacks of the bombast of Byzantium. The Kings of Mercia after Coenuulf's second year (*viz.* 798) take also the style of Kings of Kent, which was an appanage to Mercia in the hands of Cûðred, Coenuulf's brother, till 805, became again an independent kingdom under Baldred, and finally sank into an appanage for the sons and brothers of the Westsaxon kings. These latter called themselves originally Kings of the Gewissas, their family tribe; somewhat later, Kings of the Westsaxons; later still Kings of the Westsaxons and men of Kent. After the union of nearly all England in the person of Acðelstân, this style was in general abandoned for that of *Rex totius Albionis*, *Rex et primicerius totius Britanniae*, or words of similar import.

As we have scarcely any Northumbrian charters, a fact as strange as it is much to be lamented, we can give no account whatever of the style adopted by the Kings of that country: it is probable however that they carefully maintained the distinction between Deira and Bernicia, which has been unaccountably overlooked by many historians of Saxon England. The Kings of Essex called themselves *Reges Eastsexorum* or *Eastsaxonum* as long as



their kingdom lasted. Those of Eastanglia, probably *Reges Eastanglorum, Orientalium anglorum*, or merely *Anglorum*. The relations however of these kings is throughout obscure; and history has little recorded of them, from the murder of *Aeðilberht*, till the defeat and death of *Eâdmund*; after whose fall Eastanglia never recovered its independence, being held as a kind of province by the Danish invaders, or finally incorporated in the dominions of Wessex.

From all that has preceded it naturally follows that we cannot look upon the presence or absence of any particular title, as a safe criterion of the authenticity of a document; one of the many circumstances in which the charters of the Anglosaxon differ from those of the Norman kings, and which is referable to the same cause, viz. the absence of a Chancery and distinct body of professional clerks or notaries.

Unquestionably, grave errors of fact, as where a king of Kent should be made to call himself king of Essex, and the like, are matter of suspicion: but even here some discretion is necessary, and errors of this grave nature, when occurring in charters not professing to be originals, must be treated with lenity: they are very often merely the interpolations of late and ill informed transcribers. For example, in a grant to Worcester made before 709, Offa is called *rex Merciorum*, and this error pervades all the copies we possess of the document. But it appears to me that it is not of itself sufficient to invalidate the charter. The signatures of the witnesses prove distinctly that the grantor was Offa of Essex, not of Mercia, who did not come to the throne till fifty years later. The interpolation of the word *Merciorum*, is therefore due to Hemming or some other copyist anterior to him, and probably resulted from some ignorant or knavish monk's



having glossed the word *rex* with a marginal note; Offa of Essex had been long forgotten, and was never powerful enough to be much worth remembering: it was otherwise with Offa of Mercia. But to my eyes the very error into which these copyists have fallen is evidence pro tanto of the authenticity of that which they copied.

Another charter of the same prince has been called in question because he is styled in it *Rex orientarium Anglorum*, while it should have been *orientarium Saxonum*. The charter is no doubt a forgery; but still the misnomer does not seem to me to be alone evidence that it is so: this, taken alone, proves to my mind nothing more than that the copy we possess was interpolated at a period when the separate existence of Essex as a kingdom had ceased to be remembered, but when that of Eastanglia had not.

The Chartularies of Abingdon furnish us with an interesting example of this kind of error, and at the same time with a warning not to decide rashly. One of these MS. Cott. Claud. c. ix. gives a charter of Aethilbald of Mercia and Aethilheard of Wessex. The second chartulary MS. Cott. Claud. B. vi. gives the same charter, with the same witnesses, excepting Aethilheard, and attributes it to Aethelbald of Wessex, Aethelwulf's successor, a prince who reigned more than a century later. This discrepancy serves to show that the compilers of both chartularies had read, though only one had understood, the same original.

It seems then that in this case, our only tests are the usual ones of history, but that allowance must be made for the ignorance of copyists and compilers. In charters professing to be originals, this is of course excluded: but even here some allowances are



to be made, the explanation of which I reserve till I come to treat of the dates.

The words *dei dono*, *dei gratia*, or their equivalents, are of common though not universal occurrence in the charters of the Saxon Kings and Bishops; the presence or absence of these serve therefore to form no test of authenticity: and the more so, because throughout Europe during the vith, viith, viiith, ixth, and xth centuries, persons placed in lofty stations seem to have affected this style in their charters. I subjoin a few instances:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Ego Aethelred, Christo donante rex Mercensium .....                      | 691-692. |
| 2. Ego Aethilbald, ex diuina dispensatione Mercensium rex .....             | 716-717. |
| 3. Ego Aethilbald, diuina dispensante gratia Mercensium rex .....           | 718.     |
| 4. Ego Offa, diuina gubernante gratia rex Mer. ....                         | 767.     |
| 5. Ego Uhtredus, deo donante regulus Huicciorum .....                       | 767.     |
| 6. Eiusdem gratia concedente, Ego Offa rex Anglorum .....                   | 774.     |
| 7. Ego Offa, dei dono rex Marc. ....  | 777.     |
| 8. Ego Offa, deo cuncta disponente rex Merciorum .....                      | 779.     |
| 9. Ego Offa, coelica fulcimente clementia rex Merciorum .....               | 780.     |
| 10. Ego Beonna abbas gratia dei .....                                       | 786-796. |
| 11. Ego Offa, ipso piisimo praeordinante deo rex Merciorum .....            | —        |
| 12. Ego Uulfred, domini inspirante gratia Christi aecclesiae antistes ..... | 811.     |
| 13. Ego Coenuulf, gratia dei rex Merciorum .....                            | 814.     |



14. Dei gratia concedente Ego Ceoluulf rex  
Merciorum ..... 822.
15. Ego Uulfred, gratia dei Archiepiscopus, *abt.* 825.
16. Se Osulf aldormonn mid godes gaefe, *abt.* 825.
17. Ego Werhardus, dei gratia presbyter, *abt.* 833.
18. Ego Uuiglaf, gratia dei rex Merciorum. 831.
19. Ic Lufa, mid godes gifa ancilla dei ..... 832.
20. Ego Ecgberhtus, gratia dei occidenta-  
lium Saxonum rex..... 833.
21. Ego Ceólnoð, gratia dei archiepiscopus 838.
22. Ego Aetheluulfus rex occidentalium Sax-  
onum, Centuriorum nec non cuncti  
australi populi dnī adridenti grati,  
regimini praelatus ..... 839.

These examples will suffice to show that from the earliest times, this style was in use among the Anglosaxons.

The granting words are numerous and manifold, and though part of the formulary, do not appear to be introduced according to any settled and invariable rule. It may be observed of them in general, that they are much simpler than the corresponding forms of the continent, and especially, that they show no such strict and formal combinations as those met with in the Roman documents. *Do, dono, concedo, trado* are the most in use, sometimes singly, sometimes combined; and one noticeable peculiarity is that, in place of the present tense *do*, we usually have the future *dabo*. It is worth while to contrast a few of these formularies:

A. *transcribo, cedo, trado et mancipio.*

*Maff. p. 143.*

B. *constat eos distraxisse, et distraxerunt, tradidisse, et tradiderunt, etc.*

*539, Maff. 151.*





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19. Donauī enim.	Cyniuulf, 778.
20. Largior.	Offa, 780.
21. Trado.	Offa, 788.
22. Dabo et concedo.	Cœenuulf, 798.

These examples appear sufficient to give a notion of the forms adopted in this country, and to point out wherein they differ from those of other nations. Nor is there any good reason for multiplying them, as they vary but little down to the latest period of the Anglosaxon monarchy.

The Estate conveyed is a matter of serious importance, and its complete illustration would require a far profounder knowledge of Anglosaxon law than we at present can pretend to possess. In general it may be described to be free, entire and hereditary fruition, equivalent in short to an unrestricted *fee*. This, however, depends solely upon the form in which the book or charter is drawn up; it being an established principle of Anglosaxon law, that no land could be disposed of contrary to the expressed will of the person by whom the first grant was made (Ll. Aelfr. 37. Tit. de bôclande); for want of conformity to which principle, more than one grant is recorded to have been avoided. At the same time I am compelled to disclaim for the Saxon law that strictness of construction which in Norman times rendered almost every word in an instrument a snare for the unwary. Evidence of the devisor's will, whether documentary or parole, was always accepted by the court, if offered, and the simple minded people knew but little of the advantages or disadvantages of a technical vocabulary. We shall have to note hereafter various restricted estates, answering in some respects to our *tail*; grants for a



life or lives, with remainder and reversion, and the like; but for the present our business is with the formularies by which full, free and complete power of disposal is given to the grantee.

1. ita ut quamdiu uixerit potestatem habeat tenendi ac possidendi, cuicumque uoluerit uel se uiuo uel certe post obitum suum relinquendi.

Aeðilbald, 736.

2. quam is semper possideat, et post se cui uoluerit haeredum relinquat.

Uhtraed, 767.

3. et jure haereditario firmiter fixa permaneat.

Cûðraed, 805.

4. ut habeat libertatem commutandi uel donandi in uita sua, et post eius obitum teneat facultatem relinquendi cuicumque uolueris.

Cûðraed, 805.

5. potestas quoque ipsi datur ut in libertate terram habeat quamdiu uiuat et postea cuicumque hominum uoluerit, in æternam libertatem derelinquat.

Cûðraed, 805.

6. donare ac conscribere in propriam atque in perennem hæreditatem, habendum fruendumque et ad tractandum.

Cøenuulf, 811.

7. liberam per omnia habeat potestatem ad habendum, possidendum, profruendumque, seu uendendum aut commutandum, uel cuicumque ei heredi placuerit derelinquendum perpetualiter habeat potestatem.

Wíglâf, 831.

It is hardly necessary to add that the word *haeres* was by no means necessary to constitute an estate of inheritance. It may also be observed here that the important *habendum* is rarely omitted; while as there is no *tenendum*, at least in the Norman sense, this word is usually, though not universally, replaced



by the equivalent *possidendum*, *perfruendum*, or some word of similar import<sup>9</sup>.

Although the great mass of the grants contained in this collection are of the full and unrestricted possession, still a portion of them contain limitations whose effect, in consequence of the principle of law above referred to, must have been binding to an indefinite period. The following are examples of the mode in which the descent was sometimes defined and restricted.

1. Ego Offa rex Merciorum, tibi Osberhto, ministro meo, atque uxori tuæ, et si contigerit ut uobis filius aut filia nati fuerint, trado terram, etc. Offa, 788.

2. ut se uiuente habeat et possideat, et post se suæ propinquitatis homini, cui ipse uoluerit, possidendum, libera utens potestate, derelinquat.

Offa, 779.

It would perhaps be too much to argue that *homo* in this passage is to be confined strictly to the male line; but still I think we cannot admit the possibility of lands thus limited, being conveyed to any person not of the family, *mægburh* or propinquitas, of the grantee. It is the very case provided against in that law of Aelfred which I have cited; and it is not unimportant that the law in question is probably one adopted by Aelfred from the now lost code of

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<sup>9</sup> Coke's remark (Co. Lit. 151.) "Tener, to hold the same of some superior lord" can rest upon nothing but a refinement of the Norman Feudists. For though the word *tenendum* is not common in Saxon instruments, it is not unknown to them and other na-

tions, among whom such tenure as Littleton contemplated had no existence. Vid. Form. Vet. Bignon. p. 132. 147. 218. Marculf. i. 13, 14. 30; ii. 4. 11. Form. Andeg. 34, 35. Neugart. 10. 51. 85.



the Mercian king, the grantor in both the instances adduced.

But whatever doubt might be raised upon the two preceding cases, there can be none in the one that follows :

3. in ius possessionemque sempiternam sibimet ad habendum quamdiu uiuat, suoque relinquendum fratre germano diutius superstes si fuerit....et sic semper in illa sanguinitate paternae generationis, sexuque uirili, perpetualiter consistat adscripta.

Burgred, 869.

The next is also remarkable for the limitation to the male line :

4. Rus etiam hoc modo donatum est, ut suum (? semen) masculum possideat et non femininum: et post obitum prosapiae illius, data sit tam uilla quam uniuersa terra, quae in sua potestate est, ad religiosam aecclesiam, quae nuncupatur Eofeshâm.

Offa, 784.

The same limitation is found in the following passage :

5. Ic Ælfric cyðe mīnan leōfan hlāforde ðæt ic an Æðelsige mīnan suna ðæs landes ðe ic tō ðe gearnode æfter mīnan dæge, tō habbanne his dæg, 7 æfter his dæge tō syllanne dæm ðe him leōfost seð, 7 ðæt sið on ða spere-hand.

a. 963.

By no means an uncommon form is grant for life, remainder and reversion, being however most frequently found in leases of church-lands. An early Anglosaxon council had indeed prohibited such



grants for a longer term than the life of the grantee; but this, which probably had never been well observed, had fallen into utter desuetude in the tenth century. Towards its close, Bishop Oswald of Worcester made a point of granting for three lives, sometimes named in the instrument or indorsed upon it. I subjoin one or two examples from his charters which are drawn up in a form rather less varying in different cases, than those of other Anglo-saxons; so much so, indeed, as to make it probable that this prelate kept blank forms by him, to be filled up as occasion might require.

1. ut ipse, uita comite feliciter perfruatur, et post uitæ suæ terminum, duobus, quibus uoluerit, clero-  
nomis derelinquat; quibus etiam defunctis, rus præ-  
dictum cum omnibus utensilibus, ad usum primatis  
aecclesiæ dei in Wiogornaccastre restituatur inmu-  
nis. a. 962.

2. Ealhferð, quanto tempore uixerit; et post se  
duobus hæredibus; quibus defunctis, æcclesiæ Weo-  
gornensi restituatur. a. 962.

3. sibi, atque binis post se hæredibus, possiden-  
dam, etc. a. 965.

4. freolíce his dæge forgeaf, and æfter his dæg  
twâm yrfewardum. about 966.

5. freolíce his dæg forgeaf, and æfter his dæge  
twâm yrfewardum, ðæm ðe he sylf wille.  
about 966.

A similar clause in a charter of Oswald's of 968, has this note appended:

Ælfward wæs se forma man, and nû hit stent his  
dohtor on handa, and heô is se ôðer man, i. e. Ælf-  
ward was the first life, and the land is now in the  
hand of his daughter. She is the second life.



From this it should seem that these grants were made to three lives in succession, each of the first two being at liberty to leave it as an inheritance to one person; and we can therefore readily understand the accusation under which Oswald laboured of having dilapidated the revenues of his church. It was probably the dissatisfaction caused by his proceedings that induced him to send a laboured justification of himself to King Eâdgâr; from this document, invaluable for what it teaches us, I extract a few lines:

Quare quomodo fidos mihi subditos telluribus quae meae traditae sunt potestati, per spatium temporis trium hominum, id est duorum post se haerendum, condonarem, placuit tam mihi, quam ipsis fautoribus et consiliariis meis, etc.....Hoc pacto eis terras sanctae aecclesiae sub me tenere concessi; hoc est, ut omnis equitandi lex ab eis impleatur, quae ad equites pertinet; et ut pleniter persoluant omnia quae ad ius ipsius ecclesiae iuste competunt; scilicet ea quae Anglice dicuntur Ciricsceatt, 7 toll 7 tace, i. e. swinsceade et caetera iura ecclesiae, nisi episcopus quid alicui eorum perdonare uoluerit, seseque, quamdiu ipsas terras tenent, in mandatis pontificis humiliter cum omni subiectione perseuerare, etiam iureiurando affirment. Super haec etiam ad omnis industriae episcopi indigentiam semetipsos presto impendant, equos praestent, ipsi equitent, et ad totum piramiticum opus ecclesiae calcis, atque ad pontis aedificium ultro inueniantur parati. Sed et uenationis sepem domini episcopi ultronei ad aedificandum repperiantur; suaque quandocunque domino episcopo libuerit, uenabula destinent uenatum; insuper ad multas indigentiae causas, quibus opus est domino antistiti saepe frunisci, siue ad



suum seruitium siue ad regale explendum, semper illius archiductoris dominatui et uoluntati, qui episcopatus praesidet, propter beneficium quod illis praestitum est, cum omni humilitate et subiectione, subditi fiant, secundum ipsius uoluntatem, et terrarum quas quisque possidet quantitatem.

I have observed that very great strictness of language was not insisted upon; the arbitrators, or the county court who might be called upon to decide between conflicting claims, acting partly as courts of equity, and no class of professed lawyers existing. In many of these grants therefore we find words introduced totally at variance with the nature of the grant itself, as for example, words of perpetual inheritance in a grant for lives with reversion: thus,

1. duobus quibus magis uolueris, perpetuo habendam derelinque, sicque dum ipsi pertransierint saeculum, in potestate sanctae Mariae sedis restitatur.

2. cuidam regis ministro Ælfuold perpetualiter concedo, ut ipse eam quamdiu uixerit habeat, et post obitum eius mater, si superstes fuerit, eandem recipiat: sin alias, post obitum ipsius ad usum pontificis in Wigurnaceastre redeat immunis.

Still stronger expressions may easily be found among the charters that follow, the intentions, rather than the words of the grantor being looked to by the judges.

Usually, as has been observed, the free and entire fruition of the land with all its advantages, its woods, its waters, its birds and beasts and fishes, is made over to the grantee. But this is not done without solemn words, and those solemn words are





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pratis, pascuis, cultis et incultis, siluis, aquis, omnia et ex omnibus ad integrum.

Vigilius, 670. (Brequig. i. 261.)

F. hoc est tam in terris, domibus, ædificiis, accollabus, mancipiis, uineis, siluis, campis, pratis, pascuis, aquis, aquarumue decursibus.

Marculf, i. xiii.

1. cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus, cum campis, siluis, pratis et marisco. Oeðilred, 676-678.

2. cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus, campis, pascuis, meriscis, siluis, fonnis, piscaris, omnibus ut dictum est, ad eandem terram pertinentia, sicuti nunc usque possessa est. Hlôðhari, 679.

3. cum campis, sationalibus, pascualibus, pratis, palludibus, piscuariis, fluminibus, clusuris, omnibusque ad eam pertinentibus. Suaebraed, 704.

4. cum omnibus necessariis ad eam pertinentibus, cum campis siluisque, cum piscariis pratisque.

Aeðilbald, 736.

5. cum silua quae eidem telluri adiacet, ut cum pratis, pascuis, aquarum riulis... in usum episcopi Wigornensis aeccliesiae maneat. Offa, 780.

6. cum campis, pascuis, pratibus, siluis, saltibus, piscuosis, maritimis fretibus, paludibus, uallibusque, dulcis salsuginesque, salisque stationibus, coctionesque, et cum cunctis fructibus interius exteriusque, uel aliunde usquam ad eas rite uel unquam pertinentia. Cœnuulf, 811.

7. cum campis, siluis, quae on Blean ad illam terram recte pertinent, pascuis, pratis, piscationibus, uenationibus, paludibus, aucupibus, aquis, mariscis, salsibus, fretibus, quae unquam in minimis uel maximis ad istam praenominatam terram competeat, aut nunc difinienda, augendoque iure perpetua donata constant. Cœnuulf, 814.



8. cum omnibus usis ad eam rite pertinentibus, cum campis, silvis, pratis, pascuis, aquis, molinis, piscationibus, aucupationibus, uenationibus, et quicquid in se abentibus. **Ceðluulf, 822.**

9. cum campis, silvis, pratis, pascuis, uenationibus, aucupationibus, omnibus usis ad eam rite et recte pertinentibus. **Wiglâf, 831.**

10. cum silua ad eam pertinentem, et cum campis et pratis, et cum omnibus utensilibus, et cum puteis salis, et fornacibus plumbis, et uillis, et omnia illuc pertinentia. **Wiglâf, 836.**

11. cum pratis et pascuis, cum campis et silvis, cum aquis curreantium et incurrentium.

**Aeðeluulf, 844.**

12. and we him ðis sellað mid felda and mid wuda and mid fenne, suâ ðer tó gelimpeð.

**Ceðlred, 852.**

13. cum campis, silvis, pratis, pascuis, aquis, uenationibus, et cum omnibus utilitatibus rite et recte ad eandem terram pertinentibus.

**Aeðeluulf, 853.**

14. id est pratis, pascuis, silvis, fluminibus, fontibusque.

**Aeðelberht, 862.**

15. cum campis, silvis, pratis, pascuis, aquis, uenationibus, pascuis porcorum, simulque mariscis, et cum omnibus utilitatibus rite ac recte ad eandem terram pertinentibus.

**Aeðelberht, 863.**

16. cum campis, silvis, pratis, pascuis, piscationibus, omnibusque ad eam rite ac recte pertinentibus.

**Earduulf, 875.**

17. cum omnibus ad se rite pertinentibus, campis, pascuis, pratis, silvis.

**Aeðelstân, 939.**

18. cum omnibus ad se rite pertinentibus, campis, pascuis, pratis, silvis, siluarumque nemoribus.

**Eâdmund, 940.**



19. cum omnibus quæ ad ipsum locum pertinere dinoscantur, tam in notis causis et ignotis, in modicis et in magnis, campis, pascuis, pratis, siluis, siluarumque densitatibus. Eâdmund, 940.

20. cum omnibus utensilibus quæ deus cœlorum in ipso telluris gramine creauit, tam in notis causis et ignotis, in modicis et in magnis, campis, pascuis, pratis, siluis, siluarumque densitatibus.

Eâdred, 947.

21. cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus.

Eâdwîg, 956.

22. cum uniuersis quæ deus cœlorum in ipso telluris gramine, ad usus hominum procreauit, pascuis, pratis atque siluis, riuulorumque cursibus.

Aeðelred, 979.

23. cum omnibus utensilibus, pratis uidelicet, pascuis, siluis.

Aeðelred, 1004.

24. cum omnibus utensilibus suis, pascuis, pratis, siluis.

Cnut, *abt.* 1024.

25. cum omnibus ad se rite pertinentibus, campis, pascuis, pratis, siluis.

Eâdward, 1044.

Among the beneficial rights conveyed by these charters are common of pasture, estovers, and various advantages and easements derived from the position of the land; for instance, pasture for so many horses or swine in communi saltu; or a right of felling and carrying so many cartloads of wood in the same, the Norman *libertas fellandi et carriandi*; circumstances which, if for nothing else, would still deserve mention here, as evidence at how early a period the Kings (the inheritors of the heathen priesthood in their power over the sacred woods and streams) made their authority valid over the march and common lands adjacent to the Gau. The privi-



leges which thus become matter of grant are however far too important to be dismissed with such cursory notice, and fully deserve to be collected into a body.

1. Illi hanc praenominatam terram tradere curabo, ut communem silbam, secundum antiquam consuetudinem, cum caeteris hominibus abeat.

Cûðred, 805.

2. adiectis denberis<sup>9</sup> in commune saltu, Otanhyrst, &c.

Cðenuulf, 811.

3. Hæc sunt nomina pastuum porcorum, Helfreðingdenn, etc.

Cðenuulf, 814.

4. cum campis, cum siluis, cum pascuis, cum pratis, xv carra de feno capientia, cum uno molina, et waldbera Wiolhtringdenn, etc. . . . . 7 ðet firhde bituihu Longanleag 7 ðem Suðtûne, 7 ða snâdas illuc pertinentia, cum antiquis terminibus.

Cðenuulf, 814.

5. Item in Ondrede pastum et pascua porcorum et armentum seu caprorum, suis locis in Hyrst, Scofingden, etc.

Ceðluulf, 822.

6. et unam molinam in torrente qui dicitur Holanbeorges burna, et in monte regis quinquaginta carrabas lignorum, adiectis quattuor denberis, Hewtonstede, Heahden, Hese, Helmanhyrst.

Ecgberht, 838.

7. and of Rotaby intô Niwanhâm twâ hund swîna mæsten, 7 wuduræden, loca, hwæs man beþurfe.

Cnut.

8. duobusque carris dabo licentiam silfam ad illas, secundum antiquam consuetudinem et constitu idem

<sup>9</sup> Denbaero, Lat. Denberum | rum, pawnage, mast or oak and  
or Denberium is pasture for hogs. | beech-pasture.  
So also Waldbæro, Lat. Waldbe-



in aestate perferendam in commune silfa, quod nos Saxonice In geménisse dicimus. **Aeðeluulf, 839.**

9. tertia in medio urbanorum pratorum. Insuper etiam animalibus illius cum armentis regis pascuum donabo. **Aeðeluulf, 845.**

10. Haec sunt etenim marisci quae ad eandem terram rite ac recte pertinent, quae Hega ante abuerat; id est an Wiwarawíc, quae ante subiecta erat Towii 7 tó Leânahâm, 7 Sobreshâm i. sealtern, 7 ii wêna gang mid cyninges wênum tó Blean ðêm wiada, 7 iii oxnum gers mid cyninges oxnum, an Wiwarawíc. xxx statera kasei et item x statera in alia Wiwarawíc; 7 xx lamba 7 xx fehta ..... Duoque molina ad illam eandem terram pertinentia, una an Wassingwellan, alia an Hwiteceldan. Haec sunt pascua porcorum, quot nostra lingua denbera nominamus, hoc est Lamburnanden, Orrices den, Teligden, Stanehtandenn, et illa silua Sandhyrst nominata, quae pertinet tó Wassingwellan.

**Aeðelberht, 858.**

11. unamque salis coquinariam, hoc est .i. sealternsteall 7 ðer cota tó, in illa loco ubi nominatur Herewíc, et .iiii. carris transductionem in silba regis sex ebdomades a die pentecosten hubi alteri homines silbam cedunt, hoc est in regis communione. Hec sunt pascua porcorum, que nostra lingua Saxhonica denbera nominamus, hoc est Husneah, Efreðingdenn, Herbedingdenn, Wafingdenn, Widedingdenn, Blec-cingdenn, nec non xx statera casei of Mersce ad Mersaham reddatur, et xl agnos et xl uellera ouium, et duorum dierum refectio, uel xxx argenteis, hoc est semicum libra redimatur. **Aeðelberht, 863.**

12. and an cinges bôcholte fíf wêna gang fram Lacum oð Sumermessan. **Earduulf, 875.**

13. Et hæc sunt pascua porcorum, quatuor mansiones in loco qui dicitur Boganora, at Hidhirst in



silua, et in communi silua pascuale, quod dicitur  
Palinga schittas. Eâdred, 953.

The next thing to privileges conferred, are immunities from burthens lying upon the land in general; and these I shall take in order immediately; but before I proceed to give examples of such immunities, it is necessary to advert to other forms which in the later period of the Anglosaxon power were constantly introduced into the instruments of the Kings, as conferring privileges of a most important character. These comprise the words so generally found in the charters of the first Norman Kings, but, so far as I know, not occurring in any authentic Saxon document previous to the time of Eâdward the Confessor. I allude especially to the well known formulary *sac 7 soc, on strande 7 on streme, on wude 7 an feld, grithbrice, burhbrice, hundred setena, adhas 7 ordelas, calle hordas bovenerthin et binnethacre, infangethef, utfangethef, flemeneferthe, hamsocne, toll 7 team, etc. etc.*

It is not to be denied that at a comparatively early period of the Norman occupation these words were not entirely intelligible to the conquerors<sup>10</sup>: witness the many attempts at explanation given in

<sup>10</sup> The Normans could not even spell the words; hence they write *griderbryce, friderbryce* for *grifbryce, frifbryce*, their own contraction for *der* bearing a distant resemblance to the Saxon *ð*. Malmesbury speaks of *calle hordas bufam corderam* and *ben corderam*, meaning *calle hordas bufan eorðan 7 binnan eorðan*. By a similar error of the eye Montesquieu was led to call the Saxon

*eorðan coplas*; and we have transformed the Saxon *potpeallepar* (i.e. *potboilers, householders, men who keep up a fire in their house*) into *Potwallopers*. There are many small glossaries of these words in various MSS. of the xiith century; and some Norman charters which, while they confirm the privileges, frankly state that they do not know the meaning of the words they are confirming.



the MSS. of the twelfth and following century, the errors continually committed in transcribing them, and the confusion made in them by the Norman chroniclers. Still it is a very singular fact, if the conclusion which naturally follows from this be admitted, viz. that the Normans found these rights in force here, that there should be so little evidence of their existence furnished by the charters themselves. They were quite as much matters of grant before the conquest as after; some of them were valuable enough to be anxiously recorded; yet there is no record of them earlier than the time of the Confessor, save in a charter of Eâdgâr which I cannot look upon as genuine.

The words used to express them belong to the Anglosaxons, and are unknown to the Norman law, as such: when latinized, they plainly presuppose Saxon and not Norman originals. From the Saxons then they came; and the only question is, were they in use before the conquest, or were they introduced after the conquest, to express new relations caused by the conquest itself; and if so, why were English terms selected to denote them?

It seems to me that there is reason to believe that such rights did exist previous to the conquest. Some of them we can prove to have existed; and this fact makes it probable that the rest did so. I account for the rare mention of them in the one case, by the supposition that they were so inherent in the possession of land, as not to require particularization; but that under the Normans when every right and privilege must be struggled for, and the consequences of the Norman love of litigation were bitterly felt, it became matter of necessity to have them not only tacitly recognized, but solemnly recorded.





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eorðan 7 binnan æcere, or binnan eorðan, grants all treasure trove, whether above or below ground. Athas and Ordelas, A. S. âðas and ordælas, power to administer oaths, and proceed to trial by ordeal of bread, fire or water. Toll and teâm; the power of taking toll, (perhaps exemption from toll) and of warranty. Hundred setene, A. S. Hundred setena, probably Hundred of the tenants or setters on the land, power to call together and hold a hundred court.

It is a most important point to ascertain to what extent these territorial jurisdictions went. I am inclined to think that they were not admitted in very grave cases, and they are to be confined to the more trifling offences which were not specially in the attributions of the sheriff and the county court. But this inquiry must be reserved for another occasion, the sole object of these remarks being to illustrate the forms of the charters; when all the charters are collected, it will be time to compile a *Corpus Juris Anglosaxoni*, and not till then. In furtherance of this object, however, it is desirable to show which of these privileges, thus heaped together in the Norman grants, are found in the grants of the Saxon Kings, and to these I turn. And first of the *Infangenne* and *ûtfangenne* þeðf.

1. *cum furis comprehensione intus et foris.*

Ecgeberht, 823.

2. *furisque comprehensione.*

Aeðeluulf, 844.

3. *principali dominatione furisque comprehensione.*

Aeðelberht, 858.

4. *furisque comprehensione.*

Aeðelred, 869.

5. *cum furis comprehensione.*

Aeðuulf, 880.

6. *Itaque omnium regalium tributorum libera sit atque laxata ui exactorum, operum, poenaliumque*



causarum, nec non et furum comprehensione, cunctaque saeculi grauedine, absque sola expeditione, etc.

Aeðelred, 994.

7. et captio furorum.

Cnut, 1018.

Undoubtedly seven instances, sparsely collected from about a thousand instruments, make but a small mass of evidence; the more so as only one of the whole seven is positively authentic and beyond suspicion. But this one is proof enough, and valuable from its great antiquity (a. 858); its existence is enough to justify all the rest. The words *cum furis comprehensione*, serve to take this peculiar clause out of the class of immunities which are to follow, and to place it among the privileges, though constantly included, in defiance of grammar, sense, and the whole tendency of the Anglosaxon law, among the *gravamina* from which lands were, by special grace, made free. The Codes of the Kings are sufficiently explicit on the subject of *Teām*, to render no investigation of this word necessary: its grant by charter may be admitted at once. Toll however is not found in the same collections, at least not by name, and it is therefore desirable to show that at an early period it was matter of grant.

In the charters of the Saxons as well as the Normans, this word has a twofold force; it denotes as well exemption from payment of toll, as the right to levy toll, privileges which after the conquest were held to be inseparable from one another. Whether this principle prevailed before the time of the Normans I cannot positively say; but evidence can be given of grants by which the exemption from toll was given, as well of grants which conferred the right of levying it. The process was in either case simple. Tolls upon water-transport (the only ones



of which I find any mention) were included among the regalia of the Empire, of the Italian and Frankish kingdoms, and why not therefore of the Anglosaxons also? And being dues of the King, it is clear that the King might, whenever he chose, relinquish the right of perception. This is the case with all the earlier instances; at the same time I feel bound to say that I doubt the authenticity of many of the charters in which these exemptions are found; though the unquestionable fact of such exemptions having been made at the same period by the Frankish princes, makes it probable that such existed here, and indeed the first example adduced below is of unquestionable authenticity.

The second case seems equally clear. All private rights possessed by the King may be delegated, and this among them; even as the exemption from tithing by the prince in the case of church lands, laid the foundation of a claim to tithe on the part of the church itself. The examples are not numerous, but still I think decisive on the point, inasmuch as I look upon them as genuine. I subjoin all the examples I have observed, again requesting attention to the doubtful authenticity of some of the documents from which the first class are taken:

1. *Quamobrem ego Ethilbaldus rex Merciorum praesentibus litteris indico me dedisse pro anima mea Aldulfo episcopo ecclesiaeque beati Andreae apostoli quam gubernat unius navis siue illa proprie ipsius siue cuiuslibet alterius hominis sit incensum id est uectigal michi et antecessoribus meis iure regio in portu Lundoniae usque hactenus competentem quemadmodum mansuetudinem nostram rogauit.*

*Aeðelbald, 734.*

2. *et tibi Mildrithae abbatissae singulariter et*



aecclesiae tuae, nauis onustae transuectionis censum qui a theloneariis nostris tributaria exactione impetitur, perdonans attribuo ; ut ubique in regno nostro libera de omni regali fisco et tributo maneat.

Aeðelbald, 738.

3. þá forgeofende ic him âlyfde alle nêdbade twegra sceopa ða ðe ðær âbædde beóð fram ðæm nêdbaderum in Ludentûnes hýðe. Aeðelbald, 743-745.

4. totam exactionem nauis earum, mihi et antecessoribus meis iure publico in Landoniensi portu prius conpetentem, quemadmodum mansuetudinem nostram rogarent.

Aeðelbald, 747.

5. unius nauis, quod a Leubrico nuper emisti, dimidium uectigal atque tributum, etc.

Aeðelbald, 748.

6. de nauis onustae transuectionis censu, qui a theloneariis exigebatur, conferre uoluit.

Offa, 759-764.

7. duarum nauium transuectionis censum, qui etiam iuris nostri erat, in loco cuius uocabulum est ad Serrae, etc.....alterius uero quod nuper aedificatum est in monasterio eiusdem religiosae dei famulae, omne tributum atque uectigal concedimus.

Eâdberht, 761.

The following are evidences of the power of levying toll, conveyed by grant.

1. Ita habeant, sicut Siuerthus habuit in uita, in longitudine et in latitudine, in magnis et in modicis rebus, campis, pascuis, pratis, siluis, theloneum aquarum, piscationem in paludibus.

Eâdmund Irensîda.

2. et concedo eidem aecclesiae ad uictum monachorum portum de Sanduufc, et omnes exitus



## INTRODUCTION.

eiusdem aquae....ita ut natante naue in flumine cum plenum fuerit, quam longius de nauī potest securis paruula, quam Angli uocant taper-eax, super terram proici, ministri aecclesiae Christi rectitudines accipiant;....eorum autem est nauicula et transfretatio portus et theloneum omnium nauium, cuiuscumque sit et undecumque ueniat, quae ad praedictum portum et ad Sanduūc uenerint. Si quid autem in magno mari extra portum, quantum mare plus se retraxerit, et adhuc statura unius hominis tenentis lignum quod Angli nominant spreot et tendentis ante se quantum potest, monachorum est. Quicquid etiam ex hac parte medietatis maris inuentum et delatum ad Sanduūc fuerit, siue sit uestimentum, siue rete, arma, ferrum, aurum, argentum, medietas monachorum erit, alia pars remanebit inuentoribus<sup>12</sup>.

Cnut, 1023.

3. and begeat mid his smeh-wrencan 7 mid his golde 7 seolfre ealle dyrnunga æt Stæorran, ðe ða wæs ðæs kinges rædesmann, ðæt him gewearð se þridda penig of þære tolne on Sanduūc, etc.

Harold Harafôt, 1038.

Among the grants I do not find any authentic evidence of Wreck, the Ramsey charter being a clumsy forgery; unless the concluding clause of the passage cited from Cnut can be twisted into such. Nor do the charters take any notice of Treasure trove. The perception of the Wite or mulct, for offences committed within the jurisdiction, is so

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<sup>12</sup> The copy of Cnut's grant which we possess, is probably not authentic. The facts however are certain, being confirmed by

contemporary history. The instance of *Hammerwulf*, which still subsists in some manors, is peculiarly interesting.



accurately defined in the Codes, as to require no illustration here; it was matter of right.

The immunities must next occupy our attention; and the terms in which they are defined are very valuable, because they show what regalia the kings assumed or possessed the right to claim, and to remit. On this account, perhaps the readiest way will be to consider the burthens to which the land was liable.

The one common and unavoidable duty, called the *communis labor*, *generale incommodum*, *trinoda necessitas*, etc. was the repairing of bridges, fortifications or other public buildings, and military service. From these no one was excused; and they were so essentially a part of the ancient and customary law of the land, that the attempt to escape from them casts well deserved suspicion upon any document in which it is found. This one clause is so well known that I will not give any examples of it; a few remarks however may still not be thrown away. It does not appear from the text of the law books, or from the charters themselves, whether these burthens, like the *corvée* of the French Feudists, were a personal service, or capable of being compounded for at a fixed sum; a sort of county rate. Which ever were the case, and perhaps both forms may have existed together, the want of any stipulation in the documents as to the amount, serves to show, either that there was a fixed and invariable proportion, or that the assessment was made *pro hac vice*, by all the landowners in county court assembled, and was not dependent upon the will of the grantor. It was *onus commune*, the advantage of the community superseding all privileges, even those of the



clergy<sup>13</sup>. But military service is not susceptible of such commutation in the early ages of a country, when the population is thinly scattered over a wide extent of ill cultivated land. And several enactments in the A. S. law as well as various passages in contemporary history show than even here the clerical character was no protection, despite of sundry canons of the church; the posse comitatus, militia, or by what name soever we choose to call it, being bound to assemble for the defence of the district, upon emergency made known, under the sheriff of the district, and not unfrequently the bishop. From several passages however it appears that the amount of men to form the contingent of the several amounts of land was fixed: one or two of the more important may be cited:

1. *Trium tamen causarum puplicarum ratio redatur, hoc est instructio pontuum et arcis; uerum etiam in expeditionis necessitatem uiri quinque tantum mittantur.* Cœnuulf, 799–802.

2. *Expeditionem cum duodecim uasallis et cum tantis scutis exerçant.* Cœnuulf, 821.

Yet it is just as improper to call this tenure by knight-service—since it was no tenure at all—as it is

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<sup>13</sup> After what has been said in the early pages of this Introduction on the subject of the clergy generally, it is right to state that the Anglosaxon clergymen appear to have been more thoroughly national than any similar body of men in any part of Europe. Hence those among them who were most imbued with the doctrines and

feelings of the Tramontanes, always indulge in a great deal of gratuitous declamation on the state of slavery in which the English church was held; meaning only that by becoming clergymen the Anglosaxons had not lost their nationality or their position under the national law.





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Another exaction of the same description was the right exercised by the Kings, and perhaps other great men, of quartering their messengers upon private individuals or corporations, for a certain space of time; or that of sending his huntsmen, horses, dogs and hawks to be kept at the expense of his subjects. The following are examples:

1. ut sit omni tributo regalium operationum, refectio-  
tionumque in perpetuum libera.                      Offa, 781.

2. and ic gean ðæs landes æt Brycandûne intô  
S̄ce Petre to Westmenstre, bûton ic wylle ðæt man  
mæste m̄num wfue twâ hund swîna ðæne ðær  
mæsten s̄y, ðider hire leðust s̄y.                      Ælfhelm.

3. nec rex suum pastum requirat, uel habentes  
homines quos nos dicimus festigmen, nec eos qui  
accipitres portant, uel falcones, uel caballos ducunt,  
siue canes.                      Cōenuulf, 821.

4. insuper hanc supradictam terram liberabo ab  
omni seruitute saecularium rerum, a pastu regii,  
episcopis, principum, seu praefectum, exactorum,  
ducorum, canorum (? canum) uel aequorum, seu  
accipitrum; ab refectioe et habitu illorum omnium  
qui dicuntur Fæstingmen; ab omnibus laboribus,  
operibus et oneribus, siue difficultatibus, quit plus  
minusue mimorabo uel dico; ab omni grauitatibus  
magioribus, minoriis, notis, ignotis, undique liberata  
permaneant in aefum, nisi, etc.                      Ceðluulf, 822.

5. ut omnes agros sint libera ab omni regali ser-  
uitio, a pastu regum et principum, ducum et prae-  
fectum, exactorumque; ab equorum et falconum,  
accipitrumque et canum acceptione, et illorum homi-  
num refectioe, quod nos festingmen nominamus, a  
parafrithis et ab omnibus difficultatibus regalis uel  
saecularis seruitutis, notis et ignotis, etc.

Ecgberht, 823.



6. hanc eandemque donationem nostram histius suprascripti terrae ego Uuſglâf rex cum sapientibus meis. . . . a pastu regum uel principum seu praefectum, ab omnique saeculari seruitute, notis et ignotis, intus et foras liberabo, nisi his tantum causis, etc.

Uuſglâf, 831.

7. et illam terram trium manentium in Beonotlege, in occidentale plaga Sabrinae, etiam liberabo a pascua porcorum regis quod nominamus fearnleswe.

Burgred, 855.

8. liberabo illud (monasterium) a pastu et ab refectione omnium anciptrum et falconum in terra Marcensium, et omnium uenatorum regis uel principis, nisi ipsorum tantum qui in prouincia Huicciorum sunt, etiam similiter et a pastu et refectione illorum hominum quos Saxonice nominamus walhfæreld and heorafesting 7 ealra Angelcynnes monna 7 ælpeðdigra ræde fæstinge, tam nobilium quam ignobilium.

Burgred, 855.

That the Anglosaxon kings should have claimed these rights, descended from the empire, will not surprise us, when we consider that the Franks of the seventh century admitted them. Marculf goes so far as to give a formulary for the writ by which they were demanded :

Ille Rex omnibus agentibus. Dum et nos in Dei nomine Apostolicum uirum illum, necnon et illustrem uirum illum partibus illis legationis causa direximus, ideo iubemus ut locis conuenientibus eisdem a nobis euectio simul et humanitas ministretur, hoc est ueredos, seu paraueredos tantos, panis nitidi modios tantos, uini modios tantos, ceruisae modios tantos, lardi libras tantas, carnis libras tantas, porcos tantos, etc. etc. etc. . . . itemque uictum



ad caballos eorum, foeni carra tanta, suffusi modios tantos. Haec omnia diebus singulis tam ad ambulandum, quam ad nos in Dei nomine reuertendum, unusquisque uestrum per loca consuetudinaria eisdem ministrare et adimplere procuretis; qualiter nec moram habeant, nec injuriam perferant, si gratiam nostram optatis habere. Marc. Form. i. 11.

The service of palfreys or horses is yet maintained in Hungary, where by producing an order from the authorities, the traveller may obtain posters from any peasant at a very reasonable rate; this is called *Vorspann*. The custom of feeding the lord's hounds yet subsists in various manors in England.

A species of *corvée* seems also to have been admitted, inasmuch as some of our charters contain exemptions from aid (compulsory or at least precarious) towards the king's buildings, *opus regium*, *opera* and *ædificatio regia*. To the analogy of this royal exaction I refer the claim set up in the time of Cnut by the clergy, to every one's aid in repairing the church; which, like most other clerical claims, was in imitation of rights possessed by the secular lords.

In various charters it appears that the king engaged to preserve, or warrant the land, against the taxations and exactions of dukes, counts and bishops; a difficult thing to understand, if these exactions were legal; a painful thing to record, if they merely prove the prevalence of might over right. Much might be alleged in favour of either of these explanations; and if we accept the former, which on the whole is the more probable, we must look upon it as evidence of the increasing relative power of the king,—and with the king, of his *comites* or court aristocracy,—which, among the Anglosaxons pro-



gressed until it reached a point requiring the corrective of armed resistance. Before I leave the consideration of these somewhat indefinite *onera*, I wish to call attention to one passage, whose meaning is at present very obscure.

et per pecuniam, piissimo iam tum domino meo rege Merciorum, libertatem terrarum illarum consecutus sum, id est cc. solidis, et ut postea in diebus meis uel successorum meorum omni anno xxx. ut ab omnium fiscalium redituum, operum, onerumque, seu etiam popularium consiliorum uindictis, nisi tantum praetium pro praetio, liberae sint in perpetuum. Trium tamen causarum puplicarum ratio reddatur; hoc est instructio pontuum, et arcis, uerum etiam in expeditionis necessitatem uires v. tantum mittantur. Cœnuulf, 799-802.

It is not to be denied that this passage is very intricate and obscure, when we merely attempt to construe it. Do all the words from *omnium* to *conciliorum* depend alike upon *uindictis*, or only *popularium conciliorum*? Is *uindicta* merely a fine, or more generally is it any proclaimed pecuniary rate or tax? Finally, what *populare concilium* is this whose *uindictæ* the King assumed a right to dispense with, in consideration of a composition paid to himself?

The most natural explanation seems to me, at present, to be this; that the force of the whole passage must be taken to depend upon the excepting clause, *nisi tantum praetium pro praetio*. It would then amount to an immunity from all poenal impositions, and in the following manner. All crimes were by the Anglosaxons considered in a twofold light; first as a damage or mischief done to the



individual; next as an offence against the peace of the whole state; the punishment therefore was apportioned in a twofold ratio. The injured person or his relatives or guildbrothers, received compensation for the injury done to him or them, in the shape of damages. The state, or those to whom as an especial privilege the state had delegated this power, received the fine for the breach of the peace. Now this latter fine it seems to me is what is intended to be remitted: these privileged lands paid the *were*, which was a satisfaction made to the individual for the private wrong, over which the state had no control, but not the *wíte*, which was satisfaction made to the state for a public wrong. Cœnuulf then in this case, in consideration of a fixed sum of money, freed these lands (and of course the holder of them) from payment of the fine, even when imposed by the county court, or *populare concilium*, upon proof of guilt made. Other examples of this can be given, sufficiently numerous to justify my interpretation of the above passage, though none are quite so detailed.

1. omnimodoque in dei omnipotentis nomine interdici-  
 mus, ut si aliquis in hac praenominatum terram  
 aliquid foras furaue[rit], alicui soluere aliquid, nisi  
 specialiter praetium pro praetio, ad terminum, ad  
 poenam nihil foras. Uhtred, 767.

2. de partibus uero et de causis singula res sol-  
 uere praetium, et nihil aliud de hac terra.

Cœnuulf, 799.

3. et singulare praetium foras, et nihil ad poenam  
 soluat.

Cœnuulf, 814.

4. si pro aliquo delicto accusatur homo dei, aeccl-  
 esiae illae custos solus cum suo iuramento, si audeat,  
 illum castiget. Sin autem, ut recipiat aliam insti-



tiam, huius vicissitudinis conditionem, praefatum delictum cum simplo praetio componat.

Côenuulf, 821.

5. et singulare praetium foras reddat secundum ritum gentes illius.

Ceðluulf, 822.

One of the most important immunities recorded in these charters is exemption from forfeiture. It is well known that various crimes of a deeper die were followed by escheat of the lands to the king, the church, or the lord, as the case might be. I shall not refer to those clauses of the Anglosaxon codes which relate to this subject, but rather cite one or two passages, showing in what manner and under what circumstances the law was applied. The first of these is not dated, but falls somewhere about the time of Edward the elder, that is in the first quarter of the tenth century. A man had been guilty of theft, and was convicted; his chattels escheated to his lord the king; his lænland reverted to the grantor.

1. 7 mon gerehte ƿæt yrfe cinge, forðon he wæs cinges mon, 7 Ordlaf feng tō his londe, forðon hit wæs his læn ƿæt he on sæt; he ne meakte nā his forwyrcean: 7 ðû hine hēte ƿā flýman.

The next passage dates from about the middle of the same century (963–975), and is equally interesting and important. A woman and her son had been convicted of aiming at the life of a nobleman, by means of witchcraft and the sticking pins into a waxen image. The woman was condemned to death and executed by drowning at London Bridge; the son escaped and became an outlaw; the land



escheated to the king, who granted it to the person whose life had been aimed at.

2. 7 ƿat land æt Ægeleswyrðe hæfde ân wyduwe 7 hire sunu ær forwyr̃t; forðan ðe hî drifon [f]serne stacan on Ælsie, Wulfstânes fæder; 7 ƿæt wearð æreâfe, 7 man tēh ƿæt morð forð of hire inclifan. Ðâ nam man ƿæt wif 7 âdrencte hî æt Lundene bricge, 7 hire sune ætberst 7 werð ûtlâh, 7 ƿæt land eode ðâm kyngge tô handa; 7 se kyng hit forgeaf ðâ Ælsie.

3. Istarum autem v mansarum quantitas iusto ualde iudicio totius populi et seniorum et primatum ablata fuit ab eis qui eorum possessores fuerunt, quia aperto crimine furti usque ad mortem obnoxii inuenti sunt. Æðelstân, 938.

In lands which are granted out to others for a time, or in such wise that the tenant has only a qualified interest in them, and where there is a reversion, it is consonant to reason and justice that the rights of the real owner or reversioner should not be injured by the conduct of the tenant; a stipulation to that effect, amounting to the immunity in question, is therefore introduced into several of these charters.

1. on ðâ gerâd, weorce ƿæt he weorce, ƿæt ƿæt land seð unforworht intô ðære hâlgan stôwe.

Oswald, 963, 966, 967, 968.

2. concedit, me uidelicet annuente, atque hac firmissima stabilitate corroborante, quatinus pro nullius altioris uel inferioris gradus hominis reatu, rus praefatum a domini, qui nunquam reatum comisit, possessione priuetur. Si uero crimen quod





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paying land did not pass by charter at all, and that the tenure was in general of an inferior character; so that the reservation of rent in Booklands is rather to be looked on as a stipulation for payment of the purchase money by yearly instalments; the full possession of the property being entirely alienated by the vendor: while much of the land let out, as *Læn-land* (loan-land) was never out of the possession of the lessor, whether for lives or a less period. One or two examples will be enough to show the existence of these stipulations.

1. *Hanc autem terram ille Cuðberht a me digno comparavit praetio, id est mille solidis, et singulis annis mihi meisque successoribus unius noctis pastum aut triginta davit siclos . . . . . Et haeredes praedecessoris praefatam conditionem conseruent in pastu uel pecunia.* *Beonna, 786-796.*

2. *Ƿæt wære him tō ǰâm gerâde ǰæt land tōlæten, ǰe mon ælce gere gesylle fiftyne scyllingas clæncs feos tō Tettanbyrg ǰâm bisceope, etc.*

*Werfrið, about 900.*

In lands leased by the Church, and exclusively in such, there is frequently a stipulation for the payment of *cyric-sceat* or first fruits, and *sâwl-sceat* or mortuary fees: in those of Bishop Oswald, this clause is so constantly repeated, and in the same words, as to appear almost part of the formulary.

So much for the nature of the estate conveyed: in reference to which a very few words may be said of the boundaries. I have not stated this as a distinct and substantive part of a Saxon charter, because it seems incidental to the grant, a definition in short of the place named. But very rarely is a Saxon charter without a description of them; in the



earlier documents this is usually incorporated with, in the later appended to, the grant. It would seem as if for the most part it were added after the instrument was formally completed, as in almost every case they are described in Anglosaxon, although the charter itself is drawn up in Latin. When the solemn cession had been made, it was probably left to the local officers, in conjunction with the grantee, to see that its limits were accurately defined.

IV. The next important member of an Anglosaxon charter is the *sanction*, by which I denote the punishment attached to the violation of the premises. This, from its form, might technically be called the *Si quis* clause, for with these words it almost universally commences. It threatens excommunication and eternal punishments to those who presume to disturb the provisions of the grantor, except they make due amends for their sin. The forms of this are so various and complicated that they furnish no sure test of authenticity, and I will not multiply examples of them. Their history however is not without its value, and to that I proceed.

This clause had its foundation in the Roman law, and was in use as early as the time of Augustus, but with a different penalty. Although (as all persons who have studied their law are well aware) many of the legal forms of the Romans were accompanied by symbolical and religious ceremonies, in this case the *fiscus* stepped in as the sanctioning and upholding power; and even here the important clause was marked by the distinctive *si quis*. Marculf may supply us with a common formulary (one of many) of this nature:

A. *Si uero, quod futurum esse non credimus, aliqui*



de heredibus nostris vel quicumque contra hanc interdonationem, unde inter nos chartas uno tenore conscriptas firmauimus, uenire aut infringere uoluerit, nullatenus ualeat uindicare; sed inferat partibus uestris, cum cogente fisco, auri libras tantas, argenti tantas; præsens uero epistola in nullo possit conuelli, sed firma et inlibata permaneat. Marc. ii. 7.

B. Si quis uero, quod futurum esse non credo, aliquis de heredibus, vel proheredibus meis, seu quælibet persona, contra hanc cessionem meam quoquo tempore uenire, aut eam infringere uoluerit, inferat tibi, cum cogente fisco, auri *tantum*; et quod repetit uindicare non ualeat, sed præsens epistola firma permaneat. Marc. ii. 11.

As early however as the fourth century, the church had adopted the formulary; but as the state relied upon fiscal punishments, so the church appealed to its own peculiar terrors. The ecclesiastical *Si quis* clause therefore always ends with an anathema, or threat of excommunication and eternal punishments. The will of Gregory of Nazianzum furnishes an instance in point:

Ταύτην μου την διαθήκην κυρίαν καὶ βεβαίαν εἶναι βούλομαι ἐπὶ παντὸς δικαστηρίου καὶ πάσης ἐξουσίας . . . . ὁδε ἐπιχειρῶν αὐτην ἀνατρέπειν, δώσει λόγον ἐν ἡμέρα κρίσεως, καὶ ἔξει τὸν λόγον.

Again,—Si quis autem ex nobis, quod deus auertat, calliditate commotus, aut cupiditate praeuentus, ea quae sunt superius comprehensa, temerario spiritu uiolare praesumpserit, a diuina ultione prostratus, reatu anathematis sub iaceat, et tribus annis a communione omnium fratrum se nouerit alienum: et nihilominus hoc priuilegium perpetim maneat incorruptum. Marc. i. 1.



As early as the time of Gregory the Great, the savage spirit of the papal sanctions was such as to call forth an earnest remonstrance even from the clergy: but the effects of this seem not to have been lasting, especially in England. Before I proceed to give specimens of these clauses, I will only remark, that the exclusively clerical nature of the sanction in Anglosaxon charters, (even when these are grants to private individuals) is evidence of our being indebted for the forms of these instruments to Roman clergymen<sup>15</sup>.

1. Si quis uero augere uoluerit hanc ipsam donationem augeat illi dominus dies bonos, Et si praesumpserit minuere aut contradicere, in conspectu dei sit damnatus et sanctorum eius, hic et in aeterna saecula, nisi emendauerit ante eius transitum quod inique gessit contra Christianitatem nostram.

604.

2. a nullo contradicatur, quod absit, neque a me neque a parentibus meis, neque ab aliis. Si aliquis aliter fecerit, a deo se damnatum sciat, et in die iudicii rationem reddet deo in anima sua.

679.

3. Si quis contra hanc donationis meae cartulam uenire temptauerit, sciat se rationem redditurum in die iudicii, et condemnatum esse cum ipsis qui ad sinistram ituri sunt.

681.

4. Si quis uero hanc donationem uiolare temptauerit, sciat se in tremendo examine totius mundi deo, uniuersorum iudici, terribiliter rationem redditurum.

755-757.

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<sup>15</sup> The difference between the ecclesiastical and the lay sanction is striking when we examine a large collection of continental documents. For the papal sanc-

tion, the reader is referred to the charters in Marini and Brequigny; for the imperial sanction, to those collected by Fantuzzi, and the Formularies of Marculf, etc.



5. Augentem hoc meum praeceptum omnipotens deus sua augere bona in aeternum non cessat; minuentem, quod non optamus, sciat se ante tribunal Christi rationem redditurum, nisi ante ea deo et hominibus satis emendauerit. 767.

6. Si quis uero, quod absit, hanc nostram commutationem infringere [praesumat, sciat] se coram Christo et angelis eius rationem redditurum. 767.

7. Nullus regum aut episcoporum uel principum praesentium uel futurorum ista sit contemnere ausus; sin autem reddat rationem coram deo et coram angelis eius in die reuelationis domini nostri Ihesu Christi. Amen. 805.

8. Si quis hanc largitionem illi augeat, augeatur illi a deo uita. Si quis deminuerit, quod absit, deminuetur sibi gloria in Christo, nisi satisfactione emendauerit. 805.

9. Si quis uero, quod non optamus, maliuolo mente hanc meam donationem infringere tentauerit, sciat se rationem esse reddituram, ante tribunal domini nostri Ihesu Christi nisi ante ea pleniter emendauerit. 808.

10. Si quis autem regum aut principum uel qualibet magna paruaque persona hanc nostram donationem corrumpere tentauerit, sciat ille se esse damnatum et a deo separatam hic et in futuro, nisi digni satisfactione emendauerit iniquitatis suae audacium; tamen manente ac cartula in suo nihilominus firmitate roborata. 823.

11. Si igitur, quod absit, alicuius potestatis homo, diabolica temeritate instigatus, surrexerit, qui hanc meam munificentiam confringere, uel minuere, aut in aliud conuertere quam a nobis constitutum est, temptauerit, sciat se ante tribunal aeterni iudicis rationem esse redditurum, nisi ante digna satisfac-



tione, deo et hominibus emendare uoluerit; manente hanc cartula nihilominus in sua firmitate roborata.

845.

12. Si quis autem post hoc, subdola cauillatione deceptus, nostrum non perhorrescat machinari decretum, sciat se nouissima ac magna examinationis die, classica archangeli clangente salpice, bustis sponte patentibus, somata iam rediuiua propellentibus, cum Iuda proditore infaustoque pecuniarum compilatore, suis que impiissimis fautoribus, sub æternæ maledictionis anathemate, edacibus innumerabilium tormentorum flammis, sine defectu periturum.

933.

13. Hoc donum amodo seruaturus glorificetur a Christo: destruens uero, conatum illum non impleat, sed praecipitatus corruat in barathri profundo.

956.

14. Siquis uero huic donationi contrauenire nitatur, poenas sentiat Auerni; ibi erit fletus et stridor dentium.

956.

These examples appear sufficient to show the nature of this clause. From the variety of forms in which it is drawn up, it is impossible to derive from it any decisive and universally applicable test. This perhaps is the utmost that can be said: that sanctions, filled with allusions to heathen mythology, abounding in Greek words, and otherwise complicated and *Byzantine*, belong to the tenth century; and if found in documents professing an earlier date, they are prima facie evidence of forgery.

Coupled with the *Siquis* clause, which admits the possibility of an attempt to violate the grant, we sometimes find a provision introduced to the effect that such attempt shall be of no avail, notwithstanding the penalties incurred by it. This provision



usually takes the form, *manente hac cartula in sua nihilominus firmitate*. Like most other members of Saxon charters it is of Roman origin, and wide dispersion, as will appear from these examples.

A. *et nihilominus hoc priuilegium perpetim maneat incorruptum.* Marc. i. 1.

B. *et nihilominus praesens epistola.....firma, incorrupta, intemerata, inuiolataque permaneat.*

Marc. ii. 1.

V. Next of the Date. That our pagan forefathers, previously to the arrival of the Roman missionaries, had some kind of date, some definite era from which they reckoned, is sufficiently obvious: but it is far from clear what description of date or era it was. Its inaccuracy and uncertainty are rendered evident to us by that which proves that something of the kind existed, viz. the scattered records of kings who reigned before the introduction of Christianity, and some leading events of their respective periods; but we are not allowed to judge in what these early fasti consisted, from what point they started, or what periods of time they embraced. But, whether they were merely the alliterative poems, which even in the time of Tacitus formed the sole history of the Teutonic tribes; or the more advanced records of a sacerdotal class, carved with Runic letters on blocks of wood and stone; or the annals of individual kings, dating from the great festivals of the heathen year; they could present but little worthy of attention to the Christian and Roman monks whose habits had been formed in other climes and under other creeds. In all that these, the earliest historians of England, have left us, we have evidence of what unsatisfactory materials they had to deal with. A





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every reason to introduce among the Anglosaxons such branches of learning as were looked upon as essential; and among these the art of writing in Roman letters (vulgarly called Anglosaxon), and the Roman method of dating, might justly be considered the first.

To this would be added another consideration of no mean importance. Whatever fasti existed, could only record the deeds of Pagans; the songs were not unfrequently *carmina diabolica*, for in the language of those times, the gods of our forefathers were demons. Moreover, the Runes or letters of the Anglosaxons had been used for little else than divinations and auguries, which from the first were an especial object of horror with the missionaries: ill adapted as they were to continuous writing, there is little probability of their having ever been put to that use; and it was less difficult for Augustine and his companions to introduce the characters with the language of Rome, than to learn the rude forms of the Saxon letters, which were as little known to the mass of the people as the new ones which replaced them.

It seems therefore certain that the *History* of England commences with Augustine; that is to say, the orderly and digested series of events, arranged according to certain definite and systematic dates, and committed to writing accordingly. Not that I imagine the earliest missionaries to have busied themselves in collecting the fragmentary traditions of those who to them can only have been benighted and barbarous Pagans: on the contrary, they were far more likely to destroy any that they could lay their hands on. But that the first who composed annals of their own times, which served as a basis for future chroniclers, were the Romans. In later times tradi-



tion meagerly filled up the void they had left; and a few echos only have come down to us from the centuries which may have elapsed between the first settlement of the Saxons on our shores, and the successful and most glorious work of Gregory; dull and fragmentary voices telling of generations which have past away from us for ever!

But if we owe an era to Augustine, what is that likely to have been? Surely no other than that which had been in use in the place from which he came. I see no reason to doubt that this was the era of the *Incarnation of our Lord*; perhaps also the Cycle of the Indictions. What other could in fact be used? Certainly not the years of Roman emperors or popes, unknown to the new converts even by name: hardly the regnal years of petty sovereigns, numerous, far apart, some still addicted to Pagan superstitions, many still unknown even by name to the missionaries, all still uncertain in what year their reigns began. But if other reasons had been wanting, there was one which seems likely to have been decisive. The great Christian festival of the nativity fell, by a wonderful chance, upon that mystical night which the *mothers* celebrated among all the nations of the north, with solemn religious observances and ceremonies. In the spirit which then, and since, animated the missionaries of the faith, this day, holy among the heathen, was especially adopted by their teachers, and became for the new converts the commencement of the year. From the night of Christ's birth the years were henceforth reckoned, and what so natural, so apparently unavoidable, as the affixing of Christ's date to the year so commenced? Another and strong ground may be assigned for the belief here expressed. The Romans found Christianity in Eng-



land; but that in which the orthodoxy of those days mainly consisted they did not find; I mean the Roman time of celebrating Easter. Now the disputes on this subject between the Western and Eastern churches had already led to the composition of elaborate tables, accurately defining the recurring dates upon the calculation of which the paschal period depended<sup>16</sup>. Amongst these the most celebrated are those of Dionysius, who about the year 526 put forth his complete series of circles, introducing for the first time the years of the incarnation. It will be difficult to believe that these tables, so important for the solution of the great controversy, were not brought to Britain by Augustine; and still more difficult to believe that he did not eagerly seize the opportunity to substitute the venerable era they contained for any other that he might find here established.

Those who argue that the era of the incarnation was not introduced into England till the time of Beda, appear to me to have no sound grounds for their belief. One solitary passage that has been pressed into their service has been so merely from a misunderstanding of its contents. It is necessary to examine it somewhat more closely, in order to show how completely it proves the contrary of what is usually supposed. It occurs in the tract *De Natura Rerum*, in a place where Beda is arguing as to the number of years which the Saviour spent upon earth, and where he thus avails himself of the authority of the Roman church:

*Sancta siquidem Romana et Apostolica ecclesia*

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<sup>16</sup> An account of these various tables is given in the *Art de verifier les Dates*, Edn. 1818, vol. i. p. 57, *note*.



hanc se fidem tenere et ipsis testatur indiculis, quæ suis in cereis annuatim scribere solet, vbi tempus dominicæ *passionis* in memoriam populi reuocans, numerum annorum triginta semper et tribus annis minorem quàm ab eius *incarnatione* Dionysius ponat, adnotat. Denique anno ab eius incarnatione iuxta Dionysium septingentesimo primo, Indictione quartadecima, fratres nostri qui tunc fuere Romæ, hoc modo se in natali Domini, in cereis sanctæ Mariæ scriptum vidisse et inde descripsisse referebant: *A passione Domini nostri Iesu Christi anni sunt DCLXVIII.*

De Nat. Rer. cap. xlvi. (Edn. 1537, fol. 67, c.)

Now this passage, if it proves any thing at all, shows not that the English monks were surprised at seeing the years of the incarnation noted, but the years of the passion. And moreover that though the era of the passion was new to them in 701, the era of the incarnation was not.

Another evidence that has been relied upon is the decree of an Anglosaxon council, holden in 816, in which the following words occur :

Nono sanximus in illa præfata Synodo, ut unusquisque Episcoporum debeat describere iudicium illud quod in qualicumque Synodo constitutum est, uel ad illius parochiam pertineat. Seu etiam constituimus, ut cum ratione et ordine describat qualis annus Domini computatur, aut a quali Archiepiscopo, et aliis adsedentibus Episcopis inuestigatum et confirmatum sit illud iudicium ; ne forte aliquis homo in sua parochia, cui rectum sit iudicium constitutum, per falsam machinationem et malam uersutiam a recto iudicio declinet. Sed semper maneat firma



atque immobilis in conscientia illius Archiepiscopi, et istius Episcopi cuius sit diocesium; et ille habeat aliam chartam ad suam sedem Episcopalem, aliam ille ad quem iudicium illud pertineat, ne imposterum aliquod scrupulum iniquitatis adplicetur.

**Cap. 9. Ut describenda sunt iudicia synodorum.**

Now it seems impossible out of this passage to draw any conclusion against the earlier use of the era of the incarnation. All that the synod desired was obviously to make the records of trials more complete, for the avoidance of future litigation; and the means it took were simply to enact that every such record should contain not only the date but the names of the presiding judges before whom the cause was tried, and that a copy should be enrolled in the ecclesiastical archives, as well as a copy delivered to the plaintiff or defendant.

All that remains is the analogy of the Frankish custom, and the examples of the earliest extant charters. With regard to the first of these arguments, I beg to observe that a distinction is to be made between public and private documents; that in the latter, though not in the former, this date is to be found; a fact accounted for by the peculiar circumstances of their reigning family; that the Franks borrowed a large portion of their forms from the practice of the imperial court, one of whose officers the founder of the Merovingian dynasty was: that this family retained to the last the distinctive imperial and Roman title of *Vir inluster*; and in like manner adopted the Roman mode of dating by the regnal year and the indiction. Whereas the Anglosaxons derived their forms from ecclesiastical and not imperial Rome, used the Pontifical and not



the Cæsarean indiction, and can hardly be supposed to have dated by the regnal years of their own sovereigns.

Secondly, that from various circumstances the Anglosaxons stood in much nearer connexion with Rome than with France, and in short in much nearer connexion with Rome than France itself did in the time of Æthelbert the first. Consequently it is the customs of the Papal court that the Anglo-saxon customs would probably resemble, much rather than those of some one or all of the Frankish districts.

It appears therefore that the nonintroduction of the era of the incarnation into public documents in France at this period is no sound argument against its prevalence in England.

The absence of this date in the original charters of the seventh century which we possess has been considered a good ground for denying its prevalence in England at that period. To this conclusion, however, I must demur. Surely it is too much to go about to prove a negative, and with such slender means. There do not exist at most above two original charters of the seventh century, and it is a strange abuse of logic to argue that because these two charters do not contain the date of the incarnation, that date was unknown when they were written. See what would be the consequence of pushing this argument to its conclusion. A large majority of Ælfred's and Eadweard the Confessor's charters are undated; supposing these to be the earliest we possessed, we must upon the same grounds admit that till 900 or 1066 the English had no dates at all, a conclusion which the facts themselves prove to be eminently false.

Having shown then a priori how probable it is



that Augustine would introduce the Christian era, and a posteriori that there is no evidence of his not having done so, I feel justified in assuming that he really did. And I will add one or two considerations which confirm me in my view. The great attention paid by Beda to the calculation of times and seasons, eras and dates, renders him a most important authority on all matters of this description. Now Beda never insinuates that there was a time since the introduction of Christianity in which the era of the incarnation was unknown in England; nor does he mention, as I think he would with honour, the name of the person to whom we should have owed so great a change, and one so praiseworthy. In all his own works he uses it as a date perfectly familiar to his readers; and these works, be it remembered, were written from the very commencement till the thirtieth year of the eighth century, during which it is pretended this date was first introduced. Again, the era of the incarnation is found in those copies of Gregory's letters which Nôðhelm obtained for Beda from the papal regesta. Now either this existed in the originals (which, from the loose way in which the *Registrum Gregorianum* was drawn up, on the authority of which the contrary is argued, it would be too much to deny,) or Beda himself supplied it. If we admit the former supposition, the question is settled. If the latter, we attribute to Beda the useless labour of attempting to illustrate *notum per ignotius*, a date that was, by a date that was not, familiar.

I therefore repudiate in toto the preliminary objection to many an authentic charter, viz. that it contains the date of our Lord's incarnation. But even supposing that this constituted a valid objection to an original charter, it can be none whatever to an





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bus forte oboriri poterat institutas: Dum enim, verbi gratia, quilibet Imperator medio anni tempore vita vel regno decederet, poterat euenire vt eundem annum vnus historicus eiusdem regis adscriberet temporibus, eo quod eius partem regnaret: alter vero historicus eundem successori illius potius attitulandum putaret, eo quod et hic partem æque eius haberet in regno. Verum ne per huiuscemodi dissonantiam error temporibus inolesceret, statuerunt Indictiones, quibus vterque scriptor, imo etiam vulgus omne, temporum cursum facillime seruaret, quas pro facilitate quoque calculandi quindecim esse vouerunt, ut planissimo numero, et ad multiplicandum promptissimo, compendiosius transacti temporis status in memoriam possit reduci. Quidam autem putant, quia quondam in republica post censum quinto anno peractum, Vrbs Roma lustrabatur, ad indicium ternæ lustrationis et census Indictiones esse conditas. Incipiunt autem Indictiones ab viii. Calendas Octobris, ibidemque terminantur.

De Natura Rerum, cap. xlviii.

And close upon these words follows the rule for finding the indiction, which he gives in the plainest terms, and without any limitation, thus:

Hoc autem argumento quota sit anno quocumque computare volueris Indictio reperies: sume annos ab incarnatione Domini quotquot fuerint in præsentì, verbi gratia DCCXXV, adde semper tria, quia quarta Indictione secundum Dionysium natus est Dominus, fiunt DCCXXVIII. hæc partire per xv. quindecies quadragenì, sexcenti, quindecies octoni, centies, remanent octo: octaua est Indictio. Si vero nihil remanserit, decimaquinta est. Cap. xlix.

Again, in the little treatise De Ratione Temporum, cap. xiv, he says plainly: Si vis scire quota sit



**Indictio, sume annos Domini, et adjice tria, partire per xv. et quod remanserit ipsa est Indictio anni præsentis.**

Now it is obvious that the source of an important error lies in these words; for if the indiction commences on the 24th of September, and the birth of our Lord fell on the 25th of December in the fourth indiction, it is clear that nine months only of the first year of our Lord fell in the fourth, and three in the fifth indiction, and so on to all eternity: in other words, that each year of our Lord falls partly in two indictions, and each indiction in two years. For instance, in 1839, the twelfth indiction commences September 24th, and ends September 23rd, 1840: or again, from December 25th, 1839, to September 24th, 1839, falls in the eleventh indiction, while from September 24th, 1839, to December 24th, 1839, falls in the twelfth<sup>17</sup>. But this distinction appears from the very earliest times to have been neglected, and the simple rule adopted of adding three to the year of Christ, and dividing by fifteen to find the indiction for the whole year; thus neglecting the fraction, and taking for granted that the indiction and the year commenced and terminated on the same day. This was known by the name of the Pontifical, to distinguish it from the Cæsarean or Imperial indiction, which commenced on the 24th of September. I believe it is now admitted that in the course of the eighth century the Pontifical had superseded the Imperial indictions in England: and Pagi, the learned commentator on Baronius, asserts this distinctly. I

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<sup>17</sup> It is to be borne in mind that the 25th of December is the first, and the 24th of December the last day of the Anglosaxon year. Hence every year of Christ, according to the Anglosaxon reckoning falls in two years according to ours, and vice versa.



am satisfied that this view is the correct one, with perhaps the exception of the word *superseded*; for I know of no evidence that we ever had the imperial indictions. I can give an example from the close of the eighth century crucial enough to put the question beyond any doubt. A charter of Offa in this collection bears date A. D. 781. Ind. iv. Natale S̄ci. Stephani Martyris, i. e. December 26th. Now as December 26th is the second day of the year 781, and as the Cæsarean indiction commences long after the 26th of December, 781, viz. September 24th, 781, it is clear that the 26th of December, 781, falls in the third, not the fourth Cæsarean indiction; or that the 26th of December in the fourth indiction falls in the year 782. If, on the other hand, both year and indiction commenced on the 25th of December, the dates are perfectly reconciled. With the result thus ascertained, ninety-nine in every hundred of these documents are found to coincide.

But I am inclined to carry the use of the Pontifical indictions to a much earlier period; in short, to prove that Beda himself knew of no others, in spite of the statement made by himself that the indictions commenced the 24th of September. The Council of Hæthfield is allowed to have been holden on the xv. kal. October, 680: Beda however says *sub die quintadecima Kalendas Octobres, indictione octava*. Now if Beda meant the Cæsarean indiction, the eighth of which commenced the 24th of September, 680, it is clear that the 17th of September in the eighth indiction could only fall in 681: but as the year of the incarnation in which this council was holden is fixed beyond possibility of doubt, it is clear that Beda intends the Pontifical indiction, ascertained according to his own rule by adding three to the number of the year and dividing by fifteen, the year and indic-



tion being thus taken to commence upon the same day. The same result is obtained by examining the dates of Pope Gregory's letters, recorded by Beda; all of which are consistent and accurate if the indications be taken to commence with the year, but all of which must be dated one year later if the indications were reckoned from the 24th of September, in which case they would all fall a year later than the historical truth demands, and Beda himself understood the case.

The Concurrents, Lunars, Epacts, Decennovales and other similar dates are sometimes introduced into Saxon charters, especially those of later date. The importance of these as tests is well known; and as I have nothing to say respecting them but what is familiar to all persons conversant with diplomacy, and no discrepancy to note in the Anglosaxon use of them, I will pass on at once to a somewhat intricate branch of my subject, the Regnal years of the Kings.

Though these are far from uncommon in the chronicles and charters, the mode of calculating them is by no means clear. Without presuming to decide positively upon a subject of so much difficulty, I will throw out a suggestion which perhaps may lead hereafter to a satisfactory conclusion. It seems to me that at various periods these dates were reckoned in two distinct ways: at the earlier period there existed a multitude of Dionysian tables, in the margins of which events were recorded opposite to the year in which they occurred: for example,

DCXCI.

DCXCII. Oſtforus Wig. eps. obiit.

DCXCIII.

DCXCIIII.



DCXCV.

DCXCVI.

DCXCVII. Osðryð occiditur.

DCXCVIII.

Now according to such a computation the year of a king's accession would be considered his first year, even though there might remain only a few weeks or days till the 25th of December, when a new year of Christ would begin. This however would be called his second year, and so on. Now it is clear that the regnal years and years of Christ can only coincide in the case where the king should happen to come to the throne on the 25th of December: in every other conceivable case, each strict regnal year must fall in two years of Christ, and each year of Christ must extend over parts of two regnal years. For the earliest times however this distinction does not appear to have been observed.

Many striking instances of the practice described above might be given: and by way of illustration we may take the dates of Simeon of Durham's *Historia Dunelmensis Ecclesiae*. Simeon in giving these dates always includes the year from which he starts; whence arises the general rule that *one less* than the number of years stated is to be added to the year from which he starts, in order to get the year in which he places any particular event. For instance, the year 875 is thus noted by him, in describing Bishop Eardwulf's flight with St. Cuðberht's reliques.

A. D. 875:—from the first foundation by Aidan  
241:—from the death of Cuðberht 189:—of  
Eardwulf's præsulat 22:—from the first devas-  
tation by the Danes 83.



Now Simeon's own dates for these events are,

Foundation by Aidan	. 635,	which + 240 = 875.
Death of Cuŕberht	. . 687,	+ 188 = 875.
Eardwulf's consecration	854,	+ 21 = 875.
First devastation	. . 793,	+ 82 = 875.

By keeping this rule in view, we obtain in nearly every case the same results as are gathered from Simeon's other chronicle, the Chronicle of Mailros, and the Annals of Hoveden. To apply this by way of farther illustration to what has been said of the Dionysian tables: according to Simeon, Higbald Bishop of Lindisfarn died in the ninth year from the sack of Lindisfarn by the Danes. Suppose now that Simeon had seen such a table as the following:

DCCXCIII. Dani Lindisfarn insulam uastant.  
vii. id. Iun.

DCCXCIII.

DCCXCV.

DCCXCVI.

DCCXCVII.

DCCXCVIII.

DCCXCIX.

DCCC.

DCCCI. Higbaldus episcopus moritur. viii. kal.  
Iun.

Now it is clear that we can only have *annus nonus* by counting both 793 and 801 as full years. For the Danes sacked Lindisfarn on the 7th of June, 793, and Higbald died the 25th of May, 801: but from the 7th of June, 793, to the 7th of June, 801, are only eight full years; so that the 25th of May, 801, would in fact have fallen in the eighth, not ninth year.

There seems, on the other hand, reason to think that in process of time the regnal years were more



strictly construed; viz. from the day of the king's accession in one year of Christ to the same day in the next year, and then a close calculation is necessary in order to test the accuracy of the document. Unfortunately we are not often sufficiently furnished with the means of doing this, the exact time of the year at which a king came to the throne being in a large majority of cases unknown: so that our reasoning would be a circle, the time of the accession being only to be ascertained by a comparison of the charters, and the authenticity of the charters depending pro tanto upon an accurate knowledge of the time of the accession. This difficulty is felt more particularly when we attempt to assign the year of the incarnation to a charter which has only the date of the regnal year. For instance, suppose we had a charter dated in the third year of Offa of Mercia: in what year of our Lord should we place this? Offa we know came to the throne late in the year 757. Is his third year to be reckoned above generally as 759: or is it to be taken to extend from late in 759 to late in 760? In short, to comprehend two or three months of one, and nine or ten months of the other; and in which portion is it to be placed? It is clear that we might easily err here by a whole year of Christ. Our only corrective is an accidental one, arising from the dates of the bishops who may have signed the charter, and it is very far from being complete.

I trust that such of my readers as may have occasion to pursue historical researches for the furtherance of which these charters may be useful, will feel that to enter completely upon this one point would require almost as much space as can be devoted to this whole preface, if not to the whole collection; and that they will therefore content them-





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*except* Northumberland, should have been forged upon a false basis laid by Northumbrian monks, when they must be in positive contradiction to the chroniclers followed by the very persons who must have forged them? Is it conceivable that clergymen in Canterbury, Winchester, or Worcester, if they sat down to forge a charter, should have inserted in it a date which they themselves believed to be a false one, because one differing from the records kept in their own monasteries, one too whose startling and obvious inaccuracy must instantly have attracted notice to the forgery? I cannot bring myself to believe this; and but one conclusion therefore is left me, namely, that the Northumbrians and the charters are both in the right, but the Saxon chronicle, Florence, and the rest, in the wrong. As this opinion differs very widely from that which is commonly entertained, I shall be excused for illustrating it somewhat more in detail.

According to the usual calculation, Ecgberht of Wessex came to the throne in 800. Hoveden, however, notices the fact of there being a difference of opinion on the subject, and adds that some authors placed his accession in 802. These are the Northern chroniclers generally; while Henry of Huntingdon, the Saxon chronicle, Florence of Worcester, etc. etc. all agree upon 800. By common consent his reign lasted thirty-six years; so that one set place his death in 838, the other in 836. Now our charters fully bear out the former and reject the latter date. No. 241 is a copy of the council of Kingston presided over in 838 by this very Ecgberht. No. 240 is a charter granted to Bishop Beornmod by the same king in the same year. No. 237 is a grant made in 835 by the same Ecgberht, and confirmed by him in the thirty-fourth year of his reign; that is according



to Florence, etc. confirmed in 834, the year before it was granted; but according to Simeon confirmed in 836, the year after, which is more reasonable.

On the usual computation Archbishop Æðelheard died in 803; and Wulfred succeeded him either in that year or the year following. No. 189 shows that in the Archives of Canterbury there was a grant made by him in 804: while No. 190 is an original grant made by him in 805, in which year, according to the Chronicle of Mailros, etc. he died, and Wulfred became archbishop. Nos. 196, 197, 200 and 201 are grants to which Wulfred was a party: in all of these he dates his præsulat from 805.

Again, Florence and some MSS. of the Saxon Chronicle place the death of Offa of Mercia in 794, and consequently condemn the charter No. 168, which was signed by him in 796. But Simeon, one MS. of the Chronicle, Hoveden, the Chronicle of Mailros, Henry of Huntingdon, and the Welsh Annalists place his death rightly in 796, thus confirming and receiving confirmation from the charter; while at least in a dozen of his grants, Cōenwulf, the successor of Ecgfrið (Offa's son, who reigned only a few weeks), dates from 796. So with Offa's accession, and Æðelbald's death; which the northerners justly place in 757, the southerners in 755, and which the charters invariably decide in favour of the former date.

If we follow Florence and the Saxon Chronicle, we must declare a charter of Sigiraed, No. 114, to be a forgery; for it bears date 764, and yet is signed by Archbishop Bregowine, who according to those authorities died in 762; while Iænenberht, who in the charter signs as abbas, became archbishop in the same year. But Simeon places this prelate's death and Iænenberht's accession in 765.



If we trust the Saxon chronicle we must expunge a charter of Bishop Milred dated 774, No. 124, for according to the Chronicle he died in 772. Florence, however, who is very good authority as far as the bishops of Worcester are concerned, places Milred's death in 775.

It appears unnecessary to pursue this mode of illustration further: it only tends to show that implicit faith is not to be placed in those authorities which have generally been selected as the basis of our Anglosaxon chronology. I do not therefore mean to say that some of their dates are not more accurate than Simeon's, especially after 830; but each must be examined for itself and on its own grounds. This investigation it is improper for me to pursue here; and I must refer to the fasti appended to this work, for the results which I admit as true, and which have been come to in the manner described.

Anachronism<sup>18</sup> in dates is undoubtedly the surest test by which we detect forgery in a charter; but what has been said may serve to show that anachronism is not to be charged too lightly: the error may lie after all with ourselves. Especially allowance is to be made in apographs found in chartularies: here, setting aside the case already alluded to, where the year of our Lord had been miscalculated from the indiction, a want of coincidence between the year and the indiction is not of uncommon occurrence. This however generally arises from the latter

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<sup>18</sup> I take it for granted that the common principles of diplomacy are known to the reader, and therefore say nothing of the tests furnished by the days of the week and month, notices of eclipses,

etc. etc. For these I must content myself with a general reference to *L'Art de verifier les Dates*; or a very useful little book, Sir H. Nicolas's *Chronology of History*.





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rally to suspect a consciousness that that something was in reality not worthy of belief.

Besides this, there is an unfortunate fatality about these corroborations; they are with hardly an exception taken from the chronicles, and generally from such remarkable events as would be in every man's recollection who had read them. However much our simpleminded forefathers may have considered them strong evidences of truth, to us they can hardly appear in any light but directly the contrary.

VI. The last formal part of a charter which it is necessary for me to note are the Subscriptions or Teste. The Roman law appears not to have required signatures; the presence of the witnesses being held to be sufficient to authenticate a document. How far this principle prevailed in the church I will not take upon myself to say: but in almost all ecclesiastical instruments we find the witnesses subscribing with their own hands. Although in the early ages of the church we find many prelates who could not write their own names, it is probable that the clergy as a body were generally placed in a better position, as far as this point goes, than the laity: and various canons require the signature (subscriptions) of bishops to such solemn documents. The researches of diplomatists have established the fact that many of the most powerful princes of the Teutonic tribes could not write at all, but stamped their names upon their grants. Wiht-ræd's admission that he signed with his mark pro ignorantia litterarum has been made somewhat more of than it deserved: his expression is almost a formulary, and the fact was not so uncommon as to make his acknowledgment worth repeating so



often as the forgers of charters in his name seem to have thought. It will be seen below that the form was a common one, and the constant repetition of it in unauthentic charters attributed to him, merely serves to place the date of the forgery in a century when an illiterate king would have been looked upon as uncommon.

In one respect the charters of the Saxons differ from those of the Romans, Ostrogoths, Franks, and other nations the details of whose civilization appear to be directly derived from Rome. I find no trace of a distinct class of notaries or scribes to whom the task of drawing them up was committed, no distinct body of notarii, or tabelliones, whose business it was to furnish such documents, and authenticate them by their signature<sup>19</sup>. Nor is there any probability that such a class existed. When Augustine set out upon his perilous mission to a country the report of whose barbarity was such as to turn him back from his great work, he certainly did not take with him conveyancers to superintend the transfer of land. But when he had so far prevailed as to put an end to the pagan forms by which this transfer had been effected, to whom could he entrust the task of introducing the Roman and Christian forms which were to supersede those that had been in use? Obviously he and his companions not only must have been, but must have rejoiced in being, the sole persons competent to the work. The clergy therefore became the tabelliones, and the drawers up of these instruments; and from the power of custom,

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<sup>19</sup> Quoniam tabellionum usus in regno Angliae non habetur. Matt. Par. Hen. III. The Angemundus referendarius of Æthelberht's charter is nearly as great an absurdity, though in another way, as Graphio comes.



so they remained. Till a very late period we find prelates of the highest distinction acting the part of conveyancers; among these charters are several which we owe to men famous in ecclesiastical history, and who positively state themselves to have dictated such and such instruments; nay, sometimes to have written them, *propriis digitorum articulis*: we may instance Bishop Æðelwald, and Dûnstân, while yet abbat of Glastonbury. And this deserves notice, because, especially during the tenth and eleventh centuries, the private character of the man is frequently to be traced in these his public acts. It serves however also to explain the variation in the treatment of one settled form: the idea remained the same, (we might extend this observation to all Europe) but it was left to each man to deliver it “after what flourish his nature would;” and this has been shown to be of some value as a test, when the flourish of one century is ignorantly substituted for that of another.

The witnesses to Saxon charters vary with the circumstances of the time and country. They probably were very generally merely the court or comites of the king, and with the importance of the king, the importance of the witnesses would vary. The earliest instruments of this nature, granted by the petty sovereigns, or half sovereigns of petty states, are distinguished by the small number of signatures, the presence of one bishop, or at most two, and the simple manner of the subscription. The same remarks apply also to grants made as it were in the private court, at the private dwelling of the king. But far different is it in later times with the records of synodal decrees, or with grants made at the annual councils, or the great festivals of Christmas and Easter, when the king celebrated these. Then we





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short, such marks may not have been held binding among the Saxons even before the introduction of Christianity. For the hammer of Thunor (Thôrr) was the true heathen symbol in all contracts, and it is well known that the hammer of Thunor was represented by a cross.

I now proceed to enter more in detail into the nature of these signatures. I have stated that the persons who signed were the comites, companions and councillors of the king; that is both laics and clergymen. That this was the case before Beda's time we learn from his letter to Ecgberht; and mere inspection of the signatures attached to the following charters will prove it still more clearly. In many of them we are informed of the relation in which the signer stood to the grantor; as *frater et comes prædicti regis*; *filius regis*; *regis parens* (that is relation, *mæg*, one belonging to the parentela or *mægburh*); *regis dapifer*; *regis pedissequus*; *regis præpositus*. Moreover in the later charters the rank of the witnesses is carefully mentioned, as *ego N episcopus* or *abbas*; *princeps*; *dux*; *minister* or *miles*; *presbyter* or *diaconus*. In the earlier charters, however, this is rarely the case, nor does there appear to be so strict an observance of precedence as may be detected in the later instruments<sup>21</sup>. From the time of Offa this becomes the foundation of an

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<sup>21</sup> The order of precedence of the bishops (even when we have no other guide to their sees,) not unfrequently enables us to complete lists of prelates which have been delivered down to us in an imperfect state: the province of Canterbury, seems till about the time when Wessex asserted its supremacy, to be represented in this order. 1. Archbishop of Canterbury. 2. Bishop of Litchfield. 3. Bishop of Leicester. 4. Bishop of Lindissi. 5. Bishop of Worcester. 6. Bishop of Hereford. 7. Bishop of Winchester. 8. Bishop of Elmham. 9. Bishop of Dummoc. 10. Bishop of Sherborne. 11. Bishop of Rochester. 12. Bishop of London. 13. Bishop



interesting inquiry: the man who in one year signed as simply miles or minister, is found a few years later styling himself dux or princeps. Now this appears to me to be explained by the circumstance that a certain amount of land was necessary to certain rank, and that the promotion of these nobles in the scale was merely the consequence of their having in the interim found means to increase their possessions.

In the earliest of these documents the form of subscription is simple: it consists merely of the cross followed by the words signum manus N or M. A little later we find Ego N consensi et subscripsi. But towards the beginning of the tenth century a great change was introduced, corresponding to that which we have observed respecting the proem and sanction. The witnesses now vie with one another in the absurdity of their subscriptions; they seem to have thought it a mark of learning and talent to vary these in such a manner as that no one should sign in the exact words introduced by another. And this is so distinctive a mark of the charters of this period, that it forms one of the strongest evidences of forgery when found in charters professing an earlier date. The charters of Peterborough are proved forgeries by this, even were there no other evidences; and the train of argument which arose from this consideration first led me to look for and find the passage which proves to me that this

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of Selsey. Afterwards Winchester and London became more important: new bishopricks were created, and old ones abolished; and this change, whose seed was sown in the confusion and devas-

tation of the Danish invasion, seems to have been nursed into maturity by the personal influence and credit of individual bishops, such as Aelfheah, Oda, and Dunstan.



manufacture of documents took place in the year 960.

A very few specimens may be given by way of making these remarks clear. The first is from a forged charter pretending to be dated in 605.

+ Ego Æðelberhtus, rex Anglorum, hanc donationem meam signo sanctae crucis propria manu confirmaui. + Ego Augustinus, dei gratia Archiepiscopus, libenter subscripsi. + Ego Aedbaldu regis filius faui. + Ego Hamgisilus dux laudau. + Ego Hocca comes consensi. + Ego Angemundus referendarius approbau. + Ego Graphio comes benedixi. + Ego Tangisilus regis optimas confirmaui. + Ego Pinca consensi. + Ego Geddi corroboraui.

In juxtaposition with this, I now proceed to place the signatures of a genuine charter of the tenth century, remarkable in many respects, and perhaps not the least from its being the autograph of Dûnstân. It is throughout highly characteristic of the man and of the period; but that which strikes us at once as preeminently absurd, when pretending to be found in charters of the seventh, eighth, and ninth centuries, causes no surprise, nay even seems natural, when found in documents of the tenth and eleventh: the spirit of England was changed.

+ Ego Eadred rex diuina protegente gratia albi-onis summam presidens, agiæ crucis hanc cartulam notamine perstrinxi.

+ Ego Odo arc. eps. metropolitano presidens gubernamine hoc donum regia concessum munificentiae signo crucis fixi.





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When we consider what has been said of the method of subscribing, and how improbable it is that any of the witnesses either did or could write his own name, it seems very remarkable that any notice should ever have been taken of the circumstance, as in No. 43. My own explanation of this anomaly is, that the *imperitia scribendi* was already a *casus provisus*<sup>22</sup>, and that there was a formulary applicable to it; though it was never generally used in England, because the case was universal, and required no special treatment. We have it on record that one at least of the Roman emperors could not sign his name (*Mabillon de Re dipl. ii. 22*), Charlemagne notoriously could not; and as this ignorance must have been far more widely dispersed, it stands to reason that some general provision must have been made for the occurrence. As under the Roman law the presence of certain officers was usual, the affixing of a cross before them was a sufficient substitute for the signature: and this, which may have first led to the use of the sign, was adopted by the church. *Mabillon* has collected some instances of bishops having made their mark, from ignorance, or from old age, from sickness, or from want of sight. A larger and still more interesting collection of instances is found in the notes to *Marini Pap. Dipl. p. 271*. To these examples I will add one or two others of laymen.

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<sup>22</sup> Justinian foderte zur Form der Urkunden zwey Stücke, die auch hier in Betracht kamen: die Eröffnung jeder Urkunde mit dem Regierungsjahr des Kaisers, dem Consulat, der Indiction mit Monat und Tag, dann die Gegen-

wart eines Notars mit fünf Zeugen, wenn der Austeller der Urkunde des Schreibens nicht kundig war. *Savigny Ges. d. R. R. i. 89*, where he refers to *Nov. 47, c. 1. Nov. 73, c. 8. Conradi Parerg. p. 451. 460.*



1. in quâ subter propria manu pro ignorantia litterarum, signum uenerabilem sanctae crucis feci.

Papyrus, sec. v<sup>o</sup> inuente. Maffei, p. 144.

2. signum Domnici u. h. ss. (uiri honorabilis superscripti) uenditoris, litteras nescientis.

Papyrus, 540. Maffei, p. 156.

3. ipso presente, istante, mihique dictante, et consentiente, et subter manu sua propria pro ignorantia litterarum, signum faciente.

Papyrus, 572. Maffei, p. 163.

4. signum Heribaldi Comitis sancti Palatii, qui ibi fui, et propter ignorantiam litterarum, signum sanctæ crucis feci.

Mabill. ii. 22.

5. Signum ma+nus Diuito rog. cumque scribere nesis, Magister Militum.

A. 1067. Fantuzzi, i. 296.

6. mano propria *propter* ignorantia litterarum signum scae crucis feci et testibus a me rogitis optuli subscribendam.

Marin. Pap. Dip. 139.

Now if in the fifth and sixth centuries in Italy, this ignorance was to be provided for, much more was it to be expected in England in the sixth, seventh, and even eighth. I look then upon the notice taken of it in Wihtræd's case as a mere accident, the result perhaps of some scrupulous monk's having consulted his book of precedents before he drew up the charter.

What has been observed of the style of grantors and grantees applies to the form of their subscriptions. However it is to be noted that in the earlier charters the bishops rarely add the names of their sees, which some of them do in the later. Some very solemn synodal decrees are an exception to this rule. In the earliest period also any bishop seems to have called himself *servus servorum* or



## INTRODUCTION.

famulus plebis dei<sup>23</sup>, a term which is recorded to have had its origin in the humility of Gregory the Great, but is well known to have remained as the peculiar addition of the bishops of Rome, the haughtiest hierarchs of whom history hath to tell. During the tenth and eleventh centuries the rage for fantastic subscriptions worked even upon the titles of the bishops, and we have every variety of phrase by which their dignity could be described, as episcopus, sacerdos, antistes, prælatus, catascopus, speculator plebis dei, etc. etc. Prelates, between the time of their election and consecration do not appear to have adopted the continental style of *vocatus*, but *electus*, which we yet retain: and instead of the qualification *etsi peccator*, which, though common in foreign diplomata, is almost unknown in our own, we have *licet indignus*.

Some considerations of importance seem to arise from the words made use of to describe the cross itself. The more usual form is *signum crucis adposui* or *signo crucis confirmaui*. But other words replace *signum*, especially in the later charters. These words are *Agalma*, *Character*, *Gabulum*, *Indicium*, *Indiculum*, *Munimen*, *Patibulum*, *Sigillum*, *Signaculum*, *Singrapha*, *Tauma*, *Testudo*, *Titulum*, *Tripudium*, *Triumphum*, *Tropheum*, *Uexillum*, *Uirtus*: and it is possible that there may be yet others. Some of these words apparently refer to the abstract power or holiness of the sign, as *Munimen*, *Tauma* (*θαύμα*), *Triumphum*, *Uirtus*. Others to the form, as *Gabulum*, *Patibulum*, *Tripudium* (? *τριπους*); others again to the legend of Constantine and his banner, with its *εν τούτω νικη*; to which last head seem to belong *Sigillum*, *Tropheum*, *Uexillum*.

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<sup>23</sup> Vid. Fantaz. Mon. Rav. i. 104, 105. 114. 117. 131, etc.





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which he would necessarily look upon as an inaccurate mode of expression.

Dependant princes and the rulers of small principalities usually state in their grants that what they have done is by the consent and license of their superior and paramount sovereign: and in general the latter either himself signs the grant, or makes a solemn confirmation of it at a later period. Most princes declare their grants to have been made by the advice and with the consent of their prelates, princes, and other counsellors. Whether this be an idle form, or whether it describe a real relation between the king and his court, I find it very difficult to determine.

The importance of his comites to a warlike leader embarking upon a distant and dangerous enterprise, renders it easy to understand the necessity of consulting them on all matters of moment; this points out the origin of their power, without compelling us to resort to the hypothesis of a parliament or witenagemôt, of whose constitution and influence we know but little. We have evidence that in such grave affairs as the adoption of a new creed, or the promulgation of a new law, the councillors or *witan* were consulted: but this seems to differ essentially from the case of a mere grant of lands, and also to be limited in the time during which it could prevail. It must be strongest in the earliest, weakest in the latest ages of the monarchy. Still, as the King has no force of his own (for the people collect under their *Count*, *Ealdorman*, or *Sheriff*, when occasion requires it, and not under the King or the King's officers) except such as these his comites can supply, he is virtually in their hands, and his power is dependent upon theirs.

And these considerations become the more cogent,



inasmuch as it is very doubtful whether the king could call upon the free landowners to arm and join his force, except for defensive purposes, and within the limits of their own county, as well as for certain limited periods. His own disposable force could only constitutionally consist of those persons whom personal attachment or the promptings of self interest gathered around him, and who formed, to use the German phrase, a *Gefolgschaft* around the *Gefolgs-herr*. These are literally the *gesíðas*, *comites*, or *comrades*; and from their position relatively to his own, the *þegnas*, *ministri*, or *servants of the king*; that they shared originally in the plunder won in war is certain; and that they continued to be gifted with horses, arms, jewels, and lands is proved by the concurrent testimony of the historians, poets, and documents. In this Tacitus and *Bêowulf* are equally decisive witnesses. That they thus laid the foundation of a court aristocracy, a *Dienst-adel* or nobility of service, also seems clear, and they increased in power as the king increased in power, and always at the expense of the free landowners, whose condition gradually approximates to that of the unfree. Hence the Sheriff or Graff of the county gradually ceases to be elected by the people, and is nominated by the king; but he does not become the king's officer for all that, and the *levée en masse* is not a whit more available than before, for the king's own purposes.

It does not seem very clear why, when the king was about to make a grant of land out of his own private possessions, it should be necessary for him to consult his *proceres* or counsellors; any more than her majesty should find it necessary to come down to parliament for permission to grant a pension out of the civil list. Had the lands granted been national



property, a sort of consolidated fund, there would have been more excuse for the interference of the nation. As it is, the only way in which I can conceive it to have been a matter of any interest to the nobles what grants the king did or did not make, is that by every alienation he diminished the quantity of what he had to give; and that the possession of a certain amount of land being indispensable to the enjoyment of particular rank, the king, by enriching one noble might have raised him over the head of the rest. Perhaps this may have made the consent of the whole body necessary. On the whole I confess I am not disposed to lay much stress upon these words, especially if they be taken to imply some definite power or authority lodged in the council of the Anglosaxon kings; for they are to be found in the charters of the Franks and other Germanic nations also. It is however possible that some jealousy may have been felt at the inordinate quantity of land held in mortmain.

Could we suppose, indeed, that in every case where the grant is said to be made *cum consensu et licentia procerum*, it was a mere conversion of folc-land into bôcland, the clause would no doubt be perfectly intelligible. For as the folcland is the general property of the nation, the *terra fiscalis*,—beneficiary, or which might be granted out in fief in contradistinction to allodial possessions<sup>24</sup>,—the king

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<sup>24</sup> The natural origin of folc-land is the superabundance of good land over what was at once appropriated by the tribes, families, or gentes (*mægburg*, *gelond-an*) who first settled in a waste or conquered land; but its existence enters into and modifies the system of law, and on it depends the

definition of the *march* and the *gaw*, with their boundaries. Over the folcland, at first the king alone had no controul; it must have been apportioned by the nation in its solemn meeting; earlier, by the shire or other collection of free men. In *Beðwulf*, the king determines to build a





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edly contain the clause, although the matter of grant be actually provable not to have been folcland, but the paternal inheritance, or private and purchased estate of the grantor, and though the assertion is made that the lands granted were part and parcel *terrae juris mei*. Alienations by clergymen are of course *cum consensu, consilio et licentia fratrum*, but the difference in the cases is, that the clerical grants are rarely made without some prospect of advantage thereby to the grantor. One hypothesis may be ventured; viz. that the clause originated at a time when this process of carving private estates out of the *folcsceare* largely prevailed, because there was abundance of folcland to distribute; and that the king, together with his *comites*, assumed to be the expression of the national will in its distribution. Next that habit, or even the growing up of a fiction, retained the formulary, even where there was no longer a fact to which it applied; legal instruments being every where, and at all times, little liable to changes of form. Whether this, or the actual dependence of the king on his *proceres*, be the easier way of accounting for the clause, I will not venture to decide. Both may have acted together.

The second class of documents contained in this collection, comprise the records of trials determined either in the county court before the sheriff, or in the great synods or councils, held twice a year. These meetings, which present the nearest approach to our parliaments that is to be met with in the Anglosaxon institutions, correspond in some degree to the old heathen assemblies, and the later March and May-fields of the Franks. Modified as they were, and to all outward appearance little resembling those celebrated conventions of the continent, many of their



attributions were the same; and their principle, and as it were theory, differs in nothing from those of the other Germans. It is however only in their judicial capacity that we have to consider them.

It was determined in the year 673, at a synod presided over by Hloðhari the sovereign of Kent, and probably attended by all the English bishops, that these synods or councils should be held twice in every year, and that one of these meetings should always take place on the first of August at Clofesho; the place and time of the other being probably left to be determined by circumstances. Accordingly we find a majority of these instruments dated from Clofesho; the most numerous of the rest being passed at Cealchýð. That these councils were legislative bodies we may see by the collections of laws passed in them, not only for the church, but the laity; and a passage already cited (p. lxxiii) proves that they were also courts of justice. By a council holden in 816, it was ordered that the judgments given by such courts should be enrolled; and to this we owe the valuable records which we still possess.

Generally speaking, these documents do not differ in form from the charters or grants of individuals, except in a very natural preponderance of that proem which points out the necessity of committing solemn decisions to writing. But sometimes the whole progress of a suit is detailed in a narrative form, and the pleadings on both sides, if we may call them so, as well as the judgement, are placed upon the record. The importance of these it is unnecessary to dilate upon, and this is not the place to enter upon the details which they have preserved to us. The same observations apply to the records of suits in the county court.



Perhaps however the most valuable and interesting of all the documents contained in this collection are the Wills. Of their importance as philological monuments I have spoken already, and shall make but one remark on this; viz. that the great antiquity and peculiarities of the language in which they are for the most part written, is *of itself* a decisive guarantee of their authenticity. This is in itself a proof, unshakeable, irrefragable, far beyond any evidence we can offer for any other class of documents; and fortunately supplied in the very case where almost all other evidence fails us: for these documents being for the most part directions, to have effect upon a contingency, and the directions of private individuals of no great note or name, without dates or such formalities of signature as accompany the Latin charters, supply few tests of authenticity.

These documents, from their very nature, furnish a great deal of valuable information which would otherwise have been altogether lost to us; and on this account I trust I shall be excused for occupying some little space in their investigation, reserving the full examination of their bearing for a work formally devoted to the "Law of the Anglosaxons." The earliest genuine will in this collection is of the ninth century; but it by no means follows that there were not such instruments at periods far more remote. Every thing renders it probable that the custom of making devises of lands as well as chattels was introduced from Rome by Augustine. Still, from the evidence of the wills before us, we should be inclined to argue that they were not looked upon in so solemn a light as the charters: there is a want of formality about them which is very easily understood, but which still seems to lead to the conclusion





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as appears clearly enough from Leôflæd's husband having stated himself to be the person who ought to make answer for her, if he only knew her plea. But we have other cases where lands are devised, even during the husband's life.

These it appears were such lands as the husband had formally settled upon his wife, either as the price for which he bought her of her friends, or as the morgengifu, in other words the *morning-gift*, which it was usual to present to her on the morning after consummation. How it may have been with the former, is not very clear; but the latter endowment appears to have been strictly in the wife's power: in several wills, the husband carefully points out the lands to which his wife has this claim; and in several cases, women appeal to it as their title to lands which they are desirous of alienating. Again, in case of incontinence, the widow might be punished by forfeiture of this provision (Ll. Cnut. tit. 71); so that it appears to have been fully her own, to dispose of at her own pleasure, in addition to the settlement which was made upon her, in the event of her surviving her husband (Ll. Eadmund. tit. 3.), and which naturally ceased on the occasion of a second marriage. In many respects the morgengifu differs from dower; in others it resembles it closely; but this is a question which it would be too long to enter upon now, and the reader is referred for information upon the point to Grimm's *Deutsche Rechts alterthümer*, p. 441, etc. Wills then, by which women devised lands and chattels, may be received as genuine, if there be nothing in their provisions to the contrary; it is however more usual for these documents to be drawn up during the coverture, both husband and wife uniting in the disposal of the



property, with conditions as to survivorship; the instrument becoming thus partly a settlement, partly a testament, and being corroborated by the witness of archbishops and bishops, who are made to a certain extent executors, a portion of the property being usually devoted to pious purposes; in which case even the Roman law allowed of the intervention of the clergy, which the Council of Carthage had prohibited.

Some of these testaments made by men who were under a superior lord, specify the amount of heriot payable; and this corresponds to what was fixed by the law of Cnut. These same documents contain also a clause of great interest; namely, an earnest prayer to the lord that he will permit the will to stand according to the dispositions of the testator, coupled not unfrequently with a legacy to him on condition of his so doing, or to some person of influence about him, for intercession on the testator's behalf. So that the advantages of lofty station and court nobility seem to have been counterbalanced by a serious drawback in the amount of freedom enjoyed by the thanes: and this their dependant condition seems much more in accordance with the original theory of their position as *comites*, and a just retribution for the authority which they helped the king to establish over the free men and the free Count or Graff of the *gau*. For as no man supplicates and even pays for that which he is of his own right entitled to enjoy, it appears as if these great vassals of the crown had not the power of disposing of their lands and chattels but as the king might permit; and in the strict construction of the bond between the king and them, all that they gained in his service must be taken to lapse into his hands after their death; the relation of *comes* being a per-



sonal one, and not necessarily transferable from father to son at first, though in the darkening evening of the Anglosaxon monarchy, four great hereditary ducal houses seemed already about to establish themselves and overshadow the throne; and this principle, which shows itself in the theory of the feudal *relief*, is equally recognised in the theory of the old Teutonic *Heriot*, and in the allusions made in *Beôwulf*, the *Hildebrant's Lied*, and other ancient poems of the Germanic races.

Wills are usually signed by the clergy who assisted in the drawing them up, and often by the executors named in them. Whether any formal probate was required after the death of the parties may be questioned; it being usual to lodge attested copies with the brethren of a monastery, the bishop of the diocese, etc. in case of dispute arising; and none of the wills which survive being, I think, made in immediate expectation of death.

One or two documents of much interest are the marriage contracts, made between the bridegroom or suitor and the guardians of the lady wooed; these tally in every respect with the directions of the codes, and present a lively picture of the mode of proceeding on such occasions. Their authenticity, hardly to be tested by any other means, is best proved by the philological investigation of the language in which they are written. These, as well as a few other documents, which, though neither charters nor wills, seemed capable of throwing light upon the legal institutions of the Anglosaxons, have been included in this collection.

The first volume of documents now presented to the Society comprehends nearly all of those which fall within the period comprised between the con-





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the late duke. However much I regret the incompleteness of this volume in these respects, I feel that it may easily be remedied at any future time by the publication of an appendix. In this appendix I propose also to include one or two documents which were omitted by mistake, such as the forged foundation charter of Peterborough, etc. and some which I would not print till I could carefully compare them with the originals; such are the Selsey charters, now in the archives of the Dean and Chapter of Chichester. I also propose to embody in it the abstracts of charters now lost, from the Registers of Canterbury and other cathedrals; for though in these all traces of the form have perished, they are occasionally of value on chronological grounds.

The rule by which I have been guided in the formation of my text is a simple one, and was imposed upon me by the very nature of my MSS. authorities. All the documents of the class now under consideration are found either enrolled in monastic chartularies, or on separate sheets of parchment. The latter, which are fortunately numerous, can alone pretend to complete authority; the former necessarily varying with the capricious orthography of the periods at which the chartularies were compiled. For the former, whether autographs or ancient apographs, it seemed desirable to adopt the rule of printing *verbatim et litteratim*, preserving as far as possible the contractions, punctuation, and even the grammatical errors, so as to make, in short, an accurate facsimile of the original. But two inconveniences of a grave nature would have accompanied the extension of this plan to the copies found in chartularies. First, we should have been met by a repulsive mode of spelling, or rather with various repulsive and inconsistent modes of spelling, bearing



no resemblance to that of the periods to which the documents belong: next, where two or more copies were used for the settlement of a text, we must have admitted inconsistent modes of spelling into one and the same document. It appeared therefore better to proceed as one would in the case of a classical author; to settle by careful examination the orthography prevalent at any given period, and to reduce the various documents to this one consistent form.

The charters which are either ascertained forgeries, or which from any cause appear to me liable to suspicion, are marked with an asterisk. For the authenticity of the rest, I am willing to pledge myself.

The list appended to this introduction contains the authority for each document. Where two or more MSS. are mentioned, they have been placed in the order of their value, the first being the one which has been principally followed, the others having been used for collation, and interpolation where any thing happened to be wanting. Errors in the dates have been provided for in the titles prefixed to the charters; whatever may be found in the body of the document, that only is recognized as accurate which stands in the title; and I need hardly say, that the utmost care has been taken to settle these, not only by the usual means, such as comparison of MSS., collation of the Indictions, Regulars, Concurrents, Epacts, Days of the week, Saints' days, and other such tests, but also by investigation of the historical facts, and the dates of the several witnesses. The titles also contain the names of the grantors as they wrote, or would have written, them themselves; respect being had throughout to the peculiarities of dialect, and the laws of grammatical



construction. Thus I write Ini of Wessex, not Ina; at a later period than his own it would have been written Ine, the final *e* being equivalent to *i*, as in Osuini, Centuini, Hloðhari, later Oswine, Centwine, Hloðhere; but no Saxon could ever have made it Ina, any more than on the other hand, he could have called Beda, *Bede*. The following contractions may perhaps be worth noting:

đm. đī. đo.	. . .	deum, dei, deo.
dñs. dño. etc.	. . .	dominus, domino, etc.
ã. ù.	. . .	am. um.
př. p̃rs. p̃br.	. . .	presbyter. princeps.
diač.	. . .	diaconus.
sḅ diač	. . .	subdiaconus.
arč diač	. . .	archidiaconus.
eḗs. eḗi. episč.	. . .	episcopus.
arč episč.	. . .	archiepiscopus.
oꝝ	. . .	orum.
b:	. . .	bus.
†	. . .	uel.
7	. . .	and, et.
ƕ	. . .	autem.
u°.	. . .	uero.
ḗ.	. . .	per, prae, pro.
p.	. . .	per.
ḡ.	. . .	pro.
ṭ.	. . .	ter.
ᵛ	. . .	con.
ᵛḥ 7 sub	. . .	consensi et subscripsi.
ᵛsenḥ 7 sub	. . .	consensi et subscripsi.
.i.	. . .	id est.
÷	. . .	est.
ḡ. ḡ.	. . .	qui, quæ, quod.

The earlier Kentish charters use both the usual





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No.	Name.	Date.	Authorities.
18.	Caeduealha of Wessex . . .	. . .	680 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 86. MS. Lamb. 1212. fol. 304.
19.	Bishop Headdi . . .	July 6th,	680 MS. Bodl. Wood. i. f. 149, b.
20.	Baldred of Mercia . . .	. . .	681 MS. Bodl. Wood. i. fol. 183.
21.	Aethilmod . . .	Oct. . .	681 MS. C.C. Cantab. cxl. f. 60.
22.	Aethilred of Mercia . . .	. . .	681 MS. Lansd. 417. fol. 2. Ang. Sac. ii. p. 10.
23.	Aethilred . . .	. . .	681 MS. Lansd. 417, fol. 2. .
24.	Caeduealha of Wessex . . .	Aug. . .	682 MS. Lansd. 417. fol. 2, b.
25.	Ecgrith of Northumberland . . .	. . .	685 MS. Dodsw. ix. fol. 8.
26.	Berhtuuald . . .	July 30th,	685 MS. Lansd. 417. fol. 1. Ang. Sac. ii. p. 10.
27.	Eadric of Kent . . .	June,	686 MS. Aul. Trin. fol. 38, b. MS. Harl. 686. fol. 132, b.
28.	Baldred . . .	Aug.	688 MS. Lansd. 417. fol. 3. Ang. Sac. ii. p. 11.
29.	Caeduealha of Wessex . . .	Aug. 19th,	688 MS. Lansd. 417. fol. 3. Ang. Sac. ii. p. 11.
30.	Osuuini of Kent . . .	. . .	689 MS. Aul. Trin. fol. 34. MS. Harl. 686. fol. 113, b.
31.	Ini of Wessex . . .	. . .	688—690 MS. Cott. Claud. C. ix. 102, b.
32.	Aethilred of Mercia . . .	. . .	691 or 692 MS. Harl. 4660, fol. 1. ex au- togr. in archivis Wigorn.
33.	Aethilred . . .	. . .	691 or 692 Smith's Beda. App. p. 764.
	Endorsement of the same by Bishop Ecguuni.		The same. MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 9.
34.	Aethilred . . .	. . .	692 MS. Cot. Tib. A. xiii. f. 170, b.
35.	Oethilred of Essex . . .	March, 692 or 693	MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 29. MS. Cott. Vesp. A. ix. f. 141.
36.	Oshari of the Hwiccas . . .	. . .	693 MS. Harl. 4660. fol. 2.
37.	Uuihtraed of Kent . . .	July 17th,	694 MS. Aul. Trin. fol. 47. MS. Harl. 686. fol. 162.
38.	Bishop Erconuuald . . .	. . .	695 MS. Cott. Vesp. A. ix. 142.
39.	Uuihtraed of Kent . . .	. . .	696 MS. Aul. Trin. fol. 47, b. MS. Harl. 686. fol. 163.
40.	Caeduealha and others . . .	Various years.	MS. Soc. Ant. lx. fol. 36.
41.	Uuihtraed of Kent . . .	March,	696 MS. Aul. Trin. fol. 47, b. MS. Harl. 686. fol. 163, b.



No.	Name.	Date.	Authorities.
42.	Uuihtraed . . .	April 2nd,	697 MS. Aul. Trin. fol. 48. MS. Harl. 686. fol. 164.
43.	Uuihtraed . . .	July,	697 Facsimile in Antiquarian Re- pertory, vol. ii. p. 133. MS. Lamb. 1212. fol. 305.
44.	Uuihtraed . . .	April 6th,	699 MS. Aul. Trin. fol. 48, b. MS. Harl. 686. fol. 167.
45.	Ini of Wessex . . .	July 5th,	699 MS. Cott. Claud. C. ix. fol. 102, b. MS. Cott. Claud. B. vi. fol. 6.
46.	Ini . . . . .	. . . . .	699 MS. Cott. Claud. B. vi. fol. 6.
47.	Uuihtraed of Kent . . .	July, 700 or 715	MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 88.
48.	Ini of Wessex . . . . .	. . . . .	701 MS. Lansd. 417. fol. 3, b.
49.	Ini . . . . .	. . . . .	702 MS. Bodl. Wood. i. f. 178, b. MS. Bodl. Wood. i. fol. 171.
50.	Ini . . . . .	May 26th,	704 MS. Lansd. 4 7. fol. 3, b. Ang. Sac. ii. p. 22.
51.	Ini . . . . .	. . . . .	704 MS. Ashmole, 790. fol. 60, b. MS. Bodl. Wood. i. fol. 67. MS. Cott. Vesp. D. xxii. f. 68.
52.	Suaebraed of Essex . . .	June 13th,	704 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 82.
53.	Aethilheard of the Hwiccas . . .	704—709	MS. Harl. 4660, fol. 2.
54.	Bishop Aldhelm . . . . .	. . . . .	705 Ang. Sac. ii. p. 21.
55.	Offa of Essex . . . . .	704—709	MS. Cott. Nero. E. i. f. 392. MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 107, b. MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 107.
56.	Aethilueard of the Hwiccas . . .	. . . . .	706 MS. Harl. 3763. fol. 65. MS. Cott. Vesp. B. xxiv. f. 23.
57.	Aethilric of the Hwiccas . . . . .	. . . . .	706 MS. Harl. 3763. fol. 64, b.
58.	Bishop Unaldhari . . . . .	. . . . .	706 MS. Harl. 3763. fol. 65, b.
59.	Coenraed of Mercia . . . . .	. . . . .	708 MS. Cott. Vesp. B. xxiv. f. 22.
60.	Coenraed . . . . .	. . . . .	709 MS. Cott. Vesp. B. xxiv. fol. 34, b.
61.	Coenraed . . . . .	. . . . .	709 MS. Cott. Vesp. B. xxiv. f. 64.
62.	Ciolraed of Mercia . . . . .	. . . . .	710 MS. Harl. 3763, fol. 60.
63.	Bishop Forðhari . . . . .	. . . . .	712 MS. Bodl. Wood. i. fol. 150.
64.	Bishop Ecgwinini . . . . .	. . . . .	714 MS. Harl. 358. fol. 51, b.
65.	Aethilbald of Mercia . . . . .	. . . . .	716 MS. Harl. 3763. fol. 60, b.



No.	Name.	Date.	Authorities.
66.	Aethilbald . . . . .	716	MS. Arundel. 178. fol. 25.
67.	Aethilbald . . . . .	716—717	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 193, b.
68.	Aethilbald . . . . .	716—717	MS. Cott. Vesp. B. xxiv. fol. 24, b.
69.	Aethilbald . . . . .	718	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 31, b.
70.	Aethilbald . . . . .	719	MS. Arund. 178. fol. 30, b. MS. Reg. 13. D. 2. fol. 18.
71.	Ini of Wessex . . . . .	723	MS. Bodl. Wood. i. fol. 201.
72.	Aethilberht of Kent . . . . .	July 11th,	724 MS. Aul. Trin. fol. 49. MS. Harl. 686. fol. 169.
73.	Ini of Wessex . . . . .	725	MS. Ashmole, 790. fol. 63. MS. Bodl. Wood. i. f. 66, b. MS. Reg. 13. D. 2. fol. 7, b. MS. Cott. Vesp. D. xxii. f. 69.
74.	Ini . . . . .	725	MS. Bodl. Wood. i. fol. 191.
75.	Aethilbald of Mercia . . . . .	727	MS. Cott. Vesp. B. xxiv. fol. 35, b.
76.	Aethilheard of Wessex . . . . .	729	MS. Bodl. Wood. i. fol. 152.
77.	Aethilberht of Kent . . . . .	Feb. 20th,	732 MS. Cott. Aug. II. 91.
78.	Aethilbald of Mercia . . . . .	734	Chart. Cotton. xvii. 1. Textus Roffens. fol. 120.
	Confirmation of the same by Mercia, about 840 . . . . .	Berhtuulf of . . . . .	The same.
79.	Aethilbald . . . . .	Nov. 24th, 723, 728, or 734	MS. Cott. Nero. E. i. f. 388, b. MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 7, b.
80.	Aethilbald . . . . .	736	MS. Cott. Aug. II. 3.
81.	Aethilbald and Aethilheard . . . . .	725—737	MS. Cott. Claud. C. ix. f. 103. MS. Cott. Claud. B. vi. f. 13.
82.	Archbishop Nothhelm . . . . .	734—737	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 25.
83.	Aethilbald . . . . .	723—737	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 103.
84.	Aethilbald . . . . .	738	MS. Aul. Trin. fol. 51, b. MS. Harl. 686. fol. 177, b.
85.	Eadberht of Kent . . . . .	April,	738 Textus Roffensis, fol. 119.
86.	Aethilberht of Kent . . . . .	740	MS. Cott. Aug. II. 101.
87.	Aethilbald of Mercia . . . . .	742	Chart. Antiq. Cantu. M. 363. MS. Cott. Claud. D. II. f. 30, b. MS. Lambeth. 1212. fol. 308.
88.	Aethilbald . . . . .	716—743	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 167. MS. Cott. Nero. E. i. f. 391, b. MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 15, b.





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No.	Name.	Date.	Authorities.
113.	Ecgberht of Kent . . . . .	765	Text. Roff. fol. 126.
114.	Sigiraed of Kent . . . . .	759—765	Text. Roff. fol. 125. <sup>1</sup>
115.	Cyneulf of Wessex . . . . .	766	N. Monast. vol. ii. p. 285.
116.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .	767	MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 26.
	Endorsement of the same by Pilheard . . . . .	799—802	MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 27.
117.	Uhtred of the Hwiccas . . . . .	767	MS. Harl. 4660. fol. 3.
118.	Uhtred . . . . .	770	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 144.
119.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .	772	MS. Aul. Trin. fol. 56, b. MS. Harl. 686. fol. 194, b.
120.	Offa . . . . .	772	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 15, b. MS. Cott. Nero. E. i. f. 391, b. MS. Cott. Vitel. C. ix. f. 126.
121.	Offa . . . . .	774	MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 99.
122.	Offa . . . . .	774	Reg. C.C. Cantuar. C. v. f. 7. Reg. C.C. Cant. A. i. fol. 189. MS. Lamb. 1212. fol. 310.
123.	Offa . . . . . Feb.	774	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 194.
124.	Bishop Milred . . . . .	774	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 25, b.
125.	Aldred of the Hwiccas . . . . .	757—775	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 51, b.
126.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .	757—775	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 34, b.
127.	Abbat Ceolfrith . . . . .	757—775	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 52, b.
128.	Uhtred of the Hwiccas . . . . .	764—775	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 145.
129.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .	765—775	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 174. MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 28.
130.	Offa . . . . .	777	MS. Harl. 3763. fol. 61. Reg. C.C. Cant. A. i. f. 198. Reg. C.C. Cantuar. C. v. f. 7.
131.	Offa and Aldred . . . . .	777	MS. Harl. 4660. fol. 9. MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 177.
132.	Ecgberht of Kent . . . . .	778	Text. Roffens. fol. 129.
133.	Cynewulf of Wessex . . . . .	778	Chart. Cotton. VIII. 4.
134.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .	775—778	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 42. MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 169, b.

<sup>1</sup> This donation probably preceded No. 111.



No.	Name.	Date.	Authorities.
135.	Ecgberht of Kent . . . . .		779 Text. Roff. fol. 130.
136.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .		779 MS. Cott. Vesp. B. xxiv. fol. 70, b.
137.	Offa . . . . .		779 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 4.
138.	Offa . . . . .		780 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 30. Smith. Beda. App. p. 767.
139.	Offa . . . . .	Sept. 22d,	780 MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 44, b. MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 143.
140.	Offa . . . . .	Sept. 22d,	780 MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. fol. 11.
141.	Offa . . . . .	Dec. 26th,	781 MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 173. MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 103, b.
142.	Offa . . . . .	Dec. 26th,	781 MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. fol. 181, b. MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 195.
143.	Bishop Heaðored . . . . .		781 MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 106.
144.	Aethilberht of Wessex } and Kent . . . . . }		781 Chart. Cotton. vi. 4. Text. Roff. fol. 130.
145.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .		778—781 MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 54, b. Smith. Beda. App. p. 766.
146.	Aldred of the Hwiccas . . . . .		778—781 Smith. Beda. App. p. 765.
147.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .		784 MS. Dodsworth. lv. 19. f. 47.
148.	Uhtred of the Hwiccas . . . . .		778—785 Smith. Beda. App. p. 767.
149.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .		785 Widmore. Enquiry, etc. App. No. 111.
150.	Offa . . . . .		769—785 MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 23.
151.	Offa . . . . .		787 MS. Cott. Vitel. A. xiii. f. 31.
152.	Offa . . . . .		788 Text. Roff. fol. 131.
153.	Offa . . . . .		788 Chart. Ant. Cantuar. M. 340.
154.	Offa . . . . .		789 MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. fol. 146, b.
	Saxon duplicate of the same . . . . .		MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. fol. 146, b.
155.	Offa . . . . .		789 Text. Roff. fol. 133.
156.	Bishop Heathored . . . . .		789 MS. Harl. 4660. fol. 7. MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 7, b. MS. Cott. Nero. E. i. f. 388, b.
157.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .		789 Text. Roff. fol. 132.
158.	Beorhtric of Wessex . . . . .		—790 MS. Cott. Claud. B. vi. f. 10, b.



No.	Name.	Date.	Authorities.
159.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .	790	Reg. Cantuar. A. i. fol. 189. Reg. Cantuar. C. i. fol. 69. MS. Lamb. 1212. fol. 311.
160.	Ecgberht of Kent . . . . .	765—791 <sup>1</sup>	Text. Roff. fol. 127.
161.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .	May, 792	MS. Cott. Nero. D. i. fol. 148.
162.	Offa . . . . .	793	MS. Cott. Nero. D. i. fol. 148.
163.	Offa . . . . .	793	MS. Arund. 178. fol. 30, b.
164.	Offa . . . . .	794	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 54.
165.	Abbat Beonna . . . . .	786—796	MS. Soc. Ant. LX. fol. 41.
166.	Offa of Mercia . . . . .	791—796	MS. Tib. A. XIII. fol. 48. MS. Cott. Nero. E. i. f. 387, b.
167.	Offa . . . . .	791—796	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 52.
168.	Offa . . . . .	796	MS. Soc. Ant. LX. fol. 37, b.
169.	Abbat Headda . . . . .	781—793	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 26.
170.	Ecgfrith of Mercia . . . . .	796	MS. Cott. Nero. E. i. f. 387, b.
171.	Ecgfrith . . . . .	796	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 52.
172.	Ecgfrith . . . . .	796	MS. Cott. Nero. D. i. f. 148, b.
173.	Ecgfrith . . . . .	796	MS. Cott. Nero. D. i. f. 148, b.
174.	Ecgfrith . . . . .	796	MS. Lansd. 417. fol. 5, b. Ang. Sac. ii. p. 25.
175.	Coenuulf of Mercia . . . . .	798	MS. Cott. Aug. II. 97.
176.	Coenuulf . . . . .	799	MS. Tib. A. XIII. fol. 2.
177.	Coenuulf . . . . .	799	MS. Cott. Aug. II. 96. Reg. C. C. Cant. A. i. f. 189, b.
178.	Eadburh of Wessex . . . . .	801	MS. Bodl. Wood. i. fol. 169.
179.	Coenuulf of Mercia . . . . .	801	Text. Roff. fol. 135.
180.	Beorhtric of Wessex . . . . .	801	MS. Cott. Claud. B. vi. f. 7, b.
181.	Bishop Deneberht . . . . .	About 802	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 41.
182.	Bishop Deneberht . . . . .	About 802	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 147, b.
183.	Bishop Deneberht . . . . .	Oct. 6th, 803	MS. Harl. 4660. fol. 7. MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 8, b. MS. Cott. Nero. E. i. f. 388, b.

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<sup>1</sup> Probably before 788.





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<b>No.</b>	<b>Name.</b>	<b>Date.</b>	<b>Authorities.</b>
207.	Coenuulf . . . . .	.	814 Chart. Harl. 83. A. i.
208.	Coenuulf . . . . .	.	815 MS. Cott. Claud. C. ix. fol. 103, b.
209.	Coenuulf . . . . .	.	816 MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 151.
210.	Coenuulf . . . . .	.	816 MS. Harl. 4660. fol. 5. MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 1. MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. fol. 171, b.
211.	Coenuulf . . . . .	.	817 MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 170.
212.	Coenuulf . . . . .	.	817 MS. Cot. Tib. A. XIII. f. 196, b.
213.	Fregisl . . . . .	July 25th,	819 N. Monast. ii. 109.
214.	Coenuulf of Mercia . . . . .	.	821 MS. Cott. Claud. C. ix. f. 104. MS. Cott. Claud. B. vi. f. 9.
215.	Coenuulf . . . . .	No date.	MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 11.
216.	Ceoluulf of Mercia . . . . .	Sept. 20th,	822 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 93.
217.	Ceoluulf . . . . .	May 26th,	823 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 75.
218.	Beornuulf of Mercia . . . . .	Sept. 30th,	824 MS. Cott. Tib. A. XIII. f. 47. MS. Cott. Nero. E. i. f. 387.
219.	Beornuulf . . . . .	.	825 Smith. Beda. App. p. 768.
220.	Archbishop Uulfred . . . . .	.	825 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 78. MS. Lambeth. 1212. fol. 316. MS. Cott. Claud. D. ii. f. 27.
221.	Aelfgar . . . . .	.	825 N. Monast. ii. 109.
222.	Aetheluulf of Kent . . . . .	.	827 MS. Cott. Vitel. A. XIII. fol. 31, b.
223.	Ecgeberht of Wessex . . . . .	.	828 Text. Roff. fol. 137.
224.	Archbishop Uulfred . . . . .	.	805—831 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 72.
225.	Uulfred, Osulf, and } Beornðryð . . . . . }	.	805—831 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 79.
226.	Ecgeberht of Wessex . . . . .	.	830 Chart. Ant. Cantuar. C. 1279.
227.	Werhard . . . . .	.	832 MS. Lambeth. 1212. f. 319. MS. Lambeth. 582. fol. 128.
228.	Eadwald . . . . .	.	831 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 19.
229.	Uniglaf of Mercia . . . . .	.	831 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 94.
230.	Ealburh . . . . .	.	831 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 52.
231.	Lufa . . . . .	.	832 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 92.



No.	Name.	Date.	Authorities.
232.	Ecgeberht of Wessex .	Dec. 26th,	833 MS. Harl. 61. fol. 17, b.
233.	Uuiglaf of Mercia .	May 26th,	833 MS. Arund. 178. fol. 31, b. N. Mon. ii. p. 109.
234.	Ecgeberht of Wessex .	. . .	833 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 102.
235.	Abba . . . . .	. . .	835 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 64.
236.	Ecgeberht of Wessex .	. . .	835 MS. Cott. Claud. C. ix. fol. 104, b.
237.	Uuiglaf of Mercia .	. . .	836 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 9. MS. Cott. Tib. A. xiii. f. 21. MS. C.C. Cantab. cxl. f. 138.
238.	Badanoð . . . . .	. . .	837 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 42.
239.	Ecgeberht of Wessex .	. . .	833 Chart. Cott. viii. 30. Text. Roff. fol. 138.
240.	Ecgeberht . . . . .	. . .	833 MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 20. MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 21. MS. Cott. Aug. ii. 37.









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## II.

## \* AETHILBERHT OF KENT, 605.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Iesu Christi! Omnem hominem, qui secundum deum uiuit et remunerari a deo sperat et optat, oportet ut piis precibus consensum hilariter ex animo praebeat: quoniam certum est, tanto facilius ea quae ipse a deo poposcerit consequi posse, quanto et ipse libentius deo aliquid concesserit: quocirca ego Aethilberhtus rex Canciae, cum consensu uenerabilis archiepiscopi Augustini ac principum meorum, dabo et concedo in honore sancti Petri aliquam partem terrae iuris mei, quae iacet in oriente ciuitatis Doroberniae; ita duntaxat ut monasterium ibi construatur, et res quam supra memorauimus in potestate abbatis sit qui ibi fuerit ordinatus. Igitur adiuro et praecipio in nomine domini dei omnipotentis, qui est omnium rerum iudex iustus, ut praefata terra subscripta donacione sempiternaliter sit confirmata; ita ut nec mihi, nec alicui successorum meorum regum, aut principum, siue cuiuslibet conditionis dignitatibus et ecclesiasticis gradibus, de ea aliquid fraudare liceat. Siquis uero de hac donacione nostra aliquid minuere aut irritum facere temptauerit, sit in praesenti separatus a sancta communione corporis et sanguinis Christi, et in die iudicii, ob meritum malitiae suae, a consorcio sanctorum omnium segregatus. Circumcincta est haec terra his terminibus: in oriente ecclesia sancti Martini, in meridie uia of Burhgate, in occidente et in aquilone Drutingstræt. Acta in ciuitate Doroberni, anno ab incarnatione Christi DCV. indictione VIII.

✠ Ego Aethilberhtus, rex Canciae, sana mente integroque consilio, donacionem meam signo sanctae crucis propria manu roborauimus confirmauimusque.



## III.

## \* AETHILBERHT OF KENT, Jan. 9th, 605.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Iesu Christi! Notum sit omnibus, tam praesentibus quam posteris, quod ego Aethilberhtus, dei gratia rex Anglorum, per euangelicum genitorem meum Augustinum de ydolatra factus christicola, tradidi deo per ipsum antistitem aliquam partem terrae iuris mei sub orientali muro ciuitatis Dorouerniae, ubi scilicet per eundem in Christo institutorem monasterium in honore principum apostolorum Petri et Pauli condidi, et cum ipsa terra et cum omnibus quae ad ipsum monasterium pertinent perpetua libertate donauit; adeo ut nec mihi, nec alicui successorum meorum regum, nec ulli unquam potestati, siue ecclesiasticae siue seculari, quidquam inde liceat usurpare, sed in ipsius abbatis sint omnia libera ditione. Siquis uero de hac donacione nostra aliquid minuere aut irritum facere temptauerit, auctoritate dei et beati papae Gregorii, nostrique apostoli Augustini, simul et nostra imprecatione, sit hic segregatus ab omni sanctae ecclesiae communione, et in die iudicii ab omni electorum societate. Circumcingitur haec terra his terminibus: in oriente ecclesia sancti Martini, et inde ad orientem be Siwendune, et sic ad aquilonem be Wycingesmarce, iterumque ad orientem et ad austrum be Burhwaremarce, et sic ad austrum et orientem be Cyningesmarce, item ad aquilonem et orientem be Cyningesmarce, sicque ad occidentem to Riðerescæpe, et ita ad aquilonem tō Drutingstræte. Actum est hoc in ciuitate Dorouerni anno ab incarnatione Christi DCV. indictione VIII.

✠ Ego Aethilberhtus rex Anglorum, hanc donacionem meam signo sanctae crucis propria manu confirmaui. ✠ Ego Augustinus gratia dei archiepiscopus, libenter subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aedbaldus regis



filius, faui. ✠ Ego Hamigisilus dux laudani. ✠ Ego  
 Hocca comes consensi. ✠ Ego Angemundus referen-  
 darius approbauit. ✠ Ego Graphio comes benedixi.  
 ✠ Ego Tangisilus regis optimas confirmaui. ✠ Ego  
 Pinca consensi. ✠ Ego Geddi corroboraui.

---

 IV.

## \* AETHILBERHT OF KENT, Jan. 9th, 605.

✠ IN nomine sanctae et indiuiduae Trinitatis!  
 Rex Anglorum Aethilberhtus, misericordia omnipo-  
 tentis dei catholicus, omnibus suae gentis fidelibus et  
 aduentum gloriae magni dei et saluatoris nostri Iesu  
 Christi beata spe expectantibus, salutem uitaeque aeter-  
 nae beatitudinem. Largiente summi regis clementia,  
 ego Aethilberhtus solio paterno confirmatus, paceque  
 diuinitus concesso eo jam per decem quinquennia  
 sceptigera potestate potitus, et per uenerabiles sacrae  
 fidei doctores, spiritus sancti gratia, irradiatus, ab  
 errore falsorum deorum ad unius ueri dei cultum toto  
 corde conuersus; ne ingratus beneficiorum appaream  
 illi a cuius sancta sede nobis in regione umbrae  
 mortis sedentibus lux ueritatis emicuit, inter alias quas  
 fabricaui ecclesias monitu et hortatu beatissimi papae  
 Gregorii et sancti patris nostri Augustini, ipsi beatis-  
 simo apostolorum principi Petro, et doctori gentium  
 Paulo, ecclesiam a fundamentis construxi, illamque  
 terris uariisque possessionum donariis decorare studui,  
 inibique monachos deum timentes aggregari feci, et  
 cum consilio eiusdem reuerentissimi archipraesulis Au-  
 gustini, ex suo sancto sanctorum collegio uenerabilem  
 uirum secum ab apostolica sede directum, Petrum mo-  
 nachum elegi, eisque ut ecclesiasticus ordo exposcit  
 abbatem praeposui. Hanc igitur ecclesiam ad prouec-  
 tum debiti culminis promouere desiderans, suarumque  
 possessionum terminis dilatate gestiens, sana mente





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Hanc donacionem meam in nomine patris, et filii, et spiritus sancti, largitate diuina ut mihi tribuatur peccatorum remissio, per omnia cum consilio reuerentissimi patris Augustini condidi atque ad transcribendum Angemundum presbyterum ordinaui. De his ergo omnibus quae hic scripta sunt, si quis aliquid inde minuere praesumpserit, sciat se aequissimo iudici deo et beatis apostolis Petro et Paulo rationem esse redditurum. Confirmata est haec donacio praesentibus testibus reuerentissimo patre Augustino Dorouernensis ecclesiae archiepiscopo primo, Mellito quoque et Iusto, Londoniae et Rosensis ecclesiae praesulibus, et religioso famulo Christi Laurencio presbytero, Eadbaldo filio meo, Hamigisilo duce, Angemundo referendario, Hocca et Graphione comitibus, Tangisilo et Pinca et Geddi et Aldhuno regis optimatibus, aliisque plurimis diuersarum dignitatum personis. Actum sane quadragesimo quinto anno regni nostri, sub die v. idus Januarii.

---

V.

\* AUGUSTINUS.

✠ AUGUSTINUS episcopus Doroberniae sedis, famulus, quem, superna inspirante clementia, beatissimus papa Gregorius Anglicae genti deo acquirendae legatarium misit ac ministrum, omnibus successoribus suis episcopis, cunctisque Angliae regibus, cum suis posteris atque omnibus dei fidelibus, et in fide et gratia pacem et salutem. Patet omnibus quod deo amabilis rex Aethilberhtus, primus Anglorum regum Christi regno sacratus, nostra instantia et sua prodiga beniuolentia, inter caeteras ecclesias quas fecit et episcopia, monasterium extra metropolim suam Doroberniam in honorem principum apostolorum Petri et Pauli regaliter condidit, et regalibus opibus, amplisque possessionibus



ditavit, dilitavit, magnificavit, perpetuaque libertate et omni iure regio, cum omnibus rebus et iudiciis intus et foris illi pertinentibus, muniuit; suoque regio privilegio et superni iudicii imprecatione atque apostolica sancti papae Gregorii interminatione excommunicatoria contra omnem iniuriam confirmavit. Ego quoque, eiusdem libertatis adiutor et patrocinator, omnes successores meos archiepiscopos, omnesque ecclesiasticas vel saeculares potestates per dominum Iesum Christum et apostolorum eius reuerentiam obtestor, atque apostolica patris nostri papae Gregorii interminatione interdico, ne quisquam unquam ullam potestatem aut dominatum aut imperium in hoc dominicum vel apostolicum monasterium, vel terras vel ecclesias ad illud pertinentes, usurpare praesumat, nec ulla prorsus subiugationis aut servitutis aut tributi conditione, vel in magno vel in minimo, dei ministros inquietet aut opprimat. Abbatem a suis fratribus electum in eodem monasterio, non ad suum famulatum sed ad dominicum ministerium, ordinet, nec sibi hunc obaudire sed deo suadeat: nec uero sibi subiectum sed fratrem, sed consortem, sed collegam et comministrem in opus dominicum eum reputet. Non ibi missas, quasi ad suae ditionis altare, nec ordinationes vel benedictiones usurpativae sine abbatis vel fratrum petitione exercent. Nullum sibi ius consuetudinarium, vel in uilissima re exigat, quatenus pacis concordia unum sint in domino utrinque. Nec quisquam, quod absit, dominandi dissidio, in iudicium incidat diaboli, qui superbiae tyrannide corruit de coelo. Reges gentium, inquit dominus, dominantur eorum; uos autem non sic. Cumque ab alienis, non a filiis, accipiantur tributa, sic ipse dominus concludit; Ergo liberi sunt filii. Qua ergo irreuerentia patres ecclesiarum in filios regni dei sibi uendicant dominationem, maxime autem in hanc ecclesiam sanctorum thesaurariam, in cuius materno utero tot pontificum Doroberniae, regum ac principum, corpora



speramus alma reponenda sepulturae requie, ex auctoritate scilicet apostolica et hinc ad aeternam gloriam resuscitanda. Tales supremi iudicis amicos si quis offendere non metuens huius priuilegii statuta uiolauerit, uel uiolatorem imitando uim suam tenuerit, sciat se apostolico beati Petri gladio per suum uicarium Gregorium puniendum, nisi emendauerit. Haec ergo omnia, uti hic sunt scripta, apostolica ipsius institutoris nostri Gregorii comprobatione et auctoritate seruanda sancimus, suoque ore confirmamus, praesente glorioso rege Aethilberhto, cum filio suo Aedbaldo, et collaudante cum ipso et omnibus optimatibus regiis, atque ultro uolentibus reuerentissimis fratribus nostris, a sancta Romana ecclesia huc mecum uel ad me in euangelium domini destinatis, scilicet Laurencio, quem nobis deo fauente successorem constituimus, et Mellito Lundoniae episcopo, et Iusto Rosensi episcopo, et Petro uenerabili eiusdem monasterii principum apostolorum abbate primo, cum caeteris in domino adiutoribus meis, obnixie postulantibus, simulque in eos qui haec fideliter seruauerint benedictionem; aut in impoenitentes, quod nolumus, transgressores, dampnationem exercentibus.

---

## VI.

### \* EÁDBALD OF KENT, 618.

✠ IN nomine patris et filii et spiritus sancti! Ego Aedbaldu rex, gloriosi regis Aethilberhti filius, quem prothodoctor et apostolus Anglorum Augustinus cum suo regno ab aeternis inferorum cruciatibus eripuit, et dealbatum fonte baptismatis sanctorum collegio copulauit, per uenerabilem Laurencium, beati Augustini discipulum, quem ipse pater nouellae adhuc Anglorum ecclesiae sibi successorem in archiepiscopatum ordinauerat, tandem sermonibus assiduis et signis ac plagis





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Æadbaldi copula, uexillo adorandae crucis armaui. ✠ Ego Mellitus Lundoniae episcopus, signo sanctae crucis quae uidi astipulor. ✠ Ego Iustus Rosensis episcopus, laudo et subscribo. ✠ Ego Egberhtus signo crucis libenter corroboro. ✠ Ego Ercumberhtus, attestante uenerandae ✠ [signo], gratanter concedo, contestor et subscribo. ✠ Ego Suebhardus consensi. ✠ Ego Guthardus subscribo.

Actum est autem anno ab incarnatione saluatoris nostri Iesu Christi sexcentesimo octauodecimo, indictione sexta.

---

VII.

\* COENUUEALHA OF WESSEX, 670.

✠ REGNANTE ac gubernante nos domino nostro Iesu Christo! Nichil intulimus in hunc mundum, uerum nec auferre quid possumus; ideo terrenis coelestia et caducis aeterna mercanda sunt; quapropter ego Cedualla<sup>1</sup> terram quae dicitur Ferramere, unum cassatum, Beorhtuualdo abbati libenter largior, necnon duas paruas insulas, hoc est cum captura piscium in utraque parte stagni, cum paludibus, siluis, pascuis apium, et omnibus ad se pertinentibus, dabo ei, ut habeat diebus uitae suae, et post obitum suum cui-cumque uoluerit derelinquat. Corroborauimus nunc, crucisque signo confirmato hoc donatium stabili iure gratum et ratum decerno durare quamdiu uixero, poli terras atque aequora circa aethera siderum iusso moderamine uoluet. Si quis autem nisus fuerit huius meae donacionis testamentum confringere aut adimere conatur, ipse acrius multatus sit infernalis ergastuli poena demersus, quam eo daemon uel diis dampnatorum parauit.

<sup>1</sup> The copyist has mistaken Coenuuealha for the more famous but later Caeduuealha.



✠ Ego Cōenualla basilleos Westsaxonum propriae manus subscripcione sanctae crucis designaui effigiem, ut nemo qui se regeneratum in Christo nouerit huius largicionis donum mutare praesumat. ✠ Signum manus Theodori archiepiscopi. ✠ Signum manus Leuteri episcopi. ✠ Signum manus Hedde abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Aldhelmi abbatis.

Scripta est haec cartula priuilegii anno incarnationis Christi DCLXX.

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VIII.

\* ÔSUUINI OF KENT, Jan. 27th, 675.

✠ IN nomine domini Iesu Christi saluatoris! Ego Osuinus rex Cantuariorum, aliquod munusculum pro deo destino dare, ut sit refrigerium animae meae in perpetuum et uigilet mea memoria cum sanctis in sublime; anno secundo regni mei, indictione autem tertia, sub die vi. kalend. Februarii, pro remedio animae meae et absolutione peccatorum meorum, ecclesiastico iure concedo quandam terram quae dicitur Sturrie, id est decem manentes ex ea, cum siluis et campis ac paludibus, cum fluminibus ac fontibus, cum pratis ac pomeriis, et cum omnibus utensilibus, in ipsa quantitate sicut principes a regibus antiquitus pardonatum possederunt, almae Aebbae abbatisae atque carnali propinquitate proximae, in deoque matri, monasteriali iuri dono perpetuo; quatinus habeat possideatque proprio arbitrio, et cuicumque uoluerit uiuens uel moriens habeat integram facultatem condonare, tantum in domino. Istud autem territorium a me modo commemoratum ac pro deo pardonatum, in praesentia principum meorum qui ad praesens haberi possunt, hoc est Cantuariorum quos iure ac propria nostra potestate adipiscimur, pro testimonio confirmationis ad subscribendum ac ad consenciendum mihi huic donationi conduxim in hunc locum qui dicitur



Dorouernis, confirmamus stabiliter in aeuum ; ut quisquis hanc donacionem meam mente maliuola dirumpere temptauerit, sciat se coram deo et sanctis angelis eius aeterno anathemate reum : quisquis uero bene addendo custodierit sit benedictus in saecula.

✠ Theodorus gratia dei archiepiscopus, rogatus a rege, subscripsi. ✠ Ego Osuuyus rex propria manu subscripsi et consensi. ✠ Ego Suebardus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Adrianus abbas indignus subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Ecce. ✠ Signum Osfridi.

---

IX.

\* HLÓÐHARI OF KENT, April 1st, 675.

✠ IN nomine domini dei et saluatoris Iesu Christi ! Ego Lotharius rex Cantuariorum, anno regni nostri primo, indictione tertia, sub die kalendarum Aprilis, cum consilio uenerabilis archiepiscopi Theodori atque consensu primorum meorum, terram trium aratrorum in marisco qui appellatur Stodmerch iuxta Fordeuicum, cum pratis, campis, siluis, fontanis, paludibus, fluminibus et omnibus ad eandem pertinentibus rebus, in ipsa quantitate sicut antiquitus praedecessores mei reges praedicti libere tenuerunt, abbati et monasterio beati Petri, apostolorum principis, quod situm est iuxta ciuitatem Dorouernis in suburbio, in sempiterno possidenda concedimus et confirmamus ; ita ut nec nobis nec aliquibus successorum nostrorum, regum siue principum aut etiam ecclesiasticarum dignitatum gradibus, nefario temeritatis ausu aliquando infringere uel diminuere aliquid de donatione nostra liceat ; sed pro remedio animae meae, et absolutione peccatorum meorum, ita ut praedixi, famulis dei absque aliqua laesione omnia praedicta in aeuum stabilia permaneant. Quisquis autem haeredum successorumque meorum regum Canciae, uel si quilibet saecularium dignitatum





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praesentia, adiuuante domino, perpetravi sub manus christicolarum, gubernatrici Aebbae perpetuali donatione redegei, ut teneat possideat ac ipsa semper successoresque eius incommutabili decreto defendant; atque ad confirmationem istius cartulae cespitem terrae supradictae sacro altari superposui, ut omnis quicumque ausus fuerit aliquid ex ea temerare aut minuere uel etiam transmutare, sine uoluntate possidencium, sciat se alienum a participatione regni coelestis<sup>1</sup> effici, et a coetu fidelium segregatum nisi regulariter emendauerit. ✠ Signum sanctae crucis propria manu expressi.

✠ Signum manus Osuuini regis. ✠ Ego Suebhardus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Acce.

---

## XI.

\* LIUTHARI, Aug. 26th, 675.

✠ SOLET enim plerumque contingere ut autumpnali corrodio facessante caumate, brumalia semencium uentorum flabra reciprocis alternatim cursibus succedant, quibus procellosa pelagi caerula innormesque oceani gurgites hinc atque illinc quatiuntur, quatinus nauigero tramite nullus absque discrimine nauigans, furibundo flamine carbasa rumpente, transfretat. Ita nimirum prostrata mundi pompulenta gloria, iamque appropinquante eiusdem termino, fluctuantes saeculi turbines incumbere euidenti experimento uidentur; ut reuera et ullo absque ancipiti scrupulo, illa domini praesagia nostris tandem temporibus comprobantur impleri; quibus ita coelesti oraculo effatus est dictus<sup>2</sup>: Uidete ficulneam et omnes arbores, et caetera. Porro inter has turbulentas saeculi tempestates scrip-

<sup>1</sup> 'Ecclesiis' in text, corrected by a later hand in the margin.

<sup>2</sup> Dicens.



turarum flectenda sunt gubernacula tociusque nauigii armatura atque instrumenta paranda; quatinus garulo syrenarum carmine spreto, ratis recto cursu ad portum patriae prospere perducatur. Quamobrem ego Leutherius gratia dei episcopus, pontificatus Saxoniae gubernacula regens, rogatus ab abbatibus qui sub iure parochiae nostrae coenobiali monachorum agmini pastoralis sollicitudine praeesse noscuntur, uti terram illam cui uocabulum est Mealdumesburg Aldhelmo presbitero ad degendam regulariter uitam conferre largiriue dignarer: in quo uidelicet loco a primo aeuo infanciae atque ab ipso tyrocinio rudimentorum liberarum liberalibus litterarum studiis eruditus et in gremio sanctae matris ecclesiae nutritus uitam duxit, et ob hoc potissimum hanc petitionem superna caritas suggerere uidetur: Quapropter praedictorum abbatum precibus annuens, ipsum locum de quo supra mencionem fecimus tam sibi, quam suis successoribus normam sanctae regulae sollerti deuotione sequentibus, superna petitione coactus, ultroneus impendo; quatinus in futuram posteritatem, remota omni disceptationum conflictu ingruencium, quiete continua et pace perpetua deo famulari sine impedimento ualeant. Sed ne forte contencionis occasio deinceps emergat, hac rationis condicione interposita roborans confirmo, ut nullus succedencium demum episcoporum seu regum hanc nostrae donacionis cartulam tyrannica fretus potestate uiolenter inuadat; asserens pertinaciter quod de iure potestatis episcopatus ablatum sequestratumque fuisse uideretur. Et iccirco sciendum est et contra aemulos promulgandum, multomagis me commodum augmentumque pontificalis ecclesiae addidisse, quam per uim abstraxisse. Postremo ut firmior praefatae donacionis largicio iugiter mansura sit, praedictos abbates propriis manibus subscribere iussimus. Quod si quis haec scripta et decreta nostrae diffinicionis irrita facere nitetur, sciat se ante tribunal Christi



rationem redditurum. Actum publice iuxta flumen Bladon vii<sup>o</sup>. kalendarum Septembris. Anno incarnationis Christi DC.LXXV<sup>o</sup>.

✠ Ego Leutherius ac si indignus episcopus, rogatus a fratribus, hanc donacionis cartam subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cunuberhtus abbas subscripsi. ✠ Ego Haeddi abbas subscripsi. ✠ Ego Wymberhtus presbiter subscripsi. ✠ Ego Hiddi presbiter subscripsi. ✠ Ego Hedda subscripsi.

---

## XII.

### ÔSRÎC OF THE HWICCAS, Nov. 6th, 676.

✠ REGNANTE ac gubernante regimonia regni Osrici regis, anno recapitulationis Dionysii, id est ab incarnatione domini nostri Iesu Christi, sexcentesimo septuagesimo sexto, indictione quarta, mense Nouembris, viii<sup>o</sup>. idus Nouembris. Cum nobis euangelica et apostolica dogmata post baptismi sacramentum, deo suffragante, fuissent delata, et omnia simulacrorum figmenta ridiculosa funditus diruta, tum primitus ad augmentum catholicae et orthodoxae fidei pontificalem dumtaxat cathedram erigentes, iuxta synodalia decreta construere censuimus. At uero nunc cum gratia superna longe lateque profusius enitesceret, coenobialia etiam loca sparsim uirorum, sparsimque uirginum deo famulancium, erigenda statuimus, ut ubi truculentus et nefandus prius draco errorum deceptionibus seruiebat, nunc uersa uice ecclesiasticus ordo in clero conuersantium domino patrocinate gaudens tripudiet: Quamobrem ego supradictus Osricus rex, pro remedio animae meae et indulgentia piaculorum meorum, hoc priuilegium impendere ad laudem nominis domini nostri decreueram: id est Bertanae abbatissae, quae pro christiana deuotione et pro spe aeternae beatitudinis dei famulam se profitetur, centum manentes, qui adiacent ciuitati quae uocatur Hât Bathu,





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sinistram ituri sunt. Actum in mense Octobrio, Indictione 1X<sup>a</sup>.

Ego Theodorus, gratia dei archiepiscopus, subscripsi. ✠ Ego Putta, gratia dei episcopus, subscripsi. ✠ Ego Bosel, gratia dei episcopus, subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aethelredus, rex gratia dei, subscripsi. ✠

---

#### XIV.

#### \* SUAEBHARD OF KENT, March 1st, 676.

IN nomine domini nostri Iesu Christi saluatoris! Ego Suabhardus rex Cantuariorum, anno secundo regni nostri, indictione IIII. sub die kalendarum Martis, cum consilio uenerabilis archiepiscopi Theodori atque consensu primorum meorum, sed et cum consilio quoque ac consensu patris mei Sebbe regis, terram quae dicitur In Sudaneie intra insulam Thanet, quae et continet antiquo iure XLIII. manentes, quibus modo addidimus curtem XII. manentes habentem, ultra insulam in loco qui dicitur Sturgeh, cum siluis et paludibus, cum fluminibus et fontibus, cum pratis et pomariis, cum domibus cunctisque utensilibus, et omnibus ad eandem pertinentibus rebus, in ipsa quantitate sicut antiquitus principes a regibus sibi perdonatam haberant, Aebbae abbatis iure aecclesiastico ac monasteriali, et quibuscunque successoribus ipsa uoluerit derelinquere, tantum in domino, in sempiternum possidendam perdonamus; ita ut nec nobis nec aliquibus successorum nostrorum regum siue principum, aut etiam ecclesiasticarum dignitatum gradibus, nefario temeritatis ausu, aliquando infringere uel diminuere aliquid de ea liceat: sed pro remedio animae meae, et absolutione peccatorum meorum, ita ut praedixi, famulis Dei perdonata absque aliqua laesione in aeuum permaneat. Igitur hanc terrarum praescriptarum lar-



gitionem, non solum pro pecunia quadam seu<sup>1</sup> propinquitate, sed mercede quoque ab omnipotente deo, Aebbae abbatissae aeternaliter possidendam contradimus, et confirmamus. Hanc autem donationem meam cum consensu et uoluntate praecellentissimi regis Aedilredi fecimus. Quisquis autem haeredum successorum meorum regum Canciae, uel si quilibet saecularium dignitatum aut ecclesiasticarum, de supradicta donatione, quam pro aeterna remuneratione animae meae omnipotenti deo, ad utilitatem famulantium ei, in ius monasteriale constat esse largitam, aliquid disrumpere aut inmutare uel irritum facere temptauerit, sciat se sine dubio omnipotenti deo fraudem facere, et proinde coram eo et sanctis angelis eius aeterno anathemate reum. Quicumque uero haec quae largita praediximus sub pia protectione custodierit, uel pro dei intuitu misericorditer auxerit, sit benedictus in saecula, audiatque in die nouissimo tremendi examinis ab ipso iudice omnium Christo domino, aeternae benedictionis uocem, Uenite benedicti patris mei, percipite regnum quod uobis paratum est ab origine mundi. Manentem igitur hanc cartulam in sua semper firmitate, cum religiosis testibus signo dominicae crucis, in hoc loco qui dicitur Dorouernis, stabiliter in aeuum confirmamus.

✠ Ego Sueaberdus rex Canciae suprascripta signo sanctae crucis per propriam manum roborauī. ✠ Signum manus Gumbercti. ✠ Signum Gebredi. ✠ Signum Osfridi. ✠ Signum Urbaldi. ✠ Signum Hagona. ✠ Signum Egisan. ✠ Signum Bernhardi. ✠ Signum Sebbe regis. ✠ Signum Ecce. ✠ Signum Raban. ✠ Signum Albercti. ✠ Signum Gudhardi. ✠ Theodorus, gratia dei archiepiscopus, subscripsi. ✠ Ego Adrianus abbas subscripsi. ✠ Ego Osuini propria manu subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Aedilredis regis Merciorum, dum ille infirmauerat terram nostram

<sup>1</sup> MS. sui.



in hoc loco erat qui dicitur Mirafeld atque Stapulford. Anno ab incarnatione Christi DCLXXVI<sup>o</sup>, Indictione IIII<sup>a</sup>, VIII. die mensis Ianuarii, prima feria.<sup>1</sup>

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XV.

\* SUAEBHARD OF KENT.

IN nomine saluatoris! Ego Suabertus rex Cantuariorum miserationum domini memor quas erga me exercuit; ideo ergo rectum iudicavi, ut pro aeterna salute animae meae atque meorum aliquid munusculum domino impenderem, id est, terram quae sita est in Sturige duorum aratrorum, atque trium aratrorum in loco qui dicitur Botdesham, monasteriali potestati atque regulariter uiuentibus subicerem. Quod hodierna die, domino auxiliante, compleui, dedique uenerabili abbatisae Aebbae, ut ibi seruiencium deo preces protegentur atque pro uita mea sine defectu in conspectu dei effundantur. Et ad confirmationem donationis istius signum sanctae crucis expressi, necnon et principes meos ut similiter facerent rogavi, sicque fecerunt; ut si aliquis ausu nefariae temeritatis aliquid ex ea auferre uel minuere uoluerit, nouerit se alienatum a deo in resurrectione iustorum.

✠ Signum Suaberti regis.      ✠ Signum Gumbercti.  
✠ Signum Æcci.

---

XVI.

HLÔÐHARI OF KENT, May, 679.

✠ IN ñ d̄ nostri saluatoris iĥu xp̄i. ego hlotharius rex cantuariorum pro remedium animae meae dono

<sup>1</sup> This charter, if not absolutely a forgery, has been interpolated. As it stands, it appears that Æðelred confirmed it before it was granted; but it is probable that in the original it was VIII. die mensis Junii, which day fell on a Sunday. It is not to be passed over that Æðelred was making war in Kent in this year.





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- ✠ signum manus gudhardi.
- ✠ signum manus bernhardi.
- ✠ signum manus uelhisci :

---

XVII.

\* ÔSHERE OF THE HWICCAS, 680.

✠ REGNANTE in perpetuum ac gubernante domino nostro saluatore saecula uniuersa! Anno recapitulationis Dionisii, id est, ab incarnatione Christi sexcentesimo octuagesimo, Indictione sexta reuoluta. Nihil ergo intulimus, secundum apostolum, in hunc mundum, uerum nec auferre quid possumus. Qua propter, ego Oshere rex, catholicam regulam maiorum meorum humili qua ualeo imitatione subsecutus, praeditus etiam ad maiorem confirmationem licentia praestantissimi regis Britanniae, domini scilicet mei, nomine indito Aethilred, pro absolutione scelerum meorum, terram xxx. manentium in loco qui dicitur Rippell, confirmantibus episcopis ac principibus et abbatibus, Frithouualdo, monacho Uuinfridi episcopi, tradidi; quatinus ibidem ecclesiasticae conuersionis normam, Christo fauente, exerceat. Et eam liberam conscribo ab omnibus tributis et uectigalibus, cum omnibus utilitatibus ad illam aeclesiam rite pertinentibus, siluaticis, pascuis, campis, pratis, fluminalibus piscationibus, et ab omni opere regale, a pastu regis et principis et subditorum eorum; quid plura? ab omni ui tribulationis parui et magni, nisi quatuor causis, expeditionem, arcem et pontem facere, et singulare praetium soluere aduersus alium, et ad poenam nihil: de caeteris omnibus in sua libertate haec terra segura permaneat in sempiternum, in almo dei nomine precimus. Si quis uero contra hanc donationem uenire tyrannica presumptione conauerit, supernae indigna-



tionis offendiculum horrescens, et in tremendo examine ultimae discussionis districtam animaduersionem pertimescat.

---

XVIII.

\* CAEDUUEALHA OF WESSEX, 680.

✠ IN nomine saluatoris n̄ri ih̄u xp̄i. Nihil intulimus in hunc mundum uerum nec auferre quid poterimus. Idcirco terrenis et caducis æterna et coelestia supernæ patriæ premia mercanda sunt. Quapropter ego Cædualla disponente dño rex rogatus a uenerando uuilfrido æpiscopo ut sibi aliquantulam terram ad suffragium uitæ suæ f̄rmque suorum qui secum conuersarentur et in diuino seruitio huius peregrinationis quã uir uenerandus diutius peregit pro relaxatione criminũ et perpetui premi receptaculo largiri dignarer. cuius precibus annuens terrenam sibi possessiunculam de qua sugerere uidebatur pro remedio animæ meæ libenter inpendi. et hanc libertatẽ sub estimatione. LXX. tributariorum taxauimus in illo loco qui dicitur pecganham aliisque locis circumquaque adiacentibus hoc est scrippaneg. ceorlatun. bucganora. beorganstede. northbeorganstede. crymesham se northra mundanham. other mundanham. et hæc omnia uenerabili uiro uuilfrido cum consensu et deuota confirmatione ecgualdi subreguli in potestatem propriæ dominationis pro suæ nimis sc̄itatis conuersatione. et n̄rorum peccatorum relaxatione redigimus. insuper addidimus f̄ribus suis d̄o seruientibus ad æcclesiam sc̄i andreae super ripam positum orientalẽ portus qui dicitur uedringmutha. f̄ram quæ dicitur tangmere. X. tributariorum. ut eis quamdiu fides catholica regnet hinc necessaria corporalis usus specialiter prebeantur. Si quis uero quod absit contra hæc decreta firmiter statuta contraire et ea soluere conatus fuerit nouerit



se ante tribunal examinis xpi rationem redditurum et habere partem cum iuda traditore dñi nri ihu xpi. in inferno inferiore.<sup>1</sup>

Anno dominicæ incarnationis . DCLXXX. ego cæd-  
ualla rex a prefato rogatus æp̃o hanc donationis meæ  
cartulam scribere iussi . et absque trimoda necessitate  
totius xp̃iani populi id est arcis munitione . pontis  
emendatione . exercitii congestionem liberam perstrinxi.  
ego ecguald subregulus mente deuota consensi et sub-  
scripsi. ✠ ego æthelredus domino prestante rex pro  
remedio animæ meæ hanc donationē corroborauī. ✠  
ego hæddi ep̃s consensi et subscr̃. ✠ ego ercenualdus  
ep̃s cons̃. et subscr̃. ✠ ego aldhelmus scolasticus  
archiepi theodori hanc cartulam dictitans prout regis  
maiorumque inperia statuerunt scribere iussi. illisque  
sancientibus constitutum est . ut beato uiro uuilfrido  
liberum remaneret arbitrium in uita sua de hac raris  
possessiuncula . et post obitum cuicumque uoluerit in  
æternam possessionem iure hereditario derelinqueret.

Pax cunctis legentibus. consensūq: prebentibus.  
sitque laus utentibus. luxque perpes credentibus.  
uirtus uita fauentibus. rite constet senatibus anglo-  
rum atque cetibus qui dona firment nutibus.

Indorsed.—✠ uuilfridus episcop. cartulam hanc mul-  
timodasque et humillimas theodoro archiepiscopo in  
xpo salutes:.

---

## XIX.

HEADDI, July 6th, 680.<sup>2</sup>

REGNANTE ac gubernante nos domino nostro Iesu  
Christo ! mense Iulio, pridie nonas, Indictione quinta,

<sup>1</sup> Here follow the boundaries, in-  
serted in Latin, and in the same  
hand.

<sup>2</sup> There is nothing in this charter  
to throw doubt upon its authenti-  
city, except the disagreement be-  
tween the year and the indiction,  
which should be VIII. But this  
error is very intelligible in a modern  
copy.





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iram et indignationem aeterni iudicis incursum per tempora saeculorum. Haec uero cartula scripta est anno ab incarnatione Christi DCLXXXI. Feliciter augeat Christus uitam aeternam augentibus hanc donationem. ✠ Ego Hedde episcopus hanc cartulam scripsi. ✠ Signum manus Baldredi regis. ✠ Ego Aldelm abbas subscripsi.

---

XXI.

\* AETHILMÔD, October, 681.

IN nomine domini dei saluatoris nostri Iesu Christi! Ego Aethelmod, per consensum regis Aethelredi, pro remedio animae meae, dono tibi Bernguidi uenerabili abbatissae et Folcburgi, et per uos monasterio uestro, manentes xx<sup>ti</sup>. iuxta flumen quod appellatur Ceruelle, ut habeatis iure dominioque uestro, quam monasterio uestro uindictis. Si quis uero contra hanc donationis meae cartulam uenire temptauerit, sciat se rationem redditurum in die iudicii. Et ut haec donatio mea in sua firmitate persistat, subter propria manu signum sanctae crucis feci, et Theodorum sanctissimum archiepiscopum ut subscriberet rogavi, simul et Aethelredum regem ut subscriberet rogavi. Actum in mense Octobri, Indictione nona.

Signum sanctae crucis Aethelmodi. ✠ Aethelredus, rex gratia dei, ascriptio. ✠ Theodorus, gratia dei archiepiscopus, subscripsi. ✠ Putta, gratia dei episcopus, subscripsi. ✠ Bosel, gratia dei episcopus, subscripsi. ✠

---

XXII.

\* AETHILRED OF MERCIA, 681.

✠ IN nomine domini dei nostri Iesu Christi saluatoris! Nihil intulimus, ut apostolicum testatur oraculum, in hunc mundum, uerum nec auferre quid pos-



sumus; iccirco terrenis ac caducis aeterna et mansura mercanda sunt. Quapropter ego Aethelredus rex Merciorum, rogatus a patricio meo et propinquo Coenfritho, pro remedio animae meae ac pro oratione fratrum in Meldunesburg deo seruientium, xxx. cassatos ab occidentali parte stratae publicae, et non longe in alio loco quindecim, prope Tectan monasterium, Aldelmo abbati et successoribus eius in libertatem terrenarum seruitutum perpetualem, libenter largitus sum. Et hanc donationem meam sacrae crucis signaculo propria manu confirmaui, et fauorabilium uiro- rum claro consensu corroboraui, ut nulla post obitum nostrum regalis audacitas nec saecularis dignitas contra decretum nostrum confringere temptauerit. Siquis uero hanc donationem augere et amplificare uoluerit, augeat deus partem eius in libro uitae: quod si quis, tyrannica potestate fretus, demere uel auferre satagerit, sciat se coram Christo nouemque angelorum ordinibus rationem redditurum. Scripta est autem haec cyrographi cartula anno ab incarnatione Christi DCLXXXI. Indictione IX.

✠ Signum manus Aethelredi regis Merciorum. ✠ Signum manus Coenfrithi comitis. ✠ Ego Theodorus, gratia dei archiepiscopus, confirmaui. ✠ Ego Saxulfus episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Bosellus episcopus subscripsi.

---

### XXIII.

#### \* AETHILRED OF MERCIA, 681.

✠ IN nomine domini dei nostri Iesu Christi saluatoris! Nihil intulimus, ut apostolicum testatur oraculum, in hunc mundum, uerum nec auferre quid possumus; iccirco terrenis ac caducis aeterna et mansura mercanda sunt. Quapropter ego Aethelredus rex Merciorum, rogatus a patricio meo et propinquo meo



Coenfritho meo, pro remedio animae meae ac pro oratione fratrum in Meldunesburg deo seruientium, xv cassatos prope Tectan monasterium Aldelmo abbati libenter largitus sum. Siquis uero hanc donationem augere et amplificare uoluerit, augeat deus partem eius in libro uitae : quod si quis, tyrannica potestate fretus, demere uel auferre satagerit, sciat se coram Christo nouemque angelorum ordinibus in tremendo examine rationem redditurum. Scripta est autem haec cyrographi cartula anno ab incarnatione domini DCLXXX. Indictione IX.

✠ Ego Theodorus, gratia dei archiepiscopus, confirmaui. ✠ Ego Saxulfus episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Bosel episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Aethelredi regis Merciorum. ✠ Signum Cenfrithi comitis.

---

#### XXIV.

\* CAEDUUEALHA OF WESSEX, Aug. 682.

✠ OMNIA quae uidentur temporalia sunt, et quae non uidentur aeterna sunt ; iccirco uisibilibus inuisibilia et caducis coelestia praeferenda sunt. Quamobrem ego Caedualla, regnante domino rex, aliquod emolumentum ecclesiae impendere decreui ; id est terram ex utraque parte siluae quae appellatur Kemele, scilicet xxxii. cassatos. Et ita fixa et immobilis haec donatio perseueret ut nullus hoc decretum frangere aut irritum facere praesumat. Siquis uero, superba inflatus tyrannide, hanc donationem uiolare aut praeuaricare temptauerit, nouerit se in tremendo cunctorum examine, coram iudice uiuorum et mortuorum rationem redditurum. Scripta est uero haec cartula Indictione I, mense Augusto, Anno ab incarnatione domini DCLXXXII.

✠ Ego Haeddi episcopus consensi. ✠ Signum manus Caeduallani regis. ✠ Signum manus Cisi. ✠ Ego Uuynberchtus subscripsi.





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## XXVI.

\* BERHTUUALD, July 30th, 685.<sup>1</sup>

✠ EA quae secundum timorem et amorem domini religiosa largitionis deuotione diffiniuntur, quamuis solus sermo sufficeret, tamen, pro incerta futurorum temporum conditione, scriptis publicis et documentorum gestis sunt confirmanda. Quapropter ego Berthuualdus, regnante domino rex, pro remedio animae meae et indulgentia commissorum criminum, aliquam terram conferre largirique Aldelmo abbati decreueram; id est illam de orientali plaga fluminis, cuius uocabulum est Temis, iuxta uadum qui appellatur Sumerford, XL<sup>a</sup> cassatos: ea scilicet definitione ut omni seruitute saecularium potestatum portio terrae illius perpetualiter sit libera, ad seruiendum necessitatibus monachorum deo seruentium, in monasterio quod nominatur Maeldubesburg. Et ut firmitus ac tenacius haec deuotio in perpetuum roboretur, etiam praecellentissimum monarchum Athelredum regem ad testimonium asciuimus; cuius consensu et confirmatione haec munificentia acta est. Si quis contra hanc donationem uenire temptauerit, aut tyrannica fretus potestate uiolenter inuaserit, sciat se in tremendo cunctorum examine coram Christo rationem redditurum. Actum publice in synodo iuxta uadum Berghford; mense Iulio, tricesima die mensis eiusdem, Indictione XIII<sup>a</sup>, Anno ab incarnatione domini sexcentesimo XXXV<sup>o</sup>.

## XXVII.

EÁDRÍC OF KENT, June, 686.

IN nomine saluatoris, cuius pietate regimen assequuti sumus, quo etiam gubernante regnamus, et om-

<sup>1</sup> The date 685 is undoubtedly false. Supposing an L to have been omitted in the transcription, we can reconcile the indiction with the year, and account for the mention of Æðelred of Mercia.



nia quae habere cognoscimur ipso largiente habita possidemus ! Pro qua re ego Eadricus, rex Cantuariorum, a praesenti die et tempore, terram iuris mei, quamuis praetium competens acceperim, hoc est argenti libras decem, in monasterio beati Petri apostolorum principis quod situm est iuxta ciuitatem Dorouernis, una cum consensu meorum patriciorum, in perpetuum donauit et dono: quae supradicta terra coniuncta est terrae quam sanctae memoriae Lotharius, quondam rex, beato Petro, pro remedio animae suae, donasse cognoscitur; quae terra determinatur, ex una parte habet uadum quod appellatur Fordstreta publica indirectum, et a parte alia flumen quod nominatur Stur; omnes terras sationales, cum pratis, campis, siluis, fontanis uel mariscum quod appellatur Stodmersche, cum omnibus ad supradictam terram aratorum trium pertinentia, beato Petro, eiusque familiae in qua nunc praeesse Adrianus abbas dinoscitur, tradidi possidendam, et quicquid exinde facere uoluerint, utpote domini, liberam habeant potestatem. Sicut donatum est manere decerno; nunquam me haeredesque meos uel successores contra hanc donationis meae cartulam, ullo tempore, esse uenturos: quod si aliquis praesumpserit, sit separatus a participatione corporis et sanguinis domini nostri Iesu Christi, manente hac cartula nihilominus in sua firmitate. De quibus omnibus supradictis ac a me definitis, ut ne aliquis in posterum sit aduersitas, propria manu signum sanctae crucis expressi, et sanctissimum atque reuerentissimum Theodorum archiepiscopum nostrum ut subscriberet rogavi, et alios testes similiter. Actum in mense Iunio, Indictione XIII<sup>a</sup>.

Ego Aedricus rex in hanc donationis meae cartulam signum sanctae crucis expressi. ✠ Ego Theodorus, archiepiscopus gratia Dei, subscripsi. ✠



## XXVIII.

\* BALDRED, Aug. 688.<sup>1</sup>

✠ IN nomine domini dei nostri et saluatoris nostri Iesu Christi ! Nihil intulimus in hunc mundum, uerum nec auferre quid possumus ; iccirco terrenis ac caducis aeterna coelestis patriae praemia mercanda sunt. Quapropter ego Baldred aliquam terram Aldelmo abbati impendere decreui, id est iuxta flumen Abon et circa siluam quae uocatur Stelcanleag et Crebanburg c. manentes ; et ab eo c. cassatos pro uice suscepi, id est ex plaga orientali siluae cuius uocabulum est Bradon : et hoc cum consilio et confirmatione Kentuini regis et omnium principum ac senatorum eius roboratum est. Si quis contra haec scripta uenire temptauerit, sciat se ante tribunal aeterni iudicis et coram sanctis angelis rationem redditurum. Scripta est haec donatio, immo uicaria commutatio, mense Augusto, Ind. 1<sup>a</sup>, Anno ab incarnatione Christi DC. octuagesimo octauo.

✠ Ego Headdi episcopus confirmaui. ✠ Signum manus Ceduallani regis. ✠ Signum manus Baldredi. ✠ Signum manus Cisi. ✠ Ego Uuudda subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuinberchtus subscripsi.

## XXIX.

\* CAEDUUEALHA OF WESSEX, Aug. 19th, 688.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Iesu Christi saluatoris ! Omnia quae uidentur temporalia sunt, et quae non uidentur aeterna sunt : et iterum lubrica saeculi fragilitas ostenditur, cum per eundem apostolum dicitur, Nihil intulimus in hunc mundum, uerum nec auferre

<sup>1</sup> The mention of Centuini here is suspicious: he was no longer king of Wessex in 688. The most remarkable circumstance, however, is, that he does not appear among the witnesses, while his successor, Caeduuealha, does. Now, the dates suit Caeduuealha perfectly.





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batis a parte meridiana, a praesenti die et tempore, monasterio beati Petri apostoli, in quo praeesse Adrianus dinoscitur, qui a Romana urbe directus est, in perpetuum contuli possidendum; tam ei dum aduixerit, quam eius congregationi quae post eum habitura est; ut praefatam terram unius aratri sibi uendicent ac defendant, cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus. Quicumque uero, tam ego quam posteri mei qui in loco meo successerint, contra hanc largitatis meae cartulam quolibet tempore uenire praesumpserint, sint separati a corpore et sanguine domini nostri Iesu Christi; manente hac cartula perpetualiter nihilominus donationis meae in sua firmitate; ad cuius etiam confirmationem, pro ignorantia litterarum, signum sanctae crucis expressi et testes ut subscriberent rogavi. Actum in mense Iulio, Indictione secunda.

✠ Ego Osuynus rex Canciae donator, ad omnia supradicta consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum sanctae crucis feci. ✠ Signum manus Ecce. ✠ Ego Sabertus signum feci. ✠ Signum manus Osfridi. ✠ Signum manus Uaeba. ✠ Signum manus Suydredi. ✠ Signum manus Aedilmari. ✠ Signum manus Burgredi. ✠ Signum manus Frod. ✠ Signum manus Eana.

---

### XXXI.

#### \* INI OF WESSEX, 688—690.

✠ Ego Ini rex Westsaxonum, pro animae meae remedio, reddidi terram XLV cassatorum Hean patricio et Ceolswithe, ad monasterium construendum. Quae terra appellatur in Bradanfelda et Bestleforda, et alia quae nominatur Stretlea, cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus. Cui donationi testes affuerant Aebba, Aethilbald et Eadfrith, filius Iddi, et cum iussione episcoporum Cedde, Germani, Uuinfridi. Quam terram primus de-



derat Eadfrith filius Iddi super altare in aecclesia quae ibi constructa est pro anima eius.

✠ Ego Theodorus, seruus dei archiepiscopus, consensi et subscripsi.

---

## XXXII.

### AETHILRED OF MERCIA, 691 or 692.

✠ APOSTOLUS Paulus de extremo iudicio manifestissime loquens ita dixit omnes enim stabimus ante tribunal xpi ut recipiat unusquisque prout gessit siue bonū siue malū. etiam ipse dñs in euang̃ suo manifestat dicens Ibunt impii in suppliciū aeternum iusti autem in uitā aeternam hoc sane tremendū et terribile di omnipotentis iudiciū omnibus est nobis perhorrescendū. Quapropter ego aethelred xpo donante rex Mercensiū pro absolutione criminū meorū et pro amore di uiuentis terram qui uetusto uocabulo nuncupatur heanburg et in alio loco æt austin hoc est circiter in illis duob' locis xxx. cassatorum oftforo meo uenerabili episc. in propriam possessionem tradidi ad illā ecclīā beati Petri principis apost. quae sita est in ueogorna ciuitate cū antiquis confiniis et captura pisciū et cum omnib' utilitatib' campo † in silua † in flumine ad se rite pertinentib' illi . . . . . pfruantur in aeuū; similiter etiam ab secularibus omnibus seruitutib' . . . . . leuis sint in ppetuum liberati nisi tantū . . . . . et expeditione contra hostes ñ s̃ . . . . . seruantibus minuentibus uero † con . . . . . sempiterna. amen.

✠ Ego aethilred rex ppriā donationē corroborans, titulo sc̃ae crucis subscripsi.

✠ Ego headda ep̃s 9sen. 7 sub̃s.

✠ Ego oftfor ep̃sc donationē quam a rege [accepi] propria manu 9notauī.



- ✠ Ego torhtuuald 9sen 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego eaduald 9sen 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego cille consen 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego osfrith consen. 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego ecgfrith consen. 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego tuddul consen 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego guthlac consen 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego sigiuuald consen 7 suð.
- ✠ [Ego folchere] conseñ. 7 suð.
- ✠ [Ego berhtred] conseñ. 7 suð.

---

### XXXIII.

#### \* AETHILRED OF MERCIA, 691 or 692.<sup>1</sup>

✠ APOSTOLUS Paulus de extremo iudicio domini manifestissime loquens ita refert, Omnes enim stabimus ante tribunal Christi, ut recipiat unusquisque prout gessit siue bonum siue malum; quid autem sit quod apostolus pro meritis suis quosque percepturos adfirmat, ipse dominus in euangelio suo manifestat dicens, Ibunt impii in supplicium aeternum, iusti autem in uitam aeternam: hoc sane tremendum ac terribile omnipotentis domini iudicium ego Aethilred, Christo largiente rex, tota cordis formidine sine cessatione perhorresco; quapropter ut ibidem sub praesentia almi iudicis ueniam merear adipisci, pro absolutione criminum uel meorum uel coniugis quondam meae Osthrythae, terram quae dicitur Fledanburg XLIII. cassatorum capacem, Oftforo episcopo in possessionem tradidi; ut quemadmodum primitus tradita fuerat, rursus per illius diligentiam monachorum in ea sub abbate degentium honestissima conuersatio recuperetur.

<sup>1</sup> Oftfor was elected bishop of Worcester in 691, and, dying in 692, was succeeded by Ecgwine. But Osthryð, who is here called by

Æðelred quondam coniux mea, was	alive till 697. This anachronism is
fatal to the charter and the endorse-	ment alike.





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ditione ut post diem eius terra ista sine contradictione alicuius ad Uuegernensem ecclesiam in ius episcopalis sedis sit donata, mihi et illi Oftforoque meo antecessori, in elemosinam sempiternam. Pax confirmantibus atque seruantibus; minuentibus uero uel contradicentibus dispersio perueniat sempiterna.

Aethelric. Aetheluueard. Aethelberht. Omolincg abbas. hii sunt confirmatores et testes.

---

### XXXIV.

#### \* AETHILRED OF MERCIA, 692.

✠ **TEMPORE** certo cadunt cuncta, quae in hoc saeculo possidentur, et perpetua possessione manebunt, quae propter Christum fideliter diuiduntur. Quapropter ego Aethelred, rex Merciorum, rogante me Oslauuo, qui aliquando fuit minister meus, et nunc manet in dei seruitio in ciuitate, quae nostratim dicitur Uuegerna cester, ut aliquam partem terrae, id est, x. manentium illi perdonarem. Et ego libenter petitioni eius adquiescens, particulam terrae illius, quam ille postulauit, cum campis silisque, et cum omnibus necessariis ad eam pertinentibus, deuota mente, propter Christum, et pro retributione ministerii eius, et laboribus, quos mecum diu patienterque tolerauit, iure Uueogornensis aecclesiae possidendum, et tamen, se uiuente uel etiam post obitum eius, cui uoluerit, dimittendum libenter concedendo trado: hac etiam conditione, ut cathedrae episcopalis potestati nunquam auferatur, in dei omnipotentis nomine praecipio. Est autem praefati agelli particula iuxta fluuium, quem dicunt Saluuerpe, in uico, quem nobili uocitant nomine Uuicbold. Et ut elemosina mea, quam pro omnipotente domino fidei amico meo nec non et faustae<sup>1</sup> congregationi do-

<sup>1</sup> MS. fauta.



nabo, eo amplius et altius coram deo ad crescat, terram illam in libertatem totius reipublicae, hoc est, in uectigalibus, in expeditionibus, in operibus, et in omnibus rebus concedens libenter donabo. Augentibus hanc donationem pro domino factam, augeat deus bona illius; diminuentes autem damnet et minuet regnum et potentiam eius et hic et in futuro saeculo. Amen. Hec autem acta est anno ab incarnatione domini nostri Iesu Christi. DCXCII. coram his testibus infra scriptis.

✠ Ego Aethelred rex hanc donationem mea propria manu corroborans subscripsi. ✠ Ego Berhtuuald, gratia dei archiepiscopus, consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eguine episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aethilheard consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aethiluueard consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Haelric abbas. ✠ Ego Aethelberht consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Pehtat abbas. ✠ Ego Aethelric consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Taebba abbas. ✠ Ego Osuuidus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Eaduald princeps. ✠ Ego Scefthere consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Uualdhere presbiter. ✠ Ego Eadberht consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Pineuuald exorcista.

---

XXXV.

ÔETHILRED, March, 692 or 693.

✠ IN nomine dñi. ñ. Ihu. xp̃i. saluatoris Quotiens sc̃is ac uenerabilib: locis uestris Aliquid offerre uidemur Uestra uobis reddimus non nostra Largim . . . Quapropter ego Hodilredus parens sebbi prouincia Eastsexanorum . Cum ipsius consensu propria uoluntate Sana mente integroq: consilio Tibi hedilburge abbatissae Ad augmentum monasterii tui quae dicitur Beddanhaam . perpetualiter trado et de meo iure in tuo transscribo terram Quae appellatur ricinga-



haam budinhaam deccanhaam angenlabeshaam Et campo in silua quae dicitur uuidmundesfelt Quae simul sunt coniuncta. XL. manentium usq: ad terminos quae ad eum pertinent Cum omnib: ad se pertinentib: Cum campis siluis pratis et marisco Ut tam tu quam posteri tui teneatis possideatis Et quaecumq: uolueris de eadem facere terra liberam habeatis potestatem Actum mense martio et testes competenti numero ut subscriberent rogauit Si quis contra hanc donationis kartulam uenire temptauerit aut corrumpere Ante omnipotentem dñm et iñm xpm filium eius et spm sc̃m Id est inseparabilem trinitatem Sciat se condemnatum et separatum ab omni societate xp̃iana [Manentem] hanc kartulam donationis in sua nihilominus firmitate. et ut firma et inconcussum sit donum termini sunt autem isti huius taerre cum quib: accingit̃ ab oriente writolaburna ab aquilone centinces triow and hanchemstede ab australe flumen tamisa Siquis autem hanc donationem augere uoluerit augeat dñs bona sua in regione uiuorum cum sc̃is suis sine fine amen.

✠ Ego sebbi rex eastsañ pro confirmatione subscripsi. Ego oedilraedus donator subscripsi. ✠ Ego ercnuualdus episcopus consensi et subscripsi. Ego uuilfridus ep̃s conseñs et sub̃sp̃. ✠ Ego haedde ep̃s consñ et sb̃. Ego guda p̃r et abbas consentiens sub̃s. ✠ Ego egcbaldus p̃r et ãb̃ conseñ et sub̃sp̃.

✠ Ego hagona p̃r et ãb̃b̃ coñs et sub̃sp̃.

✠ Ego hooc p̃r et ãb̃b̃ coñs et sub̃sp̃.

Sig ✠ num manus sebbi regis.

Sig ✠ num manus sigiheardi regis.

Sig ✠ num manus suebredi regis.





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Si quis hanc donationem minuetur sciat se redditurū rationē in die iudicii, et partem eius esse cū peccatoribus et cum Iuda traditore, cruciatus sine fine in inferno cum diabulo.

---

### XXXVII.

#### \* WIHTRED OF KENT, July 17th, 694.

✠ IN nomine domini dei saluatoris! Ego Uuythredus rex Cantiae, una cum coniuge mea Kynigytha regina, referens gratias largitori bonorum domino, qui dilatavit terminos nostros iuxta paternam antiquitatem, in commune pertractauimus aliquam partem terrae nobis collatae ad uicem rependere, ne ingrati beneficiis uideremur largitoris nostri. Qua de re, a praesenti die et tempore, tibi religiosae Aebbae abbatissae deoque dicatae feminae, terram iuris nostri quae sita est in insula Thaeneti, quae quondam appellata est Human-tūn, aratorum quatuor, contulimus in perpetuum possidendam; ut cum omnibus ad eandem pertinentibus pratis, campis, fontanis, fontaneis syluis, piscariis, fluminibus, marisco, et quicquid ad supradictam terram pertinet, a quatuor partibus, orientis, occidentis, aquilonis et meridiei, tuo usui ditionique subicias, teneas possideas, dones, commutes, uenundes uel quicquid exinde facere uolueris liberam habeas potestatem; successoresque tui defendant in perpetuum; nunquam me haeredesque meos contra hanc cartulam descriptionis nostrae aliquando esse uenturos. Ad cuius cumulum etiam affirmationis, cespitem huius supradictae terrae super sanctum altare posui, et propria manu, pro ignorantia litterarum, signum sanctae crucis in hac cartula expressi; sed et Kynigytha idipsum fecit, principesque meos ut pari modo propriis manibus facerent rogavi, quorum nomina subtus annecta sunt. Si quis, quod absit, contra hanc cartulam a me fac-



tam, uel haeredes mei contraire praesumpserint, no-  
uerint se a participatione corporis et sanguinis do-  
mini nostri Iesu Christi esse alienos, et a coetu fidelium  
segregandos hic et in aeternum. Quam saepedictam  
cartulam scribendam dictaui et tibi Eabbe abbatissae  
tradidi conseruandam. Actum XVI. kal. Aug., Ind.  
VII, Anno regni nostri tertio.

✠ Signum manus Uuihtredi regis. ✠ Signum  
manus Kinigithe reginae. ✠ Signum manus Bern-  
hardi. ✠ Signum manus Alhuuardi.

---

### XXXVIII.

#### \* ERCONUUALD, 695.

✠ IN nomine domini dei nostri et saluatoris Iesu  
Christi! Ego Ercnuualdus episcopus prouinciae East-  
saexanorum, seruorum dei seruus, dilectissimis in  
Christo sororibus in monasterio quod appellatur Bere-  
cingas, habitantibus, quod deo auxiliante construxi,  
concedo ut tam uos quam posteri uestri in perpetuum  
ut constructum est ita possideatis. Et ne quis praesul  
cuiuslibet sit ordinis, uel qui in locum meum suc-  
cesserit, ullam in eodem monasterio exerceat potes-  
tatem, nec sui iuris ditione contra canonum decreta in-  
quietudines aliquas facere praesumat; ea uero tantum  
faciat in praedicto monasterio, quae ad utilitatem ani-  
marum pertinent, ordinationes sacerdotum, uel con-  
secrationes ancillarum dei. Ipsa uero sancta con-  
gregatio, quae propter dei amorem ibidem deo laudes  
exhibet, moriente abbatissa, ex seipsa sibi aliam eligat  
cum dei timore. Omnes terras quae mihi ex dona-  
tionibus regum sunt concessae ad nomen eiusdem  
monasterii, quemadmodum donatae sunt, ex integro  
et quieto iure possideant, sicut chartulae donationum  
continent, quas in praesenti uobis tradidi. Et ne  
quis forte improbus negator huius donationis erum-



pat, ideo singillatim has terras in hac chartula enumerandas et nominandas optimum duxi. Quarum prima fuit quae mihi a Suidfrido rege data fuerat XL. cassatarum, et appellatur Berecingas et Beddanhaam. Secunda quae ab Oedilredo tradita fuerat LXXV. manentium, et appellatur Ricingahaam, Bydinhaam, Daeccanhaam, Angenlabeshaam, cum campo qui dicitur Uuidmundes felt. Terra tertia quae ab eodem Oedilredo data fuerat X. manentium appellatur Celta. Quarta quae ab Aedilredo rege data fuerat LIII. manentium, et uocatur Gislheresuuyrth. Quinta iuxta Hydaburn[an], donata a Caeduualla<sup>1</sup> rege LXX. manentium appellatur [Ba]doricesheáh. Sexta iuxta Lundoniam unius manentis, data a Uulfhario rege. Septima supra uicum Lun[do]niae data a Quoenguyda uxore . . . . . aldi X. manentium. Octaua quae appellatur Suanescamp et Earhyth, donata ab Aedilredo rege, XL. cassatarum. Si quis autem episcoporum, cuiuslibet dignitatis fuerit, uel omnium saecularium potestatum, contra hanc chartulam, canonice ac regulariter a me constitutam, contendere praesumpserit, uel aliquid exinde subtrahere, sit separatus a consortio sanctorum in hoc saeculo omnium, et in futuro coelestis regni portas clausas contra se undique inueniat a sancto Petro clauiculario coelestis regni; a quo mihi licentia huius priuilegii data et permissa fuerat per os beatissimi Agathonis, apostolicae sedis praesulis, cum Romam adii ante annos XVIII. anno ab incarnatione domini DCLXXVII. indictione I<sup>a</sup>. Chartula autem haec a me dictata confirmata in sua stabilitate nihilominus maneat.

✠ Ego Ercnuualdus episcopus donator pro confirmatione subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuilfridus episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Haedde episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Guda presbiter et abbas consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eggbaldus

<sup>1</sup> MS. ab Aeduualla.





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buit, immo etiam eisdem ipsis momentaneis aeterna posse mercari promiserit: quamobrem ego Caedwala, regiae quantacumque potestatis, Christo gubernante, functus officio, ut meorum criminum incendia elemosinarum latiae, iuxta Salomonis sententia, ualuissem extinguere, bona quoque prophetata psalmigraphi oraculis, Christo duce largiendo, capescere promerear, Credo, inquiens uates, uidere bona domini in terra uiuentium; cum, dispensanti domino, Cantuariorum regimina nostro obtemperarent imperio, XL. terrae illius manentes ubi Hogh nuncupatur, ad Heburnahg insulam pertingentes, uiro uenerabili Egbaltho abbati, eique Christi familiae subdito, in propriam pro domino possessionem obtuli; ut tenere et regere et largiri etiam cuicumque utile iudicauerit perpetua libertatis conditione fruatur. Quam quidem donationem certissimis auctorum subscriptionibus ita ut infra cernuntur, firmani; ut si quis, quod absit, sua aut suorum dirae cupiditatis facibus atrociter inflammatus, hoc deo munus oblatum fraudare certauerit, non iam mea, sed domini nostri saluatoris et sancti Petri substantia, sibimet ipsi perniciousiter populare persentiet.

Cumque postmodum euoluto annorum circulo praefata regna Cantiae dominio imperioque Sigheri Saxanorum regis succumberet, prioris ipse praemonitus exemplo, ut omnia quae uidentur aeternaliter possideri nequierunt, promptissima uoluntate donationi antiquae consensit.

At uero Suebeardus, regii utique status lectissimus flos, et futurae maturitatis, si aura uitalis uenerit,<sup>1</sup> certissima spes, dum sibimet dominus mundi monarchia mirabiliter disponens, regna praedicta Cantiae concessit, haec eadem non solum firmare sed et addere curauerit; Mihi enim, inquiens, non ea tantum quae a prioribus regni possessoribus deo tradita sunt firmare et subscribere sufficit, quia unicuique dominus

<sup>1</sup> MS. aura uitale ueneranter.



iuxta actiones proprias reddere decreuerit, ideoque honorabili abbati Egbaltheo, una et coetu coenobialiter secum degente, cum consensu omnium et patronum meorum consilio, terrae illius adiacentem terminis quam ante ea in Hoge possederat, xx. terram manentium addere, pro Christo, curauerim. In alio quoque loco sex cassatos uti siluarum necessitas haberetur, ubi Fercanhâmstede nuncupatur, perpetualiter possidendam tribuam. Uuigtredus quoque, quem et idem dominus ad culmen deuexit regiminis, fideli et religiosa subscriptione firmavit.

Succedente uero aliquantulo temporis spatio, contigit ut coram Aethelredo regi christianissimo Merciorum, immo ut ita dixerim totius insulis Britanniae, huius donationis cartula legeretur, et res gestae per ordinem omnia explicantur in monasterio Medeshâmstede. Rogatus autem rex a supradicto abbate Egbaltheo, ut sua auctoritate ac propriae manus subscriptione roborare et confirmare dona priorum dignaretur, ille uero non distulit, sed absque ulla excusationis apolloquio, adhibita secum ipsius consensum episcopi Saxulfi, propriaque manu et omnium comitum suorum ibi praesentium subscriptionibus, quorum hic infra nectuntur nomina, perpetuali in domino sanxione firmavit. Hi sunt testes donationis Ceaduualae regis Saxonum.

✠ Ego Ceaduuala manu propria signum crucis expressi. ✠ Ego Theodorus archiepiscopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Erconuualdus episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Berhtuualdus abbas consensi. ✠ Ego Hagona abbas consentiens subscripsi.

Donatione uero Sigheri infra cernuntur.

✠ Signum crucis Sigheri regis. ✠ Signum crucis Aedberhti. ✠ Signum crucis Gebredi. ✠ Signum crucis Egeran. ✠ Signum Snoccan. ✠ Signum Teodan. ✠ Signum Cuffan.

Donatione uero Suebeardi infra cernuntur.



✠ Ego Suebeardus signum crucis manu propria depinxi. ✠ Signum Sebbi regis.<sup>1</sup> ✠ Ego Adrianus abbas consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum crucis Huduc. ✠ Signum Ealhuuardi. ✠ Signum Sigheri. ✠ Signum Haecci.

Donatione uero Uuihtredi regis infra cernuntur.

✠ Signum Uuihtredi regis. ✠ Ego Gebmundus episcopus consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Berhtuualdus abbas subscripsi et consensi. ✠ Signum Beornheardi. ✠ Signum Haecci. ✠ Signum Iseardi. ✠ Signum Ealhuuardi.

Donatione et firmatione Aethelredi regis.

✠ Signum Aethelredi regis. ✠ Ego Saxulfus episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum Aeduualdi principis. ✠ Signum Haldhere principis. ✠ Signum Aelrici. ✠ Signum Cilli principis. ✠ Signum Teoda principis. ✠ Signum Etencan. ✠ Ego Haddan abbas indignus testis consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Helmuulfus consensi et subscripsi.

---

## XLI.

### \* WIHTRED OF KENT, March, 696.

**BENEFICIIS** dei et domini nostri Iesu Christi nobis collatis non immemores, ego Uuihtredus rex Canciae, et coniux mea Aethelburga, pro remedio animarum nostrarum, beati Petri apostolorum principis monasterio, quod situm est in suburbano huius Dorouernis ciuitatis, in quo praeesse dinoscitur Adrianus abbas huc missus ab apostolica sede, eiusque familiae quae nunc atque futura est, terram iuris nostri quinque aratorum, quae appellatur Littelburne, cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus, a praesenti die et tempore, a nostra iurisdictione transferentes inperpetuo tradimus possidendam, et quicquid exinde facere uolueritis uestri erit arbitrii, con-

<sup>1</sup> MS. episcopi.





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✠ Archiepiscopi Berctualdi. ✠ Agesmundi. ✠ Uuihtredi regis. ✠ Germani. ✠ Uuihtgari. ✠ Gefredi. ✠ Cynyathi. ✠ Guthardi.

---

XLIII.

UUIHTRAED, July, 697.

✠ IN nomine dñi dī nostri ihu xpī Ego uih-tredus rex cantuariorum prouidens mihi in futuro decreui dare aliquid omnia mihi donanti et consilio accepto bonum uisum est conferre bassilicae beatae mariae genitricis dī quae sita est in loco qui dicitur limingae terram .iiii. aratrorum quae dicitur Uuieg-helmes . tun . cum omnibus ad eandem terram pertinentibus iuxta notissimos terminos id est bereueg et meguines paed et stretleg . quam donationem meā uolo firmam esse in perpetuum ut nec ego seu heredes mei aliquid minuere praesumant. Quod si aliter temptatum fuerit a qualibet persona sub anathematis interdictione sciat se praeuaricari ad cuius confirmationem pro ignorantia litterarum ✠ signū sc̄ae crucis expressi et testes idoneos ut subscriberent rogavi id est berichtualdum archiepiscopū uirū uenerabilē.

✠ Ego berichtualdus ep̄isc̄ rogatus consensi et subscripsi. ✠

✠ Signum manus uih-tredi regis ✠ Signum manus aedilburgae reginae.

✠ Signum manus enfridi. ✠ Signum manus aedilfridi. ✠ Signum manus hagana

✠ Signum manus botta. ✠ Signum manus bernhaerdi. ✠ Signum manus theabul.

✠ Signum manus frodi. ✠ Signum manus aehcha. ✠ Signum manus aessica.

✠ Signum manus adda. ✠ Signum manus egisberichti.

actum in mense iulio indictione . xma



*Indorsed :*

ðaes landes boc aet Berdelhames wicum boc, nunc Wigelmignetun.

---

**XLIV.**

\* **UUIHTRAED, April 6th, 699.**

✠ **IN nomine domini dei saluatoris nostri, Ihesu Christi! Ego Uuihtredus rex Cantiae, consulens animae meae in posterum, hanc prouidentiam pro diuersis calamitatibus imminentibus, aecclesiis dei atque monasteriis, quae in hac Cantia consistunt, una cum consensu principum meorum quorum nomina subterscribenda sunt, facere curauit; ut ab omni exactione publica tributi atque dispendio uel laesione, a praesenti die et tempore, liberae sint; mihiq̄ue et posteris meis talem honorem uel obedientiam exhibeant, qualem exhibuerunt antecessoribus meis regibus, sub quibus eis iustitia et libertas seruabatur; et ut tam ego quam posterī mei in hac pia definitione permaneant decerno; nec per quamlibet transgressionem quae a nobis et praedecessoribus nostris recte indulta sunt concutiantur, sed ita ut iamque dictum est, in perpetuum abhinc et deinceps, domino gubernante, custodiantur. Ad cuius cumulum firmitatis, manu propria signum sanctae crucis expressi, et tam reuerentissimum Brihtuualdum archiepiscopum, atque Ge[b]mundum sanctissimum episcopum, quam etiam uenerabiles presbyteros et religiosos abbates praesentes, etiam clarissimas abbatissas, hoc est, Hermenhildam, Irminbergam et Aebbam reuerendam, ut subscriberent rogauit.**

**Actum die sexto Aprilis, anno regni nostri octauo, indictione duodecima, in loco qui appellatur Cilling.**

✠ **Ego Uuihtredus rex Cantiae ad omnia supra-scripta et confirmaui, atque a me dictata, propria manu signum sanctae crucis pro ignorantia literarum expressi. ✠**



✠ Ego Brihtuualdus archiepiscopus, ad omnia suprascripta rogatus a Uuihtredo rege testis subscripsi. ✠

✠ Ego Ge[b]mundus episcopus rogatus testis subscripsi ✠ cum aliis pluribus in codicello annotatis.

---

XLV.

\* INI OF WESSEX, July 5th, 699.

✠ EGO Ini rex Uestsaxonum, ob indulgentiam criminum meorum, aliquam terram ad aecclesiae munificentiam libenter impendo: dispensante enim domino, Hean abbati in potestate concessa fuerat, in IIII<sup>or</sup> partibus terrae; id est in Bradanafeld xv cassatum, et xv cassatum apud Bestlesforda, et manentium xxv cuius uocabulum est Stretleae, et lxxx cassatos apud Aeaoromundesleae. Quae scilicet donationes ut firmiter ac tenacius reliquum durarent in aeuum, etiam coram summis pontificibus, id est Brihtuualdo archiepiscopo et Daniele episcopo, peractae sunt; nec non et cespites horum locorum pro ampliore firmitate libro supposui, quem ipsi duo praefati episcopi in manibus suis tenuerunt. Porro ut firmior praefatae donationis largitio inextricabili tenacitate iugiter seruaretur, etiam testes adiunximus, quorum nomina subter tenentur inserta. Siquis uero contra haec nostrae diffinitionis decreta, propriae temeritatis pertinacia fretus, uiolenter uenire nisus fuerit, nouerit se in tremendo ultimae discussionis examine coram iudice Christo, aequa discretionis lance singulorum facta librante, rationem redditurum.

✠ Signum manus Ini regis Uestsaxonum. ✠ Signum manus Aethelredi regis Merciorum. ✠ Signum manus Aethelfrith. ✠ Ego Daniel, seruus seruorum dei, hanc donationem confirmaui. Haec carta scripta est III nonas mensis Iulii, Indict. XII, Anno ab incarnatione Christi DCLXXXVII. ✠ Ego Uuinberctus hanc cartam scripsi et subscripsi.





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Bestlesford et c. in Bradenfeld ubi monasterium erexi, quos Ini et Conred simul dederunt pariter tribui, qui fiunt simul CCLXXIII. cassatos: uotum autem monachi quod mihi spopondit relaxans clementer indulsi, praesente uenerando antistite Hedde necnon Aldhelmo abbate et Uuintra et omni familia nostra in ecclesia. Si quis uero contra hoc decretum abbatatus uenire temptauerit uel has donationes regum religiosorum tyrannica fretus potestate uiolenter demere uel auferre satagerit, sciat se coram Christo rationem in ultimo uiuorum et mortuorum examine redditurum. Scripta est uero haec cautionis singrapha anno ab incarnatione Christi DCXCIX. Indictione XII<sup>a</sup>.

✠ Ego Ine rex consensi. ✠ Ego Athelbald rex subscripsi. ✠ Ego Daniel episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Befpha subscripsi. ✠ Ego Egfrid subscripsi. ✠ Ego Herrid subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aldbriht subscripsi. ✠ Ego Sranglic subscripsi. ✠ Ego Halda subscripsi. ✠ Ego Oba subscripsi. ✠ Ego Selred subscripsi. ✠ Ego Egbrith subscripsi.

---

XLVII.

UUIHTRAED OF KENT, July 700, or 715.

✠ IN nomine dñi dī nostri iħu xpī. Ego uuihtredus rex cantuariorum prouidens mihi in futuro decreui dare aliquid omnia mihi donanti et consilio accepto bonum uisum est conferre basilicae beatae mariae genetricis dī quae sita est in loco qui dicitur limingae terram IIII aratrorum quae dicitur pleghelmestun . cum omnib: ad eandem terram pertinentib: iuxta notissimos terminos id est bereueg . et meguines paed et stretleg . terrulae quoq: partem eiusdem dī genetrici beatae mariae similiter in perpetuum possidendam per dono . cuius uocabulum est ruminingseta . ad pastum uidelicet ouium trecentorum . ad australe quippe fluminis quae appellatur liminaca . terminos



uero huius terrulae ideo non ponimus quoniam ab ac-  
colis undiq: certi sunt. Quam donationem meam  
uolo firmam esse [in] perpetuum ut nec ego seu he-  
redes mei aliquid inminuere praesumant. Quod si  
aliter temptatum fuerit a qualibet persona sub ana-  
thematis interdictione sciat se praeuaricari ad cuius  
confirmationem pro ignorantia litterarum ✠ signum  
s̄cae crucis expressi et testes idoneos ut subscribe-  
rent rogavi id est berhtuualdum archiep̄sc. uirum  
uenerabilē.

✠ Ego berhtuualdus ep̄sc rogat[us] consensi et  
subscripsi.

✠ Signum manus uuihtredi regis ✠ Signum ma-  
nus aethilburgae reginae

✠ Signum manus enfridi. ✠ Signum manus aedil-  
fridi. ✠ Signum manus hagana

✠ Signum manus botta. ✠ Signum manus bern-  
haerdi ✠ Signum manus theabul

✠ Signum manus frodi ✠ Signum manus aehcha  
✠ Signum manus aesica.

✠ Signum manus adda ✠ Signum manus egis-  
berhti. Actum in mense iulio indictione XIII ma.

*Indorsed in a modern hand :*

Wictred<sup>9</sup> rex cañ c̄tulit ecclē s̄cae marie de l̄imige  
III. arañ plegelmestun 7 rumingsete ad pastū ouiū  
ccc.

*A second indorsement in an Anglosaxon hand runs thus :*  
rumening seta inn to liming mynster.

---

## XLVIII.

### INI OF WESSEX, 701.

✠ IN nomine domini Ihesu Christi saluatoris nos-  
tri! ego Ini regnante domino rex Saxonum cogitans  
vitae eternae praemium, uereus poenas inferni per-



petuas, pro remedio animae meae et relaxatione criminum meorum aliquam terrae particulam donare decreui uenerabili Aldhelmo abbati, ad augmentum monasterii sui quod Meldunensburg uocatur; id est XLV. cassatos in locis ab accolis infra nominatis. Id est v. manentes in loco qui dicitur Gersdune; et ubi riuulus qui uocatur Corsaburna oritur xx; et in alio loco iuxta eundem riuulum x; et iuxta laticem qui uocatur Reodburna x. Et hoc actum est anno ab incarnatione Christi DCCI. Indixione XIII<sup>a</sup>.

✠ Signum manus Ini regis. ✠ Signum manus Oshelmi. ✠ Ego Haddi episcopus huic donacioni consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuynberchtus hanc donacionem dictans subscripsi.

---

## XLIX.

\* INI, June, 702.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi saluatoris! Ea quae secundum decreta canonum tractata fuerint, licet sermo tantum ad testimonium sufficeret, tamen pro incerta futuri [conditione], chirographorum cedulis sunt roboranda. Quapropter ego Ini, regnante domino rex Saxonum, uiginti cassatos pro remedio animae meae Beorhtuualdo abbati, ad sanctum monasterium Glastingaburge, uideor contulisse: et haec pars modica telluris ex utraque parte fluminis, cuius uocabulum est Dulting, hiis marginibus uidetur designata, etc.

Si quis uero hanc cartulam amplificare uoluerit, amplificet deus partem eius in libro uitae; si quis frangere temptauerit, sciat se coram domino et angelis eius rationem redditurum. Scripta est haec singrapha anno ab incarnatione domini DCC. secunda, indictione quarta<sup>1</sup> mense Iunio. ✠ Ego Ini signaui salutifero signo. ✠ Ego Beorhtuuald archiepiscopus signaui. ✠ Ego Hedda episcopus subscripsi sub testimonio multorum.

<sup>1</sup> Ind. xv.





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Adbertus abbas consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego  
 Haeha abbas consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuintra  
 abbas consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuedr abbas  
 consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Beornuuald abbas  
 consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuilgar abbas con-  
 sentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Bealuulf abbas consen-  
 tiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Froda abbas consentiens  
 subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuitta abbas consentiens sub-  
 scripsi. ✠ Signum manus Beoban. ✠ Signum ma-  
 nus Eanberht. ✠ Signum manus Coenberht. ✠ Sig-  
 num manus Coen. ✠ Signum manus Aethilfridi.  
 ✠ Signum manus Eascuualdi. ✠ Signum manus  
 Duduc. ✠ Signum manus Ticcean. ✠ Signum ma-  
 nus Bealdhun.

---

 LI.

\* INI, 704.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi! Ego Ini rex,  
 decreto et consilio praesulis nostri Aldhelmi, simulque  
 cunctorum dei sacerdotum suggestionem, et monachorum  
 petitione qui in parochia Uuest-Saxonum conuersan-  
 tur, hanc libertatem monachis, qui in aecclesia beatae  
 dei genetricis Mariae, et beati Patricii, omnipotenti  
 deo, sub abbate Hengislo, famulantur, in pristina urbe  
 quae dicitur Glastingaea, impendo, et hanc priuilegii  
 dignitatem super altare pono; ut sine impedimento sae-  
 cularium rerum, et absque tributo fiscalium negociorum,  
 liberis mentibus, soli deo seruiant; et monasticam dis-  
 ciplinam, Christo suffragium largiente, regulariter ex-  
 erceant; et pro statu et prosperitate regni nostri, et in-  
 dulgentia commissorum criminum, ante conspectum  
 diuinae maiestatis preces fundere dignentur: et ora-  
 tionum officia frequentantes in aecclesiis, pro nostra  
 fragilitate interpellare nitantur. Si quis uero contra  
 huius decreti singrapham uenire temptauerit, sciat se  
 coram Christo, nouemque angelorum ordinibus, in tre-



mendo examine rationem redditurum. Pro ampliori firmitatis testamento, principes et senatores, iudices et patricos subscribere fecimus ; actum publice, et confirmatum in lignea basilica, anno ab incarnatione domini septingentesimo quarto.

✠ Ego Aldhelmus subscripsi.

---

LII.

SUAEBRAED OF ESSEX, June 13th, 704.

✠ IN nomine dñi nři iħu xp̄i saluatoris Quamuis solus sermo sufficeret Ad testimonium attamen ꝑ cautella futurorum temporum ne quis forte posterum fraudulentam ignorantiae piaculum perperam incurrat idcirco scedulis saltim uilib: ꝑ ampliore firmitatis supplimento necessarium reor adnectere Quapropter ego sueabræd rex eastsaxonorũ et ego pæogthath cum licentia Ædelredi regis comis aliquantulum agri partem pro remedio Animarum nřarum uualdhario ep̄sc in dominio donare decreuimus id † . xxx. cassatorum in loco qui dicitur tuicanhom in ꝑuincia quæ nuncupatur middelseaxan Hæc autem terra his locorum limitib: designatur Ab oriente et austro flumine tamisæ terminata a septemtrione plaga torrente Cuius uocabulum † fisesburna Possessionem autem huius terræ taliter ut supradiximus Cum campis satio- nalib: pascualib: pratis palludib: piscuariis fluminib: Clusuris omnib: quæ ad eam pertinentibus in dominio supra dicti Ep̄sc possidendam ꝑpetuale iure tradidimus et liberã habeat potestatem agendi quodcumq: uoluerit porro ut firmior huius donationis largitio iugiter seruaretur etiam testes adiunximus quorum nomina subter tenentur inserta Si quis uero successorum nřorum hanc donationis nřæ munificentia augere et amplificare maluerit auget dñs partem eius in libro uitæ Si quis e diuerso quod absit tyrannica



potestate fretus infringere temptauerit sciat se ante tribunal xpi tremibundum rationem redditurum Mane- atq: nilominus in sua firmitate hæc kartula scripta Auno ab incarnatione dñi nri DCC.III. idiç. II. tertia decima die mensis iunii quod + id iunii.

✠ Ego coenredus rex merc̃ hanc terram waldhario ep̃sc pro remedio anime meæ in dominio donare decreui in loco qui dicitur tuiccanham et libenti animo ppria manu crucẽ infixi.

✠ ego ciolred merc̃ hanc donationem quam ante donauit ppinquus meus coenrædus rex 7 ego qfirmavi in loco arcencale et sig̃ sc̃e crucis expressi.

✠ ego headda ep̃s consensi et subscripsi

✠ ego cotta aþ 9 et sũb

✠ ego suebrædus rex eastsaxonũ propria m̃.

✠ ego peohthat sig̃ m̃ inposui

✠ ego friodored sig̃ m̃ ✠ eadred sig̃ ✠ ælric sig̃ m̃ ✠ sceftwine sig̃

✠ coenhard sig̃ m̃ ✠ cymmi sig̃ ✠ lulla sig̃ m̃ ✠ wulfhat sig̃

✠ cudraed sig̃ m̃ ✠ pagara sig̃ ✠ cynric sig̃ m̃ ✠ tudima sig̃

✠ uilloc sig̃ m̃ ✠ eadberht sig̃

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### LIII.

## AETHILHEARD AND AETHILUUEARD OF THE HWICCAS, 704—709.

✠ IN nomine dī sũmi. Tempora temporibus subeunt, abiit et uenit aetas sola sc̃orum gloria durat in xpo. Ideoq: ego aedilheardus et aediluueardus dabimus tibi cudsuidæ terram quæ dicitur ingin v. manentiũ quam tu a nobis proprio praetio redemisti id est DC solidis ut in tua potestate sit habendi et donandi cuicumq: uolueris. Si quis in hanc donationẽ augere uoluerit ampliet ds partem eius in regione uiuentiũ. Si quis





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robores : ut nullus post obitum tuum, nec regalis audacitas, nec pontificalis auctoritas, uel aliquis aecclesiasticae seu saecularis dignitatis uir, sine nostro uoluntatis arbitrio in nobis sibi uendicet principatum. Huic debitae monachorum meorum maximeque famulorum dei petitioni libentissime consensi ; et in monasterio quod iuxta fluuium, qui dicitur Uuinburna, situm est, cui uenerandi regis nostri germana Cuthburh praesidet, cum optabili famosissimi regis Ini consensu et reuerendissimi fratris et coepiscopi mei Danielis nutu, praesentatae professionis deuotionem decentissimam et uernarum domini postulationem sacrae crucis signaculo confirmaui : itidem idem uenerandus rex et praenominatus pontifex pari deuotionis manu subscripserunt. Nec multo post, in sacrosancto concilio, quod iuxta fluuium qui dicitur Woder congregatum esse dinoscitur, in idem omnium Saxonicae gentis archimandritarum cum regalis potentatus assensu et pontificalis prioratus nutu consensit auctoritas. Si quis uero contra haec tam illustrium personarum decreta moliri machinetur, et sacra praesentis scedulae scita praeuaricari praesumpserit, sciat se ante terribilem diuinae maiestatis thronum cum praeuaricatoribus praeceptorum domini lugubri damnationis iudicio percellendum. Sunt autem haec nomina monasteriorum, Maldubesberg, Froom, Bradanford. Scripta est huius confirmationis cartula anno ab incarnatione domini nostri Ihesu Christi DCCV. Indictione III.

✠ Signum manus Danielis episcopi. ✠ Signum Ini regis. ✠ Signum manus patricii Aethelfridi.

---

LV.

\* OFFA OF ESSEX, 704—709.

✠ REGNANTE in perpetuum domino, uniuersitatis creatore ! Ego Offa rex Merciorum, aliquam partem



terrarum, id est XXXIII. cassatorum, in ius aecclesiae libertatis Uuigornensis largior, aet Scottarið; quem tamen agrum fluuio, quem dicunt Afen, constat interlui; is demum subregulus III. postea cassatos ruris siluatici largiendo addidit, aet Hnuthyrste. Istis terminis praefatum rus cingitur, in primis Balgandun, etc.

Addidit etiam praedictus Offa III. cassatos in alio loco siluatici ruris, usitato nomine Hellerelege, pro remedio suae animae in ciuitate Uuegornensi: his terminis cingitur, etc.

✠ Ego Offa rex.	✠ Ego Ecguini episcopus.
✠ Ego Aetheluard.	✠ Ego Aethelmund.
✠ Ego Aethelberht.	✠ Ego Aethelric.

*The following copy, containing some important variations, is given by Heming.*

✠ REGNANTE in perpetuum domino uniuersalis creatore! Ego Offa rex Merciorum, aliquam partem terrae, id est XXXIII. cassatorum, in ius ecclesiasticae libertatis possessionis concedens, libentissime largior: eiusdem uero agelli nomen est Scottarit, quem tamen agrum fluuio, quem dicunt Afen, constat interlui; isdem uero subregulus tres postea cassatos ruris in alio loco siluatici largiendo rogatus addidit, usitato nomine Hellerelege. Hoc largitus sum pro animae meae in ciuitate Uueogernensis aecclesiae dici solet. Istis terminibus, etc.

✠ Ego Offa, rex Merciorum, consensi et subscripsi.
✠ Ego Ecguini episcopus consensi et subscripsi.
✠ Ego Aetheluard propriam donationem et subscripsi.
✠ Ego Aethelmund consensi et subscripsi.
✠ Ego Aethelberht consensi et subscripsi.
✠ Ego Aethelric consensi et subscripsi.

*A third copy in Heming, besides some unimportant variations, gives the name of another witness, Osuudu.*



## LVI.

## AETHILUUEARD OF THE HWICCAS, 706.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi ! Ego Aethilueard subregulus, Osheri quondam regis Uuiccorum filius, terram XII. cassatorum in loco quem dicunt Ambreslege, consentiente Coenredo rege Merciorum, cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus rebus necessariis, hoc est, in siluis in campis, in captura etiam piscium quae terrae illi adiacet, ubi sunt scilicet duo quod nostratim dicitur ueres, id est, alter ubi fontanus qui nominatur Ombresuelle diriuatur in fluuium qui dicitur Saberna, alter qui est ad uadum qui nuncupatur Lenerford, ad amplificationem ecclesiasticae possessionis, pro redemptione animae meae et pro spe salutis aeternae, uenerando Ecguino episcopo ad aecclesiam semper uirginis dei genetricis Mariae quae fundata extat in Cronuchomme, coram idoneis testibus libenter pro domino largitus sum, eo quod ipse etiam praetio approbato a me conquirebat ; ea dumtaxat conditione in praefata traditione a me composita in perpetuam libertatis possessionem ; statuens de caetero ut ab omni publico uectigali, a uictu, ab expeditione, ab opere regio sit libera, tantum ut aecclesiae praefatae beatae Mariae, hoc est fratribus ibidem seruientibus, cuncta quae in eo loco ad aptum et ad utilitatem pertinere possunt seruentur ; excepto eo, ut si quando in insula eidem ruri pertinente prouentus copiosior glandis acciderit, uni solummodo gregi porcorum saginae pastus regi concederetur : et praeter hoc nulli, neque principi neque praefecto neque tiranno alicui, pascua constituentur ; ut elemosina mea quam pro remedio animae meae libenter donauit, inuiolata et inconcussa permaneat. Si quis autem donationem Christo a nobis traditam temptauerit infringere, confringat deus regnum et potentiam eius hic et in futuro saeculo, sitque pars eius cum Iuda infideli





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nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi regnantis in perpetuum, uniuersa quae subsistunt constant, in cuius etiam nomine haec scriptura confirmata sit; et pro cuius aequae amore Ego Ailricus Osheri regis filius exiguam ruris portiunculam VIII. uidelicet manentium in loco qui dicitur Childesuicuunon, consentiente rege Kenredo domino meo, tradens donabo ad locum qui dicitur Ethom, ob honorem dei genetricis Mariae, pro remedio animae meae; omnibus diebus possidendam, et ab omni saeculari seruitio liberam, exceptis arcis restoratione et pontis, et expeditionis obsequio. Si quis autem hanc meam donationem augere uoluerit, augeat deus partem illius in perpetuum in terra uiuentium.

Haec autem syngrapha caraxata est anno dominicae incarnationis DCC.VI. his testibus consentientibus quorum nomina inferius caraxata uidentur. Ego Ailricus Oseri regis filius hanc donationem meam confirmando signo sanctae crucis ✠ muniui.

✠ Ego Kenredus rex Merciorum consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Brithuualdus archiepiscopus in nomine sanctae et indiuiduae trinitatis corroborauit. ✠ Ego Ecguuinus episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Hinuuald subscripsi. ✠ Ego Brithuuin abbas consensi. ✠ Ego Uualdhere consensi. ✠ Ego Heluuald subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eilmund consensi. ✠ Ego Ethelher subscripsi.

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LVIII.

\* UUALDHARI, 706.

✠ UACCILLANTE praesentis cosmi statu quid aliud innuitur, nisi bonis illuc perseueranter actibus insis- tendo magnopere festinemus, ut perhennis felicitas, aeterna bonitas, summa iocunditas, alma securitas, continua tranquillitas, sine malitia caritas, perpeti gaudeant tripudio. Quapropter in nomine creatoris et



redemptoris Ihesu Christi, ego sacerdos Uualdherus, pro anima mea et pro animabus successorum meorum, de hiis quae dominus largitus est mihi quandam terrae portiunculam in loco qui appellatur Suuelle, cum pratis, pascuis, deriuatisque aquarum cursibus, consentiente rege Cenredo, tradens donaho ad monasterium beatae Mariae uirginis quod constructum est in Cronochomme et uenerabili uiro Ecguuino episcopo, ut semper habeat et in perpetuum possideat. Sit autem praedictum rus ab omni terrenae seruitutis iugo liberum, tribus exceptis, arcis restauratione et pontis, et expeditionis obsequio. Facta est autem haec donatio anno dominicae incarnationis dcc.vi. his testibus consentientibus quorum nomina inferius caraxantur.

✠ Ego sacerdos Uualdherus praefatam donationem cum sigillo sanctae crucis corroborauit. ✠ Ego Cenredus dei dono rex Merciorum corroborans confirmauit. ✠ Ego Brictuualdus archiepiscopus hanc donationem confirmans subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cadda episcopus consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Hacca episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Ecguuinus episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aldhelmus episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Homolunch abbas subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuecta abbas subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuada subscripsi. ✠

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LIX.

\* CÔENRAED OF MERCIA, 706.

✠ ANNO dominicae incarnationis dcc°viii°. Ego Cenredus, rex Merciorum, Romam transire disponens, uenerabilem uirum Ecguuinum Uuicciorum episcopum qui prius ibi fuerat, itineris mei comitem atque laboris consolatorem elegi, et eligendo amicabili precatu ut id fieret obtinui. Eodem namque anno antequam illud iter inciperemus, inter plurima donaria concessi sibi terram v. cassatorum, quae Mortun appellatur, cum omnibus



ad eam pertinentibus, pratis uidelicet, pascuis, siluis; ut ecclesia sua quae Cronuchomme nuncupatur, quam tunc moderno tempore construxit, perpetuo iure pro redemptione animae meae possideat; ita ut nullus princeps uel potestas post haec illam inde auferat uel aliquid diminuat. Sit autem praedictum rus omni terrenae seruitutis iugo liberum, tribus exceptis; rata uidelicet expeditione, pontis arcisue restauratione. Si quis igitur hanc nostram donationem in aliud quam constituimus transferre uoluerit, priuatus consortio sanctae dei aecclesiae aeternis baratri incendiis lugubris, iugiter cum Iuda Christi proditore eiusque complicibus puniatur, si non satisfactione emendauerit congrua quod contra nostrum deliquit decretum.

*The witnesses' names are wanting.*

---

LX.

\* CÔENRAED, 709.

✠ SUBTHRONIZATUS regali solio et sceptrifera ditione per pantocratoris inedicibilem potentiam sullimatus, ego Cenredus rex Merciorum ipsius eximiae munificentiae refero indefessas grates qui alta, media, yma superno nutu gubernat. Potissime id censeo fore ratum diuis mortalibus, quia sontium prothoplastorum piaculum expiauit, et chelindrum ueneniferum inerte laetantem destruxit, data pace supernis et mediis ciuibus, ut media eligant summorum consortium, respuendo ima: quoniam assuescit microcosmus superni regis uultum laetificare dapsilitate terrena. Iccirco astipulatus monarchia Albionis regni, celsoque fastigio culminis roboratus, non solum aecclesias uel arcisteria quassata desideramus renouari, donando quae nobis collata sunt a Sabaoth perpetuo, uerum etiam praestantissimis pontificibus et amicis uolumus munifico corde largire, quatinus fideliores effecti ualeant honestius uitae huius tem-





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Aethilmund. ✠ Ego Cuthberht comes. ✠ Ego  
 Aethelbriht comes. ✠ Ego Eadbriht comes. ✠ Ego  
 Eoppa comes. ✠ Ego Turtuc miles. ✠ Ego Uuada  
 miles. ✠ Ego Uualdhere miles.

---

 LXI.

## \* CÔENRAED, 709.

✠ IN nomine patris et filii et spiritus sancti Amen !  
 Quoniam transeuntis quidem mundi uicissitudo cotidie  
 per incrementa temporum crescit et crescendo de-  
 crescit, et ampliando minuitur, crescentibus repentinis  
 uariorum incursum ruinis, finis esse cunctis in prox-  
 imo cernitur, ideo uanis ac transilibus rebus mansura  
 coelestis patriae praemia mercanda sunt. Quapropter  
 ego Cenredus dei dono rex Merciorum, et ego Offa  
 diuina permissione Orientalium Anglorum gubernator,  
 pro redemptione animarum nostrarum ac praedeces-  
 sorum nostrorum, et subsequantium salute, donamus,  
 concedimus in loco in quo beata uirgo Maria se uene-  
 rabili uiro Ecguino manifestauit in Homme, et prae-  
 senti libello confirmamus, ad honorem et reuerentiam  
 eiusdem dei genitricis, LXVII. mansas ex duabus par-  
 tibus fluminis quod uocitatur Auena ; tres uidelicet  
 quae sunt in Homme ; in Lenchuuic . i. in Nortona  
 vii. in Offeham . i. in Litletona . xiii. in Al-  
 dintona . i. in Baddeseia v. et dimidiam ; in Bret-  
 fertona . xii. in Huniburna ii. et dimidiam ; in Wil-  
 lerseia . vii. in Uuicuuona iii. in Beniguurthia et  
 in Hamtona . ix. Et ex mera liberalitate sicut dignum  
 est et regali munificentia, praenominatas mansas ubi  
 manifestatio habita fuisse refertur, cum caeteris par-  
 tibus praeassignatis, regiae libertati donamus, ac  
 omnipotenti deo, ac beatis apostolis eius Petro et  
 Paulo in perpetuum liberas commendamus : quatinus  
 ibidem congregatio monachorum secundum regulam



beati Benedicti possit instaurari et indesinenter Christo famulari. Ad maiorem autem nostrae donationis firmitudinem, in notitiam tam praesentium quam in posterum succedentium uenire uolumus, quibus limitibus sacer locus quem regiae libertati donatum deo contulimus, circumseptus includitur, etc.

Uolumus insuper ac decernimus in nomine domini, terram quinque cassatorum quae Mortona nuncupatur, eadem libertate inperpetuum gaudere: quam quidem terram ego Kenredus rex Merciorum anno dominicae incarnationis DCC<sup>o</sup>. III<sup>o</sup>. cum iam una cum uenerabili uiro Ecguino episcopo apostolorum limina uisitare disponerem, inter quaedam alia donaria ad fabricam monasterii construendi in Homme concessi eidem, et sub testimonio plurium potentum meorum scripto confirmaui. Statuimus igitur in nomine domini, et in uirtute dei summi praecipimus tam uiuentibus quam domini praedestinatione nobis in posterum succedentibus, ut huius donationis seu libertatis statuta ad irritum deducere minime quispiam audeat. Si quis autem hoc nostrae munificentiae donum deprauare uel diminuere, seu quolibet modo alienare uersutus attemptauerit, deleatur nomen eius de libro uitae, et aeterna miserimus cum complicibus suis dampnatione puniatur, nisi prius satisfactione digna emendauerit quod contra nostrum decretum obstinatus praesumpsit. Amen. Acta sunt haec anno dominicae incarnationis DCC<sup>o</sup>. IX<sup>o</sup>. in aecclesia Saluatoris Laterana, confirmante Constantino Romanae sedis antistite, astantibus et confirmantibus regibus Angliae Kenredo et Offa, rogante uenerabili uiro Ecguino episcopo, cum pluribus archiepiscopis et episcopis, principibus ac nobilibus diuersarum prouintiarum; cunctis clamantibus et dicentibus, Nos hanc uoluntatem et regiam liberalitatem laudamus, donationibus ac libertati consentimus.

Ego Constantinus Romanae sedis episcopus per hoc signum . ✠ . sanctae crucis has donationes et libertatem



hanc confirmaui. ✠ Ego Ecguinus episcopus humilis  
 confirmaui. ✠ Ego rex Cenredus corroborauit. ✠  
 Ego rex Offa consensi.

---

 LXII.

## \* CEÓLRAED OF MERCIA, 710.

✠ BEANTIS uniuersorum uoce monemur praeclara,  
 procuremus incessanter sine amaritudine mentis huius  
 saeculi ambitione integra libertate apertis ianuis in-  
 trare ad eum qui suo cruore scelera nostra deterisit  
 iniusta; licet primi prothoplasti facinore uiolata, im-  
 probis successionibus deterioranda istis degentibus ui-  
 lescerent, tamen omnibus namque sapientibus notum  
 ac manifestum constat quod dicta futura uel facta pro  
 multiplici aerumpnarum perturbatione et cogitationum  
 uagatione frequenter ex memoria recedunt, nisi lite-  
 rarum apicibus et custodiae cautela scripturarum re-  
 seruentur et ad memoriam reuocentur. Iccirco, ego  
 Ceolredus Aethelredi Pendae filius uiri uenerabilis  
 Ecguini beneficium dignum duxi manifestare. Reue-  
 rentissimus uero episcopus Ecguinus a Romana curia  
 reuersus, pompam mundi paruipendendo, episcopatum  
 suum penitus relinquendo, in aecclesia B. Mariae semper  
 uirginis quae fundata est in Ethom, anno regni mei  
 tertio, me consentiente inibi primus factus est abbas.  
 Ideo pro redemptione animae meae et praedecessorum  
 meorum, et spe remunerationis aeternae, terram triginta  
 quinque cassatorum in plaga Uuarenuicensi, uidelicet  
 Rageleia, Arue, Eccleshale, Uuiueleshale, Eadriches-  
 tone, Dorsintone, Brome, Mulecote, Graftone, Bu-  
 nintone, Budiforde, Hildeburhurthe, praenominatae  
 aecclesiae in perpetuum tradens donauit. Sit autem  
 praedicta terra libera ab omni mundiali obstaculo, cum  
 omnibus quae ad se rite pertinere dinoscuntur, tam in





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## LXIV.

## \* ECGUINI, 714.

✠ Ego Ecguinus Uuicciorum humilis episcopus, uolo manifestare omnibus fidelibus Christi, qualiter per sancti spiritus inspirationem, et per labores multarum et magnarum uisionum, ostensum est mihi, quod ego primum unum locum aedificare deberem, ad laudem et gloriam omnipotentis dei, et sanctae Mariae, omniumque electorum Christi; et etiam mihi ad aeternam retributionem. Cum igitur maxime florerem in diebus Aethelredi regis, expetii ab eo locum qui Ethomme nuncupatur, in quo loco sancta et perpetua Uirgo Maria, primum cuidam pastori gregum Eoves nuncupato, dehinc etiam mihi cum duabus uirginibus, librum in manibus tenens, apparuit. Mundani itaque locum, opusque inceptum, dei opitulante gratia, ad finem perduxi.

Uolo igitur ostendere omni sequenti generationi quas possessiones supradicto loco adquisiui; et ipsas terras ab omni exactione potestatum omnium adquietaui, ipsamque adquietationem applicitis autoritatibus et priuilegiis, nec non et regalibus edictis confirmari feci; ut fratres secundum regulam S. Benedicti inibi deo seruietes, sine perturbatione uitam agerent. Nomina etiam uillarum uolo manifestare, quas omnes liberas et iuste adquisitas, deo et sanctae Mariae obtuli. Itaque ab Aethelredo rege quoddam coenobium quod Fledanburch nominatur obtinui, quod postea pro alio coenobio quod Straetforda nominatur mutaui. Post paruum uero tempus, a praedicti regis fratre Osuardo uiginti mansas in loco qui Tuiforda appellatur adquisiui. Postea uero succedente in regnum Kenredo concessit et ipse mihi octaginta quatuor mansas super utrasque partes illius fluminis quod Auena uocitatur. Quidam autem adolescens Aethelricus no-



mine octo mihi mansas donauit. Sicque deo propitio breui tempore CXX. mansas praedictae Christi aecclesiae adquisiui, sicut scriptum est et confirmatum in chartis aecclesiae, et in libro manifestatur terra et termini eius, quem scripsit Brihtuualdus archiepiscopus, et dictauit praeepto Romani Pontificis, cum consensu principum totius Angliae. Haec uero sunt nomina uillarum quas ut supradictum est adquisiui. Eouesham, Benincguurthe, Hantun, Baddeseia, Uuicque, Huniburne, Bretfertun, Uuillerseia, Uuitheleia, Samburne, Kineuuartun, Saltforde, maior et minor, Ambresleia, Ulenbeorge, Mortun, Buctun, Madelgaresbyri, Titles-thorp, Suella maior, Mayeldesbeorge Cildesuicoque: Has omnes terras, ut praefatus sum, liberas ab omni calumnia adquisiui, et sanctae dei aecclesiae obtuli. Qui ergo locum, quem apostolica dignitas et regia potestas regiae libertati donauit, et nos autoritate dei et sanctorum apostolorum donamus, deprauare aut minuere uel contaminare praesumpserit, iudicetur ante tribunal Christi, et nunquam in Christi ueniat memoriam, nisi in hac uita poenitens emendet; qui uero seruauerit et adauxerit, benedictionibus repletur. Fiat. Amen. Scripta est haec charta anno dominicae incarnationis DCCXIV.

✠ Ego Ecguinus per signum sanctae crucis [confirmau]. ✠ Ego Kenredus rex subscripsi. ✠ Ego Offa per signum crucis confirmau. Ego ✠ Brihtuualdus archiepiscopus subscripsi. Ego ✠ Osuardus frater regis confirmau.

---

LXV.

\* AETHELBALD OF MERCIA, 716.

✠ IN nomine dei summi et altissimi! Certis adstipulationibus nos sancti et iusti patres frequentatiuis orationibus admonent, ut deum quem diligimus et credimus



intima mentis affectione, cum bonorum operum diligentia incessanter amemus et timeamus, quia retributionem omnium actuum nostrorum in die examinationis iuxta uniuscuiusque meritum reddet. Ideoque subtilissima mentis certatione illum imitari satagamus, licet mortalis uitae pondere pressi, et labentibus huius saeculi possessionibus simus incaecati, tamen miserationis eius largitate caducis opibus aeterna coelestis uitae praemia mercari queamus. Quapropter ego Aethelbaldus, Christi annuente clementia rex Merciorum, pro spe mercedis aeternae et cum consilio uenerabilis archiepiscopi Brituualdi, et ob reuerentiam domini abbatis Ecguini, ad ecclesiam B. Mariae, quae fundata est in Ethom, anno regni mei primo, xxv. mansas perpetua largitus sum hereditate, et in locis sequestratis, uidelicet, Actona, Branesforde, Hamtona iuxta Uuiccium emptorium, Uptona, Uuitona, Lench, Alnod, Uuestona iuxta Auenam, Hudicota, Stoke, ut habeat in perpetuam libertatem et possideat cum omnibus quae deus coelorum in ipso telluris gramine procreauit, campis, pascuis, pratis, siluis, diriuatisque aquarum cursibus. Haec autem praedicta donatio mea et omnium praedecessorum meorum sit libera ab omni mundiali obstaculo, tribus exceptis, expeditione, pontis arcisue constructione. Deus totius mundi creator et rector qui cuncta creauit et fecit et cunctorum corda scrutatur et renes, cunctos qui huic meae donationi adiuuerint ut firma sit, sua benedictione multiplicet et custodiat, et accrescere qui uoluerint cunctis bonis crescant et repleantur: et e contrario si qui sunt qui huic meae donationi nocere uolunt, uel aduersari moliuntur, in profundum inferni descendant uiuentes, et perpetuis poenis mancipati iudicium ultionis percipiant cum impiis, nisi ante mortem ad satisfactionem uenerint, et reatum suum agnoscentes poenitentiam egerint. Scripta est autem haec donatio mea anno dominicae incarnationis dccxvi.





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interclusam ; uidelicet cum aqua quae dicitur Sche-  
pische uersus orientem, et cum aqua quae uocatur  
Nene uersus occidentem, et cum aqua quae uocatur  
Southee uersus austrum, et cum aqua uocata Asendick  
uersus aquilonem, ubi communis seuuera est, inter  
Spaldeling et dictam insulam. Et continet dicta in-  
sula in longitudine quatuor leucas, et tres leucas in  
latitudine cum mariscis adiacentibus uersus occidentem,  
ex opposito eiusdem insulae ex utraque parte aquae de  
Uueeland : cuius una pars uersus boream, uocata Gog-  
gisland, continet duas leucas in longitudine a ponte  
de Croyland, ubi fit ingressus ad insulam usque ad  
Aspath, et unam leucam in latitudine ab aqua de Uuee-  
land in australi parte usque ad Apenholt, uersus boream  
iuxta ripam, et habet per totam longitudinem aequali-  
tatem latitudinis ; et altera pars marisci in australi  
parte aquae de Uueeland continet in longitudine duas  
leucas a ponte de Croyland usque ad Southlake iuxta  
ripam ex opposito de Aspath ; et habet in latitudine  
duas leucas ab aqua de Uueeland usque ad Finset iuxta  
aquam de Nene in australi parte eiusdem marisci, cum  
separali piscaria in aquis de Uueeland et Nene, usque  
ad supradictos utriusque marisci limites ; et in aquis  
omnibus supradictam insulam ambientibus ; unde quen-  
dam coenobitam Eueshamensem, probatae religionis  
uirum, nomine Kenulphum, ut secum eiusdem ordinis  
monachos probatos ibidem congregaret, abbatem con-  
stitui ; praebens ei de thesauro meo ad aedificationem  
monasterii eiusdem, primo anno trecentas libras le-  
galis monetae, et per decem annos proxime sequentes  
quolibet anno centum libras ; concedendo eisdem licen-  
tiam ad uillam aedificandam ibidem, siue includendam,  
quantum ex iis duobus mariscis uersus occidentem  
dictis monachis pro se et suis placuerit. Quare uolo,  
quod praedicti monachi habeant ista dona mea cum  
omnibus appendiciis libera et soluta ab omni onere  
saeculari in perpetuam eleemosynam meam, cum omni



commodo, quod euenire aut extorqueri poterit infra dictos limites, tam subter terram, quam supra; cum communa pasturae pro omni genere animalium omnibus seisonis sibi, et hominibus suis, siue tenentibus suis secum ibidem moram facientibus ex utraque parte aquae de Uueeland; uidelicet, ex una parte usque ad agrum de Medeshamsted, et ex altera parte usque ad aedificia de Spaldelyng; cum omnibus libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus, quas regia potestas liberius alicui aecclesiae in regno meo contulerit temporibus retroactis. Et districte praecipio quod si quis contra hoc meae auctoritatis testamentum aliquod machinari impedimentum praesumpserit, quo minus pacifice possideant aliqua per me data et concessa, centum libras legalis monetae thesauro meo persoluet, necnon dictis monachis pro damnis et expensis digne satisfaciet. Deprecor omnes posteros meos mihi ad regnum succedentes, ut hanc poenam et censuram meam ita obseruent inuiolatam, sicut uoluerint recipere debitae iustitiae praemium, et euadere rapacitatis supplicium. Qui uero istam eleemosinam meam prouexerit et defensauerit, in sorte electorum dei remuneretur aeternaliter. Firmatum est hoc chirographum meum in anno ab incarnatione Christi DCCXVI. quod et his probabilibus testibus sanctae crucis indicio subnotatur.

✠ Ego Aethelbaldus rex Merciorum gratuito consensu confirmari. ✠ Ego Brihtwaldus Dorobernensis archiepiscopus ratificari. ✠ Ego Uuynfridus Merciorum episcopus approbati. ✠ Inguualdus Londiniensis episcopus mere consensi. ✠ Ego Aduinus Lichfield episcopus adoptari. ✠ Ego Tobias Roffensis episcopus collaudari. ✠ Ego Aethelredus abbas de Bardeney multum affectari. ✠ Ego Ecgbaldus abbas de Medeshamsted illud fieri deuote rogari. ✠ Ego Eggo comes Lincoln consilium dedi. ✠ Ego Leofricus comes Leycestriae assensum praebui. ✠ Ego Saxuulphus filius Saxuulphi comitis corroborari.



✠ Ego Inguulphus presbyter et humilis minister uocatus audiui. ✠ Ego Aethelbaldus, licet indignus, patientia tamen diuina regni Merciorum gero gubernacula, summa cum fiducia auctori meo Christo redeo humiliter: de quo propheticè scribitur in psalmo, Miserationes eius super omnia opera eius; eiusdem pietati me totum submitto, et sanctae matris aecclesiae precibus, beneficiisque spiritualibus commendo.

---

LXVII

AETHELBALD, 716—717

✠ IN nomine domini Ihesu! Ego Aethilbald, ex diuina dispensatione Mercensium rex, rogatus a sancta familia Christi consistenti in loco cui nomen est Uigranceastre, aliquam agelli partem in qua sal confici solet, ad meridianam plagam fluminis quod dicunt Saluuerpe, in loco qui dicitur Lootuic et Coolbeorg, ad construendos tres casulos et sex caminos, pro redemptione animae meae, in uoluntariam possidendi libertatem, concedens donabo; sex alios a supradicta Christi familia caminos, in duobus casulis, in quibus similiter sal conficitur, uicarios accipiens, ad aquilonalem uidelicet partem fluminis memorati cui uocabulum est Saluuerpe. Hanc autem mutuan uicissitudinem idcirco fecisse nos constat, quia utrisque nobis magis aptum esse uisum est.

✠ Hanc autem libertatem ego Aethelbaldus, rex Merciorum, signo sanctae crucis confirmabo. ✠ Ego Eguuinus episcopus. ✠ Ego Uuilfridus dux. ✠ Ego Aetheluard dux. ✠ Ego Stronglic dux. ✠ Ego Sigberhtus minister. ✠ Ego Eadberht minister. ✠ Ego Oba minister. ✠ Ego Eaduulf minister.





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## LXIX.

## AETHILBALD, 718.

✠ Ego Aethelbald, diuina dispensante gratia Mercensium rex, terram sex cassatorum, iuxta fluuium, cui nomen est Bladaen, prope uadum, cui uocabulum est Daeglesford, pro redemptione animae meae, seruo dei, quem uocant Begia, in possessionem iuris ecclesiastici libertatisque tradidi; ita ut in ea monasterium construeretur et seruorum dei habitaculum fieret; ea tamen conditione in omnibus rebus donabo illi noti et ignotis, regis siue principis, libera permaneat in sempiternum.<sup>1</sup> Si quis autem hanc donationem meam uiolare temptauerit, sciat se in tremendo extremi iudicii dei examine rationem deo redditurum.

✠ Ego Aethelbaldus rex propriam meam donationem consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuilfrithus episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Eadberht consensi. ✠ Ego Aethelric consensi. ✠ Ego Cyneric consensi. ✠ Ego Aelfraed consensi. ✠ Ego Sigebed consensi. ✠ Ego Osraed consensi.

Acta est autem hec donatio, anno Incarnationis Christi DCCXVIII. Indictione . x.

## LXX.

## \* AETHILBALD, 719.

✠ CUM plerumque contingere soleat, pro incerta temporum uicissitudine, ut ea, quae multarum et fidelium personarum testimonio consilioque roborata fuerunt, per contumaciam plurimorum, et machinamenta simulationis fraudulentæ, et sine ulla consideratione rationis, in animarum suarum periculo dissipentur, nisi

<sup>1</sup> Probably, "ea tamen conditione donabo illi, ut in omnibus rebus, notis," etc.



auctoritate literarum, et testimonio chirographorum in perpetuam memoriam fuerint consignata. Quapropter ego Aethilbaldus rex Merciorum, pro amore coelestis patriae, et pro redemptione animae meae, studendum esse prouidi, ut eam per bona opera liberam efficerem ab omni uinculo delictorum. Dum enim mihi omnipotens, per misericordiam clementiae suae absque ullo antecedente merito, sceptrum regni largitus est, ideo libenter, ex eo, quod dedit, retribuo. Huius rei gratia hanc donationem meam me uiuente concedo, ut omnia monasteria et aecclesiae regni mei a publicis uectigalibus, operibus et oneribus absoluantur, nisi in instructione arcium uel pontium, quae nunquam ulli possunt laxari. Praeterea habeant famuli dei propriam libertatem in proficuo sylvarum, in fructu agrorum, in captura piscium: nec munuscula praebeant regi, uel principibus, nisi uoluntaria; sed liberi seruiant domino in contemplatione pacifica per totum regnum meum, usque in aeuum.

---

LXXI.

INI OF WESSEX, July 20th, 723.<sup>1</sup>

✠ IN nomine dei patris omnipotentis! Anno incarnationis saluatoris humani generis DCLXIII. Indictione sexta XIII. kalendas Augusti. scripta est pagina priuilegii. Ego Ini rex Saxonum, pro remedio animae meae aliquam partem terrae donans impendo, id est decem cassatos, Hemgislo abbati, cum pontificis nostri consilio, consentiente Baldredo qui hanc terram donauit ei per petitionem Sigheheris: per me donatio haec imperpetuum sit confirmata ut nullus infringere

<sup>1</sup> This charter, which is not of 663, may well be of 723. It bears marks of authenticity, but the year of the Incarnation has been interpolated, and falsely calculated from the Indiction.



audeat. Terra autem haec sita est in monte et circa montem qui dicitur Brente; habens ab occidente Sabrinam, ab aquilone Axam, ab oriente Termic, ab austro Siger. Siquis uero cupiditate inlectus uoluerit irritam facere hanc donationem, sciat se rationem domino redditurum. ✠ Ego Haeddi episcopus consentiens propriis manibus subscripsi.

Haec enim sunt nomina testium subrogatorum posterioris temporis, pro maioris munimine firmamenti. ✠ Ego Baldredus rex. ✠ Ego Aethelbaldus rex. ✠ Ego Hereuualdus speculator aecclesiae dei, cum multis aliis. Isti praefati, ne sequentium rapacitas praecedentium irrumperet instituta, hiis uerbis inhibitionem indidisse uidentur. Siquis autem uobis deinceps tempore hoc infringere, tot nobilitatis gradibus roboratum, praesumeret ius, sit a consortio bene merentium anathema, rapaciumque collegio adplicitus temeritatis suae commissa luat, sub diris dentibus salamandri, cerberique rictibus reatum exsoluat proprium sine fine semper moerens. Siquis uero beniuola intentione potius praeditus haec exacta decernit, possideat bona sempiterna cum bene merentibus.

---

## LXXII.

### \* AETHILBERHT OF KENT, July 11th, 724.

✠ IN nomine dei saluatoris nostri Iesu Christi! Quoniam spes Christianorum hominum his mercedem pollicetur aeternam, qui pro intuitu caritatis, seruis et ancillis dei aliquod temporale subsidium misericorditer tribuunt, iccirco ego Aethilberhtus filius gloriosi regis Uuihtredi, cum consensu illius, terram unius aratri circa flumen Limenae, quam dudum possiderant qui in Ieccaham pro tempore habitabant, cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus rebus, et tria iugera prati





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tantum absque textu sufficeret, tamen quoniam plerumque nostris temporibus tempestates, et turbines saecularium rerum, etiam portas aecclisiae pulsant, iccirco operae praetium censuimus, ob cautelam futurorum, ea quae diffinita sunt paginis scripturarum annectere, ne in posterum obliuioni tradita ignorentur. Qua propter ego Ini, regali fretus dignitate a domino, cum consilio Sexburge reginae et licentia Beorhtuualdi Dorobernensis aecclisiae pontificis, et omnium suffraganeorum suorum, necnon etiam hortatu Baldredi et Aethelhardi subregulorum, aecclisiae uetustae, quae est in loco qui dicitur Glasteie, quam magnus sacerdos et pontifex summus angelorum obsequio sibi ac perpetuae uirgini Mariae, beato Daud, multis et inauditis miraculis, olim se sanctificasse innotuit, ex hiis, quae paterna haereditate possideo et in dominium peculiare teneo, locis continuis et congruentibus concedo, ad supplementum uitae regularis, et ad usum monachorum: Brente decem hidas, Souuig duodecim hidas, Pultun uiginti hidas, Dulting uiginti hidas, Blendeneie unam hidam, cum hiis omnibus quae antecessores mei eidem aecclisiae contulerunt: Keneuualchius, qui sancto Theodoro archiepiscopo interueniente, Ferlingamere, Boekereie, Godeneie, Martineseie, Eadredeseie; Kentuinus rex qui Glastingie matrem sanctorum uocare solitus fuerat, et eam ab omni saeculari et aecclisiastico obsequio immunem statuit, et hanc priuilegii dignitatem concessit, ut habeant fratres eiusdem loci potestatem elegendi, et constituendi sibi rectorem iuxta regulam sancti Benedicti: Haedde episcopus qui, Caeduualla annuente et propria manu, licet paganus, confirmante, Lantocal: Baldred qui Penuuard, sex hidas: Aetheluard, qui Poholt, sexaginta hidas, me annuente et confirmante, dederunt. Quorum ego deuotioni et benignae petitioni assentio, et contra malignantium hominum et oblatrantium canum insidias, regalium munimine inuigilo literarum; quatinus aecclisia domini



nostri Ihesu Christi, et perpetuae uirginis Mariae, sicut in regno Britanniae est prima, et fons et origo totius religionis, ita et ipsa supereminentem priuilegii obtineat dignitatem, nec ulli omnino homini ancillare obsequium faciat in terris, quae super choros angelorum dominatur in coelis. Igitur summo pontifice Gregorio annuente, et ut matrem domini sui in sinum et protectionem sanctae Romanae aeccliesiae, me licet indignum cum ipsa suscipiente, consentientibus etiam omnibus Britanniae regibus, archiepiscopis, episcopis, ducibus atque abbatibus, statuo ego atque confirmo; quatinus omnes terrae et loca, et possessiones beatae Mariae Glasteie sint quieta, et ab omnibus regis exactionibus et operibus que indici solent, uidelicet expeditione, pontis arcisue constructione, et ab omni archiepiscoporum et episcoporum promulgationibus et perturbationibus, sicut in antiquis eiusdem aeccliesiae cartis ratum esse inuenitur, et a praedecessoribus meis, Keneuualchio, Kentuino, Caedualla et Baldredo confirmatum esse dinoscitur, inconcussa et illibata permaneant. Et quaecumque immerserint causae, in homicidiis, sacrilegiis, ueneficiis, furtis, rapinis, in dispositione aeccliesiarum, et descriptione et ordinatione clericorum, in conuenticulis sinodalibus, et in omnibus iudiciariis examinationibus, absque ullius hominis praeiudicio, abbatis et conuentus dispositione diffiniantur; sed et omnibus regni mei regibus, archiepiscopis, episcopis, ducibus, et principibus, super honorem suum et amorem meum praecipio, et omnibus, tam meis quam eorum ministris super salutem corporis sui praecipio, ne ullus eorum in insulam domini nostri Ihesu Christi, et perpetuae uirginis Mariae Glasteie, nec eiusdem aeccliesiae possessiones, causa placitandi, perscrutandi, rapiendi, percipiendi, interdicendi, uel aliquid faciendi quod ibidem deo famulantibus possit esse in scandalum, audeat intrare. Illud autem omnipotentis dei et perpetuae uirginis Mariae, et beatorum Petri et Pauli et omnium



intercessione sanctorum, interdictione interdico, ne in ipsa Glastoniensi aeclesia, nec in aeclesiis sibi subditis, uidelicet, Souuig, Brente, Merlinge, Scapeuic, Strete, Budcaeth, Piltun, nec in earum capellis, sed nec in insulis aliqua interueniente occasione episcopus cathedram sibi episcopalem statuere, nec missas sollempne celebrare, nec altaria consecrare, nec aeclesias dedicare, nec ordines facere, nec aliquid omnino disponere praesumat, nisi ab abbate, uel a fratribus inuitatus fuerit; quod si ad haec inuitatus fuerit nihil de rebus aeclesiae sed nec de ipsis oblationibus ipse sibi aliquid usurpet. Duobus in locis ex ipsius aeclesiae possessionibus duas ei delegamus mansiones, unam in Poholt, alteram in uilla que Piltuna dicitur, ut habeat ubi adueniens hospitetur, uel inde ueniens, sese recipiat. Neque enim eum ibi, nisi importunitate temporis aut molestia corporis detentus fuerit, aut ab abbate, uel a fratribus rogatus fuerit, nec amplius quam cum tribus aut cum quatuor clericis, pernoctare licet. Hoc etiam prouideat idem episcopus, ut singulis annis cum clericis suis qui Fontanetum sunt, ipsam matrem suam Glastoniensem uidelicet aeclesiam, feria secunda post ascensionem domini, cum Lektania recognoscat. Quod si superbia inflatus eam distulerit, et quae superius dicta et confirmata sunt, preuaricauerit, mansiones sibi superius delegatas amittat. Abbas uel monachi a quocumque uoluerint episcopo qui pascha canonicum celebret, aeclesiastica sacramenta in Glastoniensi aeclesia, aut in aeclesiis sibi subiectis, aut in earum capellis percipiant. Quisquis autem huius meae munificentiae, et libertatis testamentum, quouis deinceps tempore, aliqua occasione, cuiuslibet etiam dignitatis uel professionis uel gradus, peruertere uel in irritum deducere temptauerit, sciat se cum Iuda proditore aeterna confusione edacibus ineffabilium tormentorum periturum flammis. Scripta est autem huius donationis et priuilegii pagina,





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tium quoque testium infra subiectis annotationibus ius testium plurimorum ratum stabileque curauimus efficere iudiciis. Siquis uero cuiuslibet dignitatis uel potentiae, quouis deinceps tempore, qualibet occasione, hanc infringere tyrannica fretus presumptione collationem temptauerit, sit a collegio catholicae aecclesiae separatus. Siquis uero pia praeditus intentione hoc probare ac defendere curauerit, amplificet deus portionem eius in terra uiuentium. Scripta est autem haec cartula huius donationis anno ab incarnatione domini DCCXXV, indictione octaua; et haec sunt territoria, etc.

✠ Ego Ini subscripsi. ✠ Ego Fortherus episcopus consensi et subscripsi: cum multis aliis.

---

## LXXV.

### AETHILBALD OF MERCIA, 727.<sup>1</sup>

✠ IN nomine dei summi! Reuerentissimus rex Mercensium, ego Aethilbold, pro redemptione animae meae largitus sum terram quae dicitur Aactune, trium manentium, Bucan comiti meo; firmiter possidendum benignissime trado, contra eius pecuniam. Ita largitus sum terram hanc praefato comiti meo, ut perpetuum sit habitaculum seruorum dei, diuina suffragante gratia, sollicite in eo seruetur. Hanc autem donationem si quis tyrannica potestate infringere uoluerit, sciat illum in examine deo rationem redditurum.

✠ Ego Aethilbald rex Mercensium propria manu signum crucis impressi. ✠ ego Uuor episcopus consensi. ✠ ego Torthere episcopus consensi. ✠ ego Tida consensi. ✠ ego Osfrid consensi. ✠ ego

<sup>1</sup> The date 717 is erroneous, and is not only refuted by the indiction, but by the date of Uuor, one of the witnesses. On the other hand, 727 agrees with the indiction, and is consistent with the dates of Uuor and Forðhere.



Aethilmod consensi. ✠ ego Puda consensi. ✠ ego  
 Uuilbroth consensi. ✠ ego Eadberht consensi.  
 ✠ ego Uuilfrat consensi. ✠ ego Oua consensi.  
 ✠ ego Tunualud consensi. ✠ ego Peot consensi.  
 ✠ ego Teol consensi. ✠ ego Theodor consensi.

Actum autem hoc meae concessionis donum anno  
 dominicae incarnationis DCCXVII. indictionis X.

---

 LXXVI.

## \* AETHILHEARD OF WESSEX, 729.

✠ Ego Aethilhardus rex Uestsaxona, simulque re-  
 gina Frithogitha terrae partem quae appellatur Poholt,  
 id est sexaginta manentium, cum consensu nostrorum  
 episcoporum Danielis ac Fortheres, optimatumque, pro  
 redemptione animarum nostrarum, in possessionem  
 stabilem familiae, quae in monasterio Glastingaburi sub  
 religioso abbate Hengislo fidei deo famulatur obse-  
 quio, liberali confirmamus munificentia; ita ut ex hoc  
 inconuulso iure praefata possessio ipsius monasterii  
 usibus mancipetur; unde ad amplioris adstipulationis  
 documentum subscriptionem contestationibus hanc  
 ipsam roborare decreuimus donationem, hocque ipsum  
 idoneorum quoque testium solenni subrogata adstipu-  
 latione<sup>1</sup> firmari curauimus. Qua propter si quis quo-  
 uis deinceps tempore, tyrannica fretus insolentia, sub  
 qualibet occasione, interrumpere atque in irritum de-  
 ducere insolubile placiti istius testamentum nisus  
 fuerit, sit a consortio piorum ultimi examinis uenti-  
 labro dispertitus, rapaciumque collegio combinatus  
 uolentiae suae poenas luat. Si quis uero beniuola po-  
 tius praeditus intentione haec probare ac defendere  
 studuerit, uideat bona dum in terra uiuentium. Hu-  
 ius donationis cartula conscripta ac promulgata est  
 anno ab incarnatione Christi DCCXIX. sub praesentia

<sup>1</sup> MS. a titulatione.



regis Aethilhardi uenerandorumque antistitum Danielis atque Fortheris, optimatumque quorum nomina infra cum propriis indita subscriptionibus in loco, qui appellatur Pencrik, euidentioris indicii documentum praestant.

✠ Ego Aethilhardus rex propriae manus subscriptione hanc donationem ratam fieri decerno.  
 ✠ Ego Frithogitha regina consensi et subscripsi.  
 ✠ Ego Beornfrithus abbas consensi et subscripsi.  
 ✠ Ego Daniel, plebis dei famulus, hanc donationem canonice confirmaui. ✠ Ego Fortherus episcopus confirmans subscripsi: et omnes principes consenserunt et confirmauerunt. Sunt autem territoria istius agelli praefati, etc.

---

## LXXVII.

### AETHILBERT OF KENT, 20th Feb. 732.

✠ IN nomine dñi dī saluatoris nī Ihu xpī. Est terrula quaedam id + quarta pars aratri unius iuxta liminae salī coquendo accommoda quam ego aethilberhtus rex cantuariorum dudum praestiteram antecessori tuo . . . . . et tu ō abba praesbyter dun. iam per tempora plura me annuente eadem usus es praestatione Hanc ipsam ego nunc terrulam iuris mei non pro pecunia aliqua saeculari sed pro remedio tantum animae meae tibi et ecclesiae beatae mariae cui tua prae est sollicitudo. ita tribuo et dono ut a praesenti die et tempore uestrae sit potestatis eam semper habere ac possidere qualiter uobis placuerit. Et ius regium in ea deinceps nullum repperiatur omnino. excepto dumtaxat tale quale generale est in uniuersis ecclesiasticis terris quae in hac cantia esse noscuntur et ut iugiter firmitatē . . . . . haec ipsa mea donatio habeat. subter hic signum sc̄ae crucis ex-[praessi] testesq: illius ut subscribant petam.





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res secundū hoc uisibile sc̄m nunc inperitur. Et illis qui concessores existunt ꝑ inperito opere. pietatis uberior fructus secundū inuisibile postmodum tribuetur. quamobrem ego. ethilbaldus rex mērc presentib: litteris indico me dedisse ꝑ anima mea alduulfo epis̄c̄ ecclesiaeq: beati andreae apōst̄ quam gubernat unius nauis siue illa proprie ipsius siue cuiuslibet alterius hominis sit incessum id ꝑ nectigal mihi et antecessorib: meis iure regio in portu lundoniae usque hactenus competentem quemammodū mansuetudinem n̄ram rogauit. quae donatio ut in perpetuum [firma et stabilis sit] ita ut nullus eam regū ꝑ optimatum ꝑ teloniariorū ꝑ etiam iuniorū quilibet ipsorū in parte aut in toto [in irritum praesumat] aut possit adducere manu ꝑprio signum sc̄e crucis subter in hac pa[gina faciam testesque] ut subscribant petam. quisquis iḡ id qꝑ pro anima mea donauit, aut [donatum] ꝑ inlibatum permanere ꝑmiserit habeat communionem beatam cum ꝑsente xp̄i ecclesia atqꝑ futura. si quis ꝑ non permiserit, separetur a societate [non solum sanc]torum hominū sed etiam angelorū, manente hac donatione n̄ra nihilominus in sua firmitate.

Actum mense Septembrio die. indīc. ii. anno regni n̄ri. xvii.

✠ Ego aethilbald rex subscripsi

✠ Ego daniel epis̄c̄ scripsi

✠ Signum manus oba

✠ Signum manus sigibed

*Indorsed.*

✠ Hoc etiam iterum confirmatū ꝑ a beorhtuulfo regi merciorū in uico regali uuerburgeuic.

✠ Ego berhtuulf rex mer̄c hanc meam donationem et ꝑdecessoris mei aethilbaldi regis cum signo sc̄e crucis xp̄i confirmaui his testib: consentientib: et quorū nomina hic continentꝑ ad indulgentiā delictorum meorū atqꝑ ꝑdecessoris mei aethelbaldi regis. Si quis ꝑ successorū meorū regū aut ꝑncipū ꝑ thelo-



niariorū hanc donationē n̄ram infringere † minuere uoluerit sciat se separatū a congregatione omniū s̄corū in tremendo die iudicii nisi prius digne emendauerit.

✠ Ego berhtuulf rex merc̄

✠ Ego ceolnoth arc̄ ep̄is

✠ Ego sædryð regina

✠ Ego ceolred ep̄is

✠ Ego tatnoth ep̄is

✠ Ego hunberht dux

✠ Ego mucel dux

✠ Ego hunstan dux

---

LXXIX.

AETHILBALD, Nov. 24th, 723, 728, or 734.<sup>1</sup>

✠ DONANTE domino nostro Ihesu Christo! Ego Aethilbaldus rex Merciorum terram iuris mei vi. cassatorum, cui uocabulum est Bradanlaeh, pro redemptione animae meae Cyneburge trado; ut fiat eius possessio in perpetuum; et cuicumque uoluerit tradere, uel in uita illius uel post obitum eius, [potestatem] habeat tradendi. Si quis temptauerit hanc donationem fraudare, sciat se reddere rationem in die iudicii. Huic donationi optimates mei testes sunt quorum nomina infra expressa sunt.

✠ Ego Aethilbaldus rex Merciorum confirmationem hanc confirmaui propria manu. ✠ Ego Uuor episcopus. ✠ Ego Offa confirmaui. ✠ Ego Eadberht confirmaui. ✠ Ego Uualdhere confirmaui. ✠ Ego Uuilfrid episcopus. ✠ Ego Aldberht confirmaui. ✠ Ego Ontuini confirmaui.

Hanc cartam composui in IIII. feria VIII. kal. decemb̄. passio sancti Chrisogoni martyris.

<sup>1</sup> The 24th of November fell on a Thursday in the years 717, 723, 728, 734, and 745, between 716 and 757. | But as Uuor became bishop in 721, and died in 737, while Uuilfrith died in 743, we must exclude 717 and 745.



## LXXX.

## AETHILBALD, 736.

✠ Ego Aethilbalt dño donante rex non solum marcersium sed et omnium prouinciarum quae generale nomine sutangli dicuntur pro remedio animae meae et relaxatione piaculorum meorum aliquam terrae particulam id est .x. cassatorum uenerando comite meo cyniberhte ad construendum coenubium in prouincia cui ab antiquis nomen inditum est husmerae iuxta fluuium uocabulo stur cum omnibus necessariis ad eam pertinentib. cum cāpis siluisq. cum piscariis pratisq. in possessionem ecclesiasticam benigne largiendo trado. ita ut quādiu uixerit potestatem habeat tenendi ac possidendi cuicumq. uoluerit uel eo uiuo uel certe post obitum suum relinquendi est autem supradictus ager in circuitu ex utraq. parte supranominati fluminis habens ex aquilone plaga siluam quam nominant cynibre ex occidentale uero aliam cui nomen est. moerheb. quarum pars maxima ad praefatum pertinet agrum si quis autem hanc donationem uiolare temptauerit sciat se in tremendo examine tyrannidis ac praesumptionis suae dō rationem terribiliter redditurum

scripta est haec cartula anno ab incarnatione dñi ñi ihu xpi septincentissimo tricesimo. VI indictione quarta

✠ ego aetdilbalt rex britanniae propriam donationem confirmans subscripsi

✠ ego uuor episcopus consensi et subscripsi

✠ ego uuilfridus episç. iubente aethilbaldo rege subscripsi

✠ ego aethilric subregulus atq. comes gloriosissimi principis æthilbal[di] huic donatione consensi et subscripsi

✠ ego ibe ac si indignus abbas consensi et subscripsi





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abbas Cumma : nam ex utraque parte fluvii Tamisae cis citra suis antecessoribus ad ius monasterii praefati quaedam territoria collata fuerant, plaga praedicti fluminis occidentali, data in dei oblatione terra his saxonum regibus Cissa, Caeduualla, Ini, quantitate huius numeri CCL. cassatum continetur. Plaga uero orientali Merciae CCLXXIII. potentissimi reges ad sustentationem dei seruorum suprafato monasterio terram hac supputatione manentium XX. qui additis uocabulis inspiciantur, Aethilred, Cuthred, Coenred. Insuper et rex Aethilbaldus suam specialiter oblationem monasterio eidem obtulit, locoque in Uuaenesfeld XXVII. cassatos dedit, alibi quoque iuxta riuum Geenge X. erogauit. Praescriptas quoque praeteritorum regum donationes una cum suis praesulibus et principibus sed et optimatibus perhenniter dei cultui eodemque monasterio praefato firmavit, quorum nomina subscriptionibus annexa declarantur.

Aethilbaldus Britanniae Anglorum monarchus praeformatas propinquorum sed et regum donationes hoc signo ✠ firmavit. Ego Daniel plebis dei famulus canonica subscriptione manu propria ✠ firmaui. Ego Uuor episcopus hanc donationem ✠ subscripsi. Ego Forthere episcopus in Banesinga uilla, iubente rege, crucis signum ✠ infixi. Ego Uualcstod episcopus signum crucis ✠ ad confirmationem imposui. Ego Aethilhardus rex hanc suprafatam donationem sancto hoc signo ✠ una cum comitibus subter nominatim descriptis roborauit, in expeditione ultra fluuium Sabrina aduersus Britonum gentem.

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## LXXXII.

NOTHELM, 734—737.

✠ GLORIOSISSIMUS Mercensium rex Aethelred, cum comite suo, subregulo Huuicciorum Oshero, rogatus ab eo, terram . XX . cassatorum iuxta fluuium, cui



uocabulum est Tillath, duabus sanctimonialibus, Dunnan uidelicet et eius filiae Bucgan, ad construendum in ea monasterium, in ius ecclesiasticum sub libera potestate, pro uenia facinorum suorum condonauit, propriaeque manus subscriptione hanc eorum donationem firmavit. Praefata autem dei famula Dunne, constructum in praedicto agello monasterium, cum agris suis necnon et cartulam descriptionis agri, cui tunc sola ipsa praeerat, filiae, nimirum filiae suae, in possessionem, ad dominum migratura largita est. Sed quia haec in paruula adhuc aetate erat posita, cartulam conscripti agri, necnon et omnem monasterii procurationem, quoad usque illa ad maturiorem peruenisset aetatem, matri illius maritatae conseruandam iniunxit. Quae cum cartulam reddi poposcisset, illa reddere nolens, furtu hanc sublatam respondit. Quo tandem omni negotio ad sanctam sacerdotalis concilii synodum perlato, decreuit omne uenerabile concilium, cum reuerentissimo archiepiscopo Nothelmo, hanc cartulam donationis, uel regum uel supradictae dei famulae Dunnan, manifestissime describi, praefataeque abbatissae Hrotuuari reddi, eiusque possessionem monasterii firmissimam esse; damnato nimirum eo, atque anathematizato synodi sacratissimae decreto, qui cartam illam subscriptionis agri primitiuam uel per furta, uel quolibet modo fraudulenter auferendo subripere praesumpserit. Atque hoc decernit sacra synodus, ut post obitum eius, sicut ante statutum fuit a senioribus eius, ad episcopalem sedem castrum Uueogernensis liber hic, cum terra, reddatur.

✠ Ego Nothelmus, gratia dei archiepiscopus, canonicè subscripsi. ✠ Ego Daniel episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuor episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Incguuald episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuilfrith episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Alduuulf episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aluine episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Forthere episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cuthberht episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Hereuuald episcopus subscripsi.



## LXXXIII.

## AETHILBALD OF MERCIA, 723—737.

✠ Ego Aethilbalth, non solum Mercensium, sed et uniuersarum prouinciarum quae communi uocabulo dicuntur Suthengli, diuina largiente gratia, rex, reuerentissimo comiti meo, mihique satis caro, filio quondam Huuicciorum regis Oosheraes, Aethilricae, terram uiginti cassatorum in possessionem aecclesisticae rationis atque regulae, cum consensu uel episcoporum uel optimatum meorum, larga mentis beniuolentia donans concedo. Est autem idem ager qui traditur in regione quae antiquitus nominatur Stoppingas, in loco qui uetusto uocabulo dicitur Uuidutuun, iuxta fluuium quem priores nostri appellare solebant, et adhuc nominantur, Aeluinnae. Omnem itaque hunc agrum intra terminos ab antiquis possessoribus constitutos, cum campis et saltibus et pratis, necnon et uniuersis, qui ex eo prouenire possint, necessariis reddituum usibus, ita nimirum praefato comiti meo Aethilricae, in ius monasticae rationis, rogatus ab eo tradens largior, ut et ipse, quamdiu uita comite uoluerit, prospere possideat, et cuicumque placuerit, uel se uiuente uel obeunte, ea conditione qua sibi traditum acceperit, licenter omnino nobis concedentibus, libens tradat.

✠ Ego Aethilbalth hanc donationem meam subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuor episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Piot abbas consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuilfrith comes consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Sigibed comes consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Oba comes consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Beorcol comes consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Heardberht, frater regis, subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eadberht comes subscripsi. ✠ Ego Tepra consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aduulf consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ceoba consentiens





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## LXXXV.

## EÁDBERHT OF KENT, April, 738.

✠ IN nomine domini dei nostri Ihesu Christi! Ego Eadberht, rex Cantuariorum, donavi aliquam partem terrae pro remedio animae meae atque indulgentia delictorum meorum, episcopatui beati Andreae apostoli, ac uenerabile uiro Ealdulfo, eius ecclesiae antistiti, in regione quae uocatur Hohg, in loco qui dicitur Andscohesham, id est decem aratorum, iuxta aestimationem prouinciae eiusdem. Huius uero terrae possessionem ita praedicto episcopo largitus sum, cum omnibus ad eam pertinentibus, id est campis, siluis, pratis, piscariis, salsilagene, atque omnibus utensilibus eius, iuxta notos terminos constitutos. Hoc quoque praecipimus ut nullus praesumat propinquorum [m]eorum uel successorum [m]eorum hanc donationem meam minuere infringere quomodo. Si quis uero, quod non credimus, contra praeceptum meum huic donatione meae malibolo animo contraire temptauerit, sciat se in die iudicii rationem deo redditurum, manentem tamen hanc cartulam nihilominus in sua firmitate. Si quis uero magis defendere augere uoluerit, addat deus bona eius in terra uiuentium.

✠ Hanc quoque donationem meam ego Eadberht rex cantuariorum propria manu confirmaui et signum sanctae crucis infixi; testes quoque idoneos commites meos confirmari et subscribere feci. ✠ Ego Uuilbaldus commites meos confirmari et subscribere feci. ✠ Ego Dimheahac commites meos confirmari et scribere feci. ✠ Ego Hosberth commites meos confirmari et scribere feci. ✠ Ego Nothbalth commites meos confirmari et scribere feci. ✠ Ego Banta commites meos confirmari et scribere feci. ✠ Ego Ruta



commites meos confirmari et scribere feci. ✠ Ego Tidbalth commites meos confirmare et scribere feci.

✠ In nomine domini dei summi. Ego Alduulfus episcopus in primis penitus ignoravi quod a Dorouer-  
nensis ecclesiae praesuli et rege hac kartula confirmata  
esse debuisset, postea agnoui, et tam diligenter postu-  
laui ab archiepiscopo Nothelmo et rege Aethilberhto,  
praesidente meo largitore Eadberhto, ut ipsi manu  
sua hanc donationem corroborassent: et sic in me-  
tropolitano urbe perfecte compleuerunt. Actum mense  
April. indiç. vi. Anno ab incarn. Christi DCCXXXVIII.

✠ Ego Nothelmus gratia dei archiepiscopus testis  
consentiens subscripsi kanonice. ✠ Ego Aethilbertus  
rex praefatam donationem signo sanctae crucis con-  
firmaui. ✠ Ego Beornheard testis subscripsi. ✠  
Signum manus Tunan. ✠ Signum manus Balthardi.  
✠ Signum manus Eanberhti.

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## LXXXVI.

### AETHILBERHT OF KENT, 740.<sup>1</sup>

✠ IN nomine dñi ði saluatoris nī ih̄u xp̄i. Pro-  
uabilib: desiderijs et petitionib: pijs assensum semp'  
praeberē gloriosū constat esse et rectū et tum max-  
ime cum eadem desideria et petitiones ad dilatan-  
dum et augendam uitam xp̄i sacerdotum eiusq: ser-  
uorum respiciunt qua de re ego aethilberht rex can-  
tuariorū pro remedio animae meae capturam pisciū  
quod est in ostio fluminis cuius nomen † liminaea  
et partem agri in qua situm † oratoriū sc̄i martini  
cum edib: piscatorū et extra eam quartam partē  
aratri circa eundē locum et alterā partem iuris mei

<sup>1</sup> This charter is undoubtedly ge-  
nuine, and yet there is great diffi-  
culty with the date. As it stands,  
the year and the indiction do not  
agree. I am inclined, however, to

think that it is of the year 740, in  
which year Cuthberht was conse-  
crated, and of which the indiction  
is VIII.



ad pascendum . CL . iumentorū iuxta marisco qui dicitur  
 biscopos uuic usq : ad silbam qui appellatur ripp et at  
 terminos suthsaxonie sicut olim habuit romanus p̄r  
 ad ecclesiam beatissimi birginis marie quod est in  
 liminlaeae libenter donauit atq : dono regimen ha-  
 bente eiusdem monasterii domno cuthberhto archi-  
 episcopo tunc temporis abbati. Uerum quia cauendum  
 est ne hodiernam donationem nostram futuri temporis  
 abnegare ualeat et in ambiguum deuocare presumptio  
 Placuit mihi hanc paginem condere per quam non  
 solum omnib : meis successoribus atq : heredibus set  
 etiam mihimet ipsi interdico ne aliter quam ā me  
 constitutum est ullo tempore quippiam agere audeant  
 quod si qui forte obseruare neglexerint et absque digna  
 satisfactione presentis uitae impleberint dies sciat se  
 omnipotentis dī irā incurrere et ā socitate s̄corum om-  
 nium segregatum. Quoniam s̄cissimam beatissimae  
 uirginis marie locum deonestare conatus est. Qui  
 uero haec augenda custodierint nihilq : inrogarent  
 aduersi . auribus percipiant uocem clementissimi iudicis  
 inquietis ad pios . Uenite benedicti patris mei perci-  
 pite regnum quod uobis paratum est ab origine mundi.

Actum in loco qui dicitur liminlaeae Anno dominicae  
 incarnationis . DCCXLI. Indictione III.

✠ Ego aethilberhtus rex cantiae hanc donationē ā  
 me factam propria manu signo s̄cae crucis roborauit.

✠ Ego cuthberhtus gratia dī archiepisc̄ hanc piam  
 donationē predicti regis consensi et subscripsi.

✠ signum manus balthhardi

✠ signū mañ aedelhuni

✠ signū mañ dunuualhi pincerni

✠ siġ mañ duunuallan

✠ siġ mañ aldberhti prefecti

✠ siġ mañ aethelnothi





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constituit seruandum ita per omnia irrefragabiliter et immutabiliter perdurare praecipimus. Si quis autem regum successorum nostrorum seu episcoporum seu principum hoc salubre decretum infringere temptauerit reddat rationem deo omnipotenti in die tremendo. si autem comes presbyter diaconus clericus uel monachus huic constitutioni restiterit sit suo gradu priuatus et a participatione corporis et sanguinis domini separatus et alienus a regno dei nisi ante placita satisfactione emandauerit quod malo superbiae inique gessit scriptum est enim quaecunque ligaueris super terram erunt ligata et in coelo et quaecunque solueris super terram erunt soluta et in coelo.

✠ ego ethelbald rex diuino suffragio fultus gentis merciorum regens imperium signum sanctae crucis subscribo.

✠ ego cuthbertus archiepiscopus propria manu subscripsi.

✠ ego uuita episcopus consensi et subscripsi.

✠ ego torhthelm episcopus consensi et subscripsi.

✠ ego wilfredi episc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego cuthberht episc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego huetlac episc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego eanfrith episc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego egclaf episc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego aluuig episc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego hunwald epis. cons. et subs.

✠ ego daniel episc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego aldwuulf episc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego æthelfrith episc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego herewald episc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego sigcga episc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego redwulf epis. cons. et subs.

✠ ego ofa patricius cons. et subs.

✠ ego aldwuulf dux cons. et subs.

✠ ego æthelmod indolis Merc. cons. et subs.

✠ ego heardberht dux cons. et subs.



- ✠ ego eadbald dux cons. et subs.
- ✠ ego bercul dux cons. et subs.
- ✠ ego cyneberht cons. et sub.
- ✠ ego freothoric cons. et subs.
- ✠ ego wermund abbas cons. et subs.
- ✠ ego cuthræd abbas cons. et subs.
- ✠ ego buna abbas cons. et subs.

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### LXXXVIII.

#### \* AETHILBALD, 716—743.

✠ Ego Aethilbald diuina inspirante gratia rex Suthanglorum terram VIII. cassatorum quae nomen habet aet Baecesshoran, pro redemptione animae meae, ut sit iuris aecclesiastici, reuerentissimo episcopo Uuilfrido libenter largitus sum; notis haec terra limitibus ab aliis litem discernit agris, montis ad meridiem uersus haud paruum obtinet partem, ad orientem uia regia septa ab aquilone fluuiialibus cingitur undis, paludibus dyssis certis determinat illam.

✠ Ego Aethilbald rex meam donationem pro domino factam signaculo sacratissimae crucis confirmo.

✠ Ego Uualhstod episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuilfrith subscripsi. ✠ Ego Oba subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aethilric subscripsi. ✠ Ego Sigebed subscripsi.

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### LXXXIX.

#### AETHILBALD, 716—743.

✠ IN nomine sanctae Trinitatis! Ait enim Apostolus: Nihil intulimus in hunc mundum, nec auferre quid possumus; et beatus Iob: Nudus egressus sum ex utero matris, et nudus reuertar in terram. Quapropter ego Aethilbaldus, rex Australium Anglorum, breuitatem uitae huius considerans, et quod cum his



caducis mercanda esse aeterna polorum regna, rogatus a uenerabili Uuilfrido episcopo, terram trium cassatorum ruris siluatici, in loco qui uetusto uocabulo nuncupatur Uuduceastir, ad aecclesiam beati Petri apostolorum principis in Uuigorna ciuitate, in ius proprium libentissime concedens possidendum donabo. His terminibus institutis, etc.

✠ Ego Aethelbald, rex Merciorum, signum sanctae crucis Christi imposui. ✠ Ego Uuilfridus episcopus. ✠ Ego Uuilferth praefectus. ✠ Ego Cuthredus abbas. ✠ Ego Sigeberht. ✠ Ego Iebe abbas. ✠ Ego Oba. ✠ Ego Aethelualdus abbas. ✠ Ego Heardberht. ✠ Ego Aethelricus presbyter.

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XC.

AETHILBALD, 716—743.

✠ SIT nomen domini benedictum in secula! Ego Aethelbaldus, deo dispensante rex Mercensium, terram xx. cassatorum, id est x. et viii. in loco quem dicunt aet Eastune et ad Natangrafum ministro meo ualde fideli, qui est de stirpe non ignobili prosapia regali gentis huicciorum, Osredo, in possessionem iuris ecclesiastici, pro redemptione animae meae, largiens concedo; quatinus eo uiuente possideat et regat, et post se cuicumque uoluerit hominum possidendum, liberum arbitrium habens, derelinquat; et ut ab omni tributo uectigalium operum onerumque saecularium sit libera in perpetuum, pro mercede aeternae retributionis, regali potestate decernens statuo; tantum ut deo omnipotenti ex eodem agello aecclesiasticae seruitutis famulatum inpendat. Haec autem testamenti traditio perpetualiter postea tradita est sanctae Mariae Uueogernensis monasterii pro ipsius regis salute.

✠ Ego Aethilbald rex Mercensium, hanc donationem meam subscribo.





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## XCII.

\* HILLA, 744.

✠ OMNE quidem decretum commutationis atque commercium temporalis negociationis inter mortales solet apicibus inextricabili scilicet roborari foedere, secundum antiquitus collatum, ne forte nascentium soboles delicto falsitatis ignorantes contaminentur, rursumque dampnare conentur quae fida inter se primorum autoritas sub almae Trinitatis contestatione stabili constituit iure; ob hoc autem [ego Hilla] militantium Christo humilis ancilla, sincera scilicet deuotione, placata praetio muneris accepti, exemplo prolati, cum conscientia uidelicet ac regali licentia eius qui Britannicae insulae monarchiam dispensat, regalisque regni regimina gubernat, Aethelbaldi, uenerandorumque antistitum testimonio ac dignitatum consensu, pro redemptione animae meae eorumque uidelicet qui mihi contribulium ac necessitudinum nexibus conglutinati sunt, in stabilem possessionem, ruris portionem, id est, Baldheresberge et Scobbanuuirthe, sub decem manentium aestimatione certa taxatam, cum adstipulatione literarum et idoneorum testimonium, Cuniberhti abbatis, Bosan, Uitan, Uualcstodes, Tidbertes, sacerdotum, et Tidan praepositi, Cuthuunisque comitis, in absida dedicata quidem patrocinio eximiorum apostolorum Petri et Pauli, sub quorum praesentia huius cartulae donationem altario dei propria manu, ultronea uoluntate, in die sexto Idus Iulii, liberali munificentia libenter tradidi; ac familiae quae in monasterio Glastingaburg sub simplicis archimandritae dispositis regulis Tunberhtes, fidei deo famulatur obsequio; ita ut ex hoc die inconuulso iure praefata possessio ipsius monasterii usibus mancipetur. Eiusdem namque numeri cassatorum calculum in locis qui prisco uocabulo Lotisham et Ledenford nominantur, reliqui dimisique arbitrio Aethelbaldi regis. Haec autem



uocabula rerum diuulgant terminos, agrorum uidelicet praedictorum confinia inter possidentes propriae sortis, emenso scilicet spatio aquarum id est, etc.

Haec uero uocabulorum signa tomi stilo indita sunt, ne forte litium uel contentio seu iurgium iam erepserit inter tributarios uestros, nostrosque colonos; quod autem crebro solet fieri ubi euidentiora allusionibus literali elementorumque diffinitione, iudicia limitum metum non protenderint. Hoc pietantium cum concessio donatio, anno ab incarnatione Christi DCCXLIII. cum consensu Aethelbaldi regis atque imperio, reuerentissimique pontificis conscientia Hereuualdi, indictione XII. caraxatum est. Quapropter, si quis quouis deinceps tempore, tyrannica fretus insolentia, qualibet occasione, interrumpere atque in irritum deducere seu unius iugeris spatium placiti istius testamentum nisus fuerit, sit a consortio aecclesiae Christi anathema, extremique uentilabro examinis dispertitus, rapaciumque collegio combinatus uolentiae suae praesumptionem luat in aeuum. Qui uero beneuola potius praeditus intentione haec probare, roborare ac defendere studuerit, uoti compos ipse altitoni gloriam ascultet indefecta perhennitate, cum faustis agminibus angelorum atque omnium sanctorum.

✠ Ego Aethelbaldus hoc donatium propriae manus subscriptione ratum fore sanxi.

✠ Ego Cuthred annuens subscripsi firmauique, subscripsi et confirmaui deuota mente. ✠ Ego Oua suffragator consensi et subscripsi, deuotione subscripsi et roborauit. ✠ Ego Athelhere subscripsi et solidauit. ✠ Ego Hereuuald episcopus supplex in Christo consensi et confirmaui. ✠ Ego Dud abbas subscripsi et confirmaui. ✠ Ego Heabeorht auxiliator uotiuum consultum et subsidium praestans consensi.



## XCIII.

## \* CUTHRAED OF WESSEX, 744.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi. Ego Cuthredus rex Uestsaxonum uniuersa priorum regum subpetitia, Centuines, Baldredes, Caednuallan, Ines, Aethelhardes, Aethelbaldes regis Merciorum, in uillis et in uicis atque agris ac praediis, massis et maioribus, ut est pristina urbs Glastingei corroborata, sicque propriae manus subscriptione crucisque signo confirmatum hoc donatium stabili iure gratum et ratum regum praedictorum decerno durare, quamdiu uertigo poli terras atque aequora circa aethera siderum iusso moderamine uoluet. Si quis autem huius meae donationis testamentum nisus fuerit confringere, uel gressum pedis uobis Hengissingum traditum, uberemque glebam extra terminos praefixos uel definitos limites seu constitutos adimere, ipse acrius multatus sit, infernalis ergastuli in poena demersus uiolentiae suae praesumptionem luat in aeuum. Amen.

✠ Ego Cuthredus rex Uestsaxonum propriae manus subscriptione sanctae crucis designaui effigiem, ut nemo qui se regnaturum in Christo nouerit, praesumat mutare hanc donationem. ✠ Ego Hereuualdus episcopus subscripsi et confirmaui ✠ Signum manus Cumbrian praefecti regis; et aliorum multorum nobilium subscriptiones in testimonium et exemplar huius largitionis. Prouulgatum est in praedicto coenobio sub presentia Cuthredi regis, quod propriae manus magnificentia altario sacro commendauit, in lignea basilica, qua fratres abbatis Hemgisili sarcofagum sortiuntur in die: anno ab incarnatione domini, DCCXLIV.





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scripsi hanc donationem et confirmatione ratum fieri  
 faxi. ✠ Ego Cuthred, nomine regis fungens, hoc  
 donatium propriae manus subscripsi. ✠ Signum  
 manus Athelheardi. ✠ Signum manus Cumman.  
 ✠ Signum manus Aldhunes.

---

 XCV.

## AETHILBALD, 743—745.

✠ IN ūsses dryhtnes noman hāelendes cristes ic  
 aedelbald myrcna cincg waer beden from þāem ārful-  
 lan bisceope milrede þaeti ic him ālēfde and his þāem  
 hālegan hirede alle nēdbade tuēgra sceopa þe þaertō  
 limpene beōð þeti ic him forgefe þa þāem eādgan  
 petre apostola aldormen in þāem mynstre þeōwiað  
 þæt is geseted in huicca māegðe in þāere stowe þe  
 mon hāteð weogernacester þāere bene swýðe ārfulre  
 geðafunge ic waes syllende for mīnre sāwle lāecedōme  
 tō ðon þaeti for mīnum synnum hī heō geeaðmedden  
 þaette heō wāeren gelomlice þingeras wið drihten  
 swýðe lustfullice þā forgeofende ic him ālyfde alle nēd-  
 bade tuēgra sceopa þa þe þær ābaedde beōð from þāem  
 nēdbaderum in ludentūnes hýðe ond naefre ic nē mīne  
 lāstweardas nē ða nēdbaderas geðristlāecen þat heō  
 hit onwenden .oððe þon wiðgāen . gif heō þat nyllen  
 sýn heō þonne āmansumade from dāelneomencge lice-  
 man and blōdes ūsses drihtnes hāelendes cristes and  
 from alre nēweste geleāfulra sýn heō āsceādene and  
 āsyndrade nymðe heō hit her mid þingonge bōte ge-  
 bēte.

✠ Ic Aethelbald cincg mīne āgene sylene trym-  
 mende hic heō wrāt. ✠ Milred bisceop þāre hā-  
 legan rōde tācen he heron gefaestnode. ✠ Ingwald  
 bisceop geðafiende he hit wrāt. ✠ Wilfrið bisceop  
 he hit wrāt. ✠ Alda cinges gefera he hit wrāt.



## XCVI.

## EARDUULF OF KENT, 747.

✠ IN nomine dei summi ! Multi quidem in hoc seculo constitutionem et narrationem antiquorum pro huius uitae fauore et concupiscentia deprauare conati sunt, qui istius aerumni seculi laudem quaerunt, et multo magis hominibus placere quam deo diligunt; sicut ipse procurator, nomine Uualhhun, contra episcopum Hro-fensis ecclesiae sine intermissione congressum discrimini fecit, circa porcorum pascua in silba quae appellatus est Caestruuarouualth. Iccirco ✠ ego Earduulfus rex Cantuariorum confliktionem eorum ad nichilum redigo, quia coram testibus et optimatibus meis concedo ad ecclesiam sanctae Andreae, pro remedio animae meae atque meorum patrum, XII. greguum porcorum ad serbandum in publicis locis, id est ut incoli nominandi dicunt, Holanspic, alius Paetlanhrygc, tercius Lindhrygc. Hoc autem numerus XII. gregum in istis tribus partibus singulariter in uno quoque teneatur. Si quis uero, quod absit, heredum meorum hanc donationem infringere aut minuere praesumat, sciat se ab omnipotenti deo et a sanctorum angelorum consortio separatum, et in aeterna perditione damnatum, manente hac donatione mea in sua nichilominus firmitate perseueret.

Anno ab incarnatione Christi, DCCLXII. indict. xv.

✠ Ego Earduulfus rex Cantuariorum, supradicta omnia uolens confirmabi, et signum sanctae crucis impressi. ✠ Ego Cuthberchtus gratia dei archiepiscopus ad petitionem Earduulfi episcopi consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aethilberchtus rex Cantiae consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Balthard consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Duunuualla subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aethelhun subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aldberht subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ruta subscripsi. ✠ Ego Folcuuine sub-



scripsi. ✠ Ego Uuiohtbrord subscripsi. ✠ Ego Balthhard subscripsi. ✠ Ego Badoheard subscripsi. ✠ Ego Beagnoth subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uualhhun subscripsi.

---

XCVII.

\* AETHILBALD OF MERCIA, Sept. 29, 747.

✠ IN nomine domini dei saluatoris nostri Ihesu Christi! Si ea quae quisque, pro recipienda a deo mercede, hominibus uerbo suo largitur et donat, stabilia iugiter potuissent durare, superuacaneum uideretur ut litteris narrarentur ac fulcirentur; sed dum ad probanda donata ad conuincendumque uolentem donata infringere, nihil prorsus robustius esse uidetur, quam donationis [cartula] manibus auctorum ac testium roborata, non immerito plurimi petunt, ut quae eis praestita dinoscuntur paginaliter confirmentur; quorum postulationibus tanto libentius tantoque promptius consensus praebendus est, quanto et illis qui praecatores sunt utilior res secundum hoc uisibile sacculum nunc impertitur, et illis qui concessores existunt, pro impertito opere pietatis, uberior fructus secundum inuisibile postmodum tribuetur. Quamobrem ego Aethelbaldus rex Merciorum praesentibus apicibus indico me concessisse atque donasse pro animae meae salute, Mildrithae religiosae abbatissae eiusque uenerabili familiae quae una cum ea conuersatur in Insula Thaenet, totam exactionem nauis earum, mihi et antecessoribus meis iure publico in Londoniensi portu prius competentem, quemadmodum mansuetudinem nostram rogarent. Quae concessio atque donatio ut in perpetuum firma et stabilis sit, ita ut nullus eam regum, uel optimatum, uel theloneariorum, uel etiam iuniorum quilibet ipsorum, in parte aut in toto, in irritum praesumat ut possit adducere, manu





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Taneti, nec non et in monasterio apostolorum Petri et Pauli, quod tu ipsa non longe a praedicto monasterio construxisti, unius navis quod a Leubrico nuper emisti dimidium nectigal atque tributum, quod meum erat, pro intuitu supernae mercedis, et amore consanguinitatis religiosae abbatissae Mildredae, cuius venerabile corpus a priori sepultura translatum in ipso monasterio apostolorum decenter posuisti, accipiendum possidendumque aeterna donatione concedo; et cuiusque uolueritis haeredum successorumque uestrorum, seu quolibet hominum, hoc ipsum de iure in re uestra perdonare liberam habeatis potestatem. Hinc igitur praecipio ac precor in nomine dei omnipotentis, patriciis, ducibus, comitibus, thelonariis, actionariis, ac reliquis publicis dignitatibus, ut haec inoffense donatio per praesentes ac posteros percurrat; si autem contigerit, ut navis ista disrupta ac confracta sit, uel etiam uetustate detrita, aut omnino quod absit naufragio perdita, tunc quoque ad cumulum huiusce donationis hoc addo et concedo, ut alia in huius donationis locum et conditionem, construatur et habeatur. Et hoc non solum me uiuente in hac uita, sed etiam post obitum meum per succedentes semper generationes praecipio, et per Christum Ihesum, iudicem omnium, postulo fieri. Quisquis uero haeredum successorumque meorum, uel aliorum quilibet hominum, siue saecularium, siue ecclesiasticorum, huic piae donationi nostrae in aliqua re contraire quoquo tempore fuerit ausus, nouerit se quisque ille sit audacis malitiae suae rationem esse redditurum coram omnipotente domino nostro, qui indicabit orbem terrae, in aequitate reddens unicuique secundum opera sua, Ihesus Christus filius dei, filiusque Sanctae Mariae semper uirginis cuius, scilicet, in praefato monasterio sacris atque magnificis indesinenter die noctuque frequentatur et adoratur precibus, iudex saeculi ipse Ihesus Christus dominus noster Amen. Igitur manente hac cartula in sua semper firmitate,



quam propria manu sacro signaculo roborare curavi, et testes nonnullos ut ad ipsum consentientes agerent feci, quorum nomina infra tenentur. Actum mense Maio in ciuitate Londonia. Indictione XIII<sup>a</sup>. Anno ab incarnatione Christi DCCXLVIII<sup>o</sup>.

✠ Ego Aethilbaldus rex Merciae suprascriptam donationem meam signo sanctae crucis, in hac cartula expresso, diligenter confirmaui. ✠ Ego Aedbeorhtus rex Cantiae testis, consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Cuthberhti archiepiscopi. ✠ Signum Milredi episcopi. ✠ Signum Egcuulfi episcopi. ✠ Signum manus Obani ducis. ✠ Signum manus Cyniberti. ✠ Signum Eoppani. ✠ Signum Frithurici. ✠ Signum Ealhmundi. ✠ Signum Panti thelonearii.

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XCIX.

AETHILBALD, 749.

✠ **PLERUNQUE** contigere solet pro incerta futurorum temporum uicissitudine, ut ea, quae multarum et fidelium personarum testimonio consilioque roborata fuerunt, ut fraudulenter per contumaciam plurimorum, et machinamenta simulationis, sine ulla consideratione rationis periculose dissipentur, nisi auctoritate literarum, et testamento chirographorum aeternae memoriae inserta sint. Quapropter ego Aethilbaldus rex Merciorum, pro amore coelestis patriae et pro remedio animae meae, hoc maxime agendum esse praeuidi, ut eam bonis operibus liberam efficerem ab omnibus uinculis piaculorum. Dum enim mihi omnipotens deus per misericordiam clementiae, absque ullo antecedente merito, scepra regiminis honorifice largitus est, ideo ei libenter et uoluntarie ex eo quod accepi iterum retribuo. Huius rei gratia hanc donationem, deo teste, me uiuente concedo, ut monasteria et aecclesiae a publicis uectigalibus et ab omnibus ope-



ribus oneribusque, auctore deo, seruientes absoluti maneant; nisi sola quae communiter fruenda sunt, omnique populo, edicto regis, facienda iubentur, id est instructionibus pontium, uel necessariis defensionibus arcium contra hostes, non sunt renuenda. Sed nec hoc praetermittendum est, cum necessarium constat aecclesiis dei, quia Aethelbaldus rex, pro expiatione delictorum suorum et retributione mercedis aeternae, famulis dei propriam libertatem in fructibus siluarum agrorumque, siue in caeteris utilitatibus fluminum uel raptura piscium, habere donauit; et ut munuscula ab aecclesiis in saeculare conuiuium regis uel principum a subditis minime exigantur, nisi amore et uoluntate praebentur: sed cunctas tribulationes quae nocere uel impedire possunt in domo dei, omnibus principibus sub eius potestate degentibus demittere et auferre praecipit; quatenus sublimitas regni eius prosperis successibus polleat in terris, et meritorum manipuli multipliciter maturescunt in coelis. Qui uero haec benigna mentis intentione atque inlaesa cogitatione custodierit, aeterna claritate coronetur, ornatur, glorificetur. Si quis hoc, quod absit, cuiuslibet personae, tyrannica cupiditate instinctus, contra hanc donationis cartulam, saeculari potentia fretus, uenire nititur, sit sub anathemate Iudae, proditoris domini nostri Ihesu Christi. Ad confirmandum uero hoc nostrae beneficentiae munus, hii testes adfuerunt, et nostri magistratus optimates et duces fidelissimique amici consenserunt et scripserunt.

✠ Ego Aethelbald diuinis fultus suffragiis, hii statutis consentiens, confirmandoque signum crucis arauit. ✠ Ego Huita Mercensis aecclesiae humilis episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Torhthelm gratia dei episcopus signum crucis infixi. ✠ Ego Headberht primatum tenens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eada his statutis consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cyneberht his





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- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| ✠ manus hereuualdi epis̄c |                         |
| ✠ manus milredi epis̄c    |                         |
| ✠ manus cyneheardi epis̄c |                         |
| ✠ manus forhtere          |                         |
| ✠ manus heardberhti       |                         |
| ✠ manus eadbaldi          |                         |
| ✠ manus eadan             |                         |
| ✠ manus uuadan            |                         |
| ✠ manus ealhmundi         |                         |
| ✠ manus cuutferthi        |                         |
| ✠ manus ecgfrithi         |                         |
| ✠ manus scillingis        |                         |
| ✠ manus aethelricis       | ✠ manus tyccean abb     |
| ✠ manus eoppan            | ✠ manus herecan. abb    |
| ✠ manus uuigferthi        | ✠ manus cyneberhti. abb |
| ✠ manus ealhferthi        | ✠ manus begloci. bb     |
| ✠ manus ceardici          | ✠ manus secggan. bb     |

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 CI.

## AETHILBALD, —.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi! Nihil intulimus in hunc mundum, sed nec auferre quid possumus; ideo praemia aeternae patriae nobis, caducis coelestia, momentaneis manentia sunt mercanda. Icirco ego Aethelbaldus rex Merciorum domino dispensante, comiti meo Uuithredo coniugique eius Ansithe, terram septem manentium, in prouincia Middelsexorum, in regione quae dicitur Geddinges, in australi atque in occidente habens torrentem cuius uocabulum Fischesburne, et in aquilonale ulterius quam uia publica iacet, duorum iugerum latitudine, in oriente uero aquam quae anglorum lingua Lake nominatur habens, quae est duarum, quae ibi sunt, ulterior; usque dum illam accipient sulcesque precedunt. Insuper memoratam aquam, id est Fischesburnam, ea ratione pro-



rogans dono, ut sit aecclesiastici iuris potestate subdita in perpetuum; nunquam ego nullusque successorum meorum contra hanc donationis descriptionem uenire temptauerit. Quod si quis hoc praesumserit, nouerit se in destricto examine domino rationem reddendam, insuper cum raptoribus insolubilem subire sententiam.

## CII.

## \* EĀNBERHT OF THE HWICCAS, 757.

✠ REGNANTE inperpetuum domino deo Sabaoth! [Dum certum constat omnibus orthodoxis ac catholicis uiris, quod istius uolubilis uitae transitoria uidelicet tempora momentaneis cursibus termino adpropinquare, et inreuocabiles esse iam praeteriti dies, nec non annorum curricula cum suis mensibus in priorem statum nunquam reuerti a nullo credentium dubitatur; et caetera quae restant subsequencia nullam facere moram festinando ad finem pro certo noscuntur. Idcirco ego Eanberhtus, deo praedestinate regulus propriae gentis Huicciorum]<sup>1</sup> simulque germani mei mecum, Uhtredus uidelicet et Aldredus, eadem uocabuli dignitate et imperio fungentes, [his ante dictis manifestissimis causis instructi, quatinus cum istis saecularibus rebus quae citius transire constant, aeterna paradisi praemia quae sempiterna esse scimus lucrari ualeamus]<sup>2</sup>, aliquam agelli portionem, pro remedio animae nostrae, Milredo uenerando antistiti, ad sedem pontificalem et ad aecclesiam beatissimi apostolorum principis Sancti Petri, ubi corpora parentum nostrorum quiescunt, quae in Uuegernensi ciuitate fundata est, ter denos cassatos, id est, uicum qui nuncupatur Tredingtun, in duobus locis, in altero quater senos, in altero bis ternos, iuxta

<sup>1</sup> For the whole passage included between brackets, the second copy substitutes the words, "cuius con-

cedente clementia, ego Eanberht, regulus propriae gentis Huicciorum."

<sup>2</sup> Wanting in second MS.



fluuium qui dicitur Stuur, iisdem terminibus adiacentibus quibus Tyrdda comes antea tenebat, libentissime in commune largiti sumus; ut semper seu nobis uiuentibus seu in Christo dormientibus, digna remuneratio in sanctarum orationum, cum missarum sacris celebrationibus, ab eadem aeclesia die noctuque, deo patrocinante, fideliter reddatur. Si quis uero, quod absit, hanc munificentiam nostram, pro deo omnipotenti concessam, plurimorumque consilio corroboratam, quorum infra nomina ponuntur, auaritiae aestibus succensus et diabolica praesumptione incitatus, infeliciter inritam facere praesumat, sciat se ab aeterna requie separatum, et cum Iuda impio traditore aeternis dampnationum legibus mancipatum. Si quis uero augendo multiplicare uoluerit, Christi instinctus amore,<sup>1</sup> augeat deus partem illius in remuneratione iustorum, ubi animae sanctorum fulgent in gloria. His hinc inde subscriptis terminis praefata certissime circumgiratur tellus.

✠ Ego Eanberht hanc nostram communem donationem pro ampliori firmitate signum sanctissimae crucis libens arauit. ✠ Ego Uhtred ante praescriptam donationem nostram confirmans subscribo, et uexillum crucis praetitulauit. ✠ Ego Aldred, maiorum meorum conrobortatus exemplis, almae crucis uexillum inposuit. ✠ Ego Milred gratia dei episcopus, his praedictis rebus canonice consensi et signum uenerabile impressi. ✠ Ego Offa, nondum regno Mercionum a domino accepto, puer indolis in prouincia Huicciorum constitutus, huic donationi eorum consensi et signum honorabile beatae crucis conscripsi. ✠ Ego Totta, dei diffinitione antistes, hanc praenotatam munificentiam consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Hemele, dei gratia praesul, aeclesiastice consensi, et signum salutiferae crucis praenotaui. ✠ Signum manus Heardberhti praefecti. ✠ Signum manus Ald-

<sup>1</sup> From this point all is wanting in second MS.





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## CIV.

## CYNEUUULF, 759.

[*Reciting and confirming a charter of Coinraed.*]

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi saluatoris! Ea quae secundum ecclesiasticam disciplinam ac synodalia decreta salubriter definiuntur, quamuis solus sermo sufficeret, tamen pro euitanda futura temporis ambiguitate fidelissimis scripturis et documentis sunt commendanda. Quapropter ego Coinredus, pro remedio animae meae et relaxacione piaculorum meorum, aliquam terrae particulam donare decreuerim uenerabili uiro Bectune abbati, id est xxx. manentes, de aquilone riuus nomine Funtamel, ex meridie habet terram beatae memoriae Leotheri episcopi: nam earumdem supradictarum cespites pro ampliori firmitate euangelium superposui, ita ut ab hac die tenendi, habendi, possidendi, in omnibus liberam et firmam habeat potestatem. Si quis uero episcoporum seu regum contra hanc definitionis cartulam propria temeritate, uel potius sacrilega debaccatione uenire temptauerit, inprimis iram dei incurrat, a liminibus sanctae ecclesiae et separatus, et hoc quod repetit, uindicare non ualeat. Ego Coinredus, qui hanc cartulam donationis meae per omnia in manu propria signaui, et ad roborandum fidelibus testibus tradidi ✠. Ego Leotherius, quamuis indignus, episcopus hanc cartulam donationis subscripsi ✠. Ego Cunibertus abbas subscripsi ✠. Ego Hadde abbas subscripsi ✠. Ego Uuimbertus presbyter qui hanc cartulam rogante supra effato abbate scripsi et subscripsi et caeteri. ✠.

✠ Hoc signum ego Cyniheardus indignus episcopus impressi ad confirmandam roborandamque hanc cartulam, quam huiusmodi conscriptam esse fateor. Successor abbatis praenominati Bectuni Catuuali nomine dedit terram supra designatam . xxx . manen-



tium Uuintran abbati pro pecunia sua, et scripsit libellum alium donationis huius atque possessionis suprascriptae, subtraxit tamen et donationis primae litteras et subscriptiones regum, episcoporum, abbatum atque principum, quia inter caetera terrarum suarum testimonia haec eadem terrae particula conscripta non facile potuit eripi neque adhuc potest: et propterea, decedentibus primis testibus longa deceptatio inter familias duorum monasteriorum orta est et perseuerat usque nunc: habe[b]ant autem hanc terram semper ex quo a praefato abbate primo data est Uuintran successores eius; et alterius familiae et successores primum libellum, qui manibus praedictorum testium roboratur. Iccirco ego nunc atque rex noster caeteri[que] quorum testificatio et subscriptio infra notatur, reconciliauimus eos in pace, partim data pecunia, partim iuramento adhibito in testimonium; ut deinceps successores Uuintran abbatis, id est Eguuald et familia eius quae est in monasterio quod dicitur Tissebiri, cum licentia alterius familiae cui praest Tidbald abbas, habeant possideantque perpetualiter terram de qua diu altercatio erat: et praesens libellum ego descripsi atque excerpti ab illo primitus dato Bectuno abbati, concedente scilicet Tidbaldo abbate et familia eius, et dedi Eguualdo abbati, testibus infra notatis consentientibus atque confirmantibus hanc scripturam, reprobrantibus autem alia scriptura quae sunt edita de hac terra. Et haec acta sunt ab incarnatione domini nostri Ihesu Christi . DCCLVIII. Indictione XII.

✠ Cyneuulf regis ✠. Hereuuald episcopi ✠. Scilling presbiter ✠. Cerdic presbiter et caeteri . ✠.



## CV.

## EĀNBERHT, Feb. 759.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi saluatoris! Nihil intulimus in hunc mundum, uerum nec auferre quid possumus; idcirco terrenis ac caducis aeterna et coelestis patriae praemia mercanda sunt. Qua propter cum licentia et permissione piissimi regis Offani Merciorum, nos tres germani, uno patre editi, Eanberht atque Uhtred necnon et Aldred, praetio redemptionis animae nostrae, non ignorantes in futuro prodesse si quid Christi membris libenter impendimus, donabimus tibi, Headda abbas, terram iuris nostri, decem cassatorum, aet Onnanforda. Confinia tamen eiusdem terrae ab australi plaga Uuisleag, ab occidente Rindburna, a septemtrionale Meosgeled, ab oriente uero Onnandun, cum campis, siluis, pratis, pascuis, cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus; ut, quicquid exinde agere uolueris, liberum habeas arbitrium donandi: in tua sit potestate; numquam nos haeredesque nostros ullo tempore contra hanc donationem esse uenturos. Quod si quis praesumpserit in magno uel in modico inrumpere, sit separatus ab omni societate christianorum et in examine districti iustique iudicis praesumptionis suae poenam incurrat. Ad cuius cumulum nihilominus firmitatis, testes competenti numero ut subscriberent rogauimus, et ipsi signum sanctae crucis inpresserunt. Peracta est autem haec donatio in mense Februarii indictione XII. anno uero ab incarnatione Christi DCC.LVIII. Et isti testes consenserunt.

✠ Ego Offa rex Merciorum, huic donationi consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eanberht regulus consensi. ✠ Ego Uhtred regulus consensi.





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illius ad utilitatem ibidem deo seruientium famulorum Christi et famularum construatur; ad hanc uidelicet conditionem, ut quicquid in suis mercimoniis in diuersis speciebus acquirere possint, nobis fideliter inoffense offerre debeant, simul cum ipsa nauis, ad locum qui appellatur Fordunuc. Et quicumque de hac donatione nostra, quod etiam specialiter omnipotenti deo firmiter concessum est, aliquid nefario calliditatis ausu abstrahere uel minuere temptauerit, sciat se a consortio sanctorum omnium separatum, et cum diabolo et angelis eius in perpetuum esse dampnandum; quoniam sanctum locum istum dehonestare conatus est, in quo primi apostolorum principis Petri intercessio orationibus assiduis et elemosinis floret pro omni populo christiano. Iccirco uiuens benedictione dei carebit, et moriens maledictioni debitae subiacebit, nisi digna satisfactione emendauerit, quod nuper studuit deprauare. Quicumque uero haec augendo custodierit, sit benedictus inperpetuum, et beatissimam uocem audire mereatur cum sanctis, Uenite benedicti patris mei.

✠ Ego Eadbertus rex hanc donationem a me factam propria manu signo sanctae crucis roborauit. ✠ Ego Bregouuinus archiepiscopus ad petitionem Eadberti regis signum sanctae crucis expressi. ✠ Signum manus Iamberti abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Daene abbatis. ✠ Signum Brunii abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Baltheardi comitis. ✠ Signum Eathelhun principis. ✠ Signum manus Redfridi. ✠ Signum manus Budda. ✠ Signum manus Eathelberti. ✠ Signum manus Eadda. ✠ Signum manus Egesasi. ✠ Signum manus Aldred.



## CVII.

\* EÁDBERHT, July 25, 761.

✠ IN nomine regnantis inperpetuum domini nostri Ihesu Christi, ac cuncta mundi iura iusto moderamine regentis ! Quamuis parua et exigua sunt quae pro admissis peccatis offerimus, tamen pius dominus et redemptor noster non quantitatem muneris sed deuotionem offerentium semper inspicit. Qua de re ego Eadbertus, dei dispensatione ab uniuersa prouincia Cantuariorum constitutus rex et princeps, cognoscens initium uitae et mortis, quia omni humano generi indifferens est uitae cursus et mortis, prouidens ubi corpusculum meum condi deberet, nihil melius arbitratus sum, nisi ibi sepulturae traderetur ubi iam pristino tempore parentes meos sepultos esse omnibus constat, hoc est in monasterio beati apostolorum principis Petri cui praeesse dinoscitur honorabilis abbas Lambertus: et quia infructuosus esse non debeo supradictae aecclesiae, pro aeterna redemptione animarum nostrarum, meae uidelicet atque clementissimi regis Aethelberti, et corporum sepultura, necnon et pro missarum solempniis exhibendis, ad augmentum uitae inibi famulantium Christo, terram aratrorum sex in australi parte uici antiqui qui appellatur Mundlingeham, sicut a regibus Cantiae tempore pristino, et a nobis usque hactenus, concessa et possessa est. Interdicens etiam mihi hanc terram meisque successoribus a praesenti die et tempore, una cum consensu reuerentissimi archiepiscopi Bregouini aliorumque seruorum dei, et principum meorum, beatissimo clauigero regni coelestis eiusque sacrae conuersationis familiae in perpetuo possidendum optuli, cum campis, siluis, pratis, pascuis, et cum omni tributo quod regibus daretur ; ut liberam habeant potestatem possidendi, uel uendendi, uel etiam tradendi cuicumque uoluerint: terminos uero huius terrae



ideo non scribimus quia undique ab incolis sine dubitationis scrupulo certi sunt: et unius carri introitum in silua quae appellatur Saenling. Quicumque uero sequentium regum uel episcoporum, aut aliquis saeculari potestate fretus, haec nostrae donationis scripta in aliqua parte minuere, quod absit, uel irrita facere nisus fuerit, in primis iram dei incurrat, et a coetu omnium sanctorum segregetur, et sciat se praesumptionis suae ante tribunal Christi in die iudicii rationem esse redditurum. Scripta autem est haec cartula donationis anno xxxvi° regni nostri, die viii° Kalendarum Augusti in ciuitate Dorouerni. Testes uero ad confirmationem infra nominatos adhibui.

✠ Ego Eadbertus rex hanc donationem meam uolens confirmare, propria manu signum sanctae crucis expressi. ✠ Ego Bregouuinus archiepiscopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Iambertus abbas subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Bruni abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Escuuald presbiteri. ✠ Signum manus Esne comitis. ✠ Signum manus Baldhardi. ✠ Signum manus Hearedi. ✠ Signum Eadberti.

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CVIII.

AETHILBERHT OF KENT, 762.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Iesu Christi! Possessio quaedam est terrae in regione que uocatur Cert, monasterii scilicet beatorum Petri et Pauli apostolorum, quod situm est [ad] orientem ciuitatis Dorouernis. In hac autem terra habetur molina, cuius quippe semis utilitas, id est dimidia pars molendinae, a possessoribus praefati monasterii ac terrae huius ad uillam regalem quae uocatur Uuyth tradita est; pro hac uidelicet conditione atque commutatione, ut homo ille qui hanc terram, in qua molina est, tributario iure tenet, unius gregis por-





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Bregouuini hunc libellum huiusce donationis meae describi feci et manu propria roboravi, et illum atque alios religiosos testes ut idipsum faciant adhibeo. Actum anno incarnationis Christi DCC.LXII°.

✠ Ego Bregouuinus gratia dei archiepiscopus signum sanctae crucis subscripsi. ✠ Ego Dunnuald praefatam donationem meam signo sanctae crucis roboravi. ✠ Ego Baltheardus dux subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cyneheardus presbiter consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Iambertus abbas testis subscripsi.

---

CX.

\* SIGIRAED OF KENT, 762.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi! Omnem hominem qui secundum deum uiuit et remunerari a deo sperat et optat, oportet ut piis precibus assensum hilariter ex animo praebeat. Quoniam certum est, tanto facilius ea quae quisque a deo poposcerit consequi posse, quanto et ipse libentius hominibus recte postulata concesserit. Quocirca ego Sigiraed, rex Cantiae, tibi uenerabili Earduulfo episcopo, ut diligenter postulasti, aliquam particulam terrae iuris mei, id est quasi unius et semis iugeri in ciuitate Hrofi, ad augmentum monasterii tui, aeternaliter possidendam concedo ac describo, cum omnibus scilicet ad eam pertinentibus rebus. Haec autem terrula ab aquilonali portae monasterii tui iacet, et pertingit usque ad septentrionalem murum praefatae ciuitatis, intra terras uidelicet quas antea ab oriente et occidente possedisti, et ideo haec tibi satis accommoda quia in medio iacebat. Siquis autem contra hanc donationem meam aliquando uenire inuido maliuoloque animo temptauerit, sit in praesenti separatus a communione sanctae ecclesiae Christi, et in futuro a societate sanctorum omnium segregatus. Manentem hanc kar-



tulam in sua semper firmitate signo dominicae crucis roboravi, et idoneos testes ut et idipsum facerent, adhibui. Actum indict. xv. anno dominicae incarnationis DCCLXII.

✠ Ego Sigiraed rex Cantiae hanc donationem meam signo sanctae crucis roboravi. ✠ Ego Eadbehrt rex Cantiae consentiens propria manu confirmaui. ✠ Ego Bregouuine archiepiscopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aldhuun abbas subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Suithuun. ✠ Signum manus Aethilhuun. ✠ Signum manus Esni. ✠ Signum manus Egbaldi. ✠ Signum manus Uighaad. ✠ Signum manus Bunan. ✠ Signum manus Heabeorhti. ✠ Signum manus Tiidheah.

---

CXI.

\* OFFA OF MERCIA, 764.

✠ REGNANTE in perpetuum domino nostro Ihesu Christo ac cuncta mundi iura iusto moderamine regenti! Ego Offa rex Merciorum, regali prosapia Merciorum oriundus, atque omnipotentis dei dispensatione eiusdem constitutus in regem, considerans et recolens quod uas electionis ueracissimis innotuit uerbis, quod istis temporibus instarent tempora periculosa: iccirco unusquisque de semet ipso plenius poterit agnoscere, quod quanto quis in hoc terreno habitaculo longiorem protraxerit uitam, tanto ueraciora esse omnia quae olim antiqui uates implenda esse praedixerunt. Iccirco necessarium duxi ut pro intercessionibus plurimorum, pro uenia meorum delictorum, et requie perpetua adipiscenda animae meae, aliquid ex his quae mihi largitor bonorum omnium Christus dominus donare dignatus est, id est, terram aratrorum uiginti in loco cuius uocabulum est Aeslingaham, quae etiam iacet ad occidentalem partem fluminis Meduunaecian, contigua ipso



fluio, cum uniuersis terminis suis ad eam rite competentibus, cum campis, siluis, pratis, pascuis, paludibus et aquis, sicut olim habuerunt comites et principes regum Cantiae, et cum omni tributo quod regibus iure competit, tibi uenerabili Earduulfo, sanctae Hro-fensis aecclesiae episcopo, libenter in perpetuum per-dono. Et hoc cum consensu et licentia archiepiscopi nostri Bregouuini atque Heaberhti regis Cantiae, et principum nostrorum, ut possidendi uel uendendi, uel etiam tradendi cuicumque uoluerit liberam per omnia habeat potestatem. Et quia pro ipsius terrae recom-pensatione aliquam partem pecuniae nobis fideliter, libenter optulit, ad promerendam non solum specialiter mihi a domino pietatem, sed indulgentiam delictorum totius gentis nostrae, humiliter dominicam exorantes clementiam, ut liberet nos a malignis spiritibus et im-portunis et malis hominibus. Terminos uero huius terrae ideo latius non scribimus quia undique ab in-colis absque ullo dubitationis scrupulo certi sunt. Quicumque uero sequentium regum aut principum, aut aliquis saeculari fretus potestate, haec nostrae defi-nitionis scripta irrita facere, quod absit, nisus fuerit, sciat se in praesenti uita domini benedictione esse priuatum, et in nouissima maledictione subiacere, ut a consortio sit separatus sanctorum, et cum impiis et peccatoribus flammis ultricibus esse dampnandum, excepto si digna satisfactione emendare curauerint quod iniqua temeritate deprauarunt. Manente hac cartula in sua nihilominus firmitate, quam propria manu sacro signaculo roborare curauit et testes ut subscriberent rogauit, quorum infra nomina ascripta tenentur. Scripta est autem haec cartula in ciuitate Dorouerni, anno dominicae incarnationis DCCLXIIII. ind. II.

✠ Ego Offa, rex Merciorum, supra scriptam dona-tionem atque emptionem signo sanctae crucis roborauit.

✠ Ego Bregouuinus archiepiscopus, iuxta petitionem





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tibi Eardulfo meo fidelissimo ministro atque episcopo, tuae petitioni assensum praebui, cum consensu scilicet uenerandi archiepiscopi Genberhti, qui mihi in omnibus carus est, necnon et principum meorum, trado terram intra castelli moenia supranominati, id est Hrofescestri, unum uiculum cum duobus iugeribus, adiacentem plateae quae terminus a meridie huius terrae, quam tibi modo in praesenti possidendam habendamque, et cuicumque uolueris te uiuente seu moriente, dare aeternaliter per dono. Si quis autem hanc donationem meam inuido maliuoloque infringere temptauerit animo, sit separatus in hoc saeculo a participatione corporis et sanguinis domini nostri Ihesu Christi, et in futuro a coetu omnium sanctorum segregatus, nisi antea suam praesumptionem digna satisfactione correxerit, manentem hanc kartulam in sua semper stabilitate. Supra-scriptam donationem meam signo sanctae crucis Christi confirmare curabo, et alios religiosos uiros ut et ipsum agerent adhibui, quorum nomina cum signaculis dominicae crucis intra tenentur. Actum anno dominicae incarnationis DCCLXV.

✠ Ego Egcbertus, rex Cantiae, hanc donationem meam signo sanctae crucis roborare curabo. ✠ Ego Gengberhtus gratia dei archiepiscopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Badenoth episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Uban. ✠ Signum manus Udan. ✠ Signum manus Aldhun. ✠ Signum manus Uuilheri. ✠ Signum manus Uualhardi. ✠ Signum manus Tymbel. ✠ Signum manus Coenberhti. ✠ Signum manus Balhardi. ✠ Signum manus Aethelnodi.

*Confirmatio Heaberhti regis Cantiae.*

✠ Ego Heaberhtus rex Cantiae testis consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aldberhtus abbas subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Esni. ✠ Signum manus Badohardi. ✠ Signum manus Tidheah. ✠ Signum manus Baldhordi. ✠ Signum manus Eadberhti. ✠ Sig-



num manus Hetraedi. ✠ Signum manus Beornulfi.  
✠ Signum manus Heara.

*Confirmatio Offae regis Merciorum.*

✠ Ego Offa rex Merciorum, ad petitionem Eard-  
uulfi episcopi, hanc donationem in monasterio quod  
appellatus est Medy[s]haemstede, praesidente abbate  
Botuino meo, manu atque impressione sanctae crucis  
Christi corroboravi, et licentiam dedi habendi seu tra-  
dendi cuicumque uoluisset. ✠ Ego Botuine abbas  
consensi et subscripsi.

---

CXIV.

SIGIRAED OF KENT, 759—765.

✠ IN nomine domini dei saluatoris nostri Ihesu  
Christi! Quamuis parua et exigua sint, quae pro  
amissis offerimus, tamen pius omnipotens deus non  
quantitatem muneris, sed deuotionem offerentium sem-  
per inquit. Qua de re Ego Sigeredus, rex dimi-  
diae partis prouinciae Cantuariorum, tam pro animae  
meae remedio, quam pro amore omnipotentis dei, ter-  
ram aratorum xx. quae appellatur Aeslingaham,  
tibi reuerentissimo episcopo Earduulfo sanctae Hro-  
fensis ecclesiae, cum uniuersis ad se pertinentibus  
campis, siluis, pratis, pascuis, paludibus et aquis, et  
cum omni tributo quod regibus inde dabatur, in  
potestatem, cum consilio et consensu principum me-  
orum, libenter in perpetuum perdono; ut possidendi  
uel habendi siue uendendi, uel etiam tradendi cui-  
cunque uoluerit, liberam per omnia habeat potes-  
tatem. Sane quia cauendum est, ne hodiernam do-  
nationem nostram futuri temporis abnegare ualeat,  
et in ambiguum deuocare praesumptio, placuit mihi  
hanc paginam condere, et una cum cespite terrae prae-  
dictae tradere tibi; per quam non solum omnibus meis  
successoribus regum siue principum, sed etiam mihi



ipsi penitus interdico, ne aliter quam nunc a me constitutum est, ullo tempore de eadem terra quippiam agere audeant. Quod si qui forte observare neglexerint, et absque digna satisfactione praesentis uitae impleuerint infelices dies, audiant uocem aeterni iudicis sub fine mundi dicentis ad impios: **Discedite a me, maledicti, in ignem aeternum, qui praeparatus est diabolo et angelis eius.** Qui uero curauerint custodire nihilque inrogarint aduersi, audiant uocem clementissimi arbitri, inquentis ad pios: **Uenite, benedicti patris mei, percipite regnum quod uobis paratum est ab origine mundi.** Adiectis IIII. daenberis in commune saltu, hoc est **Uuealdseuuestra, Billincgden, Cealcbyras, Meosden, Rindigsel.**

✠ Ego Sigeredus rex hanc donationem a me factam, signum sanctae crucis propria manu scribendo, firmaui coram Bregouuino Archiepiscopo. ✠ Ego Bregouuinus Archiepiscopus, ad petitionem donatoris ante praedicti, consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Hereberhti Abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Baere Abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Bruno Abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Aescuualdi presbyteri. ✠ Signum manus Ecgbaldi comitis atque praefecti. ✠ Signum manus Ealdhuuni. ✠ Signum manus Esne. ✠ Signum manus Badohardi. ✠ Signum manus Aethelnothi.

✠ Ego Eanmundus rex hanc piam donationem suprascriptam propria manu roborandam hoc signaculo sanctae crucis expressi, in loco cuius uocabulum est **Godgeocesham**; praesente uenerabili archiepiscopo Bregouuino et consentiente, consilio quippe atque consensu omnium optimatum et principum gentis Cantuariorum.

✠ Ego Iaenberhtus abbas consentiens testis affui et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Huuaetred abbas consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Egesnothi. ✠ Signum manus Balthhardi. ✠ Signum manus Aldhuni. ✠ Signum manus Uda. ✠ Signum manus Puda.





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## CXVI.

## OFFA OF MERCIA, 767.

**IN nomine Trinus diuinus**

**Regnante in perpetuum dño nostro. Ego offa . diuina gubernante gratia rex mercior. Stidberhtae uenerabili uiro atq. abbatis cura praedito terram . xxx . manentium in middil . saexum . bituih . gumeninga hergae end liddinge et est vi . manentium ex habitatis ab oriente torrentis lidding . libentissime concedens donabo. et iste praefatus stidberht mihi terram totidem manentium id est . xxx . in ciltinne . in loco ubi dr wichama in uicem commutationis p'donauit. Si quis k q̄ absit hanc nřam commutationem infringere [praesumat sciat] se coram xp̄o et angelis eius rationem redditurum.**

**Dominicae k̄ incarnationis . añ . dcc.lvii . Indiçt. v. haec donationis datio et muneris mutatio peracta est . his testibus consentientib . [et cons]cribentibus quorum nomina infra karaxata [uidentur].**

✠ Ego . offa rex merciorum subscrib

✠ Ego . gengberht gratia dei archiep̄is

✠ Ego . eadberht ep̄s

✠ Ego . cuutfert ep̄s

*Endorsed by Pilheard, 799—802.*

**Has igitur cartulas donationũ uel commutationũ p̄nominatorũ reguũ aethelbaldi uidelicet atque offanicum ad me usq: peruenerunt. Ego pilheardus misellus comis regis mercionũ coenuulfi iustissime adquirens accipi easq: in synodali conciliabulo iuxta locum qui dicitur caelichyth . coram rege iã nominato merciorũ et p̄sulib: ecclesiarũ d̄i necnon et ducibus seu principib: produxi et per pecuniã piissimo iam tũ domino meo rege merc̄ libertatem terrarũ illarũ consecutus sũ . id est . cc . solidis . et ut postea in dieb: meis uel successorũ meorũ omni anno . xxx . ut ab omniũ fiscaliũ**



redituū operū onerūque seu etiā popularium conciliorū uindictis nisi tantum . praetiū ꝑ ꝑtio liberæ sint in perpetuū. Trium tamen causarum puplicaꝝ ratio red- datur . hoc + instructio pontuū et arcis . uerū etiam in expeditionis necessitatem uires . v . tantum mittan- tur Huius rei gesteꝝ hi fideles testes aderant quos hæc cartula oꝕhendit.

[✠] At n̄ ego Coenuulfus dō dispensante rex merc̄ propriae donationis mee libertatem signo sc̄æ crucis libentissime Subscribo ✠.

✠ ego æthelheardu dō largiente aꝛc ep̄is siḡ uene- randæ crucis sup̄sc.

✠ ego unuona ep̄is oꝝseñ	✠ ego uuigberht ep̄is oꝝsen̄
✠ ego aldulf ep̄is oꝝseñ	✠ ego alhheard ep̄is
✠ ego utol ep̄is oꝝseñ	✠ ego tiðferð ep̄is
✠ ego eadulf ep̄is oꝝseñ	✠ ego uuithun aþ
✠ ego deneberht ep̄is oꝝseñ	✠ ego beonna aþ
✠ ego haðoberht ep̄is oꝝseñ	✠ ego folcred aþ
✠ ego cyneberht ep̄is oꝝseñ	

✠ ego coenuulf dī dono rex merc̄ oꝝsentiendo sub- scribo

✠ ego heaðoberht  
 ✠ ego æðelmund  
 ✠ ego esne  
 ✠ ego heardberht  
 ✠ ego ceolmund  
 ✠ ego wigga  
 ✠ ego croda  
 ✠ ego cuðred  
 ✠ ego osulf  
 ✠ ego beornnoð  
 ✠ ego cynhelm



## CXVII.

## UHTRED OF THE HWICCAS, 767.

✠ IN nomine dñi nī. iħu xpi. Certissime itaq: absq: dubitatione constat omnia quae uidentur temporalia esse et quae non uidentur aeterna esse. idcirco ego uhtredus dō donante regulus huicciorum cogitauit ut ex accepta portione terrigenis regni a largitore omnium bonorum aliquid quamuis minus dignum pro remedio animae meae in usus ecclesiasticae libertatis erogarem . unde fideli meo ministro aeðelmundo uidelicet filio ingeldi qui fuit dux et praefectus aeðilbaldi regis cum consensu ꝛ licentia offani regis merciorum simulq: episcoporum et principum eius terram quinq: tributiorum id est uicum qui nominatur eastun iuxta fluium in . . . . . qui dicitur saluarpe iure ecclesiastico possidendam libentissime pro dño omnipotenti donabo . quam is semper possideat et post se cui uoluerit heredum relinquat. insuper digno praetio ab eo suscepto pro remedio animae nostrae et pro amore caelestis patriae Sciat unusquisq: hanc terram liberam esse ab omni tributo paruo uel maiore publicalium rerum et a cunctis operibus uel regis uel principis praeter instructionibus pontium uel necessariis defensionibus arcium contra hostes . omnimodo quoq: in dī om̃is nomine interdiciamus ut si aliquis in hac praenominatam terram aliquid foras furaue[rit] alicui soluere aliquid nisi specialiter pretium pro pretio ad terminum ad penam nihil foras augentem hoc meum praecceptum omnipotens d̃s sua augere bona in aeternum non cessat . minuentem quod non optamus sciat se ante tribunal xpi rationem redditurum nisi ante ea dō et hominibus satis emendauerit. Conscripta est is haec donatio anno ab incarnatione dñi. nī. iħu. xpi. DCCLXVII. ind. VI. lun. V.





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cesset; minuentem, quod non optamus, sciat se ante tribunal Christi rationem redditurum, nisi antea deo et hominibus satis emendauerit. Conscripta est autem haec donatio anno ab incarnatione domini nostri Ihesu Christi DCCLXX, indictione VIII. decennouali XI. lunari VIII.<sup>1</sup>

✠ Ego Offa dei dono rex Merciorum, hanc donationem subreguli mei consensi et signum sanctae crucis imposui. ✠ Ego Mildredus pia dei dispensatione humilis Huuicciorum episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uhtredus, Christi gratia concedente regulus propriae gentis, hanc meae libertatis donationem pro domino concessam corroborans, signum salutare subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aldredus subregulus Huuicciorum huic concessae donationi fratris mei consentiendo subscribo. ✠ Ego Eada consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Brorda consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eadbald consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cyneðryð regina Merciorum consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ecgferð filius amborum consensi et subscripsi.

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CXIX.

OFFA OF MERCIA, 772.<sup>2</sup>

✠ REGNANTE inperpetuum domino nostro Ihesu Christo! Ego Offa Merciorum rex, anno quinto regni mei, do et concedo Aethelnotho abbati apostolorum Petri et Pauli, terram duarum manentium iuris mei in loco qui appellatur Beuuesfeld cum certis terminibus, pro expiatione criminum meorum, in ius proprium libenter concedo; hoc modo, ut habeat et possideat cum campis et siluis, uel omnibus ad se pertinentibus bonis,

<sup>1</sup> The year and indiction do not coincide; but the lunar and decennoual are for the year 770, which must therefore be adopted.

<sup>2</sup> This charter appears to be dated ten years too early, namely, in 762. If we read "*anno decimo quinto regni mei*," the whole is consistent.



et ad pascendum porcos et pecora, et iumenta in silua regali aeternaliter perdono; et unius capreae licentiam in silua quae uocatur Saenling, ubi meae uadunt; post obitum uero tuum habeas potestatem tradere eam homini cui tibi placuerit, pro aeterna redemptione animarum nostrarum. Si quis uero regum, quod non credo, seu principum, siue quilibet a subiectis eorum, hanc nostram munificentiae largitatem infringere uel minuere praesumpserit, sciat se a participatione domini nostri Ihesu Christi corporis et sanguinis alienum esse in hoc saeculo; et in districto dei omnipotentis iudicio, coram Christo et angelis eius rationem esse redditurum; manente hac cartula in sua semper nihilominus firmitate.

✠ Ego Offa rex Merciorum hanc donationem confirmans, propria manu signum crucis Christi infixi.  
 ✠ Ego Iambertus archiepiscopus et rector catholicae ecclesiae consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Cynethrithae reginae. ✠ Signum manus Ecgfrithi filii regis. ✠ Signum manus Brordan ducis. ✠ Signum manus Aethelheardi principis. ✠ Signum manus Binnan. ✠ Signum manus Berhtuualdi. ✠ Signum manus Eadbaldi.

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 CXX.

## OFFA, 772.

✠ CUNCTA regalia scepra recto iustoque modamine iugiter gubernante pio saluatore hominum! Ego Offa, dei praedestinatione rex Anglorum, seniorum meorum magisterio edoctus et exemplo roboratus, ut ex percepto mundani regni dominio qualemcumque partem, quamuis minus dignam, pro absolutione meorum peccaminum, et pro redemptione animae meae, in usus ecclesiasticae liberalitatis subrogarem; ideoque nunc terram octo manentium, hoc est, uicum qui nuncupatur



aet Eulangelade, qui situs est in orientali parte fluuii, qui nominatur Bladen, pro aeterna salute meae animae, quandoque in futuro dante deo [ad monasterium uocabulo aet Breodune, post obitum Riddan et uxoris eius Bucggan, ministri mei, uel filiae eius Heaburge, in ius ruris aecclesiastici, libentissime perdonans concedo.]<sup>1</sup> Sunt autem termini ruris illius in orientali plaga etc. Condonantium uero et consentientium signa infra, et nomina sub testimonio maiore perscripta, notabo.

✠ Ego Offa rex hanc meam munificentiam signo crucis munio. ✠ Ego Eadberhtus episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Berthun episcopus. ✠ Ego Deora episcopus. ✠ Signum manus Berhtualdi presbyteri. ✠ Ego Uuermund episcopus. ✠ Ego Ealdberht episcopus. ✠ Signum manus Cudd abbatis. ✠ Ego Ceoluulf episcopus. ✠ Ego Botuine episcopus. ✠ Signum manus Brordan principis.

[Consenserunt et subscripserunt uiri praesignati in loco, qui nominari solet pluraliter Godmundes leas, libellum istum; signatur anno ab incarnatione Christi DCCLXXII. Indict. XIII<sup>ta</sup>.]

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## CXXI.

### OFFA, 774.

✠ IN nomine ihu xpi saluatoris mundi qui est et qui erat et qui uenturus est . per quem reges regunt et diuidunt regna terrarum. Sicut dispensator uniuersae terre mihi distribuit secundum mensuram suam propriam uolun-

<sup>1</sup> In place of the clause between brackets, the third MS. reads,— “Riddun, fidei meo ministro, in ius ruris aecclesiastici libentissime perdonans concedo: hac tamen conditione interposita, ut dierum illius termino, uxorisque suae Bucggan, nec non etiam filiae eius Heaburgae, habeant terram illam iure domina-

tionis, et, post dierum eorum conclusionem, etiam rus praenominatum, cum libro descriptionis huius, ad monasterium, quod nominatur Breodun in Huiccia reddatur.” This third MS. has also impertinent variations in the forms of the subscriptions, and the final passage enclosed within brackets.





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totius Anglorum patriae dabo et concedo Iamberto archiepiscopo ad aecclesiam Christi, aliquam partem terrae trium aratrorum, quod Cantianice dicitur thresulinge, in occidentali parte regionis quae dicitur Mersuare, ubi nominatur ad Liden. Et huius terrae sunt haec territoria, etc. Et hoc praedictum donum in perpetuum largitum qui auerterit a possessione aecclesiae Christi, auertat a se Christus misericordiam suam, manente hac cartula nihilominus in sua firmitate. Ad cuius cumulum firmitatis signum sanctae crucis Christi anno dominicae incarnationis DCCLXXIII impressimus, cum sacerdotibus et senioribus populi, more testium subscribendo.

✠ Signum manus Offae regis suprascripta confirmans. ✠ Signum manus Iamberti archiepiscopi. ✠ Signum manus Kenedrithe reginae. ✠ Signa manuum Byrthuni, Ceolulphi, Edberti episcoporum; Botuini, Aldberti, Aðeluuoldi, Aldberhti, Folcberhti abbatum; Brordan Berhtuuoldi principum; Edbaldi ducis; Brordan praefecti; Esny, Edberhti, Boban, Badohardi, Cyan, Haredi, Suuithuni.

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### CXXIII.

OFFA, Feb. 774.

✠ IN nomine sanctae Trinitatis! Ait enim apostolus, Nihil intulimus in hunc mundum, nec auferre quid possumus; et beatus Iob, Nudus egressus sum ex utero matris, et nudus reuertar in terram. Quapropter ego Offa, rex Anglorum, breuitatem uitae huius considerans, et quod cum his caducis mercanda esse aeterna polorum regna, rogatus a uenerabili episcopo Milredo, terram XL. cassatorum, in loco qui nuncupatur Readanoran, ad aecclesiam beati Petri, apostolorum principis, in Uuigerna ciuitate, in ius proprium libentissime concedens possidendum donabo. Sit autem terra illa libera ab



omni saecularis rei negotio, praeter pontis, arcisue restorationem, et contra hostes communem expeditionem. Si quis autem hanc donationem meam cum bona uoluntate in omnibus custodire conauerit, sciat se in coelestibus habere consortium cum deo et angelis eius, et si aliquis conuertere hoc uoluerit et ad malam seruitutem uel ergastulum mutare uoluerit, sciat se separatum a consortio omnium sanctorum dei in coelis, et cum diabolo et angelis eius sine fine in perpetuum dampnatum, nisi ante hic deo et hominibus cum satisfactione emendauerit. Hic sunt termini, etc. Peracta est autem haec donatio in mense Februario, indictione XII. anno uero ab incarnatione Christi DCCLVIII. Et isti testes consenserunt.

✠ Ego Offa rex hanc meam munificentiam signo crucis munio. ✠ Ego Cyneðryð regina. ✠ Ego Iambertus archiepiscopus. ✠ Ego Tilherus episcopus. ✠ Ego Brordan dux. ✠ Ego Eadberhtus episcopus. ✠ Ego Ceoluulfus episcopus. ✠ Ego Eadbald dux. ✠ Ego Ealhmund dux.

---

#### CXXIV.

MILRED, 774.

✠ DOMINO et saluatore nostro perpetualiter regnanti! Ego Milredus Christi tribuente gratia humilis Huicciorum episcopus, terram monasterii quod nominatur Uuidiandun, quod situm est in occidentali parte fluminis qui dicitur Tillnoð. XXI. manentia, quam uidelicet terram Oshere subregulus Huicciorum Dunnan famulae dei ut esset iuris ecclesiastici tradidit, consentiente Aethelredo regi Marcionum. Illa autem praefatam terram post se reliquit possidendam filiae suae, Hroðuare scilicet abbatissae, cum conscientia atque licentia Egcuuini reuerentissimi episcopi; at illa praedicta Hroðuara abbatissa mihi in ius propriae libertatis at-



que possessionis largita est. Nunc ergo cum licentia seruorum dei, qui sub meo regimine dei prouidentia constituuntur, libenter Aedēlburge honorabili abbatis-  
sae, filiae Aelfredi, eam trado; ita tamen ut ipsa uiuente habeat et possideat, et post obitum eius ad aecclesiam beati Petri principis apostolorum quae sita est in Uueogerna ciuitate, ubi et pontificalis cathedra Huicciorum constituitur pro aeterna redemptione animae meae iterum reddat. Haec cartula scripta est anno ab incarnatione Christi . DCC.LXX.III. indictione XII. his testibus confirmantibus.

✠ Ego Milred episcopus hanc meam donationem signo crucis confirmabo, ea conditione<sup>1</sup> ut illa Aepelburh illud monasterium aet Uueogernacestre cum omnibus bonis quae ibi sunt post diem eius ad Uueogernensem quoque reddat aecclesiam, sicut praeceptum erat patris eius Aelfredi.

---

## CXXV.

### ALDRED OF THE HWICCAS, 757—775.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi mundi saluatoris! Nihil intulimus in hunc mundum uerum nec auferre quid possumus. Idcirco terrenis et caducis coelestis patriae praemia mercanda sunt. Qua de re ego Aldred, cum consensu et licentia Offani regis Merciorum et Uhtredi germani mei, pro redemptione animae meae et pro spe salutis aeternae, terram trium cassatorum, in loco, qui dicitur Huntentun, cum omnibus sibi adiacentibus rebus et rectis hiis omnibus, in siluis, in campo, Beornheardo comite meo, digno praetio insuper ab eo suscepto, in ius proprium libenter pro domino largitus sum. Si autem, quod absit, quis auaritia spiritu infectus, hanc donationem, quam cum conscientia et permissu Offani regis Merciorum et Uhtredi

<sup>1</sup> MS. contradictione.





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Christi traditore, crematur aeterna combustione; et Annania et Saphira sentiat iram ultionis diuinae, nisi in praesenti uita emendauerit condigna satisfactione. Haec enim sunt nomina finium terrarum, etc.

*The witnesses' names are wanting.*

---

CXXVII.

CEÔLFRITH, 757—775.

✠ IN nomine domini Ihesu! Spe enim salui facti sumus; spes autem quae uidetur non est spes, et quae non uidemus per patientiam expectamus quia aeterna sunt. Ideoque ego Ceolfrithus, abbas dono dei, iure paterno haereditario dono terram meam et haereditatem patris mei Cyneberhti, pro redemptione animarum nostrarum, ad aecclesiam beati Petri apostoli, et ad sedem episcopalem in Uuigrinnanceastre, cui nunc praest uenerabilis episcopus Milredus, cum consensu et licentia Offani regis Merciorum, et principum eius, et testium, quorum infra inseruntur nomina. Est autem terrae locus celebris, qui dicitur Heanburh .xx. manentium, et in prouincia Usmerorum, qui nominatur aet Sture .xiii. cassatos habens. Si quis autem, quod absit, ex parentela mea uel externorum, maliuola mente et maligno spiritu instigatus, huius donationis nostrae munificentiam infringere nititur et contraire, sciat se in die tremendo coram summo deo rationem redditurum.

✠ Ego Offa, rex Mercensium, donum et datum Ceolfrihti abbatis consentiendo subscribo. ✠ Ego Milred signum crucis infixi. ✠ Ego Aldred subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uhtred subregulus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eadbald, praefectus et princeps Offae regis, consensi.



## CXXVIII.

## \* UHTRED OF THE HWICCAS, 764—775.

✠ APPROPINQUANTEM mundi terminum, etiam per indicia comperta et signa manifesta declaratur, quemadmodum sacra euangeliorum oracula pronuntiant; humani quoque generis proles, certis et incertis conditionum euentibus de hac temporali luce multis ac miris modis rapitur. Iccirco ego Uhtredus, dei dono subregulus Huicciorum, de his tremendis causis mente reuolvens, optimum hoc fore excogitavi, ut aliquid ex immensis donationibus quae mihi indigno deus omnipotens et domini mei piissimi reges Merciorum donaerunt, pro remedio animae meae, ad aecclesiam beatae semper uirginis dei genetricis Mariae, quae sita est in Uuegerna ciuitate, ubi corpora patrum meorum digne conduntur, in usus aecclesiasticae necessitudinis dedissem. Et ideo secundum licentiam et permissionem domini mei excellentissimi Offani, regis Mercionum, et ducum eius ac principum, quorum signa crucis manuum ac nomina infra perscripta litteris his assignabo, dabo terram duarum mansionum iugera continentem, quae iacet iuxta fluuium qui dicitur Stur, ad uadum nomine Scepesuasce, ea conditione, ut congregatio illa aecclesiae sanctae Mariae ad propriam mensurae participationem mensae illorum habeant, et bene unanimes utantur in domo pauperes Christi qui habitant in ea. Et quae saepe contigit pro incertis haeredum successibus, quibus non est annunciatum, obliuionis ignorantia antiquorum scripta et dicta ignota existunt, propterea causam huius donationis telluris litteris caraxabo. Milredus uidelicet, uenerabilis episcopus meus, et domini mei fidus amicus, postulabat a me, ut terram illam darem ante nominatae aecclesiae praetio ab eo accepto; quod et consilio meorum consiliatorum consensi. Insuper atque placabili pecunia ab eo suscepta, pro amore coeles-



tis patriae, et pro stabilitate regni mei, hanc donationis terram concedens donabo ad aecclesiam saepe nominatam beatae Mariae matris domini. Nunc ergo, sicut promisi, testium et consentientium signa et nomina, pro maiore stabilitatis gratia in perpetuum conseruandum conscribo.

✠ Ego Offa, dei gratia concedente Merciorum rex, mei ducis postulatione rogatus, huic donationi praescriptae consensi, et uexillum sacratissimae crucis Christi pro admuntione firmissima subscribendo impressi. ✠ Ego Uhtredus subregulus meam donationem signo sanctae crucis corroboro. ✠ Ego Aldredus, frater Uhtredi atque subregulus Huicciorum, consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Mildredus supplex episcopus huic donationi signum mirabile beatae crucis infixi. ✠ Ego Eadbertus episcopus consensi. ✠ Signum manus Eatan principis. ✠ Signum manus Esni ducis. ✠ Signum manus Brordan principis. ✠ Signum manus Eanberhti ducis. ✠ Signum manus Berhtualdi principis. ✠ Signum manus Eadbaldi ducis.

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## CXXIX.

### \* OFFA OF MERCIA, 765—775.

✠ IN principio, secundum Geneseos, fecit deus coelum et terram, coelum uidelicet coeli domino constituens, terram autem dedit Adam, de qua factus est, iterumque in eam reuersus, ipsius fabricatoris testimonio patet, ad eum dicentis : Terra es, et in terram ibis ; puluis es, et in puluerem reuerteris. Diuisitque terram in filios ac nepotes eorum, per innumera saeculorum latercula. Nouissime quoque nobis, secundum apostolum, in quos fines saeculorum deuenerunt, aliquam portionem regendam sua praedestinatione commendauit. Qua propter ego Offa rex Merciorum,





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citum unum coronemur, beatarum adunati animarum cuneis. Quapropter ego Offa filius Thingfrith, deo concedente rex Merciorum, pro redemptione animae meae et praedecessorum meorum, ecclesiae beatae Mariae in Eouesham et monachis ibidem deo seruientibus, ex una parte fluminis quae Bladene uocatur, Deilesford, Eunelade, Ceasteltone, Cornuuelle, Salteford, Deorneford, Siptone, animo libenti tradens donauit. Sit itaque haec praedicta donatio ab omni iugo exosae seruitutis libera in perpetuum, cum omnibus utensilibus ad se rite pertinentibus, tribus exceptis, expeditione, pontis arcisque constructione. Qui autem hoc nostrae munificentiae donum dapsili mente augere uoluerit, adaugeat illi pius deus gaudia semper mansura. Si quis uero, quod absit, beemotico instinctu, tempore succedenti, hoc infringere mente subdola, per aliqua machinamenta permutare conatus fuerit, noscat se tali pro reatu a numero secerni beatorum, et aeternis deputari herebi flammis, cum Herode Christi persecutore nequissimo, eiusque complicibus, quorum uermis mordax et ignis fumificus nunquam per saecula cessat, nisi ante obitum congrua aboleuerit poenitentia quod audaciter egit contra nostra decreta. Facta est autem haec cartula anno dominicae incarnationis DCC.LXXVII. his testibus consentientibus quorum nomina infra scripta uidentur.

✠ Ego Offa rex Merciorum hanc donationem propria manu confirmaui. ✠ Ego Hymbert archiepiscopus consensi. ✠ Ego Dorulf episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Kinesuitha regina consensi. ✠ Ego Cheulf episcopus subscripsi.

---

### CXXXI.

#### OFFA AND ALDRED, 777.

✠ IN nomine dñi . nři . ihu . xp̄i. suũmo quidem mentis proposito unicuique pensandum est et cogi-



tandum . quatinus ut cum huius saeculi caducis ac labentibus reb: mansura aeternitatis proemia adipiscat. quapropter ego offa di dono rex marc̃ de animae meae aeterno remedio cogitans certissime sciens mihi in futuro multum prodesse quicquid de donis et de reb: propriis quib: meam paruitatem pius omnium bonorum largitor ditare dignatus est xpi ecclesiis impertirem. Unde subregulo meo Aldredo uidelicet duce ppriae gentis huicciõ aliquem terrae portionem pro dño libenter donans attribuo id est uiculus qui nuncupatur aet segcesbearuue IIII. mansiones qui situs est in australi occidentaliq: parte torrentis qui uocatur esegburna. sunt hi termini agelli istius ab oriente gemære ford a meridie thornhyrst ab occasu stanbergas ab aquilone ruanberg ea duntaxat conditione donabo illi ut se uiuente habeat et cuicunq: uoluerit post se libera utens potestate iure ecclesiastico possidendam relinquat Testium ergo et consentientium episcoporum ac principum meorum signa et nomina pro firmitatis stabilimento hic infra notabo.

✠ hanc meae donationis munificentia ego offa xpi gratia rex uexillo crucis munio.

✠ Ego eadberhtus di gratia epi cseñ 7 sub

✠ Ego berhthunus supplex epi cseñ 7 sub

✠ Ego tilherus humilis antiõ cseñ 7 sub

✠ ceolulfus sacerdos di cseñ 7 sub

✠ Ego aldberhtus electus ponti cseñ 7 sub

✠ botuine abbas consensi 7 sub

✠ Sig̃ mañ cusani abb

✠ Sig̃ mañ brordan princ̃

✠ Sig̃ mañ credan abb

✠ Sig̃ mañ eadbaldi princ̃

✠ Sig̃ mañ uuillan abb

✠ Sig̃ mañ berhtualdi princ̃

✠ Sig̃ mañ tilberhti abb

✠ Sig̃ mañ esnes princ̃

✠ Sig̃ mañ bacolan abb

✠ Sig̃ mañ ceolberhti princ̃

✠ Sig̃ mañ guðheardi abb

✠ Sig̃ mañ eadbaldi princ̃

Nunc ergo ego aldredus dño dispensante huicci-  
orum regulus terram praescriptam et manu testium  
subsignatam quam mihi offa rex pro remedio animae



suae iure ecclesiastico possidendam tradidit libenter pro domino omnipotenti et pro remedio animae meae ad ecclesiam beatæ mariae genetricis di et dñi nñi ihu xpi . quae sita est in uueogorna ciuitate largitus sum. et hoc cum subscriptione principum meorum muniendo munio.

✠ Ego aldredus reḡ huicc. propriã meam donationẽ signo crucis notauì.

✠ Siḡ mañ cyneberhti p̃f.

✠ Siḡ mañ cudredi p̃f.

✠ Siḡ mañ uuales p̃f.

Scriptum est hoc anno ab incaĩ xpi . DCCLXXVIII<sup>o</sup>. Ind. xv. añ. deceñ. xviii. lun. xv.

---

## CXXXII.

### ECGBERHT OF KENT, 778.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi ! Pietatis beneficium, quod quisque fidelium pro Christi reuerentia seruo dei fideliter domino seruiendi misericorditer contulerit, Christo hoc conferre dinoscitur. Nam ipse in fine mundi ad electos suos loquens dicturus est : Cum uni ex minimis meis fecistis, mihi fecistis. Iccirco ego Ecgberhtus rex Cantuariorum hanc dominicam sententiam memoriter retinens, et piis operibus deo instigante adimplere curabo : tibi Dioran, Hrofensis ecclesiae antistiti, aliquam partem terrae iuris mei libenter concedo, id est dimidiam unius aratri partem ubi nominatur Bromgeheg, simul et mariscum uocabulo Scaga, et ut per omne ab hac die et deinceps subsequens tempus, cum notissimis terminis omnibusque utilitatibus ad eam rite pertinentibus, tuo proprio iuri aeternaliter habendam, possidendam, tradendamque cuicunque hominum uolueris hilari concedo animo. Huius autem marisci terminus est aqua pene undique circumperfusa. Si quis ergo haeredum successorum-





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- ✠ Ego ecgbaldus episċ consent et subscċ
- ✠ Siġ mañ scillinges . . . . fecti
- ✠ Siġ mañ ham . . . . p̃fċt
- ✠ Siġ mañ aeđelnoðes p̃fċt
- ✠ Siġ mañ ceolbrehtes p̃f
- ✠ Siġ mañ aeđelmundes p̃f
- ✠ Siġ mañ wigferðes p̃f
- ✠ Siġ fæder comitis regis

---

### CXXXIV.

#### OFFA OF MERCIA, 775—778.

✠ CUNCTA regalia scepra recto iustoque moderate iugiter gubernante pio saluatore hominum ! Ego Offa, dei praedestinatione rex Anglorum, seniorum meorum magisterio edoctus et exemplo roboratus, ut ex percepto mundani regni dominio qualemcunque partem, quamuis minus dignam, pro absolutione meorum peccaminum et pro redemptione animae meae, in usus aecclesiasticae liberalitatis subrogarem. Ideoque nunc terram . v. manentium, hoc est, uicum qui nuncupatur aet Ductun et . v. aet Esig pro aeterna salute meae animae quandoque in futuro, dante deo, ad monasterium sanctae Mariae, uocabulo Uueogerna ceastre, in ius ruris aecclesiastici, libentissime perdonans concedo. Sunt hi termini ruris illius, etc. Condonantium uero et consentientium signa hic infra et nomina sub testimonio maiore perscripta notabo.

✠ Ego Offa rex hanc meam munificentiam signo crucis munio. ✠ Ego Eadbertus episcopus. ✠ Ego Berhthun episcopus. ✠ Ego Uuermund episcopus. ✠



Ego Ceoluuulf episcopus. ✠ Ego Cudd abbas. ✠ Ego Botuine abbas. ✠ Signum manus Eatani principis. ✠ Signum manus Berhtuualdi principis.

---

CXXXV.

ECGBERHT OF KENT, 779.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi! Cum quis religiosorum uirorum fideliter deo famulantibus ex temporalibus terrenisque substantiis donare decreuerit, hoc pro certo Christo donatori bonorum omnium redonare constat. Unde et ego Ecgberht, rex Cantiae, tibi uenerando Dioran, Hrofensis ecclesiae antistiti, trado dimidiam partem unius aratri contiguam uidelicet eiusdem quantitatis terrulam in regione uocabulo Bromgeheg, a me antea traditae. Insuper et adiciam mariscum pertinentem ad aridam et ad aquae ripam Iaenlade, habentem quasi quinquaginta iugerum, et ut in tua sit facultate in perpetuum habendam, possidendam, tradendamque cuicumque elegeris hominum. Et si quis tam ausus sit hanc donationem meam infringere temptauerit, sit anathema maranatha, hanc cartulam in sua stabilitate manentem; consentientibus religiosis personis et subscribentibus signo crucis Christi roborauit, quorum nomina cum propriis infra notantur signaculis. Actum anno ab incarnatione Christi DCCLXXIX in ciuitate supradicta.

✠ Ego Ecgberhtus donator signum crucis Christi impressi. ✠ Signum manus Boba. ✠ Signum manus Balthard. ✠ Signum manus Uuealhard. ✠ Signum manus Banta. ✠ Signum manus Billnoth. ✠ Signum manus Osuulf. ✠ Signum manus Bubba. ✠ Signum manus Balthard.



## CXXXVI.

## \* OFFA OF MERCIA, 779.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu regnantis imperpetuum uniuersa quae subsistunt et condita constant! In cuius etiam nomine haec scriptura firmata sit, et pro cuius aequae amore ego Offa rex Merciorum exiguam ruris portiunculam, IIII uidelicet manentium, in loco qui dicitur Dunnestreatun tradens donabo ad locum qui dicitur aet Eoueshame; ob honorem dei genetricis Mariae, pro remedio animae meae omnibus diebus possidendam, et ab omni iugo seculari liberam, exceptis arcis restauratione et pontis et expeditionis obsequio. Conscripta est haec cartula anno ab incarnatione Christi DCCLXXVIII. indictione secunda, anno decennouali primo, lunari XVII.

✠ Ego Offa gubernante gratia rex merciorum.

*The remainder of the signatures are lost.*

## CXXXVII.

## OFFA, 779.

**P** REGNANTI in perpetuum dño nō iħu xp̄o, Uni-  
**A** **W** uersa quippe quae hic in p̄sentia uisib: humanis  
 corporaliter contemplantur nihil esse nisi uana  
 caduca transitoriaq: ex sacrorum uoluminū testimoniis  
 certissimi uerū patet. Et tamen cum istis aeternaliter  
 sine fine mansura alta polorū regna et iugiter florentis  
 paradisi amoenitas mercari a fidelib: uiris queunt, Qua  
 p̄pter ego offa dō cuncta pie disponente in cuius manu  
 sunt omnia iura regnorum absq: ulla antecedente me-  
 rito rex mercionū, hoc mente p̄cogitans aliquam ruris  
 partem pro amore caelestis patriae pro remedio animae  
 meae fidei meo ministro dud dono hoc † quatuor cas-  
 satas in ius ecclesiasticae liberalitatis in perpetuum  
 possid . . . . . libentissime concedens donabo . qua-





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- ✠ Siġ mañ esne priñ
- ✠ Siġ mañ brordan ducis
- ✠ Siġ mañ bynni ducis

..... godmundes leah subscripseŕt 7 ƿfirmaueŕt plurimi epi 7 optimates.

---

### CXXXVIII.

OFFA, 780.

✠ **CUNCTA** labilis uitae huius subsistentia momentanea et caduca pŕe oculis decessu praesentium pŕximorum cernentes festinandum nobis est summopere . ut opereñ bonum ad omnes sicut ueridica apŕici dogmatis comŕbat assertio maxime autẽ ad domesticos fidei; Quaproptŕ ego offa caelica fulcimente clementia rex merciorum simulq. aliarum circumqua; nationum ad eccliam quam eanulfus auus meus in honore beati petri principis apostolorum construxit ubi dicitur æt breodune pŕ salute anime meae priorumq. meorum largior terram . x. manentium ubi dicitŕ æt warsetfelda . 7 æt coftune . v. cassatorum . tantundẽ æt wreodanhale id v. mansarum cum silua quae eisdẽ terris adiacet . Æt cum pratis . pascuis . aquarum riuulis . sine ullo obstaculo contradictionis posterum meorũ principum uel ducum in usum episcopi weogernensis eccliesiae maneat. Sit autẽ terra illa libera ab omni exactione regum et principum et subditorũ ipsorum . pŕe pontis et arcis restauratione et hostilem expeditionem. Anno autẽ dominice incarnationis . DCC<sup>o</sup>.XXX<sup>o</sup>. conscripta est haec donatio telluris a me et ab epi ac principib; meis quorum infra nomina adnotabo.

✠ Ego offa dei dono rex hanc meam donationẽ signo sancte crucis munio.

✠ Ego cyneðryð dei gratia regina mercẽ huic donationi regis consensi . 7 subscripsi.

✠ Ego ioanberhtus archieps.



- ✠ Ego eadberhtus episc̃ps.
- ✠ Ego ceolwulfus ep̃s.
- ✠ Ego tilherus ep̃s.
- ✠ Signum manus brordan principis.
- ✠ Signum manus berhtuudi ducis.
- ✠ Signum manus eadbaldi principis.
- ✠ Signum manus eadbaldi ducis.

---

### CXXXIX.

\* OFFA, Sept. 22d, 780.

✠ IN nomine omnipotentis dei et domini nostri Ihesu Christi, qui uiuit in saecula ! Ego Offa, dei gratia concedente, rex Merciorum simulque nationum in circuitu, sciens certe, quod cuncta quae humanis conspiciuntur optutibus transitoria esse, et quae conspici non possunt aeterna fieri, et quod cum his transitoriis aeterna mercari possunt. Ideoque pro mea meorumque propinquorum perpetua animae salute, dabo libenti animo ad episcopalem sedem Uuigorcestrensis aecclesiae, petitione uenerabilis episcopi Tillheri regalem uicum, Croppanthorn nominatum, supra ripam fluminis ab incolis Afene uocati, antecessorum meorum praeepto positum cum omnibus membris per loca uaria fundatis, et nominibus segregatis ad uicum eundem pertinentibus. Ad Croppethorne . vii . manentes, ad Neotheretune . i . aet Elmlege . ii . aet Criddesho . i . aet Ceorletune . xiiii . aet Heantune xv. aet Benninguuyr̃de . x. Quae in unum collectae sunt . l . manentes. Insuper dedi ad praedictam aecclesiam bibliothecam optimam, cum duabus armillis ex auro purissimo fabricatis, conditione facta inter me et episcopum, ut memoria animae meae in praedicta aecclesia sit in aeternum. Facta est autem huius telluris donatio ad Fledanburh, ubi episcopus Tilhere mihi meisque optimatibus dignum preparauit conuiuium.



Eoque namque anno praedictus episcopus ad Bregantforde uenit et licentiam a me quaesiuit ut medietatem uiculorum supra scriptorum, scilicet xxv. manentes, parentibus suis tribuere posset; et ego principum meorum consensu, petitioni episcopi ipsius consensi; eo tenore, ut quisquis habuerit aliquem ex ipsis uiculis, uenerabili episcopo Tillhere omnibusque suis successoribus seruitium faciat in uectigalibus, et expeditionibus, omnibusque aliis subiunctionibus qualescumque episcopus ipse suique successores mihi meisque successoribus persoluere debuerint. Si uero aliquis ex ipsis hominibus deliquerit, uel de patria in exilium missus fuerit, uel alio aliquo modo de honore pulsus fuerit, terra ipsa sine omni refragatione, antiquae aecclesiae in Uuigreceastre restituatur. Praecipientes quoque iubemus, et auctoritate summae et indiuiduae Trinitatis mandamus, ut nullus successorum nostrorum, quicumque fuerit, rex, dux, episcopus, comes, uicecomes, aut aliqua magna paruaue persona, hanc nostram donationem in nullo uiolare praesumat. Si uero quis temerarius, uel auaritia diabolica seductus, huic nostrae auctoritati obuiare, aut eam frangere uel minuere in aliquo, temptauerit, sciat se separaturum anathematis uinculo ab omnium sanctorum consortio, et cum angelis apostaticis infernali submersurum iudicio. Conscripta est autem huius telluris donatio, atque supradicta consensio, a me atque meis principibus quorum infra signa et nomina caraxantur in loco celebri ad Bregantforde. Anno incarnationis dominicae .DCC.LXXX. indictione . III. regni mei anno XXIII. mense Septembri, die, quo passio Thebaidae legionis a fidelibus dei famulis celebratur.

✠ Ego Offa dei dono rex Mercensium, hanc meam donationem ac consensionem signo sanctae crucis muniens confirmo. ✠ Ego Kyneðryð, dei gratia regina, huic donationi et consensioni regis consensi. ✠ Ego Iambertus, Dorobernensis archiepiscopus, consensi et





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que stabiliter conposita quatinus ad monasterium ante nominatum terra illa et ad praefatam aecclesiam sancti Petri in ius aecclesiasticae libertatis perdonabo, liberata sit ab omni exactione regum et principum ac subditorum ipsorum, tam in agrorum donationibus uel terrarum positionibus, in omnipotentis dei nomine praecipimus, tamdiu fides Christiana in Brittannia perdurat sub dominio ac potestate parentillae meae atque cognitioni rite per successionis haeredum iuste succedentium permaneat in perpetuum. Conscripta est autem haec donatio telluris a me et ab episcopo ac principibus meis quorum infra signa et nomina adnotabo, aet Bragentforda, anno incarnationis Christi DCC<sup>o</sup>LXXX<sup>o</sup>. indictione tertia, die quo passio sancti Mauricii a fidelibus celebratur.

✠ Ego Offa dei dono rex hanc meam donationem signo sanctae crucis munio. ✠ Ego Cyneðryð dei gratia regina Merciorum huic donationi regis consensi. ✠ Ego Iohanberhtus archiepiscopus consensi. ✠ Ego Eadberhtus episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Ceoluulfus episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Tilherus episcopus consensi. ✠ Signum manus Brordan principis. ✠ Signum manus Berhtuudi ducis. ✠ Signum manus Eadbaldi principis. ✠ Signum manus Eadbaldi ducis.

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CXLI.

\* OFFA, Dec. 26th, 781.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi! Ego Offa, dei dono rex Merciorum, dignum duxi ut aliquid quamuis minus dignum pro absolutione animae meae ex perceptione terreni regni ad utilitatem aecclesiasticae libertatis tribuerem. Idcirco terram xvii. manentium, hoc est in Homtune xii in Faehha leage v, quam uidelicet terram Haðoredus, humilis episcopus, omnisque congregatio simul cum eo in Uuigreceastre,



dederunt propinquae meae Eanburge abbatissae tempore dierum illius possidendam, ego quoque augere curabo; et pro spe supernae remunerationis in sede regali sedens die secundo natiuitatis domini, id est, eo die quo primicerii martyrum beati Stephani natiuitas celebratur, in Tamouuorðie, consentientibus mecum episcopis atque principibus meis quorum infra signa et nomina pro firmitatis stabilimento litteris notabo, priuilegium libertatis aecclesiasticae terrae illius libenter subscribens perdonabo, ut sit omni tributo regalium operationum refectionumque in perpetuum libera; tantum ut deo omnipotenti et aecclesiae sancti Petri quae sita est in Uuegorna ciuitate sit subiecta.

✠ Ego Offa, Christo concedente rex, priuilegium libertatis praescriptae telluris manu propria pro confirmatione signo sanctae crucis munio. ✠ Ego Cyneðryð deo donante regina Merciorum consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eadberhtus episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Hygeberhtus episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Haðoredus episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Brordani principis. ✠ Signum manus Berhtuualdi principis. ✠ Signum manus Eadbaldi principis.

Conscripta est haec cartula libertatis et testimonium priuilegii anno ab incarnatione domini DCCLXXXI. indictione quarta, die natali sancti Stephani martyris.

---

## CXLII.

\* OFFA, Dec. 26th, 781.

✠ IN nomine domini! Ego Offa dei dono rex Merciorum necnon in circuitu nationum, terram octo casuatorum pro uicissitudine et comparatione terrae que dicitur aet Sapian do ad aecclesiam sanctae Mariae quae constat sita in Uuegerna ciuitate, id est uicum qui nominatur Iancumb, his terminis adiacentibus;



hoc est ab oriente Uuynheres stig, a meridie Iancumb et Icangaet ; ab aquilone Uibelesuelle ; ab occidente Saltuelle. Et hoc etiam pro redemptione animae meae adiciens statuo, episcopis scilicet et principibus meis una mecum consentientibus, quorum nomina et signa hic infra perscribo ; quatinus ut dixi pro redemptione animae meae ab omni tributo paruo uel maiore publicorum rerum et ab expeditionalibus causis et a cunctis operibus uel regis uel principis sit in perpetuum libera, [ita ut nec pontem nec arcem facere debeant, nec de furtis aliquam poenam soluere, nec etiam fures illos quos Saxonice dicimus uuergeldtheouas alicui foras reddant ; sed si capiantur in illorum dominio sunt habendi. Et in omnibus sicut ante diximus haec terra libera permaneat,] excepto tantum ut deo omnipotenti ibi et aecclesiae supradictae seruiatur. Hanc autem praescriptam uicissitudinem terrarum et meae donationis pro domino libertatem, ego Offa rex sedens in regali palatio in Tamouuorthige secundo die natiuitatis domini, in die festiuitatis beati Stephani martiris, concedens donauit [firmamque perpetualiter munio.] Anno ab incarnatione Christi DCCLXXXI. indictione quarta.

✠ Ego Offa gratia dei donante rex Anglorum, hanc meam uicissitudinem et donationem libertatis signo beatissimae crucis Christi ut sit firmum perpetualiter munio. ✠ Ego Cyneðryð regina [consensi]. ✠ Ego Eadberht episcopus [consensi]. ✠ Ego Hygeberht episcopus [consensi]. ✠ Ego Heaðoredus episcopus [consensi]. ✠ Ego Brordanus dux. ✠ Ego Berhtuualdus dux. ✠ Ego Eadbaldus dux. ✠ Ego Eadherus dux.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The passages interpolated between brackets are not found in the first MS. which also varies the manner of the subscriptions.





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maiore cessu alicuius rei essent subiectae, quam prae-  
 memorata sedis episcopalis. Nec non et trium an-  
 norum ad se pertinentes pastiones, id est, VI. conuiuia  
 libenter concedendo largitus est. Nunc ergo ego  
 Offa dei gratia rex praescriptam libertatem terrarum,  
 pro remedio animae meae concessam, in synodo aet  
 Bregentforda, una mecum consedente Iamberhto ar-  
 chiepiscopo, nec non omnes episcopi, abbates et prin-  
 cipes consenserunt et subscripserunt. Propria manu  
 signum sacratissimae crucis Christi pro firmitatis stabi-  
 limento conscripsi. Conscripta est haec cartula aet  
 Bregentforda, anno ab incarnatione Christi. DCC. LXXXI.  
 Indictione IIII.

✠ Offa, rex Merciorum.	✠ Iaenberht archiepiscopus.
✠ Brorda princeps.	✠ Eadberht episcopus.
✠ Berhtuuald princeps.	✠ Hygeberht episcopus.
✠ Eadbald princeps.	✠ Aepelmod episcopus.
✠ Esne princeps.	✠ Ecgbald episcopus.
✠ Eadbald princeps.	✠ Ceoluulf episcopus.
✠ Eadberht princeps.	✠ Heathoredus episcopus.
✠ Diera episcopus.	✠ Gislhere episcopus.
✠ Aetheluulf episcopus.	✠ Eadberht episcopus.
✠ Heardred episcopus.	✠ Aldberht episcopus.

---

CXLIV.

\* AETHILBERHT OF WESSEX AND KENT,  
 781.

✠ IN nomine dñi nři iħu xp̄i cui patent cuncta  
 penetralia cordis et corporis Ego ethelberht rex  
 [occidentalium saxonũ necnon] cantuariorũ conce-  
 do hrofensis aeclesiae antistiti deoran aliquantulũ  
 terre iuris mei intra menia supradicte ciuitatis in  
 parte aquilonali . id est fram doddinc hyrnan oð ða  
 bradan gatan east be wealle 7 swa eft suð oð ðaet east  
 geat 7 swa west be strete oð doddinc hyrnan. 7 ðreo



hagan be eastan porte butan wealle 7 ðar to feower  
 aeceras mæde be westan eē . hoc in aucmentū mo-  
 nasterii tibi c̄cessi s̄ci andree Ut mea donatio inmo-  
 bilis permaneat semp. Et si quis hanc meã dona-  
 tionē augere uoluerit . augeat dñs ei uitã. Si quis ũ  
 tunc minuere presūserit sit separatus a conspectu  
 dñi in die iudicii nisi prius emendauerit ante eius  
 transitū qd nequiter gessit.

Actū dominice incarnationis . DCCL<sup>xx</sup>XI.

✠ Ego ethelberhtus rex hanc meã donationē signo  
 s̄cē crucis c̄firmaui.

✠ Ego geanberht archieps̄ corroborauī. ✠ Ego  
 deora eps̄ consignauī.

✠ signū manus uualhard. ✠ siḡ manus uban.  
 ✠ siḡ manus udan.

✠ siḡ manus ealhere. ✠ siḡ manus dudec. ✠ siḡ  
 manus wullaf.

---

### CXLV.

#### \* OFFA OF MERCIA, 778—781.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi, qui cuncta  
 saecula iugiter pio moderamine regit! Constat ergo et  
 incunctanter uerum esse patet omnia quae hic humanis  
 cernuntur uisibus uana ac caduca transitoriaque fieri,  
 atque ea quae hominum oculis uelantur semper mansura  
 et sine fine stabiliter perdurare in saecula: unde et cer-  
 tissime notum est ex auctoritate testimoniorum sacro-  
 rum uoluminum, quod cum istis fugitiuis mundanis  
 rebus sempiterna mercare possint coelestia regna. Qua-  
 propter ego Offa, gratia gratuita dei patris concedente  
 Merciorum rex, maiorum meorum imitans exemplum  
 cogitauī ergo in corde meo quatenus ex his sceptris re-  
 galibus mundanis regni perceptis a conditore ac lar-  
 gitore omnium bonorum, aliquid quamuis minus dignum  
 pro remedio animae meae et pro adipiscenda premia  
 polorum in usus monasticae liberalitatis aeclesiis do-



narem. Ideoque ego et Aldredus subregulus Huicci-  
 orum in commune pro domino omnipotenti et pro ae-  
 terna salute animae nostrae, terram bis quinas man-  
 siones habentem, id est uicum qui nominatur aet Geate  
 ad monasterium quod proprie nuncupatur aet Wio-  
 gorna ceastre et ad aecclesiam beatae Mariae matris  
 domini quae ibi fundata est, libenter in aecclesias-  
 ticam possessionem donantes concedimus, eadem per  
 omnia libertatis ditione in eiusdem aecclesiae iure per-  
 manendam, qua eandem aecclesiam Aedilbaldus rex  
 ayo meo Eanulfo conscripsit; id est ut in omnibus  
 causis magnis et modicis libera et inconcussa per-  
 maneat usque in saeculum, tamdiu fides Christiana  
 inter Anglos in Britania maneat soluta sit ab omni  
 ui regum et principum et subditorum ipsorum in  
 summo dei nomine praecipimus. Ut haec munificentia  
 nostra pro Christo concessa eo firmiore stabilimento  
 perpetualiter permaneat, testium et consentientium  
 episcoporum abbatum ac principum nostrorum signa  
 et nomina in hac cartula testimonii infra perscripta  
 adnotare curauimus.

✠ Ego Offa domino concedente rex Merciorum,  
 huic donationi nostrae, pro maiore firmitate, uexillum  
 crucis Christi propria manu inpressi. ✠ Ego Aldre-  
 dus dei dono subregulus Huuicciorum, hanc donatio-  
 nem nostram muniens, signum salutiferae crucis cunc-  
 tis gentibus inpono. ✠ Ego Eadberhtus Christo do-  
 mino concedente episcopus, his dictis consensi et sub-  
 scripsi. ✠ Ego Berhthunus deo et patre donante  
 praesul, his statutis consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego  
 Ceolulfus gratia dei permittente antistes, his rebus con-  
 sensi. ✠ Ego Tilherus praedestinatione dante sa-  
 cerdos, his causis consensi. ✠ Ego Aldberhtus do-  
 mino tribuente aecclesiae pontifex, his donis consensi  
 et subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Botuini abbatis.  
 ✠ Signum manus Folcberhti abbatis. ✠ Signum  
 manus Brordani principis. ✠ Signum manus Berht-





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quam largiflua beniuolentia dominus gratis donauit, Esmo comiti praefectoque meo, rura trium tributariarum uocata Eouuengelad, perdonabo. Anno ab incarnatione domini DCCLXXXIII<sup>o</sup>. et regni mei XXVII<sup>o</sup>. Et sic ager hoc praetio emptus est; C oues, XXX boues et uaccas, XXX equos indomitos dedit. Rus etiam hoc modo donatum est ut suum masculinum possideat et non femininum; et, post obitum prosapiae illius, data sit tam uilla quam uniuersa terra quae in sua potestate est, ad religiosam aecclesiam quae nuncupatur Euesham.

✠ Ego Offa.

✠ Ego Cynedred.

✠ Ego Berhthunus.

---

### CXLVIII.

#### \* UHTRED OF THE HWICCAS, 778—785.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi! Ego Uhtredus pia praedestinatione dei concedente aliquod regimen propriae gentis Huicciorum tenens, exempla patrum meorum sequens, quatinus ex mundani huius regiminis portione aliquod in aecclesiasticam libertatem, pro redemptione animae meae, largiendo donarer; ideoque aliquam agelli partem, cum licentia atque permissu piissimi regis Merciorum Offan, meo uidelicet caro fidelique ministro Ceolmundo bis quaternas mansiones cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus in Habenehomme iuris ecclesiastici, in perpetuum pro domino omnipotenti donabo; quatinus illo uiuente habeat et possideat, et post se cuicumque uoluerit hominum iure haereditario, eadem libertate qua illi concessum est, possidendum relinquat. Est autem rus illud in australi parte montis qui nominatur Breodun in aquilonari plaga riuuli qui uocatur Carent, protendens a flumine illo Carent ascendens usque ad summitatem montis supradicti Breodun, in cuius cacumine



urbs est antiquo nomine Baeningesburg; ibi est terminus agri illius sursum in monte et a meridie discendens per planitiem fluvius Carent. Unde ut eo firmitus [et stabi]lius haec donatio mea pro ereptione animae meae concessa permaneat, testium et consentientium signa et nomina perscribo.

✠ Ego Offa rex Marcensium huic donationi subreguli mei consentiens et pro maiore firmitate signum sanctae crucis infixi. ✠ Ego Aldredus regulus meam munificentiam corroborans signum uenerabile crucis Christi inposui. ✠ Ego Eadberhtus gratia domini episcopus, consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Berthunus dei dono antistes, consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Tilherus dei munere praesul, consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Cusan abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Uuillan abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Tredan abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Bacolan abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Uuillan abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Tilberhti abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Brordani principis. ✠ Signum manus Berhtuualdi principis. ✠ Signum manus Eadbaldi principis. ✠ Signum manus Esni principis. ✠ Signum manus Eadbaldi principis. ✠ Signum manus Uuales praefecti. ✠ Signum manus Cuðredi praefecti. ✠ Signum manus Cyneberhti praefecti. ✠ Signum manus Duddan pincerni.

Gesta sunt haec anno dominicae incarnationis DCCLVI. regni Offan regis Merciorum III<sup>us</sup>. annus.

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## CXLIX.

### \* OFFA OF MERCIA, 785.

✠ IN nomine domini summi saluatoris mundi! Solus ille rex saeculari de potestate regimen recte disponit, qui terrenis ac caducis coelestia comparare conatur praemia. Idcirco ego Offa, diuina dispensante pietate monarchia Merciensis regni munitus, pro amore omni-



potentis dei, in memoria aeterna dedi Sancto Petro et plebi domini degenti in Torneia, in loco terribili, quod dicitur aet Uestmunstur, quandam partem terrae, id est decem cassatorum, ubi solicoli clamare suescunt aet Aldenham, cum omnibus aptis usibus, pratis, pascuis, piscariis, siluis, siluarum densitatibus, cunctisque necessariis utilitatibus, ut habeant in propriam potestatem, perpetualiter concedens donauit. Accepto quoque ab aecclesiae eiusdem abbate Ordbrihto placabili praetio . c . mancusas auri obrizi in una armilla. Iam sequitur istius ruris cirgyrata terminatio, etc.

Hanc autem donationem si quis, face daemonis subpositus, aliquibus maculis turpare, frangere, minuere, auferre satagerit, sciat se de supernis pulsu daemonum in ima cadendum, nisi prius hic ad emendationem uenire maluerit. Anno dominicae incarnationis DCCLXXXV. acta est haec praefata donatio sub horum testimonio quorum nomina flaescunt infra.

✠ Ego Offa rex Merciorum hanc elemosinam, deo donante, cum signo sanctae crucis confirmo. ✠ Ego Cyneðryð regina figens crucem ✠ gaudenter consignauit. ✠ Ego Lambert archiepiscopus commodum duxi. ✠ Ego Heaðered episcopus. ✠ Ego Uttel episcopus. ✠ Ego Eadbert dux. ✠ Ego Esne dux. ✠ Ego Eata dux et regis discifer consensi. ✠ Ego Brorda dux. ✠ Ego Cenuulf minister. ✠ Ego Ealhelm minister.

---

CL.

\* OFFA, 769—785.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi qui cuncta saecula iugiter pio moderamine regit! Constat ergo, et incunctanter uerum esse patet omnia quae hic humanis cernuntur uisibus uana ac caduca transitoriaque fieri, atque ea quae hominum oculis





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stes, his rebus consensi. ✠ Ego Aldberhtus domino tribuente aecclesiae pontificus his donis consensi. ✠ Signum manus Botuini abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Folcberhti abbatis.

*Here follow boundaries in Saxon.*

---

CLI.

OFFA, 787.

**REGNANTE** inperpetuum domino nostro Ihesu Christo et saluatore deo ! Cuncta quae uidentur temporalia esse et quae non uidentur aeterna fieri uerum constat ; cum hiis transitoriis aeterna mercari posse ex sacrorum uoluminum testimoniis certum tenemus. Ideoque ego Offa, pia dei praedestinante gratia rex Mercionum necnon et in circuitu nationum, cogitavi in corde meo ut aliquid ex perceptione mundani regni ad libertatem aecclesiasticam, pro ereptione et remedio animae meae, libenter erogarem. Proinde, rogante et obsecrante me ueneranda Cynedritha regina mea, Ceolnodo honorabili abbati et eius familiae uenerabili in aecclesia Sancti Petri apostolorum principis et clauicularii regni coelestis monasterialiter conuersanti, in praefata aecclesia deo seruianti, pro me et pro Cynedritha regina mea et pro Ecgfrido filio meo et filiabus meis Aethelburge abbatisae et Aethelflede et Eadburge et Aethelsuithae hoc priuilegium libertatis, libenti animo, dei instinctus amore, regia usus potestate, omnes terras et omnes uillulas et possessiones, quas subregulus Fritheualdus et abbas Ercenuualdus primi fundatores praefato monasterio dederunt et concesserunt, ego praefatus rex concedo et confirmo ; scilicet in omnibus monasteriunculis, terris, campis, siluis, pascuis, pratis, aquis, stagnis et riuulis. Hanc libertatem et omnia praedicta ad praefatum monasterium pertinentia, in sinodali conuentu in



loco qui nominatur Aecleah, et testes et consistentes hii fuerunt quorum nomina infra annotabo.

✠ Ego Offa Christo domino concedente rex, propriam libertatis confirmationem signo sanctae crucis munio. ✠ Ego Cynedritha dei dono regina, huic libertati consentio. ✠ Ego Ecgfridus filius regis subscribo. ✠ Ego Aethelburga abbatissa consensi. ✠ Ego Aelfleda uirgo consensi. ✠ Ego Eadburga uirgo consensi. ✠ Ego Iambertus gratia dei concedente archiepiscopus, synodali collegio praesidens in loco qui dicitur Aecleah, cum consilio episcoporum et abbatum et omnium qui simul mecum erant ibi, huic libertati et confirmationi consensi et subscripsi. ✠. Acta sunt haec apud Aecleah, anno incarnationis Christi DCC<sup>o</sup>LXXX<sup>o</sup>. septimo.

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CLII.

OFFA, 788.

✠ IN nomine dei summi et saluatoris nostri Ihesu Christi, ipsoque in perpetuo regnante disponenteque suaviter omnia, terrena quoque scepra et regalia iura temporaliter distribuyente! Unde et ego Offa, rex Merciorum, aliquam terram pro remedio et salute animae meae tradam, id est, sex aratrorum, ubi nominatur Trottesclib, ad aecclesiam beati Andreae apostoli et ad episcopium castelli quod nominatur Hrofescester, ubi beatus Paulinus pausat, quam etiam episcopalem sedem modo in praesenti rite regit Uuaermundus religiosus antistes. Hanc itaque supradictam terram ad hanc conditionem perpetualiter habendam et possidendam concedo, cum omnibus ad eam rite pertinentibus rebus, cum campis, siluis, pascuis, pratis, pastinationibus, et cum propriis terminis. Huius autem terrae termini sunt isti; ab oriente et a meridie Boerlingas, ab occidente Uurotaham, ab aquilone Meapaham.



Ad hanc quoque terram pertinent in diuersis locis porcorum pastus, id est uealdbaera, ubi dicitur Holenspic, bi sūðan eē, Eppan hrycg, non longe ab eo loco Langan hrycg. Quisquis uero contra hanc donationis cartulam callido malignoque tractatu contraire praesumpserit, nouerit se, quisquis ille fuerit, in discreto dei iudicio sinistrae partis socium fore, et a Christi et dei corpore sanguineque segregandum. Manente hac cartula in sua nihilominus firmitate; propria manu signaculo crucis Christi roborare curauit, et testes religiosos et consentientes, id ipsum agentes adhibuit, quorum nomina cum propriis cruciculis infra adnotentur. Actum anno dominicae incarnationis DCCLXXXVIII.

✠ Ego Offa rex Merciorum, hanc suprascriptam donationem meam hoc signum crucis impressi. ✠ Ego Ecgfrið rex Merciorum, testis consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cyneðryð regina consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Iænberhtus, gratia dei archiepiscopus, signum crucis Christi impressi. ✠ Ego Hygeberht archiepiscopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ceoluulf episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Brordani praefecti. ✠ Signum manus Berhtuualdi. ✠ Signum manus Eadbaldi. ✠ Signum manus Ceolmundi.

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CLIII.

OFFA OF MERCIA, 788.

✠ IN nomine dñi nři iħu xp̃i. Ego Offa rex merciō tibi osberhto ministro meo atque uxori tuae et si contigerit ut uobis filius aut filia nati fuerint trado terram iuris mei unius aratri in prouincia cantiae in regione eastrgena ubi nominatur duningcland Hanc autem terram ad hanc conditionem uobis concedo cum omnib: ad eam rite pertinentibus . . . . . propriis terminis cum campis pascuis pratis et cum omni tributo quod re-





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haec eadem consigno. ✠ Ego similiter Berhthun haec eadem contestor.

*The following Saxon translation of the same charter, with variations in the date, is given by Heming.*

ÐA ðā waeron āgāne fīf hundred wintra 7 nigan 7 hundeahtatig wintra fram cristes gebyrtīde offa kyning on þam ān and þrittigan geara his kynedōmes geūpe āne hīde landes aet brādewassan intō þām mynstre on wigrecestre þām brōthran tō bryce ā on ēce swā full 7 swā forð swā he seolf haefde.

✠ Ic offa þurh cristes gyfe myrcena kining ðās mīne geoue mid rōde tācne gefaestnige. ✠ Ic aldred wigracestres undercining þās ylce geoue gefaestnige. ✠ Ic eādberht bisceop þās ylce þing gefaestnige. ✠ Ic berhtun ðis ylce gefaestnige.

---

CLV.

OFFA, 789.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi! Omnem hominem, qui secundum deum uiuit, et remunerari a deo sperat et optat, oportet ut piis precibus assensum hilariter ex animo praebeat; quoniam certum, tanto facilius ea quae quisque a deo poposcerit consequi posse, quanto et ipse libentius hominibus recte postulata concesserit. Quocirca ego Offa, rex Merciorum, tibi uenerabili Uuaermundo antistiti, ut diligenter postulasti, aliquam particulam terrae iuris mei, id est, quasi unius et semis iugeri, in ciuitate Hrofi, ad augmentum monasterii tui, aeternaliter possidendam concedo ac describo, cum omnibus scilicet ad eam pertinentibus rebus. Haec autem terrula ab aquilonali et ab oriente ciuitatis iacet, et pertingit usque ad septentrionalem murum praefatae ciuitatis, intra terras uidelicet quas antea ab oriente et occidente possedisti, et ideo haec



tibi satis accommoda, quia in medio iacebat. Si quis autem contra hanc donationem meam aliquando uenire inuido maliuolque animo temptauerit, sit in praesenti separatus a communione sanctae aecclesiae Christi, et in futuro a societate sanctorum omnium segregatus. Manentem hanc cartulam in sua semper firmitate signo dominicae crucis roborau, et idoneos testes ut et idipsum facerent adhibui. Actum anno dominicae incarnationis DCCLXXXIX. indict. XII. in loco ubi nominatur Celchyð.

✠ Ego Offa, rex Merciorum, hanc donationem meam signo sanctae crucis roborau. ✠ Ego Ecgfrið rex consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Iaenberhtus, gratia dei archiepiscopus consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Hygeberht archiepiscopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ceoluulf episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Heardred episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Unnuona episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cyneberht episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Algheard episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuaermund episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eadgar episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uueohtun episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Ealhmundi abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Beonnan abbatis. ✠ Signum manus Brordan. ✠ Signum manus Berhtuualdi. ✠ Signum manus Aedilhardi. ✠ Signum manus Uuigcgan. ✠ Signum manus Ceolmundi. ✠ Signum manus Ceolhardi. ✠ Signum manus Eadbaldi. ✠ Signum manus Forðredi. ✠ Signum manus Uuigcgan. ✠ Signum manus Heaberhti. ✠ Signum manus Ubban.

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CLVI.

HEATHORED AND UULFHEARD, 789.

✠ SACULI namque labentis tempora uelocius uento aerem<sup>1</sup> tranant. ideoque omnes firmas statutiones seriae

<sup>1</sup> MSS. 2 and 3 read "ad finem tranant."



litterarum adnotamus ne forte in posterum aliquis ignorantiae auaritiaue ea decreta infringere praesumat quae uenerabilium uirorum fiunt uerbis confirmata. Anno dominici incarnationis DCC°LXXX°VIII°. indictione uero XII<sup>a</sup>. qui est annus XXXI. regni offan strenuissimi Merc̃ regis factum est pontificale conciliabulum in loco famosa qui dicitur celchyð praesidentib: duob: ar̃cepiš Iamberhto scilicet et Hygberhto mediante quoq: offan rege cum uniuersis principibus suis; ibi inter alia plura aliqua contentio facta est inter heathoredum ep̃s et wulfheardum filium Cussan de haeriditate hemeles et dudae quod post obitū suorū nominarent ad weogornacaestre, hoc est intanbeorgas et bradanlege uoluisset<sup>1</sup> ergo wulfheardus illum agellulum auertere ab ecclesia praefata in weogornacaes̃ cum ignorantiae et insipientiae [si potuisset. Tunc ille episcopus] illum refutabat cum his testibus qui eorum nomina infra scripta liquescunt coram synodali testimonio. Et aiebat quod ei rectum non fieret ulli alio post se tradere praeter et [antedi]ctā ciuitatem hoc est weogrinacaestor Et propter eorum prece et amore qui illam terram [adqui]sierunt ⁊ ad ecclesiam praefatam dedissent illi senatores familiae consentientes fuerunt ut illud custodiret et haberet diem suum. Tunc ar̃ce ep̃s simul cum uniuersis prouincialibus ep̃s ita finem composuerunt et reconciliauerunt. ut wulfheardus terram possideret tamdiu uiueret ⁊ postquam uiam patrum incederet sine aliqua contradictione [illuc ad] weogornense ec[clesiae] terras atq: libellus cum semetipso redderet [ubi corpora requiescunt hemeles et dudae.]<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> MS. 3 reads as follows: "Wlfheardus ergo uoluit illas a weogorna ciuitate auertere, cum insipientia, si potuisset; sed episcopus illum uicit cum testibus quorum nomina infra notantur, coram uniuersa sinodo; et aiebat quod rectum non esset, ulli

alii post se tradere, nisi ad weogornam ciuitatem, et praeter eorum prece et amore qui illam terram adquisierunt et ad praefatam aecclesiam dederunt. Tunc archiepiscopus," etc.

<sup>2</sup> The interpolations are from MS. 2.





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nominatur Bromgeheg, cum certissimis terrae huius limitibus, quae habet ab oriente Uuuodafleot, a meridie uero fons quidam, et fossa circumdata, et exinde sepius quaedam itemque fossata ab occidente et notis signis designatur, ab aquilone mariscem uocabulo Scaga, quam etiam circumfluit Iaegnlaad. Hanc autem terram tibi tradendam et possidendam, et aecclesiae usui mancipandam, quam tu iure gubernas, concedo. Si quis uero successorum meorum uel principum hanc donationem meam immutare temptauerit, sit Anathema Maranatha, usque dum dominus ueniat, qui iudicaturus est orbem terrae in aequitate. Hanc cartulam signaculo crucis Christi confirmare uolens, propria manu, necnon et alios religiosos adhibui testes, quorum nomina infra adnotentur. Actum anno dominicae incarnationis DCCLXXXIX. in loco ubi dicitur Celchyð.

✠ Ego Offa rex Merciorum, hanc supradictam donationem meam signo sanctae crucis Christi roborauit.  
 ✠ Ego Iaenberhtus, gratia dei archiepiscopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Hygeberht archiepiscopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ceoluulf episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Heardraed episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Unuona episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cyneberht episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ealgheard episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eadgar episcopus subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ealgmund abbas subscripsi. ✠ Ego Beonna abbas subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Ecgfrithi regis Merciorum. ✠ Signum manus Berhtuualdi. ✠ Signum manus Eadbaldi. ✠ Signum manus Brordan. ✠ Signum manus Aethilheardi. ✠ Signum manus Ceolmundi. ✠ Signum manus Ubhan. ✠ Signum manus Heaberhti. ✠ Signum manus Forðredi. ✠ Signum manus Uuigcgan. ✠ Signum manus Ceolheardi.



## CLVIII.

## BEORHTRIC OF WESSEX, before 790.

✠ REGNANTE in perpetuum omnipotenti deo! Ego Beorhtricus, regali fretus dignitate, de terra iuris mei quam praedecessores mei atque propinqui mihi iure haereditario possidendam reliquerunt, aliquam portionem Hemele fidelissimo principi meo sempiternaliter possidendam largitus sum, habendi, donandi, commutandi ac post se relinquendi cuicumque placuerit, id est XXXVI. cassatos. Hoc autem feci pro illius petitione nec non et pro uice alterius agri; qui uidelicet ager iacet iuxta flumen quod appellatur Meonea quasi XXXIII. cassatorum, quem sibi iam ante Kineuulf rex cum multorum peritorum affirmatione deuote concedebat, et ab eo accepit praetium in auro purissimo. Sed haec supradicta terra Beorhtrici donationis aliqua pars est iuxta Hissaburnam in modum XXVI. cassatorum.

✠ Ego Beorhtricus rex hanc donationem meam propriis litterarum characteribus roborauit, et singrafa crucis confirmaui. ✠ Signum manus Aethelmodi episcopi. ✠ Signum manus Kineberhti episcopi. ✠ Signum manus Hemele patricii. ✠ Signum manus Uorris principis. ✠ Signum manus Beornfridi praefecti. ✠ Signum manus Lunlinges subreguli. ✠ Signum manus Uuigfridi praefecti. ✠ Signum manus Uuingbaldi comitis.

## CLIX.

## \* OFFA, 790.

✠ Ego Offa rex Anglorum DCC.XC. anno dominicae incarnationis, nostri autem regni dei gratia concessi XXX.VIII. cogitans de salute animae meae et de statu



regionis Merciorum, perueni ad Lundoniam ciuitatem ad conloquium uenerabilis uiri Aethelheardi archiepiscopi, et locutus sum cum eo quid pro salute animae meae et totius gentis Merciorum deo omnipotenti darem. Inter haec postulauit a me uenerabilis archiepiscopus Aethelheard ut darem sibi aliquod supplementum ad aecclesiam sancti saluatoris in urbe Dorobernia; dicens cum omnibus episcopis nostrae regionis esse inhonestum non ditari matrem aecclesiarum a filiabus et filiis suis regibus quos fonte baptismatis regenerauit. Ego uero consensi petitioni illius et omnium episcoporum nostrorum, et dedi illi xc. tributaria terrae, bipertita in duobus locis . LX. in loco qui dicitur on Lingahoese et Geddingas, circa ribulum qui dicitur Fischesburna, et xxx. in aquilonali ripa fluminis Tamis, ubi appellatur Turcanham; ut habeat LX. ad emendationem aecclesiae sancti saluatoris, xxx. uero in Turcanhamme ad indumentum fratrum qui seruiunt deo in illa sancta aecclesia. Hanc elemosinam humilis et deuotus ego Offa rex Anglorum pro pignore Christianae fidei totius gentis nostrae offero deo omnipotenti, ad suam sanctam aecclesiam, ut mei memoria et meae carissimae gentis ibi celebretur et deo commendetur. Erat autem in conuentu nostro celeberrimus dies Pentecostes, et conuentus famulorum dei quorum nomina scripta sunt hic . Aethelheard . archiep. Ceoluulf episc. Unuona episc. Hathored episc. Ceolmund episc. Ealhheard episc. Elfhun episc. Cyneberht episc. Deneferth episc. Uuermund episc. Uueohthun episc. Omnes isti una mecum clamauerunt ad dominum in die sancto in aecclesia sancti Pauli: Spiritus domini qui hodie repleuit orbem terrarum et omnia continet et scientiam habet uocis *all*, et omnes sancti dei apostoli qui ab illo spiritu repleti sunt, tribuat benedictionem sempiternam consentientibus et defendentibus hanc largitatem, et condempnet et excommunicet et in hoc saeculo et in futuro eum qui auferat uel minimam par-





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ciat, sibimet aeterna mercatur bona, suasque preces ad diuinam peruenire clementiam cotidie citius per hoc faciat, quod ipse aliorum in suis necessitatibus libenter exaudiat; attentius reminiscens, quod quibusque religiosis postulationibus tanto libentius tantoque promptius consensus praebendus est, quanto et illis qui precatore sunt, utilior res secundum hoc uisibile saeculum nunc impertitur, et illis qui concessores existunt, pro impertito opere pietatis uberior merces secundum inuisibile postmodum tribuetur. Quamobrem ego Egberht, rex Cantiae, tibi dilectissimo episcopo Dioran, atque tuae aecclesiae quae in honore sancti Andreae apostoli consecrata est, pro remedio animae meae, cum consensu meorum optimatum atque principum, terram iuris mei decem aratrorum, in loco ubi nominatur Hallingas, cum omnibus scilicet ad eam pertinentibus rebus, iuxta terminos indigenis certissimos, cum campis, siluis, pratis, paludibus, piscationibus, uenationibus, aucupationibus, libenter tenendam possidendamque concedo. Ita ut quicquid de ea agere uolueris, liberam per omnia in perpetuo potestatem teneas. Quisquis igitur haeredum successorumque meorum hanc donationem meam augere atque amplificare uoluerit, habeat beatam communionem in praesenti cum diligentibus deum, et in futuro perpetuam cum omnibus sanctis. Quisquis autem maliuola mente de illa immutare aut inminuere temptauerit, separetur a societate non solum aeternae felicitatis omnium sanctorum, sed etiam in aeterna poena cum scelerum suorum crudelibus comparticipibus sit condempnatus. At uero ut hanc donationem meam quilibet hominum aliquando non possit irritam facere, manu propria signum sanctae crucis subtus in hac pagina facere curauit, testesque religiosos ut idipsum facerent adhibeo. Adiectis denberis in commune saltu, Bixle, Speldhirst, Meredaen, ðaer be eástan, 7 Rusteuellae 7 Teppan byse.

✠ Ego Egberhtus rex hanc donationem a me



factam signo sanctae crucis roborauī. ✠ Ego Heaberhtus rex signo sanctae crucis roborauī et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Iænberhtus archiepiscopus gratia dei consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Eangisli. ✠ Signum manus Udan. ✠ Signum manus Balthardi. ✠ Signum manus Egesnothi. ✠ Signum manus Uban. ✠ Signum manus Tyccan. ✠ Signum manus Heardraedi. ✠ Signum manus Uuiohtnothi. ✠ Signum manus Coenberhti.

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CLXI.

\* OFFA OF MERCIA, May 792.

REGNANTE in perpetuum deo et domino nostro Ihesu Christo! Licet per totum ubique mundum beatorum martyrum, qui suum pro Christo sanguinem fuderunt, merita diuinæ laudis exultatione celebranda sint, eorumque dei auxilio exempla gloriosa sequenda; praecipue nobis tamen beatissimi Albani, qui sub hac Britanniae insula gloriosus martyrio effulsit, memoria, pia semper intentione et sedula sollicitudine obseruanda est. Unde ego Offa gratia dei rex Merciorum, cum filio meo Ecgfrido, pro amore omnipotentis dei et huius sancti intercessione, terram xxx. manentium in locis quorum subinseruntur nomina, domino meo Ihesu Christo ad aecclesiam sancti Albani, ubi ipse tyro primus in passione uictima effectus est, iure perpetuo perdonabo. Eoque delectabilius hanc donationem perficio, quia superna protectio tam nobilem temporibus nostris thesaurum qui diu fuit clausus et huius terræ indigenis abditus, reuelare dignata est. Haec itaque sunt supradictarum uocabula terrarum, aet Uineshauue xii. manentium cum terminis suis; et Scelfdune, siue Baldinigcotum, trium manentium; quorum scilicet trium manentium termini sunt hii, Suanaburna, Heortmere, Stret, Uuealebroc. Item uero x. manen-



tium ubi dicitur Scuccanhlau, uel Fentuun cum silua quae cognominatur Horuudu, cum terminis suis; aet Lygetune, v. manentium; quam uidelicet terram Alhmundus abbas, expeditionem subterfugiens, mihi reconciliationis gratia dabat. Hoc quoque, consentientibus episcopis meis, et abbatibus, ducibus ac principibus, sub inuocatione sanctae Trinitatis et indiuiduae Unitatis, donando praecipio, quatinus tota terra illa sit libera ab omni tributo, et necessitate, seu regis, seu episcopi, ducis, iudicis, exactorum, et operum quae indici solent; neque emendationem pontium, neque fossam aduersum inimicos faciendam. Totum omne praefatae terrae stipendium et exactio ad supradicti martyris tumbam insolubiliter persoluatur. Et si forte quis intra eiusdem aecclesiae potestatem aut extra, cum episcopo seu abbate communis inueniatur, bello, furto, uel fornicatione, aut alio quolibet simili reatu astrictus; semper ea pars poenae et emendationis quae regi uel episcopo debetur, ad beati Albani monasterium inuiolato semper foedere reddatur. Credo enim et ueraciter confido, quod haec munificentia non solum mihi meisque, sed etiam uniuersis Anglorum populis sublimiter proficiat, quia pro eius amore ille miles intrepidus meruit coronari, qui totius mundi pericula passus est suo sanguine expiare. Haec sunt nomina testium qui hanc donationem meam consentientes signo crucis Christi confirmarunt.

✠ Ego Offa rex huic donationi meae signum crucis inpono. ✠ Ego Ecgfridus paternae munificentiae consentiens subscripsi. ✠ Ego Higbertus archiepiscopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ceoluulfus episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Heathored episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Unuona episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum manus Alhmundi abbatis. ✠ Signum Beonnan abbatis. ✠ Signum Uuimundi abbatis. ✠ Signum Forthredi abbatis. ✠ Signum Brordani patricii. ✠ Signum





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nientibus temporibus, seu rex seu episcopus aut aliqua magna uel parua persona, aliquid de his meis donis quae deo et sancto martyri eius dedicauero, immutare, seu auferre, seu imminuere praesumptuose audeat; nec aliquam molestiam aut aecclesiae aut siluis ad eam pertinentibus inferre praesumat, sed sit libera omnino ab omni tributo, et necessitate, seu regis, seu episcopi, ducis, iudicum, comitum, exactorum etiam, et operum quae indici solent, necnon et expeditionis et omni edicto publico, perpetuo eam libertate donabo. Sed obsecro quatinus studeant superuenientes reges auxiliare, defendere, et curam illius aecclesiae habere in omni bonitate, sicut et ego habeo: ut sit illis et regno eorum benedictio et protectio a domino deo et sancto eius martyre in perpetuum. Si autem quisquam loci huius curam non habuerit uel eum malitiose tractauerit, sciat et sentiat sancti martyris seipsum benedictione priuari et rationem ante tribunal Christi redditurum. Hoc uero monasterium cum his praefatis terris Uuilligoda presbiter habeat et regat dies suos, et monachicam in eo uitam doceat, et quantum ualeat, erigat. Post dies autem illius, eligant sibi fratres cum consilio illius episcopi qui super eos erit, si habent dignum et monachicae uitae eruditum, ex semet ipsis quem uoluerint. Si autem, quod non opto, acciderit quod ibi dignus nequeat inueniri, praeuideat ille episcopus, cum consilio fratrum, qui illud monasterium digne secundum regulam monachicae uitae gubernare sciat et uelit.

Iam iamque, iterum iterumque, in nomine domini praecipio et adiuro, quatinus eo loco regula sancti Benedicti abbatis doceatur et exerceatur, quantum possibile est, perpetuo iure. Etsi ipsa elemosina oret ad dominum pro faciente, tamen obsecro ut assiduae intercessionibus pro anima mea, et amicorum meorum, canonicis horis semper in ea ammoneantur aecclesia: quatinus omnipotentis dei clementia, quae tale thesaurum



temporibus meis, gentibus et populis Anglorum aperire dignata est, mihi quoque aeternum coelis thesaurum cum sanctis suis donare dignetur. Scripta est haec cartula anno dominicae incarnationis DCCXCIII. indictione III. anno uero Offani regis Merciorum XXXVI. in loco celebri qui dicitur Celchyth, praesente synodali conuentu, testibusque infra nominatis confirmata. Data die regnante domino nostro in perpetuum.

✠ Ego Offa hanc donationem meam signo crucis Christi confirmo. ✠ Ego Ecfridus similiter consentio et subscribo. ✠ Ego Ceoluulphus rex ad ipsum consentio. ✠ Ego Cenuulphus rex consentio. ✠ Ego Beornulphus rex. ✠ Ego Ludecha rex. ✠ Ego Uuilaf rex. ✠ Ego Ecgbirhtus rex. ✠ Ego Beortulfus rex. ✠ Ego Burhredus rex. ✠ Ego Aelfredus rex. ✠ Ego Higberctus archiepiscopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum Aethelheardi archiepiscopi. ✠ Signum Ceoluulfi episcopi. ✠ Signum Hunuuone episcopi. ✠ Signum Ceolmundi episcopi. ✠ Signum Ealcheardi episcopi. ✠ Signum Aelfhuni episcopi. ✠ Signum Heaberti episcopi. ✠ Signum Heathorethi episcopi. ✠ Signum Cyneheardi episcopi. ✠ Signum Denerferdi episcopi. ✠ Signum Cenuualchi episcopi. ✠ Signum Uuermundi episcopi. ✠ Signum Uuiht-huni episcopi. ✠ Signum Uuynberhti episcopi. ✠ Ego Uuicga dux. ✠ Ego Aethelmundus dux. ✠ Heardbertus dux. ✠ Brorda dux. ✠ Binna dux. ✠ Esne dux. ✠ Heaberht dux. ✠ Cudberht dux. ✠ Ceol. ✠ Aemund dux. ✠ Ceolueordus dux.

---

CLXIII.

\* OFFA, 793. .

✠ OFFA rex Merciorum, omnibus per uniuersum regnum Merciae philochristis salutem perpetuam. Indesinenter recolens, quod breues dies hominis sunt, et



in hac paucitate dierum nostrorum, quaecunque seminaverit homo, haec et metet: cupio per uitae meae praesentis sancta opera mercari mihi, et metere in futuro praemia sempiterna. Ideoque Patricium abbatem Croylandiae, ac monachos suos ibidem deo seruiantes, et seruos suos uniuersos, ipsumque locum Croyland, et omnia quae sua sunt, accipio in manum meam, et tanquam fratres meos monachos de sancto Albano, liberos et solutos esse ab omni onere saeculari, et quietos ubique per regnum meum ab omnibus uectigalibus haberi praecipio: et confirmo eisdem praedictum monasterium suum, cum omnibus possessionibus suis, ac aliis rebus, quascunque cognatus meus quondam inclytus rex Aethelaldus, fundator dicti monasterii, contulerat eisdem, et quaecunque proceres sui uel mei postea contulerunt, seu conferent in futurum, uel quaecunque fideles Christi dicto monasterio Croylandiae conferent in aeternum. Istud cirographum anno incarnationis domini nostri Ihesu Christi septingentesimo nonagesimo tertio, ego Offa rex Merciorum concessi et confirmaui. ✠ Ego Aethelardus archiepiscopus Doroberniensis consensi. ✠ Ego Aegbaldus episcopus Uuinchester subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aldredus episcopus Dorcacestrensis subnotaui. ✠ Ego Aldulphus episcopus Lichefeld collaudaui. ✠ Ego Benna abbas de Medeshamsted corroboraui. ✠ Ego Ceolburga abbatissa de Berdea aspiraui. ✠ Ego Heaberichtus comes ad imperium domini mei regis Offae, ad eius praeceptum, hoc chirographum manu mea scripsi.

---

CLXIV.

OFFA, 794.

✠ OMNIS itaque huius uitae prosperitas, deo miserante, existit, etiam et futurae uitae beatitudo eo largiente perueniet. Contigit autem in diebus Offani regis





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Cuthberht a me digno comparauit praetio, id est mille solidis, et singulis annis mihi meisque successoribus unius noctis pastum aut triginta . . . rauit siclos. Hoc territorium praefatus princeps ea conditione adquisiuit, ut post completionem diei illius, qui ab eo meruere satagunt haeredibus derelinquat, et haeredes praecessoris praefatam conditionem conseruent in pastu uel pecunia; et post uitam illorum absque offendiculo pacis ad ius pristinum antenominata terra reuertatur. Huius autem rei ita gestae hi fideles testes aderant et conscripserunt.

✠ Ego Offa gratia dei rex Merciorum signo crucis Christi propria manu roborauit. ✠ Ego quoque Ecgerth rex Merciorum consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Hygeberht archiepiscopus firmando subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ce[ol]uulf episcopus scribendo consensi. ✠ Ego Unuona episcopus scribendo firmaui. ✠ Ego Beonna abbas hanc meam munificentiam signo crucis Christi firmaui. ✠ Ego Uu[ig]bald presbyter et a[n]c consensi. ✠ Ego Beornuald presbyter subscribendo consensio. ✠ Ego Eanred presbyter subscribo et consensio. ✠ Ego Tilþegn scribendo firmaui.

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## CLXVI.

### OFFA OF MERCIA, 791—796.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi [qui cuncta regit saecula.]<sup>1</sup> Ego Offa trado illam terram aet Uestbyrig cum omnibus ad se rite pertinentibus, id est LX manentium, et in alio loco aet Heanbyrig xx manentium, to Uueogerna ceastre, pro remedio animae meae ac parentum meorum, post obitum meum et filii mei Ecgfriði, eadem libertatis ditione in omnibus rebus permanendam<sup>2</sup> qua eam ante Aepelbaldus rex auo meo

<sup>1</sup> Wanting in the first MS.

<sup>2</sup> Second MS. "possidendam."



Eanulfo conscripserat, id est ut sit libera tam in terrarum donatione seu in omnibus causis paruis uel magnis inconcussa permaneat usque in saeculum, tamdiu fides christiana apud Anglos in Brittaniam maneat. [Soluta sit ab omni ui regum et principum et subditorum ipsorum, in summo dei nomine praecipimus, praeter his uectigalibus, hoc est, ðæs gafoles æt Westbyrig twā tunnan fulle hlūtres aloð 7 cumb fulne līðes aloð 7 cumb fulne welisces aloð 7 vii hriðru 7 six weðeras 7 xl cysa 7 vi lang ðero 7 þritig ombra rues cornes feower ambru meolwes ad regalem uicum.]<sup>1</sup> Hoc itaque cum consilio pontificum meorum et senatorum firmo foedere iudicauimus, ut nulla saecularis dignitas de nostra haereditate plus his in magno uel modico per uim aut petitionem aliquid exigat, [absque hoc tantum quod haec praesens cartula continet].<sup>1</sup> Hi sunt testes.

✠ Ego Offa gratia dei rex [hoc regi singulis annis statum . . . . . censum manus meae propriae signo]<sup>1</sup> confirmo. ✠ Ego Ecgfrið eiusdem regis filius consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aepelheard Archiepiscopus. ✠ Ego Heaðored episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Unuuona episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Signum Brordani patricii. ✠ Signum Beonnan abbatis. ✠ Signum Alhmundi abbatis. ✠ Signum Uuigmundi abbatis. ✠ Signum Forðredi abbatis. ✠ Signum Bynna principis. ✠ Signum Esne ducis. ✠ Signum Aepelmund ducis. ✠ Signum Alhmund ducis. ✠ Signum Uuigberht ducis. ✠ Signum Uuicgan ducis. ✠ Signum Alhmund ducis. ✠ Signum Eadgar ducis.

---

CLXVII.

OFFA, 791—796.

✠ IN nomine summi tonantis, qui est benedictus in saecula! Regibus potentibus et huius saeculi diuitibus,

<sup>1</sup> Wanting in the second MS.



cum fallacibus istius lugubris mundi substantiis quae omnia sicut umbra euanescunt, aeternae uitae praemia mercanda sunt. Qua propter ego Offa rex a rege regum constitutus, terram IIII. cassatorum in prouincia Huicciorum, ubi nominatur Uestburg, prope flumen qui dicitur Auen, Aedelmundo fideli meo ministro, pro ereptione animae meae, in libertatem perpetuam sub hac conditione libens concedo; ita ut ab omni tributo paruo uel maiore, pupicalium rerum, et a cunctis operibus uel regis uel principis sit imperpetuum libera, preter expeditionalibus causis et pontium structionem et arcium munimentum, quod omni populo necesse est agere, atque ab eo opere nullum excusatum esse. Scripta est autem haec libertatis cartula ab uniuerso concilio synodali in loco celeberrimo qui nuncupatur Clofes hoas. Quorum signa et nomina infra tenentur.

✠ Ego Offa rex dei dono propriam donationis libertatem signo sanctae crucis confirmo. ✠ Ego Ecgferð, filius regis, consensi. ✠ Signum Hygeberhti archiepiscopi. ✠ Signum Ceolulfi episcopi. ✠ Signum Aedelheardi archiepiscopi. ✠ Signum Heaðoredi episcopi. ✠ Signum Unuona episcopi. ✠ Signum Cyneberhti episcopi. ✠ Signum Denerferði episcopi. ✠ Signum Ceolmundi episcopi. ✠ Signum Coenuualh episcopi. ✠ Signum Uermundi episcopi. ✠ Signum Alheardi episcopi. ✠ Signum Alhmundi abbatis. ✠ Signum Beonna abbatis. ✠ Signum Uuigmundi abbatis.

---

CLXVIII.

OFFA, 796.

✠ IN trino nomine diuinitatis indiuiduae! Iuste a nobis pietatis opera persoluenda sunt. Iccirco ego Offa, ipso piissimo praeordinante deo rex Merciorum, rogatus a uenerabili abbati meo nomine Pusa, simul et





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posteris cadant ex memoria praecedentium decreta patrum, Graecorum ad hoc inbuti exemplis [qui] quicquid scire uolunt litteris tradunt, ne ex memoria lauetur; estque nobis necesse praemeditandum in uagabundis temporibus saeculi, quomodo ad aeternam felicitatem peruenire ualeamus; quia cuncta quae uidentur fugitiua sunt ac caduca, quae autem non uidentur perenniter sunt manentia. Qua de re ego Headda presbiter et abbas, ob honorem dei et reuerentiam hominum praeditus, donans donabo in testimonio totius uenerabilis familiae in Uueogerna cestre meam propriam haereditatem; tali conditione adfirmo, quod mei haeredes in mea genealogia, in aecclesiastico gradu de uirili sexu percipiant, quam diu in mea prosapia tam sapiens et praesciens inuenire potest qui rite et monastice aecclesiasticam normam regere queat, et nunquam potestati laicorum subdetur. Postquam autem in nostra generatione tales aecclesiastici uiri desint, qui indigni et inscii eam bene moderare et regere ignorant, praecipio quod absque ullo obstaculo ad sedem episcopalem in Uueogerna cestre reddantur, id est, aet Dogodesuellan and aet Tyreltune. Super haec etiam adicio et aliud meae possessionis praediolum quod a circumpositis cognominatur aet Onnandune, pro remedio animae meae et propinqui mei Haðeredi episcopi, necnon pro salute cunctarum animarum stirpis nostrae, quia alumnus sum illius familiae et iuxta liminibus aecclesiae disciplinatus et nutritus fui.

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CLXX.

ECGFRITH OF MERCIA, 796.

✠ SACULI namque labentis tempora sicut umbrae fugientes sic uelociter tranant, uarieque euentuum status in cogitationes hominum conscendunt. Quapropter ego Ecgfridus rex Merciorum concedo meo



fideli principi Aepelmundo III. cassatos aet Huntentun liberaliter ad possidendum, pro ereptione peccaminum meorum, sicut antea Uhtred et Aldred Beornhardo concesserunt. Et hoc gestum est in celebri uico qui Saxonice uocatur aet Baðum, his testibus consentientibus.

✠ Ego Ecgfridus rex hanc meam donationem confirmauit. ✠ Ego Brihtricus rex. ✠ Ego Aepelhardus archiepiscopus. ✠ Ego Heaðored episcopus. ✠ Ego Eadulf electus. ✠ Ego Forðred abbas. ✠ Ego Brorda princeps. ✠ Ego Aepelmund. ✠ Ego Eadgar.

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CLXXI.<sup>1</sup>

ECGFRITH, 796.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri! Ego Ecgfridus deo donante rex Merciorum, Aeðelmundo, meo fideli principi, hanc praenominatam terram tres cassatos, id est Huntentun, etiam liberaliter illi omni rei et firmiter ad habendum concedo, pro ereptione peccaminum meorum et salute animae meae. Ac, sicut antea Aldred et Uhtred, subreguli Huicciorum, Beornhearde concesserunt, sic iterum plene conscribimus illi, cum omnibus utilitatibus quae ad illius agri culturam rite pertinent. Et hoc gestum est in celebre monasterio quod Saxonice nominatur aet Baðun. Et hii testes adfuerunt, quorum hic nomina et signa tenentur.

✠ Ego Ecgfridus, rex Merciorum, hanc meam elemosinam signo crucis Christi confirmabo. ✠ Ego Berhtric, rex Occidentalium Saxonum, signo crucis Christi munio. ✠ Ego Aeðelheard archiepiscopus consigno et subscribo. ✠ Ego Heaðored episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eaduulf electus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Forðred abbas consensi. ✠ Brorda. ✠ Aeðelmund. ✠ Eadgar.

<sup>1</sup> This appears to be merely a copy of the same grant as the last, but with remarkable variations, which render it desirable to print both entire.



## \* ECGFRITH, 796.

✠ Ego Ecgfridus rex Merciorum, anno dominicae incarnationis DCC.X[c]vi. indictione quarta, primo autem anno regni nobis a deo concessi, terram itaque quinque manentium, in loco qui dicitur Pinnelesfeld, cum antiquis terminis, pro benedictione regni nostri, abbati, Uuillegoda nomnie, ad possidendum dabo; de illa namque in nomine domini praecipiam ut semper sit beato Albano et monasterio suo subiecta. Et terram illam a laboriosis operibus, et ab omnibus tributis, uel censuris, et ab omnibus refectionibus regum uel principum, seu omnium expeditionum, pro redemptione animae meae liberam, fixam, immutabilem, concedere curabo. Et possessor illius terrae non habeat potestatem hanc terram a beato Albano derobare.<sup>1</sup> Qui augeat beato Albano et monachis suis benedictionis gratiam, augeat illi deus in coelesti Hierusalem pacem et uitam aeternam. Conscriptus est autem hic in loco qui dicitur Celchyth, in synodo publico. Haec sunt nomina testium huius donationis.

✠ Ego Ecgfridus rex hanc meam donationem cum signo crucis confirmare curabo. ✠ Ego Coenuulfus rex Merciorum concedo. ✠ Ego Cynethrith regina conscripsi. ✠ Ego Sigricus dux. ✠ Ego Aethelheardus archiepiscopus. ✠ Ego Unuona episcopus. ✠ Ego Uueohthunus episcopus. ✠ Ego Alhmundus episcopus. ✠ Ego Beonna abbas. ✠ Ego Forthredus abbas. ✠ Ego Aelfhunus episcopus. ✠ Ego Sighere filius Sigheri. ✠ Ego Brorda dux. ✠ Ego Esne dux. ✠ Ego Uuigbertus dux. ✠ Ego Cydda dux. ✠ Ego Uuicga dux. ✠ Ego Utynbertus dux. ✠ Ego Alhmundus dux. ✠ Ego Heardbertus dux. ✠ Ego Cuthbertus dux. ✠ Ego Brorda dux. ✠ Ego Eobingus dux.

<sup>1</sup> MS. "diribare."





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auferre quid possumus : iccirco terrenis aeterna mercanda sunt. Quapropter ego Ecgferth rex Merciorum, anno primo regni nostri a deo concessi, rogatus a Beorhtrice rege occidentalium Saxonum et Athelhardo archiepiscopo, terram xxxv. manentium in loco qui uocatur aet Piertean ab orientali parte siluae quae appellatur Braden, reddidi abbati Cuthbeorhto et fratribus monasterii Maldubiensis, pro indulgentia piaculorum meorum et pro requie animae patris mei Offan, quam ille uiuens abstulit ab eis ; ea scilicet ratione concedo terram supradictam, ut saecularibus regum seruitiis libera sit ad seruiendum necessitatibus fratrum deo seruientium in praedicto monasterio ; ut memoria nostra in illo loco sancto in sanctis orationibus apud eos maneat in perpetuum. Et etiam abbas et fratres eiusdem monasterii in comparatione terrae illius dederunt mihi duo milia solidorum argenti puri. Et hoc feci cum consilio episcoporum et principum meorum quorum nomina subter ascripta sunt. Et actum est anno ab incarnatione Christi dccxcvi. indictione iiii<sup>a</sup>. Augentem hanc meam elemosinam deus conseruet et benedicat ; minuentem ac frangentem, quod non optamus, nomen eius eradicetur de terra uiuentium, et a societate sanctorum priuetur, nisi digne emendauerit.

✠ Ego Ecgferth rex Merciorum hanc meam donationem signo sanctae crucis confirmaui. ✠ Ego Beorht-ric rex occidentalium Saxonum consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eadburg regina. ✠ Ego Aethelheard archiepiscopus. ✠ Ego Kynebeorht episcopus. ✠ Ego Deneferht episcopus. ✠ Signum manus Haðoredi episcopi. ✠ Signum manus Brordan praefecti. ✠ Signum manus Esne. ✠ Signum manus Lulling. ✠ Signum manus Eadulf episcopi. ✠ Signum manus Aethelmundi praefecti. ✠ Signum manus Ceolmundi. ✠ Signum manus Uuigferði.



## CLXXV.

## CÔENUULF OF MERCIA, 798.

✠ SEMPER ex toto corde nob̄ cum propheta considerandum atq: dicendum † . . . magna multitudo dulcedinu . . . cuius super nos m . . . . . cuius bonita . . . imus quod . . . . . non inmemor . . . inspirante bonitatis. ego . . . . . ente rector et imperator merciorum regni . anno secundo imperii n̄ri . dabo et perpetuo iure possidendum sub s̄cae crucis titulo concedo . oswulfo duci et ministro meo aliquã terram in loco qui uocatur hrem-ping w̄ic 7 alia nomine hafingseota in australe parte fluminis qui dr̄ limin . ea . In uicæ altere terrae qui dr̄ bobingseata. Uti in dieb: eius habeat possideat et feliciter optineat. Suisq: post se heredib; † cuicumq: hominũ . . . . . o fideli . . . . . sicut superius . . . . . placita uoluntate frua . . . . . terim p' se cuicumque . . . bendam restituat in ppetuum. Haec s̄t nomina episcoporũ ac principũ q' hoc mecũ in synodo c̄sentientes subscrip̄.

✠ Ego Coenuulf rex hanc munificentiā sub s̄cae crucis titulo c̄firmo 7 sic ex ordine subscrip̄.

- ✠ aeðelhard arc̄ ep̄is c̄s 7 sub
- ✠ hygeberht arc̄ ep̄is c̄s 7 sub
- ✠ haðored ep̄is c̄s 7 sub
- ✠ unuono ep̄is c̄s 7 sub
- ✠ cyneberht ep̄is c̄s 7 sub
- ✠ haðoberht ep̄is c̄s 7 sub
- ✠ eaduulf ep̄is c̄s 7 sub
- ✠ utel ep̄is c̄s 7 sub
- ✠ alhhard ep̄is c̄s 7 sub
- ✠ wiohthun ep̄is c̄s 7 sub
- ✠ tidfrið ep̄is c̄s 7 sub
- ✠ alhmund ab̄
- ✠ beonna ab̄



- ✠ uuigmund aþ
- ✠ forðred aþ
- ✠ Signum manus Brordan princ̃
- ✠ heaberhti duċ
- ✠ esne duċ
- ✠ wigberhti duċ
- ✠ aeðelmundi duċ
- ✠ eadgari duċ
- ✠ uuicggan duċ
- ✠ ceolmundi duċ
- ✠ beornnoði duċ
- ✠ heardberhti duċ
- ✠ cyddan duċ

✠ Dispensante ac guernante superna clementia ego osuulf dux pro perpetua redemptione ac salute animae meae meiq: coniugis beornðryðe hanc praedictā mariscā dabo et concedo ad illam ecclesiam quae sita est in illo uenerabile monasterio quod ðr aet liminge perpetualiter habendam et feliciter perfruentum . hac ū condicione interposita ut unicuiq: anno post . XII. mensib; migrationis n̄rae tempus ab illa familia aet limingge celebretur quamdiu fides catholica in gente anglorum pseueret . cum ieiunio diuinisq: orationib: in psalmodiis et missarū caelebrationibus . seu etiam in refectione fratrū in cibo et potu . iuxta quod fraternitati ūrae uidetur quod producere poteritis et in ūra bonitate confidimus. Unaq: panis cum cibo uernaculo ꝛ paupere illius monasterii die illa tradatur. hocque in posterum successoribus uestris praecipere praecamus,

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anno facta est pax inter Merciones et Occidentales Saxones, et cum iuramentis firmo foedere roborata est, sub regibus Coenuulfo et Ecgberhto. Hanc donationem consensit, et cum sua manu signum crucis inposuit, cum episcopis et principibus, quorum nomina hic infra habentur, in eodem concilio, qui dicitur Colleshyl.

✠ Ego Coenuulf rex crucem Christi inposui. ✠ Ego Aethelheard archiepiscopus similiter. ✠ Ego Unuona episcopus. ✠ Ego Cyneberht episcopus. ✠ Ego Alheard episcopus. ✠ Ego Tidferth episcopus. ✠ Ego Ceolmund minister. ✠ Ego Cuthred dux. ✠ Ego Esne dux. ✠ Ego Heabert dux. ✠ Ego Uuigheard dux.

---

CLXXVII.

\* CÔENUULF, 799.

✠ IN nomine domini dei saluatoris nostri Ihesu Christi! Ego Cenulf rex una cum coniuge mea Cenegiða regina, referentes gratias largitori bonorum domino Ihesu Christo qui dilatauit terminos nostros iuxta paternam antiquitatem, in commune pertractauimus aliquam partem terrae nobis conlatae ad uicem rependere, ne ingrati dei beneficiis uideremur, largitori nostro. Qua de re a praesenti die et tempore tibi pastori et familiae aecclesiae Christi deoque dicatae, terram iuris nostri quae sita est in prouintia Cantiae quae quondam est Gedding et Wudutun, aratorum .iiii. contulimus in perpetuum possidendam et cum omnibus ad eandem pertinentibus pratis, campis, siluis, pascuis, et quicquid ad supradictam terram pertinet, a quatuor partibus, orientis, occidentis, aquilonis et meridiei, tuo usui et familiae tuae, et remissionem delictis nostris, ditionique subiciatis, teneatis, possideatis, donetis, commutetis, uenundetis, uel quicquid exinde facere uolueritis, liberam habeatis potestatem,



successoresque uestri defendant, in perpetuum; nunquam me haeredesque mei contra hanc cartulam descriptionis nostrae aliquando esse uenturos. Ad cuius cumulum etiam confirmationis cespitem huius supradictae terrae super sanctum altare saluatoris posui, et propria manu pro ignorantia litterarum signum sanctae crucis in hac cartula expressi; sed et Cynegiða idem fecit, principesque mei ut pari modo propriis manibus facerent rogavi, quorum nomina subter adnexa sunt. Si quis, quod absit, contra hanc cartulam a me factam, ego, haeredes mei, contraire praesumpserint, nouerint se a participatione corporis et sanguinis domini Ihesu Christi esse alienos, et a coetu fidelium segregandos hic et in aeternum. Quam saepedictam cartulam scribendam dictavi et tibi, pastor, cui supra tradidi conseruandam. His uero notissimis terminibus, etc. Actum est XVI. kalendas Augusti, indictione VII, anno regni nostri III.

✠ Signum manus Coenuulfi regis. ✠ Signum manus Theodori episcopi. ✠ Signum manus Adriani abbatis. ✠ Ego Raeðhun episcopus. ✠ Ego Piot dux consensi. ✠ Ego Teolf dux consensi. ✠ Ego Cynehelm filius regis. ✠ Ego Biornhard minister. ✠ Ego Ealhheard diaconus.

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### CLXXVIII.

#### \* EÁDBURH OF WESSEX, 801.

✠ REGNANTE imperpetuum domino nostro Ihesu Christo, et haec temporalia terrae regna cuicumque uoluerit dispensante! Ego Edbirtus rex<sup>1</sup> eodem donante occidentalium Saxonum Eadgilso ministro meo ob eius amabile obsequium et fidelem famulatum, terram uiginti mansionum in loco qui dicitur Bodecanleage, insolubili iure sibi suisque haeredibus, ab omni regali fisco

<sup>1</sup> Probably Eádburh regina.



liberam, praeter expeditionem et muniminis atque pontis operationem, libenter impendo; hanc munificentiam largitatis anno dominicae incarnationis DCCCI. sic perstringens ut nemo successorum nostrorum sine ira dei uiolare praesumat. Et haec sunt testium nomina apicibus literarum adiuncta.

✠ Ego Cinebert circumspector aecclesiarum dei. ✠ Ego Uuihtberd episcopus. ✠ Ego Uuihtferð minister. ✠ Ego Lulla praefectus. ✠ Ego Muca abbas. ✠ Ego Uuihtbrord praefectus. ✠ Ego Osmund praefectus. Haec sunt territoria, etc.

Hanc cartulam reddidit Eadburh ad aecclesiam Glastingensem.

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## CLXXIX.

### CÔENUULF OF MERCIA, 801.

✠ REGNANTE et adiuuante nos deo et domino nostro Ihesu Christo! Ego Coenuulfus, gratia dei rex Merciorum, anno v<sup>o</sup> imperii nostri, una cum fratre meo Cuðredo, rege scilicet Cantuariorum, dabo in perpetuam possessionem Suiðhune, nostro in commune ministro, modicam telluris portionem, trium scilicet aratrorum, ubi nominatur aet Bromgehaege, in prouintia Cantiae, et unius aratri adiacentem altera terra quod uocatur Aepiluulfing lond, adiecto uno piscatorio on Taemise fluuio ubi dicitur Fiscnaes, adiectis IIII. denberis in commune saltu, id est on Cestersetta uualda, his locis aet Otansihtre, 7 aet Crangabyrum, 7 aet Frecinghyte, 7 aet Haeseldenne, praedicto uiro, uel eius posteris sub perpetua libertate concedimus, cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus rebus, pro eius beneplacabile pecunia simul et deuoti famulatus sui patientia; ut habeat et possideat quamdiu uiuat et post se cui uoluerit relinquat in sempiternam possessionem, eo uidelicet





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citur, ut puta . x. mansionum, ad possidendum, donandum, cum omnibus ad se pertinentibus, campis, siluis, uel post se relinquendum ubicumque aut cuicumque uoluerit, in ius proprium cum auctoritate harum litterarum et cirographorum ast infra characterum testium tradendo, firmiter signo almae crucis donabo et roborabo. Haec autem donatio in uilla puplica firmata est et peracta . anno dominicae incarnationis DCCCL. indictione IX. et nostri regalis imperii ab alto coelorum culmine concessi XII. Et hanc donationem ab omnibus terrenis difficultatibus liberabo extra expeditionem et pontis factionem. Si uero quis obstinata contumacia hanc nostram donationem et fidelissimorum uenerabilium uirorum, episcoporum ac optimatum nostrorum testimonium uel adfirmationem, quorum nomina in margine istius pagellae repperiuntur, minuere temptauerit, sciat se canonicae subiacere sententiae, et a nostra in hoc saeculo uel in futuro communionem esse priuatum, et rationem in die iudicii redditurum nisi prius deo et hominibus certo iudicio emendauerit. Qui haec impleat quae donamus seu augeat, praemia in futuro cum omnibus mercedem a deo suscipientibus mereri optamus, qui remunerat omnes iuste et pie uiuentes et recte agentes, qui solus iustus, pius, misericors semper permanet sperantibus in se.

✠ Ego Beorhtricus rex tradendo et confirmando signum crucis arauit. ✠ Ego Eadburg regina consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cynebeorht episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuigbeorht episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuor princeps subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuiohstan princeps subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuigfreth princeps consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuiohtbrord princeps consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aesc princeps subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ealhmund princeps subscripsi. ✠ Ego Lulla princeps consensi et subscripsi.



## CLXXXI.

## DENEBERHT, about 802.

✠ SAECULI namque lauentis tempora umbrae fugientes uelociter tranant, uarieque euentum status in cogitationes hominum conscendunt; ideo omnes firmas statutiones nostras litterarum serie confirmamus, ne posteris cadant ex memoria praecedentium decreta patrum; Graecorum ad hoc imbuti exemplis, qui quod scire uolunt, litteris tradunt, ne ex memoria lauetur. Estque nobis necesse praemeditandum in uagabundi temporibus saeculi, quomodo ad aeternam felicitatem peruenire ualeamus, quia cuncta quae uidentur fugitiua sunt ac caduca, quae autem non uidentur perenniter sunt manentia. Qua de re ego Deneberhtus episcopus, ob honorem dei et reuerentiam hominum, donans donabo, cum consensu et testimonio totius uenerabilis familiae in Uuegerna ciuitate, Balthuno praesbitero, uiro bono et modesto, terram vi. manentium aet Bearmodes lea, ut habeat tamdiu uiuat, et post se uno haeredi, cui uellet, tribuat; post diem autem illius haereditis, sine dissensione aliqua haec terra ad Uuegernensem iterum reddatur aecclesiam inde ante donata fuerat. In alio quoque loco . viii. manentium ubi solicoli suescunt appellare aet Collesburnan eodem Balthuno similiter donantes donamus, ut hanc etiam terram possideat, et postquam uiam patrum incedat, duobus post se haeredibus quibus uellet relinquat: expleto autem cursu dierum illorum duorum haeredum, haec quoque terra ad ante memoratam aecclesiam reddatur. Sciantque omnes qui hanc cartulam recitauerunt ut non ego solus neque hanc donationem donauimus, neque solus hoc decretum confirmaui, sed simul uersa congregatio mecum Uuegernensis aecclesiae; quia praefatus ille sacerdos Balthun carus ac fidus amicus illi congregationi est, rectusque illius aeccl-



siae alumnus. Pax augentibus et consentientibus huic decreto, minuentibus uero uel contradicentibus dispersio sit sempiterna, neque hic stabilitas uitae, neque in futuro requies. Hii sunt testes huius donationis atque decreti.

✠ Ego Deneberht episcopus, ad confirmationem sermonum istarum, signum sanctae crucis inpono.

✠ Ego Uuigberht presbiter. ✠ Ego Heahferð diaconus.

✠ Ego Eanuald presbiter. ✠ Ego Ceorra diaconus.

✠ Ego Aldberht presbiter. ✠ Ego Uuynhelm diaconus.

✠ Ego Haðouald presbiter. ✠ Ego Bica diaconus.

✠ Ego Torhtuald presbiter. ✠ Ego Tiba clericus.

✠ Ego Selheard presbiter. ✠ Ego Uulfheard clericus.

✠ Ego Torhtred presbiter. ✠ Ego Uuighelm.

✠ Ego Herred presbiter. ✠ Ego Pleired.

✠ Ego Heahferð presbiter. ✠ Ego Haðouald.

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## CLXXXII.

### DENEBERHT, about 802.

✠ **TEMPORA** temporibus succedunt, et generatio generationem sequitur, quia alii transeunt et alii adueniunt, terra tamen in sua stabilitate usque ad dissolutionis tempus perenniter manet. Ideo pro tam diuersis temporum uagationibus, heroicorum hominum saepe possessiones in uarios deueniunt haeredes; modo optatissimi, modo exosissimi dominatores illorum percipiunt haereditatem; qua propter prudentis consilii uiri hoc decretum firma praemeditatione constituerunt, ut omnia sua statuta literarum serie praemeditarent. Ideo ego Deneberht episcopus simul cum mea familia on Uuig-





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berhto epi . et eius familiae in weogorna ciuitate ut ille noluisset unquam auertere ab ecclesia ante nominata praeter ut ante ueraciter ac firmiter definitum haberet ut hoc per omnia firmum et fixum ppetuo inter eos permaneret. Haec comemoratio facta est in loco qui dicitur clofeshos . añ . domniċ . incarnaĩ . dcccº . iiiiº In-  
diċ . xi. die ii. nōn. octob̄.

- |                            |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| ✠ ego aedelheard arc̄ ep̄. | ✠ ego uuigberht ep̄. |
| ✠ ego alduulf ep̄.         | ✠ ego alhmund ep̄.   |
| ✠ ego werenberht ep̄.      | ✠ ego alhheard ep̄.  |
| ✠ ego eaduulf ep̄.         | ✠ ego tidferð ep̄.   |
| ✠ ego deneberht ep̄.       | ✠ ego osmund ep̄.    |
| ✠ ego wulfheard ep̄.       | ✠ ego weremund ep̄.  |
|                            | ✠ ego wihtun ep̄.    |

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| ✠ ego coenwulf rex merc̄. 3sensi 7 subs. |                       |
| ✠ ego heaberht priñ 3sen.                |                       |
| ✠ ego beornoð priñ.                      |                       |
| ✠ ego ceolward priñ.                     | ✠ ego wigheard p̄.    |
| ✠ ego cynehelm priñ.                     | ✠ ego byrnwald p̄ 3s. |
| ✠ ego wicga p̄ 3s.                       | ✠ ego aldred p̄ 3s.   |

*Indorsed* : 821—823.

✠ Ceolulf rex wilnade ðæs londes æt bremesgrefan to heaberht biſc 7 to his [higun] 7 ða sende he his erendwreocan to wulfheard to intanbeorgum 7 heht ðæt he cuome to him 7 [to ðæ]m higum ða dede he swæ ða hio him to spraecon se biscop 7 his weotan ymb ðæt lond ðæt he his him geuðe ðæt hio maekten ðone freodom begeotan 7 ða wæs he eaðmodlice ondeta ðæt he swæ wulde 7 to him wilnende wæs ðætte hio him funden suelce londare swelce he mid arum on [b]eon maechte . 7 his wic ðaere on byrig [beon mihte] on his life. ða sende he monn to ðæm ærcebiscop 7 to eadberhte 7 to dynne 7 him heht segcgan ðæt he wilnade ðæs londes æt intanbeorgan. ða se ærcebiscop 7 eadberht hit wæron erndiende to cyninge. ða cuom dynne to gelærde ðone cyning ðæt he his no geþæf



wæs. ða wæs higen 7 hlaforde lond unbefliten æghuæs  
7 siobðan a oð his daga ende.<sup>1</sup>

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CLXXXIV.

DENEBERHT AND WULFHEARD,

Thursday, Oct. 6th, 803.

✠ ANNO dominicae incarnationis DCCC<sup>o</sup>.III<sup>o</sup>. indict.  
XI<sup>a</sup>. uero qui est annus VII. regni Cenwulfi pii regis  
Merciorum, factum est sinodale conciliabulum aet  
Closeshoum, praesidente Aethelheardo archiepiscopo ;  
ubi cum uniuersi prouintiales episcopi, cum abbatibus  
et presbyteris de necessariis et pluribus uniuersae  
aecclesiae statutis congregarentur, ibi etiam inter alia  
plura facta est contentio inter Deneberhtum, Uueoger-  
nensis aecclesiae antistitem, Uulfheardumque Here-  
fordensem praesulem. Sunt autem monasteria in pa-  
rochia Deneberhti Celtanhom, Beccanford, quae olim  
in antiquis diebus ad Herefordensem aecclesiam prae-  
stita fuerunt, in quibus postulabat suam pastum qui ei  
episcopali iure pertinebat, ipse Deneberht sibi reddi.  
Uulfheard autem e contra narrabat, ut ei nullam dare  
deuisset, neque umquam antecessores illius aliquam  
ibi haberent. Et si erat umquam, iam XXX. annis  
et eo amplius nemo illum, neque antecessores eius,  
huiuscemodi pastu pulsaret neque tangeret. Deneberht  
autem cum testimonio narrabat, ut Uuermund episco-  
pus pastum acciperet aet Beccanforda, Haðoredus si-  
militer aet Celtanhomme, insuper et ipse Uuulfheard  
ei pecuniam daret pro pastu, haecque cum testimonio  
conprobauit. Cum uero huiuscemodi hinc et inde  
multa contenderunt, uentum est ad sermonem, ut ar-  
chiepiscopus Deneberhtum rogabat dimidia sibi huius  
pastus praestare et altero anno semper aet Beccanforda  
suam refectionem acciperet, altero aet Celtanhomme.

<sup>1</sup> The interpolated passages are supplied from the second MS.



Ille autem respondebat se et uelle et debere in omnibus eius parere praeceptis ; hoc modo tamen in testimonio totius sinodi in diem eius praestare et non amplius ; idque litteris confirmare ut scient omnes qui eius sunt successores, quod ipse nunquam intermittit, quod Uueogernensi aecclesiae ad utilitatem recte pertinet. Haec autem pacis conciliatio facta est sub die . IIII. Idum Octobrium. Eodem die in simili contentione placiti sunt Uuerenberhtus mediterraneorum Anglorum episcopus, et Aldulfus Licetfeldensis praesul, Uuigberhtus similiter Sciraburnensis antistes et Alhmundus Uuentanae pastor aecclesiae tale aliquid inter se habentes, omnes ad uerae fraternitatis pacem adunati, perrexerunt unusquisque ad suam. Erat autem dies v. feria et hii sunt testes huius pacis.

✠ Ego Aed̃iheard archiepiscopus consensi. ✠ Ego Aldulf episcopus. ✠ Ego Uuerenberht episcopus. ✠ Ego Eadulf episcopus. ✠ Ego Deneberht episcopus. ✠ Ego Alheard episcopus. ✠ Ego Tidferð episcopus. ✠ Ego Uuigberht episcopus.

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## CLXXXV.

### AETHELHEARD, 803.

GLORIA in excelsis d̃o et in terra pax hominib̃s bonae uoluntatis.

✠ Scimus autem quod multis in d̃m fideliter confidentibus notum et manifestum est. et nihil tamen illis placabile in eo uisum est. qui in gentibus anglorum commorantur quod offa rex merciõ in diebus iaenberhti ãrceps̃ cum maxima fraude honorem et unitatem sedis s̃ci agustini patris nostri in dorouernensi ciuitate diuidere et discindere praesumpsit. et quo modo post obitum praedicti pontificis aedelheardus ãrceps̃ d̃i gratia donanti illius successor post curricula annorum erga plurima d̃i ecclesiarum iura limina apostolorum et apos-





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catholica fides penituit et a s̄co agustino sacrum baptismum celebretur. insuper etiam cartam a romana sede misam per hadrianum papam de palleo et de archiepiscopatus sede in liccedfeldensi monasterio cum consensu et licentia domni apostolici leonis papae praescribimus aliquid ualere. quia per subreptionem et male blandam suggestionem adipiscebatur. et idcirco manifestissimis signis caelestis regis primatum monarchiae archiprincipatus permanere canonicis et apostolicis munitioibus statuimus ubi s̄cm euangelium X̄pi per beatum patrem agustinum in prouincia anglorum primū praedicatur. et deinde per gratiam s̄ci sp̄s late diffusum est. Si quis uero contra apostolicis praeceptis et nostrorū omnium ausus sit tunicā X̄pi scindere et unitatē s̄ce d̄i ecclesiae diuidere. sciat sē nisi digne emendauerit quod inique contra sacras canones fecit aeternaliter esse damnatum :.

Hic s̄t nomina s̄corū episcoporū et abbatum qui praescriptum cyrographi cartulā in synodo qui factus est aet clofeshoum, anno aduentus d̄ni . DCCC.III. cum signo s̄cae crucis X̄pi firmauerunt :.

✠ aedelheardus ārcēpis.

✠ alduulfus ēpis.

✠ uerenberhtus ēpis.

✠ alheardus ēpis.

✠ uuigberhtus ēpis.

✠ almundus ēpis.

✠ osmundus ēpis.

✠ eaduulfus ēpis.

✠ deneberhtus ēpis.

✠ uuithunus ēpis.

✠ tidfridus ēpis.

✠ uulfheardus ēpis.

✠ almundus p̄rs āb.

✠ beonna p̄rs āb.

✠ fordr̄ed p̄rs āb.

✠ uuigmundus p̄rs āb.



## CLXXXVI.

## AETHELRIC, 804.

✠ IN nomine domini dei summi, rex regum, qui in altis habitat et prospicit omnia caelestia et terrestria! Anno ab incarnatione Christi . DCCC. IIII. Indictione . XII. ego Aethelric, filius Aethelmundi, cum conscientia synodali inuitatus ad synodum, et in iudicio stare, in loco qui dicitur Clofeshoh, cum libris et ruris, id est, aet Uestmynster, quod prius propinqui mei traderunt mihi et donauerunt, ibi Aethelhardus archiepiscopus mihi regebat atque iudicauerat, cum testimonio Coenuulfi regis, et optimatibus eius, coram omni synodo, quando scripturas meas perscrutarent, ut liber essem terram meam atque libellos dare quocunque uolui. Postea commendavi amicis meis ad seruandum, quando quaesiui sanctum Petrum et sanctum Paulum, pro remedio animae meae, et, iterum me reuertente ad patriam, accepi terram meam, et praetium reddidi, quasi ante pacti sumus, et pacifici fuerimus ad inuicem. Facta est autem post paucos annos alia synodus aet Aclea. Tunc in illo synodo coram episcopis, rege et principibus eius, rememoravi pristinae libertatis meae, quae mihi ante iudicatum est, et cum licentia eorum testificaui in praesenti testimonio, quemadmodum meam haereditatem dare uoluisssem, et sic dixi: Haec sunt nomina illarum terrarum, quae dabo ad locum, qui dicitur Deorhyrst, pro me et Aethelmundo patre meo, si mihi contingat ut illic corpus meum requiescat; Todanhom, et aet Sture, Scraefleh et Cohhanleh, ea conditione, ut illa congregatio . nota eorum faciat firma, sicut mihi promiserunt. Iterum dabo Uuaerferðe . XI. manentium Bremesgraefan et Feccanhom, ut habeat suum diem, et postea reddat ad Unigorna ceastre. Uerum etiam do . xxx. manentium Under Ofre ad Gleauuecestre. Et quando mihi contingat exitus diei mei, tunc



dabo Ciolburge matri meae, si diutius uiuit quam ego, terram . XLIII. manentium aet Uestmynster, et aet Stoce, ut habeat suam diem, et postea reddat ad Uueogernensem aecclesiam. Pro qua re ea uiuente ut ibi habeat protectionem et defensionem contra Beorclinga contentione; et si aliquis homo in aliqua contentione iuramentum ei decreuerit contra Berclingas, liberrima erit ad reddendum, cum recto consilio propinquorum meorum, qui mihi haereditatem donabant, et meo, quo ei dabo; et si non habeat patrociniū in ciuitate Uueogornensi, postea primum quaerat ad archiepiscopum in Cantia. Et si ibi non habeat, sit libera cum ruris et libris ad eligendum patrociniū, ubi placitum sibi fuerit. Si aliter fiat, ut non opto, aliquis homo contendat contra libros meos uel haereditatem indigne, tunc habet Alduulfus episcopus in Licetfelda istius cartulae comparem, et amici et necessarii mei et fidelissimi alias, id est, Eadberht Eadgaring, et Aedelheah Esning, ad confirmationem huius rei. Rogo etiam Aedelric, pro amore omnipotentis dei, et praecipio et obsecro per omnes uirtutes coelorum, ut nullus homo hanc positionem crucis Christi, quae tantorum uirorum testimonio confirmata est, non praesumat minuere. Si ausus est aliquis confirmationem istam infringere, deleatur de laude dei, si non satisfactione emendauerit.

✠ Ego Coenuulf, rex Merciorum, hanc munificentiam signo sanctae crucis subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aedelheardus archiepiscopus Dorouernensis ciuitatis signum sanctae crucis subscripsi. ✠ Ego Alduulfus Licetfeldensis episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Werenberht episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Denebyrht episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Wulfheard episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Eadwulfus episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Heaberht dux subscripsi. ✠ Ego Beornod dux subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ciolward dux subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cynehelm dux subscripsi. ✠ Ego Wicga dux subscripsi. ✠ Ego Wigheard dux subscripsi. ✠





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aduentus domini DCCCIII<sup>o</sup>. Indictione XII<sup>a</sup>. et regni nostri anno VIII. Testium qui hanc praedictam donationem consentientes signo sanctae crucis munierunt, exprimuntur nomina.

✠ Coenuulf rex dabo mercedem. ✠ Uulfredus archiepiscopus. ✠ Cealuueard dux. ✠ Uulfheard praepositus. ✠ Aedrið regina.<sup>1</sup> ✠ Cynehelm dux. ✠ Bearnhard praepositus. ✠ Cuðred rex. ✠ Tid-uulf dux. ✠ Suuyðun comes. ✠ Alduulf episcopus. ✠ Uuicga dux. ✠ Sigheard comes. ✠ Deneberht episcopus. ✠ Adilhaeh comes. ✠ Cyga comes. ✠ Heaberht dux. ✠ Osuulf comes. ✠ Bearnoð comes. ✠ Beornoð dux. ✠ Aedred praepositus.

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CLXXXVIII.

CÔENUULF, 804.

✠ DISPENSANTE ac gubernante domino deo omnipotente! Ego Coenuulf rex Maerciorum, et Cuthred frater meus rex Cantuariorum, anno dominicae incarnationis DCCCIII. concessimus uenerabili abbatissae Selethrythae et suae familiae ad aecclesiam sanctae Mariae semper uirginis, quae sita est in loco qui dicitur Limming, ubi pausat corpus beatae Eadburgae, aliquantulam terrae partem in ciuitate Dorobernia ad necessitatis refugium, hoc est VI. iugera pertinentia ad aecclesiam quae sita est in honore beatae Mariae in occidentali parte ciuitatis et quorum termini sic cingere uidentur, etc. Si quis autem hanc nostram donationem infringere uel minuere temptauerit, sciat se rationem redditurum in die iudicii, nisi ante digna satisfactione deo et hominibus emendare uoluerit. Et haec testium nomina quae inferius scripta sunt.

✠ Ego Coenuulfus rex Merciorum, hanc donationem meam cum signo crucis Christi confirmo: ✠ Ego Cuthredus rex Cantuariorum signo crucis confirmo.

<sup>1</sup> Sic in MS.



✠ Aedelheardus gratia dei archiepiscopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Adulf episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Daeneberht episcopus consensi et subscripsi.

## CLXXIX.

## AETHELHEARD, 805.

**P** Ego aedilheardus metropolitanae ciuitatis in dorobernia arc̃ ep̃s pro amore dñi ñi ih̃u xp̃i et pro absolutione meorũ criminũ terram quattuor aratroř nomine aet burnan in occidentali parte beorahames s̃cae familiae ecclesiae xp̃i in propriã possessionem donabo et obsecro in nomine dñi omnes pontifices ñros successores. ut omne bonum quod in illa terra lucrificetur fratres sibi singulariter ad mensam suam habeant et ad alteram necessitatẽ faciant qua illis bona et spontanea uoluntate maxime utile uideatur. Hanc p̃nominatam terram quidam homo bonus nomine aldhun qui in hac regali uilla inlustris ciuitatis praefectus fuit pro intuitu aeternae mercedis fratribus ñris ad mensam tradidit. sed s̃ca ecclesia xp̃i sine norma iustitiae cum rapacitate cuiusdam regis de sua terra priuata est et nos auxiliante dño iterum illam iusto et synodali iudicio restituere huic s̃cae familiae curauimus. rogamus etiam amicos ñros id est reges et pontifices et omnes qui potestatem in hac prouincia habeant. ut semper augere his fratribus et ñ minuire suum bonum dignentur. et certe credimus eo magis d̃m omnipotentem illis augere aeterna bona in caelestibus regnis.

actũ fuit . DCCCV. anno incarnaĩ . xp̃i XIII. indictione.

testiũ nomina hic infra caraxata sunt.

✠ Ego aedilheard arc̃ ep̃i cum uexillo crucis xp̃i confirma

✠ ego biornmod ep̃i subscripsi. ✠ eanred p̃poš.  
✠ biornhard p̃poš.



✠ monna p̃r. ✠ cuba p̃. ✠ uulfhard p̃. ✠ ciol-  
stan p̃. ✠ osuulf p̃.

✠ paul p̃ ✠ heamund p̃ ✠ heremod p̃ ✠ uulf-  
red arc̃ diã ✠ guðmund.

✠ eadred diã ✠ goda subdiã ✠ wine

✠ ego cuðred rex cantie consensi et subscripsi

✠ ego cudaman ab. æsensi et sub

✠ ego feologeld ab. et subs̃r. ✠ aldberht sub

✠ osuulf dux subs̃ri ✠ esne subs̃r.

✠ berhtnoð subscrip̃ ✠ heahfirð sub

✠ sigehard subscrip̃.

---

CXC.

CÚTHRED OF KENT, Aug. 6th, 805.

✠ ANNO ab incarnatione dñi ñri ihu xp̃i dccc°.v°. indictione xiii. ego cuðred rex cantiae cum licentia coenulfi regis merciae octavo anno regni mei a dō æcessi wulfredo sedenti in archiepiscopatus solio . duorum aratrorum terrae in p̃petuum donabo. est itaq: terra illa conposita in occidentali parte xii. manentium quae dicuntur bocholt hec duo aratra supra p̃dicta a quibusdam campus armentorum id est hriðra leah appellantur hoc k̃ modo quasi pro compensatione in p̃ti xxx mancusarum illi hanc p̃nominatam terram tradere curabo ut communem silbam secundum antiquam consuetudinem cum ceteris hominibus abeat potestas quoq: ipsi datur ut in libertate terram habeat quamdiu uiuat et postea cuicumq: hominum uoluerit in aeternam libertatem derelinquat si quis hanc largitionem illi augeat augeatur illi a dō uita si quis deminuerit quod absid deminuetur sibi gloria in xp̃o nisi satisfacione emendauerit.

Huius confirmationis signa in celeberrimo loco hac-





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maiorum minorūue causarum ut habeat libertatem commutandi uel donandi in uita sua et post eius obitum teneat facultatem relinquendi cuicumq: uolueris. nullus regum aut episcoporum uel principum p̄sentum uel futurorum ista sit contemnere ausus. sin autem redat rationē corā dō et coram angelis eius in die reuelationis dñi n̄ri ih̄u xp̄i amen :.

✠ Ego coenuulf rex merc̄ hanc donationem consensiendo suḅ.

✠ Ego cuḅred rex cantiā hanc donationē meā signo sc̄ae crucis xp̄i firmabo 7 subscribo.

✠ Ego wulfredus gratia d̄i archi ep̄is cons̄ 7 suḅ.

✠ Ego coenwald consensi 7 subscripsi.

✠ Ego osuulf cons̄ 7 suḅ

✠ tidferḅ ep̄is

✠ Ego ealdberht cons̄ 7 suḅ

✠ alhheard ep̄is

✠ Ego wealh cons̄ 7 suḅ

✠ eaduulf ep̄is

✠ Ego æðelieard cons̄ 7 suḅ

✠ wulfheard ep̄is

✠ Ego berhtnoḅ cons̄ 7 suḅ

✠ beornmod ep̄is

✠ Ego ceolnoḅ cons̄ 7 suḅ

✠ wigberht ep̄is

✠ wulfred arc̄ ep̄is

✠ almund ep̄is

✠ alduulf ep̄is

✠ wiohthun ep̄is

✠ uerenberht ep̄is

✠ wigmund p̄r aḅ

✠ deneberht ep̄is

✠ beonna p̄r aḅ

*Indorsed by Aethelnoth and Gaenburh, 805—831.*

✠ Aethelnoth se gerefa to eastorege and gaenburg his wif aræddan hiora erfe beforan Wulfrede archebiscope and æthelhune his masseprioste and esne cyninges<sup>1</sup> thegne suae huether hiora suae leng lifes were foe to londe and to alre æhte gif hio bearn hebbe<sup>2</sup> thonne foe [ð]aet ofer hiora boega dagas to londe and to æhte. gif hio thonne bearn næbbe and wulfred archibiscop lifes sie thonne foe he to thaem londe and hit . forgelde and thaet . wiorth gedaele fore hiora gastas suae aelmeslice and suae rehtlice suae he him seolfa on his wisdomes geleornie. and this [s]prece naenig mon

<sup>1</sup> erninges, O'Connor.

<sup>2</sup> hehe, O'Connor.



uferran dogor on naenge othre halfe oncaerrende sie  
nimne suae þis gewrit . hafath.

✠ Uulfred arcepiš.

✠ Aethelnoth.

✠ Feol[o]geld pr ab.

✠ Gaenburg.

✠ Aethelhun p̃r.

✠ Esne.

✠ Cuthberht p̃r.

þisses londes aran thrie sulong aet haegethe<sup>1</sup> thorne.  
and gif hiora othru oththe baem siith forgelimpe biscop  
that lond gebycge suae hie thonne geweorthe.

---

## CXCII.

### \* CÔENUULF OF MERCIA, 806.

✠ **K**ENULFUS dei misericordia rex Merciorum, om-  
nibus mediterraneis Anglis per uniuersam Merciam  
fidem confitentibus Christianam, pacem perfectam,  
sempiternamque salutem! Omnes et singuli scitote,  
quia dominus sanctum suum mirificauit signis celeberrimis  
et praeclaris prodigiis, beatissimum Christi confes-  
sorem Guthlacum, in monasterio Croylandensi cor-  
poraliter quiescentem, et nouis ac innumeris miraculis,  
prout ego ac regina mea in nostra peregrinatione nuper  
oculis nostris uidimus, quotidie clarius ad totius mundi  
notitiam coruscantem. Unde ad supplicationem reli-  
giosissimi uiri et spiritualis patris ac consiliarii nostri,  
domini Siuuardi abbatis dicti monasterii, consulente  
idem ac commonente uenerabili patre domino Wulfredo  
archiepiscopo Dorobernensi, tunc nostrae peregrina-  
tionis comite, dictum monasterium Croylandiae cum  
tota insula adiacente, sicut in carta quondam regis  
Aethelbaldi fundatoris sui per limites est distincta,  
monachos etiam eiusdem monasterii, et conuersos, ac  
seruos uniuersos in custodiam capio meae protectionis.  
Insuper peregrinos omnes illuc causa deuotionis acce-

<sup>1</sup> haegesthe, O'Connor.



dentes, et cum signo sancti Guthlaci in suis capuciis uel capellis recedentes, liberos et solutos ab omni passagio et telonio, ubicunque uenerint per totum regnum Merciae perenniter esse uolo. Sed et eleemosynam quam Thoroldus uicecomes Lincolniae dedit dictis monachis in Bocenhale; item eleemosynam quam Geulphus filius Malti dedit illis in Halingtunen; item eleemosynam quam Fregistus miles ualidissimus, quondam magister meus, dedit illis in Langtoft; et eleemosynam quam Algarus, miles etiam dudum meus, dedit illis in Baston et in Repingale, deo ac sancto Guthlaco dictoque monasterio ac monachis in eo deo seruientibus, in perpetuam possessionem concedo, confero et confirmo.

Anno incarnationis Christi octingentesimo sexto, istud chirographum ego Kenulphus Merciorum rex signo sanctae crucis consignauit. ✠ Ego Uulfredus archiepiscopus Doroberniae fieri consului. ✠ Ego Kynebertus episcopus Uinchester subnotauit. ✠ Ego Uonuona episcopus Legecestrensis consensi. ✠ Ego Celredus abbas de Medeshamsted, germanus frater domini Siuardi abbatis, multum procurauit. ✠ Ego Cuthredus rex Cantuariorum, ad imperium domini mei regis Kenulphi, assensum dedi. ✠ Ego Celuulphus frater domini regis Kenulphi approbauit. ✠ Ego Algarus minister affui. ✠ Ego Sigga presbyter, praecipiente domino meo rege Kenulpho, hoc chirographum manu mea scriptum in praesentia dictorum uenerabilium patrum et dominorum meorum, praefato uenerabili domino Siuardo abbati Croylandiae commendauit.

---

CXCIII.

\* CÔENUULF, 808.

✠ REGNANTE in perpetuum domino nostro Ihesu Christo! Ego Cynulfus rex Saxonum dedi fratribus in monasterio Sancti Petri quod situm est in ciuitate





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potestatem id ÷ unā aratro et dimidiā in loco que appellatur culingas cum omnib: usis ad eam rite ptinentib: ad habendam ac possidendā et cuicumq: placuerit in hereditate derelinquendā. Hęc s̄t termina huius agri ab oriente cyningestun tih ab aquilone genlad ab occidente beornheardes lond a meridie ðorndun. Siquis k̄ q, ñ optamus maliuolo mente hanc meā donationem infringere temptauerit sciat se rationem esse redditurā ante tribunal dñi n̄ri ih̄u xp̄i nisi ante ea pleniter emendauerit. Actu ÷ in loco celeberrimo quae a uulgo uocatur tomeworðig xvi. kt maī . et eodem die pascha celebratur corā his testib: quorum nomina sup̄ter conscripta notantur.

✠ ego coenuulf rex merc̄ pp̄a manu signo sc̄e crucis xp̄i cons̄ 7 sb̄.

✠ ego elfðryð regina cons̄ 7 sb̄.

✠ ego heaberht dux cons̄ 7 sb̄.

✠ ego beornnoð dux cons̄ 7 sb̄.

✠ ego ceolward dux cons̄ 7 sb̄.

✠ ego cynhelm dux cons̄ 7 sb̄.

✠ ego ecgferð dux cons̄ 7 sb̄.

✠ ego byrnwald dux cons̄ 7 sb̄.

✠ ego eadferð dux cons̄ 7 sb̄.

✠ ego heardberht dux cons̄ 7 sb̄.

✠ ego ceolberht dux cons̄ 7 sb̄.

✠ ego dynne dux cons̄ 7 sb̄.

---

## CXCV.

WULFRED, April 21, 811.

✠ IN nomine altithroni di summi regis aeterni. Ego wulfred dñi inspirante gratia xp̄i ecclesiae antistes p̄ reuerentia dñi n̄ri ih̄u xp̄i . ac p̄ deuotissimo sinceræ caritatis affectu. et p̄ expiatione piaculorum meorum . seu etiam p̄ mutua commoda uicissitudinis agellorum



n̄rorum quorundam . hoc ÷ uerbi gratia q, familiae x̄pi ecclesiae. id ÷ proprie n̄ris f̄rib: in perpetuae haereditatis facultatē tribuens donabo terram trium aratrum meae p̄prie iuris in regione easterege quae inibi ab incolis folcuining lond uocatur atq: iterum etiam in eadē regione eosterge meae p̄prie hereditatis ruriculū unius aratri illis trib: adherens p̄dictis n̄rae fraternitati on byrg ad possidendū reddo. Haec quattuor q̄q possessiones aratra ita mihi in p̄prium p̄tinerunt conditionē. illa iḡ tria aratra id ÷ ðæt folcwining lond on eosterge et unum aratrū ibi in n̄rae terrae medio . et liminum coenuulf rex mihi cum suis primis dignitatum gradib: cum ceteris agellis donauerit . pro illius agelli conparatione on magonsetum æt geardcylle terra decim manentium quem a cyneðryðae acquirere et conparare curauit. Sed illud aratrum unū on liminū de quo p̄diximus . id ÷ ðæt wynnhearding lond 7 babbing lond 7 an iocled on uppan ufre quam terram id ÷ aratrum illud æt liminum ad x̄pi ecclesiā tribuam p̄ agello illius aratri q, f̄rib: n̄ris sicut p̄dixi tradidi on eosterge. Et illud iam dudum etiam x̄pi ecclesiae p̄prium fuit. Insuper etiam addidi on eostorege quintum aratrum f̄rib: n̄ris concedendam q, a reacoluensae ecclesiae prius transmotaerā qđ dunwaling lond đr . hoc eḡ ea conditione addens dabo ut quanto eorū humilitas atq: oboedientia circa nos deuotior fuerit . tanto iḡ illis sem̄p largiores in cunctis bonis dño miserante existere curamus. has itaq: terrulas ideo collegere et simul ita in unū coniungere eximia caritatis industria curauit. ut facilius elaborare ac desudare sua propria in illis potuissent quasi adunate unius termini in tria septa conclusi. atq: illas etiam meae p̄prie arbitrio in dño n̄ris f̄rib: p̄petue dono cum omnib: bonis ad se rite undecumq: p̄tinentib: cum siluis pascuis pratib:q: 7 cum omni eximia libertatis honore eis tribuam exceptis trib: tantum debitis. id ẽ expeditionē et arcis munitiōnē et pontis instructionē aduersus paganos. ut n̄ra



familia uidelicet fr̄s n̄ri feliciter et p̄petualiter salua iure  
 illis . iuxta suae necessitatis p̄prietatem p̄ omnia ut  
 illis placuerit . in d̄no fruerentur . huius eḡ reconcilia-  
 tionis n̄rae uicissitudinem beniuola mente adnuendo  
 consentiendo crucis xp̄i uexillo roborabo. hac t̄n uera  
 interposita rationis condicione tam clementer hoc agens  
 q̄ mihi 7 meis heredib: tam stabile 7 immune 7 p̄petue  
 immobile fixum in d̄no in eum p̄duret illa uerbi gratia  
 uicissitudinis transmotatio quā mihi familia n̄ri fr̄s  
 uidelicet ex suo p̄prio iuris arbitrio unanimo desiderio  
 7 consono mentis consensu cunctorū seniorum iunio-  
 rumque p̄pria uoluntate tradideṛt terram utiq: ubi ab  
 incolis regionis æt burnan uocabulum dr̄ . quattuor  
 aratrū quam terram totam iam dudum aldhun quidam  
 comes uenerabiles p̄pinquus domni iaemberhti ar̄cep̄s  
 familiae 7 p̄priae singulariterq: fr̄ib: p̄ aeterna fami-  
 liaritate ac p̄ animae suae redemptione iure p̄petua  
 liberaq: ad possidendū illis donauerat. illamq: terram  
 ecgberht rex aldhuno conscribendo dederat. Sed p̄  
 eo rex offa p̄dictam terram a n̄ra familia abstulit  
 uidelicet quasi non liceret ecgberhto agros hereditario  
 iure scribere. Sed post ea beatae memoriae aeḡelheard  
 ar̄cep̄s a rege offa adquirere studuit illā terram cū  
 integra libertate ad xp̄i ecclesiā. Sed 7 ipse aeḡelheard  
 ar̄cep̄s n̄r paulo ante obitum suū cum p̄suassione ami-  
 corū fr̄ib: n̄ris illam terram cum illa libertate 7 cunctis  
 reb: rite ad eam p̄tinentib: restituere demandauit. ut  
 illi terre fructib: utilitatisq: usib: fr̄s p̄ redemptione  
 anime illius p̄petue secundū suum placitū tantum in  
 d̄no fruerentur . quamobrem fr̄s ac familia n̄ra illa  
 quattuor aratra ipsius terre æt burnan p̄prie illorum  
 iuris hereditatē mihi in ius p̄prie ac p̄petue hereditatis  
 arbitrium tradideṛt ad transmotationis uicissitudinē  
 illius terre on easterege quam p̄diximus . mihi q̄q tam  
 liberam 7 securam p̄ omnia habendam fruendamq:  
 p̄petue 7 ad trahendam secundum meae uoluntatis  
 placitum arbitriumq: in aeuū dederunt . 7 consentientib:





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- ✠ Ego hunferð þr ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego uuilnoð þr ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego dryhtnoð þr ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego eangearð þr ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego aeðelheah þr ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego ealhun þr ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego deneberht diã ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego coenhere diã ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego tilred diã ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego bilheard diã ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego dudd diã ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego goda diã ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego brunheard diã ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego uulfheard ɔsenš 7 suð.
- ✠ Ego osmund ɔsenš 7 suð.

Actum † k̄ hoc anno dominice incarn̄ . DCCC.XI. in-  
dictione . IIII. imperii k̄ coenuulfi regis . XV. anno.  
presulatus k̄ wulfredi ārc ep̄is. VI. die k̄ undecimo k̄t.  
māi. in loco þclara in ciuitate dorouernia . regnante  
dño sine fine amen : .

---

### CXCVI.

#### CÔENUULF OF MERCIA, Aug. 1st, 811.

✠ IN nomine d̄i summi regis aeterni. Anno āt  
incarnationis eiusdem d̄ni saluatoris mundi ih̄u xp̄i .  
DCCC°XI°. Indictione uero . IIII. porro q̄q̄ imperii pīsimi  
regis merciorũ coenuulfi anno . XV°. praesulatus etiã  
uulfredi archipontificis anno . VI°. prima kalendarũ die  
augustarũ in loco þclaro oppidoq: regali lundaniæ uicu  
conciliũ pergrande collectũ habebatur. in quo uidelicet  
ipse rex coenuulf atq: uulfred ārc ep̄is̄ cum coepiscopis  
illius duob: uerbi gratia deneberht huicciorũ ep̄is̄.  
aeðeluulf ep̄is̄c̄. australiũ saxonũ. cum principib:  
ducibusq: et maiores natu. quorũ nomina infra crax-  
antur. inter alias q̄q̄ diuersarum rerũ causas in illo



habentes concilio interpretaetas. Placuit pio regi coenuulfo cum consilio et consensu totius concilii illius id ē episcoporū principū ducū iudicumue maiorumq: natu. Pro honore dī omnipotentis ac pro expiatione piaculorū eius. atq: pro reuerentissima dilectione uulfredi āncepis̄ci. seu etiam pro eius larga pecuniarū remuneratione. hoc ē centum et uiginti .vi. mancosas pro his reb: in occidentale cantiae in regione suburbanaq: regis oppido ibi ab incolis roeingahām nuncupato Terrā duorū aratrum in locis nominatis illic ðaet suiðhunincg lond aet grafon aea. atq: rerū in ciuitate dorouernia in australe parte ecclesiae saluatoris duas possessiunculas et tertiā dimediā id ē in n̄ra loquella ðridda half haga et prata duo ad eas prius et modo pertinentia in orientale parte sture fluminis sita. Coenuulf rex has terrulas sui propriae puplicae iuris cum praedicto concilii consensu. ac pro cunctis antedictis causis uulfredo suo archipontifici donare ac conscribere in propriā atq: in perennē hereditatem habendū fruendumq: et ad tractandum cum campis pascuis pratib: siluis saltib: piscuosis ac maritimis fretib: paludib: uallibusq: dulcis salsuginesque salisq: stationib: coctionesq: et cum cunctis fructib: interius exteriusq: uel aliunde usquam ad eas rite uel umquā pertinentia in talem sibi usum qualē semet ipsi utillimum optimumue fore uideretur firmiter pleniterq: deiudicauit. Integrum q̄q̄ libertatē his terrulis atq: ruriculis rex coenuulf cum auctoritate supra dicti concilii decreuerat. Ut perpetue sint liberate ab omnib: puplicis tributis et ā cunctis regaliū rerū uel operum debitis. siue principū seu ducū uel procuratorū aut etiam ab omni saeculariū causarū rerumue grauidine exceptis his debitis. id ē pontis instructionē. et contra paganos expeditionē. Atq: arcis munitionē distructionemue Cum tamen hoc uniuerso populo oportunitas summa poposcerit et necessitas eximia hoc agendū cunctos undicumq: coherceret . tunc et illi rite sua reddent.



✠ Ego coenuulf dñi misericordia rex mercioŕ huius n̄rae dationis ac libertatis remunerationē mente consona propriisq: manib: crucis x̄pi signo confirmare roborareque st . . . . .

- ✠ aelf þryð regina consentiens subscripsit.
- ✠ sigred rex subscripsit.
- ✠ uulfred archi ep̄i x̄pi gratia subscripsit.
- ✠ deneberht ep̄i subscripsit.
- ✠ beornmod ep̄i subscripsit.
- ✠ aeðeluulf ep̄i subscripsit.
- ✠ heardberht prinç subscrip̄.
- ✠ beornnoð prinç subscrip̄.
- ✠ cynehelm prinç subscrip̄.
- ✠ eadberht dux con̄s subscrip̄.
- ✠ ecguulf dux con̄s subscrip̄.
- ✠ eanberht dux con̄s suðs.
- ✠ heahferð dux con̄s suðs.
- ✠ cyneberht ꝥpiñ eius suð.
- ✠ coenwald ꝥpiñ eius suð.
- ✠ aeðelheah pedes sessor suð.
- ✠ cuoenburg aḅḅa. suð.
- ✠ seleburg aḅḅ subscripsit.
- ✠ cuðred p̄r subscripsit.

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## CXCVII.

\* CÔENUULF, Nov. 9th, 811.

✠ REGNANTE domino nostro in aeuum per saecula cuncta; anno uero incarnationis eiusdem saluatoris mundi domini nostri Ihesu Christi DCCCXI. indictione autem quarta, imperii uero nostri a deo dati anno xv. die uero v. idus Nouembris. Ego Coenuulfus rex Merciorum hoc opusculum, deo auxiliante atque fauente in plenitudine, prouincia Uuictionum inchoaui, famoso in loco quem solicoli antiquo nomine Uuincelcumba appellare suescunt. Aecclesiam, quae modo pulcher-





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omni seruo dei solidum unum; et ea dona innumera-  
bilia sunt sicut nostram regalem dignitatem decebat;  
quae nullus enumerare ualet, neque numeranda sunt,  
quae tunc meae erogauit genti, ea conditione, ut mihi  
meisque haeredibus plena libertate haereditas mea eo  
firmior atque stabilior aeternaliter perduraret. Ego  
Kenulphus etiam rex merciorum uexillum sanctae  
crucis in quo passus est Ihesus Christus, dominus  
noster, ad hoc conquisiui, ut animae meae, et omnium  
bonorum saecularium, seu haeredum immobiliter patro-  
cinando, contra tumultum prauorum tutatrix atque  
defensatrix perpetuis temporibus permansisset. Et si  
quis aliquid ab hoc uexillo per uim studeat auferre,  
maioris siue minoris personae, sciat se anathematis  
uinculo innodatum, et a sanctae crucis tutela coram  
deo in die iudicii separatum, nisi ante hic cum satis-  
factione emendauerit: et ab illo patrocinio praedicto  
sanctam istam aecclesiam, sub almae Trinitatis nutu,  
atque angelorum, et archangelorum, patriarcharum,  
prophetarum, apostolorum, martirum, confessorum, uir-  
ginum, atque omnium sanctorum protectione corrobo-  
ratam sciatis permanere. Hoc quoque ego Kenulfus  
rex, et omnes qui in nostris synodalibus conciliis testes  
atque conscii huius rei praesentati fuissent, diudica-  
uimus atque unanimo consensu constituimus, ut si  
homo aliquis culpabilis uitae suae aut in aliquo delicto,  
occulte, publice delinquens, peruenisset ad apicem  
haereditatis meae, et nostram aecclesiam, atque uexillum  
salutiferae crucis requireret, firmissimam ibi pacem  
atque indulgentiam inueniret; et nullus fuisset homo  
aliqua audacitate fretus, quoquo modo toruaue cogita-  
tione, aliquid per uim exinde rapere, nec diminuere,  
neque agros meae haereditatis foras transdonare, uel  
accommodare, nisi ad tempus et ad conditionis sta-  
tutum unius hominis; sed immobiliter permansissent  
quasi in nostris tribus synodis firmiter decreuimus  
aeternaliter perdurare. Hii omnes huius rei ueritatis



testes extiterunt, et sacratissimo crucis Christi signaculo roborando confirmauerunt.

✠ Ego Kenulphus rex Merciorum huius definitionis reconciliationem signo sanctae crucis confirmaui.  
 ✠ Ego Cuthredus rex Cantuariae consentiens signum salutiferae crucis impono. ✠ Ego Siredus rex Orientalium Saxonum signum crucis salutiferae corroborans impono. ✠ Ego Wulfredus Cantuariae archiepiscopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aldulfus [Licetfeldensis]<sup>1</sup> episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Denebert [Uuigorniensis] episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuerenbrihtus [Leogerensis] episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuulfhaerdus [Hecana quae nunc Hereford dicitur] episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Tilferdus [Hagustaldensis] episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aetheluulfus [East-Anglorum] episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eaduulfus [Cridiatunensis] episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Alchbertus [Suth-Saxoniae] episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aethelnothus [Lundoniensis] episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuibertus [Scireburniensis] episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Beormodus [Rouecestrensis] episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uuignothus [Exoniensis] episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Eambeorhtus dux consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Heardbearhtus dux consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Beornothus dux consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Cynhelmus dux consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ceolberhtus dux consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aldredus dux consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uulfredus dux consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Heaferthus dux consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ciolferthus dux consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Heatferthus dux consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Plesa dux consensi et subscripsi.

<sup>1</sup> The interpolated passages are | over the names of the witnesses, in written between the lines in the MS. | an æquæval hand.



## CXCVIII.

## COENUULF, 811.

✠ IN nomine dñi nři iħu. xp̃i. regnante in perpetuum eodem dō et dño nřo iħu xp̃o. Ego coenwulf gratia dī rex merciorum. Uiro uenerabili beornmodo episcopo. Trado terram iuris mei id est quasi tria aratra ad meridianam plagam ciuitatis quae dicitur hrofescester . ut habeat et possideat. et cuicumque uoluerit illo uiuente seu moriente æternaliter tradendam concedo. Sunt ꝥ huius telluris termini notissimi ab oriente uia puplica a meridie uuldahã. ab occidente flubius meduwege ab aquilone mearateag. Si quis hanc donationem meam infringere aut minuere temptauerit sciat se rationem redditurum ante tribunal aeterni iudicis nisi prius dō et hominibus digne emendauerit. et praedicta terra sit libera ab omni regali et saeculari seruitio . adiectis denberis in commune saltu. Otanhyrst et fraecinghyrst. sceorfesstede. Crangabyras. wihtherincfaladsto. et hae-seldaen.

✠ Ego coenwulf rex merciorum hanc donationem meam signo s̃ce crucis xp̃i ɔfirmaui.

✠ Ego wulfred archi ep̃i ɔsensi et subscripsi.

✠ Ego deneberht ep̃i cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego aeðelwulf ep̃i cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego sigered rex cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego aelbōrið regina cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego heardberht dux cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego beornmod ep̃i cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego beornnoð dux cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego cynehelm dux cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego eadberht dux cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego cyneberht ꝥpinquo regis cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego coenwald ꝥpinquo regis cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego quoenðryð filia regis cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego eanberht dux cons̃ et sub.

✠ Ego aeðelheah cons̃ et sub.





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suum proprie arbitrium comparare pleniter ut p̄diximus procurauit. Atque etiam insuper sic regi coenuulfo dare atq: ad rei pup . . e condicionis donare decreuerat ubi uel cuicumq: utilitati sibi fore uideretur. Pro agellorum Transmutatione uerbi gratia isdorum qui in partibus suburbanis regis oppidulo ferresham dicto fieri uidebantur . hoc ẽ terrae particula duarum manentium id ẽ an sulung ubi ab incolis grafoneah uocitatur Ab aquilone habens terminum suuealuue fluminis a plaga oriente suiðhuning lond a parte occidentali ealh-fleot ab austro sighearding meduue ond eac suithhuning lond. Atq: rursum in partib: australi in regione on liminum et in loco Ubi ab indegenis ab occidente Kasingburnan appellatur demediam partem unius mansiunculae id ẽ an ioclet Ad id insuper addito illo litore foris maritimo cum pristinis terminib; cunctis ad eam usquam rite pertinentib; . Dī gratia q̄ rex Coenuulf has p̄dictas terrulas uerbi gratia Aet grafon aea Atq: iterum aet casingburnan litoreque illo cum omnib; undecunque legitimis limitibus campis salsuges pascuis siluis pratibus paludib; litorib; piscuosis Seu cunctis aliunde usib; quisquilib; maritimisq: fructibus Pro illis p̄dictis agellorum Uicissitudinib; aet sueordhincum et ecgheanglond Uulfredo ārc ep̄is ueraciter et firmiter in p̄priae condicionis ac in perpetue possessionis hereditatem cum uniuersae integritatis libertate perpetualiter in dño concedens donabo Sibi ipsi habendum ac perpetue fruendum ac sic ad trahendū Ut semet ipso utillimum ẽe uideretur. Cum uniuersae libertatis p̄dictae discretionem per omnia immobiliter secundum quod terram p̄dictam Uulfred ārc ep̄isc̄ comparauerat haberet. Atq: hac condicione regi coenuulfo transmutare et in dño donare diudicauerat Sicut superius ratum et delibratum et infra crucis uexillo et sub idoneis testib; roboratū habetur : . Insuper additur hoc Si huius uicissitudinis persona quilibet ex utralibet parte hanc commutationem aliter transmutare aut uiolare temptauerit



quam difinitū fieri uidetur . salua iure intemerata possiuncula cum p̃dicta libertate absq: obstaculo alicuius quaestionis ad proprie hereditatis gremium redeat.

Aut etiam quilibet dominorum Seu summo saeculi dignitatum gradu ditatus huius uicissitudinis reconciliationem tyrannico fraude fretus ex his utralibus partib; quod tam firmiter reconciliaretur hanc mutare uel fraudare iniqui temptauerit nouerit se anathematatum esse et ante tribunal summi iudicis x̃pi rationem redditurum. Nisi prius digna satisfactione emenda-uerit.

✠ Ego coenuulf x̃pi gratia rex merciorum huius ñrae uicissitudinis munificentiam larga manu donabo atq: crucis uexillo roborabo.

✠ Ego uulfred gratia d̃i ãrc epis̃c huius nostrae reconciliationis munificentiam adnuendo consentiens et signo crucis x̃pi roborabo.

✠ Ego eaduulf epis̃c consentiens subscripsi.

✠ Signum manus cuðredi p̃r.

✠ Sigñ mañ ploesa ducis.

✠ Sigñ mañ cyneberhti reġ p̃pinq̃.

✠ Sigñ mañ coenuualdi reġ p̃pinq̃.

✠ Sigñ mañ aeðelheah p̃d seċ.

---

CC.

WULFRED, 813.

✠ IN nomine sanctae saluatoris dei et domini nostri Ihesu Christi. anno ab incarnatione eiusdem dei et redemptionis mundi DCCC.XIII. Indict. VI. praesidente Christi gratia archipontifice Uulfredo metropolitano sedem ecclesiae Christi quae sita est in dorouernia ciuitate anno VII. episcopatus eiusdem archiepiscopi diuina ac fraterna pietate ductus amore deo auxiliante renouando et restaurando pro honore et amore dei sanctum monasterium dorouernensis ecclesiae reaedi-



ficando refici auxiliantibus eiusdem ecclesiae presbiteris et diaconibus cunctoque clero domino deo serui-entium simul. Ego Uulfredus misericordia dei archisacerdos pro intimo cordis affectu dabo et concedo familia Christi habere et perfruere domos quas siui proprio labore construxerunt iure perpetuo hereditatis munificentia illis uiuentibus seu decedentibus cuicumque relinquere uel donare uoluerint unusquisque liberam habeant facultatem in eodem monasterio donandi sed nec alicui foras extra congregationi. Ita etiam in Christi caritate obsecrans precipio omnibus successoribus meis hanc praedictam donationem inconcussa et inuiolatam salua ratione seruandam sed sine semper in eum. hac tamen conditione ut deo humiliores et gratiores omnium beneficiorum dei semper existant seduloque frequentatione canonicis horis ecclesiam Christi uisitent orantes ac deprecantes pro seipsis propriis piaculis et pro aliorum remissione peccatorum misericordiam domini implorent. Necnon domum refectionis et dormitorium communiter frequentent iuxta regulam monasterialis disciplinae uitae obseruant. Ut in omnibus honorificetur deus et uita nostra et bona conuersatio nobis nostrisque proficiat in bonum. Si quis illorum per audaciam suae malae uoluntatis hanc praedictam constitutionem irritam habere et in obliuionem deducere et congregare conuiuias ad uescendum et bibendum seu etiam dormiendum in propriis cellulis sciat se quisquis ille sit reatum se esse propriae domi et in potestate archiepiscopi ad habendum et cuicumque ei placuerit donandum & manentem itaque hanc kartulam in sua nihilominus firmitate.

✠ Ego Uulfred gratia dei archiepisc̃ signo sanctae crucis Christi firmans subscripsi.

✠ Ego uuernoþ þr aþ coñ 7 subscripsi.

✠ Ego wulfheard þr coñ 7 suþ.

✠ Ego heamund þr coñ 7 suþ.

✠ Ego osuulf þr coñ 7 suþ.





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aeternaliter concessum ẽ. Insuper etiam praefatae concessionis honorabili episcopo ego coenuulf rex aeternae libertatis confirmationem in dño iħu saluatore nño liberabo ut nunc et deinceps ab omni uĩ saeculari seruitutis tui dicioni subiaceat et omni sexu humanae condicionis saecularium gradum seu ecclesiasticarum ordinũ notis uel ignotis paruis uel magnis praesentis et futuris sicut á primordio xp̃ianae religionis territorias et proprias possessiones orthodoxi et eruditi uiri statuerunt et postea firmauerunt Ita in omnib: inlaesa et inoccussa permaneat Nisi his trib: tantummodo causis id ẽ expeditionẽ et arcis munitionem contra paganos et pontis instructionem communiter sicut tota gens illa de suis propriis hereditariis consuecte faciunt Cum omnib: bonis quib: diuina gratia tibi tuisq: fauendo adnuendoq: concesserit habere et perfruere quamdiu uita comes fuerit Ac postea cui-cumq: relinquere tibi ad commodum utile perspexeris liberam habeas potestatẽ sine fine tuis hereditariis perseuerare in aeuum Cum campis siluis quae onblean ad illã terrã recte pertinent pascuis pratis piscationib: uenationib: paludib: aucupib: aquis mariscis salsib: fretib: quae umquam in minimis uel maximis ad istã praenominatã terram competebat aut nunc definienda augendoq: iure perpetuo donata constant.

Si quis autem quod non optamus auaritiae ignib: aestuans superbiaeq: typo tumidus diabolica fraude deceptus supramemoratam donationis concessionem infringere aut minuere temptauerit Sciat se anathematis uinculis esse damnatũ et á communione corporis et sanguinis xp̃i hic et in ultimo examine et ab electione omniũ s̃corum ẽe separatũ nisi prius digna satisfactione emendauerit Et si quis augendo multiplicandouẽ beniuolo animo amplificare aut defendere uoluerit augeat illi omnipotens ds aeterna bona in caelestibus regnis. Actum ẽ anno dominicae incarnationis .DCCC°XIII°. Indictione .VII°. his testib: consentientib:



atq: confirmantib: quorum infra nomina subternotata sunt qui adunati et congregati fuerunt in praesentia coenuulfi regis merc̃ in uico regali qui dr æt bearwe die .vii<sup>a</sup> kl decembres.

✠ Ego coenuulf gratia dī rex merc̃ hanc libertatis munificentiã sub uexillo sc̃ae crucis xp̃i confirmabo et subscribo.

✠ Ego aelfþryþ regina consensi et sub̃s.

✠ Ego alduulf ep̃is coñs et sub̃.

✠ Sig̃ mañ heardberhti ducis.

✠ Sig̃ mañ ceoluulfi regis propinqui.

✠ Sig̃ mañ uuighardi.

✠ Sig̃ mañ reðhuni p̃r et abb̃.

✠ Sig̃ mañ torhthelmi.

✠ Sig̃ mañ eaduulfi.

---

CCII.

\* CÔENUULF, Dec. 26th, 814.

✠ DONANTE domino nostro Ihesu Christo. Ego Kenulfus rex Merciorum terram iuris mei, unam casatam, cui uocabulum est Dunhamstyde, pro redemptione animae meae ad aecclesiam Uuigornam trado Deneberhti Uuigernensis episcopi cohortationibus, in perpetuam haereditatem. Acta est autem haec mea donatio anno DCCCXIII. indictione VII. die VII kalendas Ianuarii. Siquis hanc meam donationem temptauerit defraudare, sciat se reddere rationem in die iudicii, atque anathematizatum a deo atque omnibus sanctis, nisi hic prius cum satisfactione emendauerit. Huius donationis hi mei optimates testes sunt, quorum nomina infra expressa sunt.

✠ Ego Kenulfus, rex Merciorum, confirmationem hanc confirmaui consentiendo et propria manu conscribendo.

✠ Ego Uuor episcopus.



- ✠ Ego Uuilfrid episcopus.
- ✠ Ego Deneberht episcopus.
- ✠ Ego Eadberht minister.
- ✠ Ego Uualdhere minister.

---

CCIII.

CÔENUULF, Dec. 26th, 814.

✠ IN nomine dei excelsi, qui est spes omnium finium terre et in mari longe. Ego Coenuulf, eius melliflua gratia largiente rex Merciorum, cum consilio et consensu optimatum meorum quorum infra caraxata sunt uocabula, meo fideli atque uenerabili episcopo, Deneberhto, atque eius familiae quae sita est in Uueogernensi ciuitate illorum XII. hominum pastum, quae rite ad illam ciuitatem pertinent, et ad alia quae sub eius sunt potestate monasteria constituta, liberaliter perenne concedo. Quia ille episcopus et eius familia ciuitati Uueogernensis mihi in perpetuam haereditatem XIII. manentes tradiderunt. Hoc est monasterium quod nominatur Bituinaeum III. manentes, et in occidentali plaga fluminis Sabrinae X. et sic firmam pacem atque placationem inter nos, omnium undique discussis conuitorum obstaculis, constituti sumus. Acta est autem haec donatio anno DCCCXIII. indictione VII. in uico celeberrimo qui uocatur Tomouorðig . die VII. kl. Ianuarii, regni autem nostri a deo concessi XVIII<sup>o</sup>. anno. Si quis autem hanc libertatem nostram seruare uel augere uoluerit, augeat omnipotens dies suas hic et in sempiternum. Si quis autem hoc in aliquo frangere uel minuere temptauerit, sciat se separatum, alienatum, atque anathematum a deo atque omnibus sanctis in die tremendi examinis, nisi ante hic cum satisfactione emendauerit. Hanc libertatis donationem dominice incarnationis an . . . . .

✠ Ego Coenuulf rex Merciorum, cum uirtute sanc-





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7lang crægean oð þone hagan . 7lang hagan oð  
 pæðfeld . þanon 7lang hagan oð æscburnan . of ðam  
 burnan 7lang hagan on casingstræt . east 7lang  
 stræte on scoffoces sære . þanon norð 7lang stræte oð  
 lytlanlea . þanon east 7lang mearce oð enede mere suð-  
 rihte of ðam mere to burnes stede . þanon 7lang hagan  
 oþ casingstræt . 7lang stræte on þone calewan telgan .  
 þanon ut on crægean . swa eft on fulan riðe. Hæc  
 sunt nomina pastuum porcorum . helfreðingdenn . hun-  
 bealding hola . frumesing leah . burnesstedesdenn  
 heanyfre . þæs gemære is on east healfe spachrycg . on  
 suðan plumwearding pearrocas . on westan lindcylne .  
 on norþan auene. Actum + hoc anno dñice incar-  
 nationis . DCCC<sup>o</sup>.XIIII<sup>o</sup>. Indict. VI<sup>a</sup>. his testibus con-  
 sentientibus atque confirmantib: quorū infra nomina  
 nota sunt.

✠ Ego coenuulf gratia dī rex merciorū hanc dona-  
 tionis confirmationē signo scē crucis xpī roborauī.

✠ Ego uulfred arc ep̄s cons̄ 7 suð.

✠ Ego denebyrht ep̄s cons̄ 7 suð.

✠ Ego uulfhard ep̄s cons̄ 7 suð.

✠ Signum manus eadberhti ducis.

✠ Signum manus ealhheardi ducis.

✠ Signum manus ceoluulfi ducis.

---

CCV.

CÔENUULF, 814.

✠ IN nomine sancti saluatoris dei et domini nostri  
 Ihesu Christi, regnante ac gubernante eodem domino  
 Ihesu simulque spiritu sancto gubernacula in imis et in  
 arduis disponendo ubique regit! Licet sermo sapi-  
 entium consiliumque prudentium stabilis permaneat,  
 tamen ob incertitudine temporalium rerum, diuinis nu-  
 minibus muniendo, perscrutando, pro ignotis et incertis  
 euentis, stabilienda roborandaque in deo uiuo et uero



sunt. Quapropter ego Coenuulfus gratia dei rex Merciorum, uiro uenerando in Christi charitate summo pontificalis apice decorato, Uulfredo archiepiscopo dabo et concedo aliquam partem terrae iuris mei, quae mihi largitor omnium bonorum deus donare dignatus est, pro intimo caritatis affectu, ut apostolus ait, hilarem enim datorem diligit deus. Et hoc est in loco qui dicitur Binnanea, circiter xxx. iugera, inter duos riuos gremiales fluminis quod dicitur Stur. Et haec terra libera permaneat in perpetuam possessionem aecclesiae Christi. Quod si quisque huic largitioni contradixerit, contradicat ei deus, et denegat ingressum coelestis uitae. Actum est hoc anno dominicae incarnationis DCCC.XIII<sup>o</sup>. Indict. vi. his testibus consentientibus atque confirmantibus, quorum nomina nota sunt.

✠ Ego Coenuulf gratia dei rex Merciorum hanc donationis confirmationem signo crucis Christi roborauit.

✠ Ego Uulfred archiepiscopus consensi et subscripsi.

✠ Ego Denebyrht episcopus consensi et subscripsi.

✠ Ego Uulfhard episcopus consensi et subscripsi.

✠ Signum manus Eadberhti ducis.

✠ Signum manus Ealhheardi ducis.

✠ Signum manus Ceoluulfi ducis.

---

CCVI.

CÔENUULF, 814.

✠ REGNANTE in aeuum archipoli conditore! Ego Coenuulf, eius praeclara gratia concedente rex Merciorum, dabo aliquam partem terrae iuris mei meo uenerabili atque in deo dilecto Deneberhto episcopo, atque eius familiae, quae est in Uegorna cestre, id est, octo manentium, in loco qui appellatus est aet Sture, cum



omnibus ad se bonis pertinentibus, perpetualiter ad habendum, possidendum atque fruendum tamdiu quam Christianitas in ista permaneat regione. Liberam quoque terram istam concedo ab omnium saecularium rerum operibus, ac tributum oneribus, atque exactorum conflictione, exceptis his, expeditione et pontis constructione, et singulare praetium foras, nihilque ad poenam resoluat. Acta est autem haec donatio anno dominicae incarnationis DCCCXIII<sup>to</sup>. Indictione VII. his testibus consentientibus ac scribentibus, in uico celeberrimo, qui uocatur Tomowordin, quorum infra liquescunt uocabula. Si quis autem hanc nostram donationem augere, seruare, uel adiuuare uoluerit, augeat omnipotens deus dies suos et bona hic et in futuro. Si quis autem, quod non optamus, in aliquo frangere uel minuere temptauerit, sciat se ante tribunal Christi rationem redditurum, atque a deo et omnibus eius sanctis alienum, nisi antea hic cum satisfactione emendauerit. Pro huius telluris donatione ille episcopus et eius familia mihi dederunt XII. manentes bi Gythinge, in perpetuam haereditatem possidendum, his testibus consentientibus.

✠ Ego Coenuulf, rex Merciorum, hanc meam donationem signo sanctae crucis confirmaui. ✠ Ego Aelfryð regina consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aldulf episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Uerenberht episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Heardberht dux. ✠ Ego Deneberht episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Beornod dux. ✠ Ego Eadgar presbiter. ✠ Ego Sigred minister. ✠ Ego Uuigberht presbiter. ✠ Ego Eadwulf minister.

---

CCVII.

CÔENUULF, 814.

✠ IN nomine di summi Igitur anno dñce incarnationis DCCCXIII regni uero nři a do concessi XVIII.





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- Ego piot p̄r aḥ ǫs̄ 7 subs̄cr.  
 Ego tidbald p̄r aḥ ǫs̄ 7 subs̄cr.  
 Ego wulfhard p̄r aḥ ǫs̄ 7 subs̄cr.  
 Ego cuḍwulf p̄r aḥ ǫs̄ 7 subs̄cr.  
 Ego heardberht dux ǫs̄ 7 subs̄cr.  
 Ego biornnoḥ dux ǫs̄.  
 Ego dynne dux ǫs̄.  
 Ego eḍelheah dux ǫs̄.  
 Ego mucel dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego sigered dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego æḍelmod dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego wigheard dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego eatferḥ dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego wulfred dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego eadberht dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego ealhhard dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego ciolhard dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego biornhard dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego bofa dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego ecgwulf dux ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego cudred ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego wulfred ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego wighard ǫs̄.  
 ✠ Ego eadwulf ǫs̄.

---

 CCVIII.

\* CÔENUULF, 815.

ANNO dominicae incarnationis DCCC.XI. Cenulfi uero regis Merciorum anno XIX. a tempore quo accepit a deo sibi regnum concessum, cum fratribus in monasterio quod dicitur Aebbendune unanimiter a paruo usque ad magnum statuentes et concedentes Rethuno religioso abbati uel eius haeredibus, in dominium proprium ad habendum siue fruendum, terram in monasterio quod



dicitur Aebbanduna liberam .ccc.x. manentes, Wyrðe x. manentes, ad Aclea et ad Norðtuna et Punningstoce, xviii. manentes, pro eius amabili pecunia ac deuotione quam erga nos gerebat. Fuimus enim in sinodo in loco qui dicitur Celichyð coram optimatibus nostris, et in pecunia dedit quod ualuit .c.xx. libras et cum c. mansionibus redemit iam agros a seruitute collocatas a manu extraneorum. In primis ad Sunniguellan xv. manentes, ad Eatune x. manentes, ad Sandforda x. manentes, ad Denceswyrðe et ad Goseie xxx. manentes; etiam Culanham cum omnibus locis ad Aebbandune pertinentibus, ad Gainge x. et ad Lechamstede x. manentes.

Hoc scitote non solum pro animae meae sed pro totius gentis Merciorum salute facturum. Has terras in perpetuum liberaliter adquisibit a grauitudine comitum et a durissima seruitute regum, et sanctae dei genitricis aecclesiae liberaliter illas seruire subiunxit. Proinde mandamus per auctoritatem semper uirginis Mariae et per signum sanctae crucis, in qua omnis uictoria consistit, ut in antea nullus eum inquietare praesumat uel eius successores conquassare audeat; sed cum firma pace et securitate praenominatos agros possideant ac gubernent, et post cuicumque ipsis placuerit dimittant. Ego Coenuulf rex Merciorum has terras liberabo ab omni seruitute magno uel modico regum, principum, episcoporum, pro salute animae meae et pro tota gente Merciorum, sicuti ab omni seruitute fuit liberata, et est; cum his testibus utrorumque sexuum monachorum uel saecularium ut haec nostra statuta firma permaneat in perpetuum. Hic infra caraxantur nomina testium.

✠ Ego Coenuulf rex consensi et subscripsi in sinodo et in loco qui dicitur Celichyð. ✠ Ego Uulfred archiepiscopus.



## CCIX.

## CÔENUULF, 816.

✠ ALTITHRONI tonantis, cunctam mundi machinam moderantis, qui est, et qui erat, et qui uenturus est, melliflua gratia concedente, Ego Coenuulf rex Merciorum regimina tenens, cum consilio et consensu procerum et satellitum meorum, quorum infra caraxata liquescunt uocabula, meo praeclaro atque fideli pontifici Deneberhto, et sibi commissae Uuigornensis aecclesiae congregationi, hoc libertatis priuilegium de istis territoriis componere decreui; scilicet de Heallingan, cum uillulis suis in occidentali parte Sabrinae fluminis, et ab occidentali eiusdem, Spaecleahtun, et Hymeltun, atque Hraefneshyl scilicet, et Hlappawurþin, atque Oddingalea; liberas conscripsi ab omnibus aliis saecularibus rebus et seruitutibus, exceptis tantum his tribus causis, arcis et pontis constructione, et expeditione. Similiter hanc terram quoque xv. manentium, in loco qui dicitur Ceadresleahge, libertatis priuilegio, in campis et siluis, omnibusque modis sic liberam conscripsi. Peracta est autem haec donatio anno dominicae incarnationis DCCCXVI. indictione nona, regni uero nostri a deo concessi. xx<sup>o</sup>. Augentis uero uel seruantis hanc nostrae donationis libertatem omnipotens deus dies et uitam hic et in futuro augeat, corroboret et benedicat. Minuentem utique uel frangentem hanc, in magno disperdat eius districti examinis die, nisi ante cum satisfactione emendauerit.

✠ Ego Coenuulf, rex Merciorum, hanc donationem nostram consentiendo signum crucis Christi mea manu impressi. ✠ Ego Aelfðryð regina consentio. ✠ Ego Wulfred archiepiscopus. ✠ Ego Eatfert dux. ✠ Ego Hereuinus episcopus. ✠ Ego Wulfred dux. ✠ Ego Reathunus episcopus. ✠ Ego Alhheard dux. ✠ Ego Deneberhtus episcopus. ✠ Ego Beornoð dux. ✠





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liter hanc quoq: xxv. manentium in alia loca qui dr aet ceadresleage cum eadem libertatis priuilegio campis syluis omnibus modis sic liberam conscripsi. [Et si malus homo in aperta scelere tribus uicibus deprehensus sit ad uicum regalem reddatur].<sup>1</sup> Propter hanc uidelicet libertatem istam episcopus et eius familia mihi tradiderunt xiiii. manentes duobus in curtis in loco quae appellatur aet sture. Peracta est enim haec donatio anno dominice incarnationis dcccxvi. indictione namq: nona. regni uero nostri a deo concessi xx<sup>o</sup>. augentem uero uel seruantem hanc nostrae donationis libertatem omnipotens deus dies suas et uita hic et in futuro augeat. corroboret et benedicat. minuentem utiq: uel frangentem hanc in magno seu in modico<sup>2</sup> eius distrite examen eius nisi ante cum satisfactione emendauerit.

✠ coenwulf rex Merc̃.	✠ . . . . . lheard ab.
✠ uulfrið arċeþi.	✠ [ean] <sup>3</sup> mund ab.
✠ herewine eþi.	✠ [wiht] <sup>3</sup> red ab.
✠ raeðhun eþi.	✠ [tilberh] <sup>3</sup> t ab.
✠ deneberht eþi.	✠ peot p̃rs.
✠ uulfheard eþi.	✠ eadberht dux.
✠ eadulf eþi.	✠ uuigheard dux.
✠ aelfðryð regina.	✠ uulfred dux.
✠ wigberht eþi.	✠ eadferð dux.
✠ aeðelulf eþi.	✠ wulfred dux.
✠ tidferð eþi.	✠ alhheard dux.
✠ sibba eþi.	✠ heardberht dux.
✠ beormoð eþi.	✠ beornoð dux.
✠ aeðelnoð eþi.	✠ dynne dux.
	✠ mucel dux.
	✠ sigred dux.

<sup>1</sup> Wanting in the MS. No. 3.

<sup>2</sup> MS. No. 3. "minuat deus bona | sua hic et in futuro et aeternaliter tradatur ad poenam nisi," etc.

<sup>3</sup> Wanting in the MS. No. 1.



## CCXI.

## CÔENUULF, 817.

✠ REGNANTE in perpetuum domino nostro Ihesu Christo! Ego Coenwulf eius arridenti gratia [rex Merciorum] dabo uenerabili episcopo Deneberhto, sub potestate Uuegernensis aecclesiae, terram trium mansionum, in loco qui appellatur aet Stuhforda, in occidentali plaga fluminis quod uocatur Stur, perpetuam scilicet in hereditatem aecclesiae in Uuigorna ciuitate. Libera quoque sit terra ista ab omnibus rebus notis et ignotis, paruis et magnis regis siue principis. Uerum etiam qui eorum dominio sint subiugati. Acta est autem haec donatio anno dominicae incarnationis DCCC°XVII°. indictione uero x°. Porro autem primo et uicesimo anno regni nostri. His testibus consentientibus ac scribentibus, quorum subter caraxata liquescunt uocabula.

✠ Ego Coenwulf rex Merciorum, hanc donationem signo sanctae crucis Christi confirmaui. ✠ Ego Aelfdryð regina. ✠ Ego Wulfred archiepiscopus. ✠ Ego Hereuine episcopus. ✠ Ego Reðhun episcopus. ✠ Ego Deneberht episcopus. ✠ Ego Eadulf episcopus. ✠ Ego Eadberht dux. ✠ Ego Uuilheard abbas. ✠ Ego Tidberht abbas. ✠ Ego Peota presbyter. ✠ Ego Eadferð dux. ✠ Ego Wulfred dux. ✠ Ego Beornoð dux.

## CCXII.

## CÔENUULF, 817.

✠ GUBERNANTE altithrono tonanti, cunctaque mundi monarchia moderanti, qui est et qui erat, et qui uenturus est, cuius melliflua gratia arridenti ego Coenwulf rex Merciorum regimina sceptri cum con-



silio ac consensu pantorum procerum praetorumque meorum quorum infra caraxata liquescunt uocabula, meo praeclaro pontifici Deneberhto et eius dilectae Uuegernensis aecclesiae congregationi, hoc libertatis et expeditionis priuilegium de istis territoriis componere decreui, hoc est Salouuarpe et Hamtun cum omnibus ad se bonis pertinentibus, perpetualiter ad habendum et possidendum atque fruendum, tamdiu quamdiu Christianitas in ista permaneat regione. Liberam scripsi ab omnibus aliis saecularibus rebus durisque seruitutibus modicis et magnis, notis, ignotis, praeter tantum his duobus causis, arcis et pontis constructione et expeditione. Similiter has terras, scilicet Beolne, et Broctun, et Forfeld, cum eodem libertatis priuilegio, campis, siluis, omnibus modis sic liberam descripsi. Peracta est autem haec donatio anno dominicae incarnationis DCCCXVII. Indictione nanque X. regni uero nostri a deo concessi XXI. Augentem uero uel seruantem hanc nostrae donationis libertatem omnipotens deus dies suas et hic et in futuro augeat corroboret et benedicat; minuentem utique uel frangentem hanc in magno seu in modico, minuat deus bona sua hic et in futuro, et aeternaliter tradetur ad poenam nisi ante cum satisfactione emendauerit.

✠ Ego Coenulfus rex Merciorum hanc donationem manu mea firmaui et signum sanctae crucis subscripsi.  
 ✠ Ego Wulfred archiepiscopus. ✠ Ego Herewine episcopus. ✠ Ego Deneberht episcopus. ✠ Ego Wulfheard episcopus. ✠ Ego Wihtred abbas. ✠ Ego Tilberht abbas. ✠ Ego Wulfred dux. ✠ Ego Beornoð dux.

---

 CCXIII.

\* FREGISL, July 25th, 819.

✠ CUNCTIS Christicolis regni Merciorum, Fregistus miles in domino salutem. Sciant tam praesentes quam





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tus in regem, anno imperii nostri xxv. fui rogatus ab apostolica sede per privilegium domni apostolici gloriosissimi papae Leonis, et Rethunum venerabilem episcopum, ut sibimet seu familiae quae habitat in monasterio quod situm est in Abbendonia, quodque dedicatum est in honore sanctae Mariae semper uirginis et dei genitricis, dominae nostrae, ut illud monasterium seu omnia loca quae ad ipsum pertinere dinoscuntur, cum rebus mobilibus et immobilibus, in notis causis et ignotis, in modicis et in magnis, in [nomine] domini dei omnipotentis et beatissimi Petri principis apostolorum, donans donabo perpetuis temporibus aeternam libertatem in Sanctae Trinitatis patrocinio, omnia loca ad praefatum monasterium pertinentia; quorum infra nominantur nomina; Culeham; Chenitun; Hengestesie; Cumenoran; Earmundesle; Eatun; Sunningauville; Sandford, x. manentium; Uudetun; Geinge; Denichesuurde; Ceornei; Goseig; Fernham; Uuacenesfeld; Scriuenham; Burgtun; Lechamstede; Boxora; Ueliford, cum appenditiis suis; Uuicham cum suis campis sicut Ceadualla rex perdonauit, cum illa silua integra quae dicitur Spene, Pohanlech et Trinlech; Eatun cum omnibus agellulis ad praefata loca pertinentibus; concedens perdonabo sicut praediximus perpetuam libertatem. Et mandatum mandamus in nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti ut nullus superueniat hominum superbia inflatus, nec rex suum pastum requirat, uel habentes homines quos nos dicimus festigmen, nec eos qui accipitres portant uel falcones, uel caballos ducunt siue canes, nec poenam mittere super eos quoquomodo audeat. Nec princeps nec graphio hanc lenitatem praefatam in alicuius honeris molestiam mutare audeat, aut in diebus nostris uel successorum nostrorum. Si pro aliquo delicto accusatur homo dei, ecclesiae illae custos solus cum suo iuramento si audeat illum castiget. Sin autem ut recipiat aliam iusticiam huius uicissitudinis conditi-



onem praefatum delictum cum simplo praetio componat. Expeditionem cum XII. uassallis et cum tantis scutis exerceant; antiquos pontes et arces renouent; caeterum plena et integra libertate glorientur. Maxime cum ipsi diebus singulis missas pro nobis saluberrimas offerant, et armis spiritualibus . C . psalteriis contra inuisibiles hostes dimicare non cessent. Si quis autem praescriptis statutis noluerit obedire, sciat se alienum esse a consortio sanctae dei aecclesiae et a participatione corporis et sanguinis domini nostri Ihesu Christi, per auctoritatem beati Petri apostoli, nisi digne emendauerit quod contra dei ecclesiam fecisset. Dederunt enim pro huiusmodi rei gratia in auro et argento c.XX. libras, et . C . manentes ad uillulam regalem quae dicitur Suðtun.

---

 CCXV.

## CÔENUULF. N.Y.

✠ Ego etiam Coenuulf, rex Merciorum, eodem honorabili episcopo Deneberhto et eius familiae Uueogernensis aecclesiae, post uitae spatium dierum meorum, dabo terram . XXX. tributariorum in loco qui uocatur Fledanburh, propter traditionem istius praenominatae terrae, ut perpetualiter perfruantur in aeuum, et dimidiam partem huius agri possessionis praecipio, ut cum illo ad praedictam ecclesiam reddatur quae illis diebus illic aet Fledanbyrig habeatur. Liberabo quoque terram istam sub testimonio illorum quorum nomina praescripta liquescunt, ab omnibus saeculariarum rerum oneribus duris ac leuibus exceptis his, arcis et pontis constructione et expeditione, et singulare praetium foras aduersum aliud; ad poenam uero neque quadrantem minutam foras resoluat. Si quis autem hoc seruare uel adnuere uoluerit, sit benedictus a deo coeli, omnium possessori. Si uero aliquis, quod non optamus, hoc in



aliquo frangere uel minuere tentauerit, sciat se anathematatum a deo in die magno, nisi ante hic correctus cum satisfactione emendauerit.

---

CCXVI.

CEÓLUULF OF MERCIA, Sept. 20th, 822.

✠ IN nomine ih̄u xpi. saluatoris mundi qui est et qui erat. et qui uenturus est . per quem reges regunt et diuidunt regna terrarum. sicut dispensatur uniuersę terre distribuit secundum mensuram sui proprię uoluntatis. ita iedem di gratia concedente . ego ceolwulf rex merciorum uel etiam contwariorum . dabo et concedo uulfredo uenerabile ar̄cepiš. aliquam partem terre iuris mei. id est ·U· aratro. in prouincio cantieę ubi nominatur mylentun in propriã potestatem. ad abendum possidendum. commutandumq: uel etiam post se relinquendam cuicumq: ei karorum placuerit cum omnibus usis ad eam rite pertinentibus. cum campis. silbis. pratis. pascuis. aquis. molinis. piscationibus. aucupationibus. uenationibus. et quicquit in se abentibus. insuper etiam hanc p̄dictam terram liberabo. ab omni seruitute secularium rerum a pastu regis episcopis principum. seu prefectum exactorum. ducorum. canorum. uel equorum seu accipitrum ab ref̄ctione et habitu illorum omnium qui dicuntur fæstingmen ab omnibus laboribus operibus. et oneribus. siue difficultatibus quit plus minusue numerabo uel dico ab omni grauitatibus maioribus minoris. notis ignotis undiq: liberata permaneat in æfum nisi is quattuor causis que nunc nominabo. expeditione contra paganos ostes. et pontes constructione seu arcis munitione uel destructione in eodem gente et singulare pretium foras reddat. secundum ritum gentes illius. Æt tamen nullam penam foras alicui persoluat set semper sine aliqua. ui. ullius cause. in integritate liber et securo perseueret. uulfredo episcopi et eredibus eius in posterum cum certissimis terminis suis. ab oriente cymesinc. in





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## CCXVII.

CEÓLUULF, May 26th, 823.

✠ IN nomine dñi dī et saluatoris n̄ri ihu xp̄i. Ego ceolwulf rex merciorum seu etiam cantwariorum pro remediō ānime m̄ae et pro spe patriæ celestis dabo et concedo aliquantulum partem terre iuris mei in provincia cantie in duobus locis wulfredo honerabili . ārc ēpis . in propriam potestatem ad habendam possidendā uel etiam cuicumque ei placuerit derelinquendum in perpetuum . hereditatem. prima pars predicti tellurii habetur intra moenia urbis dorouerni . in ōriente plaga loci illius quæ ante coenwulf rex dederat prenominati pontifici . in propriam potestatem. at nunc ego ceolwulf ad augmentum dederō paruum partem terre qui aderit eodem loci . id est . LX. pedum in longitudine . et . XXX. in latitudine . et in alio loco . ab āquilonē ciuitatis . XXX. iugera . XXV. in arido campo et . v. pratum his terminibus circumdatis . ab oriente publica strato . et australe aldberhting tun in occidente stur ab aquilone terra regis cum omnibus ūsis ad se pertinentibus . et in se habentibus huic conditioni donabo . ut sit liberata ab omnium secularium rerum uel censum nunc et deinceps . hinc et inde maiorum minorumue causarum notis ignotis per cuiuscumque personis potestatis difficultatibus liber et secunda perseuerat in æuum. Et hanc meam donationem ēo firmior scribendam dictaui quam ab ēo placabilē pecuniam accepi . id est uas electi auri et argenti . quod est estimatione v. librum et semis . si quis autem regum aut principum uel qualibet magna paruaq: persona hanc nostram donationem corrumpere temptauerit. Sciat ille se esse damnatum . et ā dō separatam . hic et in futuro . nisi digni satisfactione ēmendauerit inīquitatis sue . audacium . tamen manente ac cartula in suo nihilominus firmi-



tate roborata. Actum est anno dominicae incarnat̃  
.DCCC.XXIII. indic̃ .i. die uero .vii. kl. iunias in uillo  
regali . qui dicitur werburging wic. cum consensu et  
consultu . episcoporum meorum ac principum . quorum  
nomina adnotata tenentur et cum uexillo. sc̃e crucis  
x̃pi . propriis manibus scripserunt.

✠ Ego wulfred gratia di arc̃ ep̃is huic reconcilia-  
tione consensiendo . signo sc̃e crucis x̃pi subscribo.

✠ Ego ceolwulf rex merciorum . mea. p̃prio manu  
cum uexillo crucis x̃pi subscribo.

✠ Ego æðelwald ep̃is cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego beornmod ep̃is cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego sigered subregulus os̃es 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego sigered dux cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego beornnoð dux cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego eadberht dux cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego alhheard dux cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego muca dux cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego elfwald dux cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego eatferð dux cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego mucel dux cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego bofa dux cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego beornwulf dux cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego eanmund ab̃b cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego feologeld ab̃b cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego biornhelm ab̃b cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego piot p̃rs cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego eadwulf p̃rs cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego aldred cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego wighelm cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego cyneberht cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego eadbald cons̃ 7 sub̃.

✠ Ego beadheard cons̃ 7 sub̃.



## CCXVIII.

## BEORNUULF OF MERCIA, Sept. 30th, 824.

✠ **REGNANTE** inperpetuum domino nostro Ihesu Christo, qui mundi monarchiam sua semper uirtute gubernat in aeternum! anno uero ab incarnatione domini nostri Ihesu Christi<sup>1</sup> DCCCXXIII. Indictione autem II. regnante Beornulfo, rege Merciorum, factum est pontificale et sinodale conciliabulum in loco qui dicitur Clofeshoas, praesidente ibi rege praefato, ac uenerando uiro Wulfredo archiepiscopo illo conuentu regente [ac moderante].<sup>2</sup> Illic omnes episcopi [uostri,]<sup>2</sup> et abbates, et uniuersi Mercensium principes, [et multi sapientissimi uiri]<sup>2</sup> congregati adessent, [ubi,]<sup>2</sup> inter alia plura colloquia, aliqua contentio allata est inter Heaberhtum episcopum, et illam familiam aet Berclea, de haereditate Aethelrici filii Aethelmundi, hoc est, monasterium, quod nominatur Uestburh. Habuit autem episcopus ante nominatus terram illam cum libris, sicut Aethelricus<sup>3</sup> ante praecepit, ut ad Ueogernensem aecclesiam redderetur. Statuta est atque decreta ab archiepiscopo, et ab omni sancta synodo illa consentienti,<sup>4</sup> ut episcopus, qui monasterium et agellum cum libris haberet, cum iuramento dei seruorum presbiterorum, diaconorum et plurimorum monachorum, sibi in propriam possessionem terram illam cum adiuratione adiurasset.<sup>5</sup> Et ita finita est praescripta<sup>6</sup> illa contentio<sup>7</sup> coram episcopo: post xxx. noctes illud iuramentum to Uestmynstre deductum est. Quapropter, si quis hunc agrum ab illa aecclesia in Ceastre nititur euellere, contra decreta [sacrorum]<sup>2</sup> canonum sciat se facere, quia sancti canones decernunt, quicquid sancta synodus [uniuersalis]<sup>2</sup> cum catholico archi-

<sup>1</sup> "anno ab eius incarnatione," MS. 2.

<sup>2</sup> "episcopus," MS. 2.

<sup>3</sup> "iuramento iurasset," MS. 2.

<sup>7</sup> "contentione," MS. 2.

<sup>2</sup> Wanting in MS. 2.

<sup>4</sup> "sententia," MS. 2.

<sup>6</sup> "et proscripta," MS. 2.





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heard presbiter. ✠ Monn presbiter. ✠ Plegberht presbiter. ✠ Tidberht presbiter. ✠ Cuðberht presbiter. ✠ Ciolheard presbiter. ✠ Ecgheard presbiter. ✠ Hehferð diaconus. ✠ Berthelm diaconus. ✠ Wigberht presbiter. ✠ Berthun presbiter. ✠ Regngar presbiter. ✠ Cuðberht presbiter. ✠ Snyda presbiter. ✠ Berthred presbiter. ✠ Tidberht presbiter. ✠ Berhtwulf presbiter. ✠ Almund presbiter. ✠ Wigberht presbiter. ✠ Hwita presbiter. ✠ Beorhred presbiter. ✠ Hunlaf presbiter. ✠ Cyne-mund presbiter. ✠ Byrnhelm presbiter. ✠ Heaðo-berht presbiter. ✠ Wighelm diaconus. ✠ Cyne-mund diaconus. ✠ Monn presbiter. ✠ Cuthbald presbiter. ✠ Almund presbiter. ✠ Luhhede presbiter. ✠ Ecgberht presbiter. ✠ Tidbald presbiter. ✠ Esne presbiter. ✠ Preost presbiter. ✠ Dude-man presbiter. ✠ Eadberht presbiter. ✠ Monnel presbiter. ✠ Beornwald presbiter. ✠ Eastmund presbiter. ✠ Mecga presbiter. ✠ Wigberht presbiter. ✠ Beonred presbiter. ✠ Ceofa diaconus. ✠ Dynne diaconus.

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 CCXIX.

## BEORNUULF, 825.

✠ IN nomine trino diuino qui est deus benedictus in saecula. Amen. þý gere ðe wes from cristes gebyrde ágæn eahta hund wintra and xxv and siô æfterre indictio wæs in ríme and wæs biornwulfes ríce mercna cyninges ðá wæs sionodlic gemót on ðære méran stówe ðe mon háteð clofeshoas and ðær se siolfa cyning biornwulf ond his biscopas ond his aldormenn ond alle ða wioton ðisse ðiøde ðær gesomnade wæron ðá wæs tiolo micel sprec ymb wudu-leswe tó súðtúne ongægum west on scyrhylte waldon ða swángeréfan ða læswe forður gedrifan ond ðone wudu geþiogon ðon



hit aldgeryhto wēron ðon cuæð se biscop and ðára hina wiotan ðet hió him nēren mārān ondeta ðon hit áræded wæs on Aedelbaldes dæge ðrīm hunde swīna mæst ond se biscop ða tugen ahten twæde ðæs wuda ond ðæs mæstes. ðā geræhte uulfred arcebiscop ond alle ða wiotan ðet se biscop ond ða higen mōsten mid āðe gecyðan ðet hit suā wære áræden on Aedelbaldes dæge ond him mære tō ne sōhte ond he ðā sona se biscop beweddade eādwulfe ðæm aldormen ðæs āðæs biforan allum ðæm wiotum ond him mon ðone gelædde ymb xxx næhta tō ðæm biscopstole et wiogoerna ceastre in ða tiid wæs hāma suāngerēfa tō sūðtūne ond he rād ðæt he wæs et ceastre and ðone aað gesæh ond gesceawade suā hine his aldormon hēht eādwulf ond he hine hweðre ne grētte. Hii sunt nomina et uocabula qui in synodali concilio fuerunt congregati.

✠ Signum manus Biornwulfi regis Merciorum. ✠ Wulfred archiepiscopus consensi hanc conditionem. ✠ Oedelwald episcopus consensi. ✠ Hraethun episcopus consensi. ✠ Heaberht episcopus consensi. ✠ Bionna episcopus consensi. ✠ Eadwulf episcopus consensi. ✠ Wilred episcopus consensi. ✠ Wigðegn episcopus consensi. ✠ Alhstan episcopus consensi. ✠ Humberht episcopus. ✠ Ceolberht episcopus. ✠ Cynred episcopus. ✠ Torthelm prior. ✠ Eanmund abbas. ✠ Wihtred abbas. ✠ Cuðwulf abbas. ✠ Eanmund abbas. ✠ Eadberht dux. ✠ Biornnoð dux. ✠ Sigered dux. ✠ Cuðred dux. ✠ Eadwulf dux. ✠ Mucel dux. ✠ Uhtred dux. ✠ Alheard dux. ✠ Bolam. ✠ Aldran. ✠ Bynna. ✠ Wighelm. ✠ Heabert. ✠ Eadgar presbiter. ✠ Wigberht presbiter. ✠ Heahstæf presbiter. ✠ Brada presbiter. ✠ Cuðbald presbiter. ✠ Regengar presbiter. ✠ Cuðbert presbiter. ✠ Ecgmund presbiter. ✠ Heahferhð diaconus. ✠ Wighelm diaconus. ✠ Cyneberht diaconus. Mid allra oðerra priōsta būtan ðissum mæsse-priōstum efen LX.



## CCXX.

## WULFRED, 825.

✠ ANNO ũ dominicae incarnat̃ . DCCCXXV<sup>a</sup>. Indict̃ . III<sup>a</sup>. de diuersis saxoniae partib: congregatũ † synodale conciliũ in loco p̃claro quæ nominatur aet clofeshoum . praesidente k̃ huic uenerabili concilio uulfredo ar̃cepisc̃. anno . XX<sup>o</sup>. episcopatus sui . seu etiam Beornuulfo regi mer̃c̃. anno . III . regni eius . cæterisq: episcopis et abbatib: necnon et ducib: omniũq: dignitatum optimatib: ecclesiasticarũ uel sæculariũ personum . ecclesiarũ d̃i utilitatem et necessitatẽ tractantes atq: scrutantes . monasterialisq: uitae regulam et obseruantia . seu etiam generositatem stabilitatemq: regni terrestris consiliantes ac quærentes. Inter ea etiam ab omnib: illic in eadem synodo residentib: trutinatum ac quæsitum fuerat. Quis cum iustitia et aequitate conseruatus fuisset. Quis k̃ cum iniustitia et uolentia fraudatus dispoliatusq: in sua persona fieret. Tantumdem u<sup>o</sup> inter aliarũ allocutionũ uerba patefactũ est . quod praefatus ar̃cepisc̃ uulfredus per inimicitiam et uolentiam auaritamq: coenwulfi regis . siue quae hic in ñra p̃pria gente peracta sunt . seu etiam ultra mare ad illam apostolicã sedem per eius iussionem et inmissionẽ adlata sunt. Hoc † u<sup>o</sup> quod in testimonio totius populi omni dominatione p̃pria priuatus † † in his liberis monasteriis aet suðmynstre 7 aet ræculfo omnib: rebus ac possessionib: quæ ad illos pertinebant cum uolentia ac rapacitate eiusdem p̃fatae regis dispoliatus est. Nec ille solus episcopus his aliisq: reb: per plurimis inhonoratus fuisset . sed per eadem supradictas accussationes et discordias tota gens anglorũ .VI. ferme annorũ curricula sua primordiali auctoritate sacraeq: baptismatis ministerio priuata †. postea etiam ille p̃dictus rex coenwulf cum suis sapientib: ad regalem uillam lundoniæ perueniens ad hoc eodemq: conciliũ





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prauitate perpetrasset. Tunc u<sup>o</sup> omnis ille synodus ad aequitatem inuenerunt huncq: iudicium unanimo consensu constituerunt . quod illi episcopo reddere omnia debuisset quod uolentia abstulerat . in omnib: rebus quib: cum aliqua iniuria in omni spatio illa spoliata fuerat et alteram similem partem ad hoc ipsum adiecisse . et omnem usum emendasse qui in ipsa spatio confracta fuerat. Postea ꝛ placuit beornwulfo regi pro amicitia hereditatis coenwulfi regis heredesq: illius cum suis sapientib: illo ꝑnominato aꝛcepiꝛc istarum supradictarū rerum reconciliationem et emendationem diligentissime facere decreuisset . humilq: ꝑæce deposcebat ut huic reconciliatione pro amore dī et amicitia illius adnueret . quia hereditas et heres eius ad intercessorē et ad patronē eum expetiuit. Hoc ꝛ ut terram . c. manentē in quattuor locis suscipere deꝑcabat . id ꝛ æt hearge . herefreðing lond . 7 æt wembalea . 7 æt geddinggum. In postremo ꝛ ille ꝑnominatus episcopus illius regis allegationib: accommodans . non tamen spontanea uoluntate sed ꝑ amore dī et amicabili amicitia illius regis hanc ꝑredictā reconciliationē consentiendo suscepisset ut illa abbatissa cwoenðryð filia coenwulfi heresq: illius hanc ꝑdictam terram computati . c. manentē illo aꝛcepiꝛc cum propriis et antiquis telligraphis et cum eadē libertate quam ante habuerat in perpetuā hereditatem ad habendam et possidendam postq: dies eius cuicumq: ei placuerit dereliquendum tradiderat. Insuper etiam ille beornwulf rex cum testimonio consilioq: eiusdem synodi illam terram que ante non fuerat liberata huius ꝑredictae donationis eadem libertate liberabat sicut et altera terra æt hearge iam dudū liberata fuerat et in altera kartula conscripta habetur. Sed statim ista ꝑredictae reconciliationis confracta ꝛ quia . XII . mensib: istius ꝑraenominatae terrae . III. manentes abstracte sunt . librosq: XLVII. manentē in tribus locis reddita non fuerunt . hoc ꝛ æt hoclonde . 7 æt wembalea . 7 æt herefreðing londe.



Iterumq: secundo anno postquã hæc omnia ita peracta s̃t hæc eadem abbt̃ illius episcopi colloquiũ flagitabat . eumq: in provincia hwicciorum expetiuit illo in loco quæ nominatur oslafeshlau . eiq: suam insipientiam confessa est retardate reconciliationis . hoc ÷ illius terræ q, ante negaberat . tuncq: in eodem loco episcopus illa abbt̃ præsentē exponebat . quod ille omniũ antiquorum causarũ quas ante reconciliauerunt liberatus fuisset . cum illa perfecta non fuerunt quæ ante spondata habuisset . Tum ꝛ illa abbt̃ cum omni humilitate promiserat . ut omne quod ei reddita non fuerat cum omni deuotione diligentissimæ emendare uoluisset . quosdamq: libros quos ante non habebat in eodem concilio illi reddebat . agellum quoq: . IIII . manentẽ pro eius amabili amicitia ad illam prenominatam terram æt hearge donabit . Similiter etiã et in puincia cantia . XXX . manentẽ terram ubi dicitur æt cumbe cum eiusdem libellis ad emendationem illi in sempiternam hereditatem donasset . ut ista prædicta reconciliatio stabilis firmaq: permaneret . ut omnis hereditas coenwulfi heredesq: illius firmaliter sint liberati . Tuncq: episc̃ hoc idem consensit . hac conditione ut illorũ prædictorum agellorũ nomina de antiquis priuilegiis quæ sunt æt wincelcumbe eradati fuerint . iterumq: in posterum non sunt prolati . S̃i ꝛ iterum aliqua altercatio ab alicui herede coenwulfi inposterũ elata fuerit absq: omni dubitatione sciat me liberum esse measq: heredes ⁊ ecclesiã xp̃i iustitiam et emendationem ad heredem illam requirere . Omniaq: suprascripta iniuria irreconciliata permanere . Hæc sunt ꝛ nomina illorum hominum quæ ex alia parte conscribuntur qui cum totius synodalis auctoritate huius reconciliationis testes adfuerunt et signo sc̃æ crucis xp̃i propriis manibus conscripserunt : .

✠ Ego Cwoenthriþ abbt̃ hanc reconciliationẽ p̃priis manib̃s cũ signo sc̃æ crucis xp̃i roboř ⁊ sub

✠ Ego beornuulf rex merc̃ cum signo sc̃æ crucis xp̃i confirmabo ⁊ sub



✠ Ego uulfredus gratia dī ārcepīsc hanc eadē re-  
conciliationem cum signo sc̄ae crucis xp̄i rob̄ 7 sūb

✠ Ego aetheluald ep̄isc con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego redhun ep̄isc con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego eadwulf ep̄isc con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego haeberht ep̄isc con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego beornmod ep̄isc con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego beonna ep̄isc con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego wigðægn ep̄isc con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego alhstan ep̄isc con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego humberht ep̄isc con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego willred electus con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego ceolberht ep̄isc con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego cynred ep̄isc con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego cuðwulf p̄r ābb con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego willferð p̄r ābb con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego eanmund ābb con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego eanmund p̄r ābb con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego torhthelm prior con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego wiohtred ābb con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego piott p̄r con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego beornnoð dux con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego eadberht dux con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego eadwulf dux con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego ecgberht dux con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego alchhard dux con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego cyneberht dux con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego sigered dux con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego mucel dux con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego cuðred dux con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego eadwulf dux con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego wulfred dux con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego bynna fr̄ regis con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego aldred con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego wighelm con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego aldred con̄s 7 sūb

✠ Ego bola pedisecus con̄s 7 sūb





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quatuor carucatis terrae arabilis, continentes in longitudine octo quarentenas, et octo quarentenas in latitudine; et XLV. acras prati; et mariscum continentem in longitudine XVI. quarentenas, et VIII. quarentenas in latitudine. Et aecclesiam uillae, et unum molendinum, et dimidium alterius molendini, et totam piscariam meam in aqua a praedicto molendino uersus occidentem. Haec mea donaria dedi praefato abbati Siuuardo et monachis ibidem deo seruiantibus, in perpetuam elemosinam imperpetuum, ad sustentationem sui monasterii; quia, sicut saepe didici, insula sua nullius est ferax tritici.

✠ Hoc praesens cyrographum meum apud Legecestriam, in praesentia domini mei Uuithlaphii regis Merciorum, anno incarnationis domini DCCCXXV. signo crucis stabiliter confirmaui. ✠ Ego Osmundus London episcopus consensi. ✠ Ego Osbertus abbas Rapodii interfui. ✠ Ego Athelwinus dux audiui. ✠ Ego Suuithunus presbyter praesens fui ✠.

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## CCXXII.

### \* AETHELWULF OF KENT, 827.

✠ REGNANTE aeternaliter rege omnium saeculorum domino et saluatore nostro Ihesu Christo! Orbita labentis saeculi cotidiano deficit occasu. Hoc quoque indicio fideles quique opido commonentur, quo bonorum operum exempla sectantes patrum in beniuolentiae proficiendo successu, temporalium uicissitudine bonorum, perpetua et incommutabilia regni caelorum mereantur adipisci gaudia, sine termino permansura. Quapropter ego Aethelwulfus rex fauente dei omnipotentis clementia, omnes terras, uillas, possessiones, prata, pascua, ad quoddam monasterium, quod sub nomine sanctae Trinitatis et apostolorum principis Petri constat honore dedicatum, quod famoso apud Anglos nuncu-



patur Certeseg onomate, omniaque ad idem monasterium rite pertinentia, eiusque familiae uenerandae sub custodia primorum regulariter cum metu Christi degentium, uidelicet ad sustentationem illius coenobii, pro amore Christi, libenti animo concedo et confirmo quo illic unanimiter domino seruietes pro meis non desistant interuenire peccaminibus atque offensionibus innumeris. Hoc etiam in ista donationis et confirmationis cartula, ut si aliquando aliquis, quod absit, suasionem diabolica uel auaritia fascibus accensus, regum successorum in magno uel in modico, ui uel uoluntate, minuere temptauerit, sciat se a Christi consortio et omnium sanctorum separatum, et cum Iuda traditore in inferno inferiori dampnatum, nisi ante satisfactione digna plenerrime emendauerit. Acta est haec praefata donatio et confirmatio anno ab incarnatione domini DCCCXXVII. hiis consentientibus.

Ego Aetheluulfus rex hanc libertatis donationem et confirmationem uexillo sanctae crucis subscribo et confirmo ✠. Ego Suuithunus episcopus Uintoniae subscribo ✠. Ego Aethelstanus episcopus Scyreburniae subscribo ✠. Ego Hunfridus abbas subscribo ✠. Ego Osmundus presbiter subscribo ✠.

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### CCXXIII.

#### ECGBERHT OF WESSEX, 828.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi. Ego Ecgberhtus gratia dei rex Anglorum, cum consensu episcoporum ac principum meorum, hanc libertatem donabi aecclesiae quae sita est in ciuitate Hrobi, et omnibus agellis quae ad aecclesiam sancti Andreae apostoli pertinent, pro remedio animae meae et filii nostri Aetheluulfi, quem regem constituimus in Cantia, ut omnes agros sint libera ab omni regali seruitio, a pastu regum et principum, ducum et praefectum, exac-



torumque, ab equorum et falconum accipitrumque et canum acceptione, et illorum hominum refectione quod nos festing menn nominamus, a parafrithis, et ab omnibus difficultatibus regalis uel saecularis seruitutis, notis et ignotis, cum furis comprehensione intus et foris, maioris minorisue, praeter pontis constructione et expeditione, aeternaliter liberata permaneat. Hanc libertatem praedictae aecclesiae donabi pro humili obedientia uenerabilis episcopi Beornmodi et pro amore apostoli sancti Andreae et beati Paulini archiepiscopi cuius corpus in praedicta aecclesia requiescit; sic etiam omnibus successoribus uel haeredibus meis necnon cui-cunque gradu regibus seu principibus, in nomine sanctae trinitatis et per tremendum dei iudicium praecipio, ut haec donatio mea firma et inlibata inconcussaue permaneat; si quis uero hoc beniuola mente obseruare uoluerit, serueter ei benedictio sempiterna hic in aeternum; si autem, quod absit, aliquis insurrexerit tyrannica potestate fretus, seu diabolica temeritate instigatus, qui hanc libertatem infringere aut minuere uel in aliut conuertere temptauerit quam a nobis constitutum est, sciat se separatum a communionem sanctae dei aecclesiae et a participatione omnium sanctorum dei, et aeternis ignibus esse nodatum, nisi prius digne et perfecte hic in saeculo emendare uoluerit. Scripta est haec cartula anno dominicae incarnationis DCCCXXIII. indictione VI. his testibus consentientibus et signo sanctae crucis Christi confirmantibus quorum nomina infra tenentur ascripta.

✠ Ego Ecgberhtus rex Anglorum hanc donationem meam huius libertatis signo sanctae crucis Christi confirmaui et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Aetheluulf rex consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Wulfred archiepiscopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Wigðegn episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Ealhstan episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Beornmod episcopus consensi et subscripsi. ✠ Ego Wulfhard dux con-





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- ✠ Ego aedeluulf rex cantuariorum consensi et sub.
- ✠ Ego uulfred gratia dei arc̃ epis̃ consensi ꝛ sub.
- ✠ Ego beonmod epis̃ . consensi ꝛ sub.
- ✠ Ego alhsta epis̃ . . . . .
- ✠ Ego cynehard arc̃ diac . . . . .
- ✠ Ego . . . . . dux . . . . .
- ✠ Ego dudda dux . . . . .
- ✠ Ego . . . . .

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### CCXXV.

#### WULFRED, 805—831.

✠ IN nomine altithroni regis aeterni Ego uulfred gratia di ar̃ epis̃ . De meis multifariis necessitatibus frequenti meditatione mentis meae cogitans. Quapropter pro remedio et salute animae meae speq: et amore futuræ aeterniq: remunerationis in caelis. illa deuota familia quae dō omnipotenti seruitura est in dorouernia ciuitate. aliquam partem meae propriæ hereditariæ terrae hoc + IIII. aratrorum quod ab incolis terre illius nominatur æt sceldesforda cum illa prata quae mihi ab eadem familia ante tradita fuerat hoc + . XXX. iugerum post obitum meum dabo et concedo siuimet ipsis habendum feliciterq: perfruendum in propriam possessionem posterisq: suis semper derelinquendum qui cum gratia di ad eandem famulatum futuri sunt. et numquam hæc mea donatio huius terræ ab ista prædicta familia tradatur nec pro alia commutatur nec pecunia uenundatur. Sed semper in posterū ad necessitatem istius congregationis cum omnibus usis eius in propria possessione permaneat . his notis terminibus circumiacentibus. In oriente terra regis quae pertinet ad eastrege . in meridiae osberhting lond. iterum in meridiae et in occidente terra quæ pertinet ad uuigincgga ham. in aquilone



u<sup>o</sup> sceldesford et dimidium riuli paludis. Seu etiam cum illa munificentia huius terrae omnibusq: bonis quas illis fecerim. postquam n<sup>ra</sup> communis congregatio per di gratiam facta est. ad istam meam familiam flagitabo ut me cum diuinis spiritalibusq: bonis semper memorare concedant. talemq: adiutorium pro refrigerio anime meae in elemosynis salmodiisq: ac celebratione missarum faciant qualem illis uidetur quod perficere possint. Acq: condicione interposita. hanc praedictam agellum donabo. ut omnia n<sup>ra</sup> acta et dicta a nobis ante condicta firma immutataq: perpetualiter maneant et semper ad meliora quod ad bonum condictum habuimus do auxiliante unusquisq: augescere contendat. Insuper etiam illam terram quod cynehard dia<sup>ca</sup> habuit et ille mihi donauit. siuiq: in propriã hereditatem a regibus ecgberhto et aeðeluulfo donata fuerat. hoc ÷ .LXXXV. segetum cum libello eiusdem agelli . ista praedicta familia in dorouernia post dies meos pro n<sup>rorum</sup> amborum animarũ salute donabo. hacq: condicione ut semper uespere matutinaq: tempore quando fratres ad ecclesiam beati petri apostoli ad consuetam canticum ingrediuntur, pro supplicatione animæ illius illud dominicum orationem pater noster decantent. seu etiam illum curtem quem dodda monachus in monasterio habuit et siui in propriam possessionem optinebat post migrationem s<sup>ps</sup> mei ae sc<sup>to</sup> pro n<sup>rorum</sup> animarum salute hoc est mei cynehardi et doddan huic eadem familiae ad proprium usum liberaliter feliciterq: perfruendum concedo. ad quacumq: utilitate ei placuerit t<sup>†</sup> necesse fuerit sua propria bona intus condere ualeant. uel ad refectionem ciuorum quando alicui oportunitas t<sup>†</sup> necessitas temporis contigerit. Seu etiam quando presbyter aut diaconus familiae illius corporali infirmitate grauatus fuerit congruo honore ibi requiescere possit. pro hancq: donate commoditate huius uillæ istam meam deuotam



familiam rogabo. quod fideles remuneratores interces-  
soresq: animarum n̄rarum apud omnipotentem d̄m ex-  
istere concedatis. hoc ipsumq: posteris ūris obseruare  
perpetualiter praecipite.

✠ Ego uulfred gratia d̄i arc̄ epis̄c̄.	
✠ Ego ciolnoth diuina gratia arc̄ epis̄c̄.	
✠ Ego beagmund p̄r aḥ.	✠ Ego osfereḥ p̄r.
✠ Ego uuerhard p̄r aḥ.	..... mund p̄r.
✠ Ego aeðelhun p̄r.	..... ferð p̄r.
✠ Ego abba p̄r.	.....
✠ Ego hunred p̄r.	..... wulf.
✠ Ego osmund p̄r.	✠ Ego cichus.
✠ Ego wigmund p̄r.	✠ Ego ealhheard.
✠ Ego badanoḥ diāc̄.	✠ Ego osmod.
✠ Ego heaberht diāc̄.	✠ Ego freoðogearð.
..... ðwulf diāc̄.	.....
✠ Ego brunhard p̄r.	..... red.

---

CCXXVI.

WULFRED, OSUULF, AND BEORNTHRYTH,  
805—831.

✠ Ic osulf Aldormonn mid godes gæfe ond  
beornðryð min gemecca sellað to cantuarabyrg to  
cristes cirican ðæt lond æt stanhamstede . xx. swu-  
luncga gode allmehtgum 7 ðere halgon gesomnunc-  
gæ fore hyhte 7 fore aedleane ðæs aecan 7 ðæs  
towardon lifes 7 fore uncerra saula hela 7 uncerra  
bearna. Ond mid micelre eadmodnisse biddað ðæt  
wit moten bion on ðem gemanon ðe ðær godes diowas  
siondan 7 ða menn ða ðær hlafordas wæron 7 ðara  
monna ðe hiora lond to ðære cirican saldon. Ond  
ðættæ mon unce tide ymb tuælfmonað mon geueor-  
ðiae on godcundum godum 7 æc on aelmessan suæ  
mon hiora doed. Ic ðonne uulfred mid godes gæfe ārc





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godcunde gode sulce iow cynlic dýnce. Ic ðe ðas  
gesettneſse sette ge huoder ge for higna luſon ge ðeara  
ſaula ðe haer beforan hiora namon auuritene ſiondon.

VALETE IN DÑO.

CCXXVII.

UUGLAF OF MERCLA, Aug. 28th, 831.

✠ REGI regnanti ac gubernante in perpetuum dño  
do zabaoth. Anno uº dominicæ incarnat̃ . DCCCºXXXIº.  
Indic̃. viiiº. ego Uuiglaf gratia d̃i rex merciorum  
anno primo secundi regni mei cum consensu et licentia  
meorũ optimatũ aliquam partem terræ iuris mei in  
provincia middelsaxanorũ hoc † . v. cassatorum quod  
ab incolis nominatur botewælle dabo et concedo ue-  
nerabili uulfredo arc̃ episc̃ pro eius intimo spiritali  
ſeculariq: affectu et amore hoc prædictũ agellũ illi  
trado. cum campis siluis pratis pascuis uenationib: au-  
cupationibus. omnibus usis ad eam rite ac recte perti-  
nentibus liberam per omnia habeat potestatem ad ha-  
bendum possidendum pfruendũq: seu uendendum aut  
commutandum † cuicumq: ei herede placuerit derelin-  
quendum ppetualiter habeat potestatem. his uº notis-  
simis terminib: circumiacentib: in meridie mercwælle.  
in occidentale parte hygereding tun 7 hullinges treo.  
in aquilone uº colanhomm. in oriente terra eiusdem  
ep̃i ptinens to haese. Hanc eandemq: donationem  
ñram histius suprascripti terræ. ego uuiglaf rex cum  
sapienſib: meis quorũ nomina infra adnotantur a pasta  
regum † principum seu præfectum ab omniq: sæculari  
seruitute notis et ignotis intus et foras liberabo nisi  
his tantũ causis expeditione et arcis munitione pontisq:  
constructione et singulare prætiũ contra alium omni-  
busq: successoribus meis in nomine alme et indiuiduæ  
trinitatis hanc donationem libertatemq: huius præ-  
dictæ terræ fixam incontaminatãq: obseruare præcipio



si k̄ sit q, non optamus aliquis regum aut episcoporū  
 † principum siue præfectum diabolica temeritate insti-  
 gatus quod hanc n̄ram donationem infringere † minuere  
 aut in aliut conuertere temptauerit quam a nobis con-  
 stitutum † sciat se a dō om̄pti alienatū et æternæ  
 anathematis uinculis esse nodatum. nisi ante ea digna  
 satisfactione emendare uoluerit. actum † in regale uillo  
 que nominatur wicbold die . v. feria k̄ septemb̄ hancq:  
 donationem n̄ram his testib: consentientib: et signo sc̄æ  
 crucis xp̄i subscribentib: quorū hic nomina infra in  
 kartula karaxata habentur.

✠ Ego uuiglaf rex hanc meam donationem cum  
 signo sc̄æ crucis xp̄i rob̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego uulfred gratia dī arc̄ epis̄c hanc eandē dona-  
 tionē cū signo sc̄æ crucis xp̄i confirm̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego cyneðryð regina cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego tidwulf dux cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego aeðelhard dux cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego eadwulf dux cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego sigered dux cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego aelfstan dux cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego wigmund filius regis cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego cyneberht cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego aelfred pedisecus cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego headda p̄r cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego aldred cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego heahferð cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego aeðelhun cons̄ 7 sub̄.

✠ Ego monna cons̄ 7 sub̄.

---

## CCXXVIII.

### EADWALD, 831.

✠ Dis is geðinge eadwaldes osheringes 7 cyne-  
 ðryðe eðelmodes lafe aldormonnes ymbe ðet lond et  
 cert ðe hire eðelmod hire hlabard salde wes hit be-



cueden osbearte his broðar suna gif he cyneðryðe ofer-  
 lifde 7 sibban deniggra meihanda ma ðes cynnes ac  
 hia hit atuge yfter hira dege swe hit him boem reht-  
 icast 7 elmestlicast were ðonne hebfað eadwald and  
 cyne ðas wisan ðus fundene mid hira friandum gib  
 eadwald leng lifige ðonne cyneðryð geselle et ðem  
 londe et cert .x. ðusenda gif he gewite er ðonne hia  
 his barna sue hwelc sue lifes sie agefe ðet feoh oniatec  
 sue hit soelest sie forða hit begetan nis eðelmode enig  
 meghond neor ðes cynnes ðanne eadwald his modar  
 his broðar dohtar mest cyn ðet he ðet lond hebbe 7 his  
 beorn yfter him and sue ateon sue him nytlicas ðynce  
 for ða ðe hit mid reohte begetan.

✠ Ego ceolnoð mid godes gefe ercebisc̃ þis mid xp̃s  
 rode tacne festnie 7 write.

✠ Ego ðelwald episc̃ ƿ̃s

✠ Ego whelm episc̃ ƿ̃s

✠ Ego osmund ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego eðelwald ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego biarnhelm ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego biarnheah ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego eardulf ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego eðelmund ƿ̃r ab̃b ƿ̃s

✠ Ego sefred ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego biarnhelm ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego eadgar ƿ̃r ab̃b ƿ̃s

✠ Ego elfstan ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego sigefreð ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego sigefreð ãr d̃c ƿ̃s

✠ Ego ealhstan ãr d̃c ƿ̃s

. . . . . ãr d̃c ƿ̃s

✠ Ego cialbarht s̃b d̃c ƿ̃s

✠ Ego wealdhelm s̃b d̃c ƿ̃s

✠ Ego tirwald s̃b d̃c ƿ̃s

✠ Ego oba ƿ̃s

✠ Ego biarnhelm ƿ̃r ab̃b ƿ̃s

✠ Ego sigemund ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego herefreð ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego wanhelm ƿ̃r ƿ̃s

✠ Ego winibeald ƿ̃s

✠ Ego wermund ƿ̃s

## CCXXIX.

EALHBURH, about 831.

✠ Ðis sindan geðinga ealhburge 7 eadwcales  
 et ðem lande et burnan hwet man elce gere ob ðem  
 lande to cristes cirican ðem hiwum agiaban scel for  
 ealhburge 7 for ealdred 7 fore eadweald 7 ealawynne  
 . XL. ambra mealtes 7 XL. 7 cc. hlaba . i. wege cesa





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rae de Clive . xxxvi. hidas ; unum iugum quod iacet in australi parte Limene, et ab incolis nominatur Lambaham pertinet autem ad Burnan et reddit . xl. pensas casei, et agnos et lanam absque caseo. Aliud iugum apud Northuuda, et reddere debet . cxx. mensuras quas Angli dicunt Ambres de sale, marascos omnes in australi parte Limene et in aquilone cum praefatis terris deuote reddo. Mansionem quoque quae est in aquiloni parte Doroberniae muris et clausulam quod Angli dicunt Ceage, quae pertinet ad praedictam mansionem. Hanc autem redditionem ideo ex parte reddo quia ipse dominus meus archiepiscopus ita praecepit mihi, et in scripto quod ipse scribere fecit antequam infirmaretur de diuisione rerum suarum hoc idem notari praecepit. In quo etiam scripto constituit elemosinam quam cotidie fieri praecepit, in illis terris quas ipse adquisiuit pro anima sua et pro animabus omnium illorum qui aecclesiae Christi aliquid auxilium impendissent, et hoc intentissime fieri praecepit ita ut diceret, inter deum et sequentes nos archiepiscopos sit de facienda aut negligenda ista elemosina a me ordinata. Apud Hergam v. pauperes, apud Otteford v. apud Clive ii. apud Grauenea ii. apud Oesualun vii. in ciuitate Doroberniae vi. unicuique detur cotidie ad manducandum quod conuenienter sit satis, et per annum cuique pauperi ad uestitum xxvi. denarii. Cotidie quoque praecepit missam celebrari pro animabus supramemoratorum. In anniuersario suo praecepit dari . MCC. pauperibus ad manducandum, cuique panem unum et caseum, aut lardum et denarium unum. Hoc est praeceptum archiepiscopi Wulfredi. Ego quoque Werhardus presbyter concedo aecclesiae Christi praenominatae . xxxii. hidas de patrimonio meo, quas dare possum cui uolo in ciuitate Dorobernia, pro salute animae meae et Wulfredi archiepiscopi, de patrimonio meo quas dare possum cui uolo, nomine Hyse. Aliam quoque terram nomine Mesgeldesuurthe quam Ceol-



nothus archiepiscopus et monachi saepe nominatae ecclesiae Christi mihi dederunt eidem ecclesiae redono. Adhuc addo terram octo hidarum nomine Cuniland. Super haec xxx. hidas cum uilla nomine Turcham in prouincia Middlesexan. Uideant ergo fratres et domini mei monachi ecclesiae Christi, ut memores sint animae meae ; quia libenti animo reddidi quod reddere debui, et quod meum fuit, deuotissimo animo Christo contuli.

---

CCXXXI.

LUFA, 832.

✠ Ic lufa mid godes gefe ancilla ði wes soecende 7 smeagende ymb mine saul ðearfe mid ceolnoðes ærcebiscopes geðeahte 7 ðara hiona et cristes cirican willa ic gesellan of ðem ærfe ðe me god forgef 7 mine friond to gefultumedan ælce gere . LX. ambra maltes 7 .CL. hlafa . L. hwite hlafa . CXX. elmes hlafes an hriðer an suin . IIII. weðras . II. wega spices 7 ceses ðem higum to cristes circcan for mine saule 7 minra frionda 7 mega ðe me to gode gefultumedan and ðet sie simle to adsumsio sçæ marie ymb . XII. monað end sue eihwelc mon swe ðis lond hebbe minra ærbenumena ðis agefe 7 mittan fulne huniges . X. goes . XX. henfuglas.

✠ Ic ceolnoð mid godes gefe ercebisc̃ mid cristes rode tacne ðis festnie 7 write

✠ beagmund p̃r gethafie 7 mid write

✠ wealhere p̃r

✠ swiðberht diaç

✠ osmund p̃r

✠ beornheah diaç

✠ deimund p̃r

✠ æðelmund diaç

✠ æðelwald diaç

✠ wighelm diaç

✠ werbald diaç

✠ lubo

✠ sifreð diaç

✠

✠ Ic luba eaðmod godes ðiwen ðas forecwedenan god 7 ðas elmessan gesette 7 gefestnie ob minem erfelande et mundlingham ðem hiium to cristes cirican



7 ic bidde 7 an godes libgendes naman bebiade ðæm men ðe ðis land 7 ðis erbe hebbe et mundlingham ðet he ðas god forðleste oð wiaralde ende se man se ðis healdan wille 7 lestan ðet ic beboden hebbe an ðisem gewrite se him seald 7 gehealden sia hia-benlice bledsung se his ferwerne oððe hit agele se him seald 7 gehealden helle wite bute he to fulre bote gecerran wille gode 7 mannum uene ualete.

*Indorsed* ✠ lufe þincg-gewrit.

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## CCXXXII.

ECGBERHT, Dec. 26th, 833.

✠ IN nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi! Ego Ecgbertus gratia dei occidentalium Saxonum rex, cum consensu et communi consilio episcoporum et principum meorum ac totius plebis meae seniorum, hanc testimonii cartulam conscribere iussi; id est decem manentium terrae illius ubi dicitur Wennland iuxta ut firmiter iuxta antiquam conscriptionem ipsis possessoribus quorum propria haereditas, id sunt tres sorores Beornwyn, Alfred, Uualenburch, assignata permaneat cum eisdem territoriis, et omnibus rebus ad se pertinentibus, absque ulla contradictione firma stabilitate perseueret. Et iccirco fecimus, quia nescimus pro qua causa contingit quod anteriora scripsiuncula perdita fuissent. Et si unquam eueniat ut ab alicui hominum inuenta reperiantur, nisi in subam et sustentationem huiusdem haeredibus perueniant, sint semper diiudicata atque praescripta ab omnibus catholicis erectam fidem colentibus, illam utraque terram easdem praenominatae sorores inter se diuidentes unusquisque illarum accepit III. cassatos et quarte tertiam partem sibi in proprium ius. Contigit ꝥ post annorum curriculum ut easdem praenominatae sorores plus de paterna haereditate suscipientes Bearnuine recessit in Domnoniam et ibi





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non Rahab meretricis, sed Etheldrithae sanctissimae uirginis, cognatae meae, pro sponsi sui agni immaculati amore Croylandiae reclusae, et in tempore tribulationis meae me in cella sua quatuor mensium spatio diligentissime abscondentis a facie inimici et persecuentis; memor etiam ero Babylonis, non turris confusionis, sed sanctissimae aecclesiae Croylandensis, quae terra turris ad coelum ascendens uigiis et orationibus, psalmis et lectionibus, disciplinis et afflictionibus, lachrimis et singultibus, eleemosinis et innumeris aliis deuotionibus pietatisque operibus, pro saeculo peccatore fortissimam uiolentiam regno coelorum ingerit die ac nocte. Itaque quoniam uenerabilis pater dominus Siuuardus abbas Croylandiae protexit me in tabernaculo suo in die malorum, celans ac saluans a facie tribulantis; ultra priuilegia meorum antecessorum regum Merciorum, qui praedictum monasterium uariis libertatibus et donariis nobiliter illustrarunt, offero et ego magno altari praedicti monasterii de paupertate mea calicem aureum, crucem auream, et tabulam capellae propriae laminis aureis deauratam, me profitens dictae aecclesiae perpetuum pro uiribus defensorem. Insuper praecipio omnibus ministris meis per uniuersam Merciam constitutis, quod abbati Croylandiae, monachis, et omnibus fratribus illius sanctissimi monasterii, cum ad ciuitates et castella regia pro quocunque negotio accesserint, tamquam Uuimundo filio meo, uel mihi, obediant in omnibus et ministrent, nihil pro expensis, quas ipsi, uel sui fecerint ibidem, ab eis accipientes, sed cum litera uel signo dictorum monachorum, archarius meus omnes expensas huiusmodi, cum dicti ministri mei annumerauerint, pro fisco integre acceptabit.

Uolo etiam et praecipio, quod quicumque in regno meo pro quocunque delicto reus inuentus et legibus obnoxius fuerit, si fugerit ad dictum monasterium, et coram abbate dicti monasterii, qui pro tempore fuerit,



gratiam sanctissimi confessoris Guthlaci ibidem corporaliter quiescentis inuocans, fidelitatem ei et seruitium iurauerit sempiternum; saluus et securus sub protectione abbatis et monachorum suorum, in quocunque seruitio per totam insulam Croylandiae ipsum posuerint, sicut in asylo, uel in camera mea propria, pace mea et impunitate gaudeat, nullusque ministrorum meorum ultra illum insequi audeat, nec in aliquo molestare sub poena perditionis dextri sui pedis, quicunque de meo regno istud meum priuilegium tentauerit in aliquo uiolare. Licebitque dicto fugitio in quibusque aquis quae dictam insulam ambiunt, nauigare et piscari, ac aliter, quomodocunque a dominis suis assignatus fuerit, laborare, absque ministrorum meorum uel alicuius alterius calumnia uel grauamine. Quod si extra dictas aquas uel metas dicti monasterii captus aliquando fuerit, poenam quam quondam meruit, siue mortem, siue membrorum suorum mutilationem, si ministri mei, uel quicunque sui aduersarii per iuramentum sex hominum fide dignorum probare poterunt, quod extra metas suas inuentus fuerit, absque ulla gratia sustinebit. Dictas uero metas monasterii Croyland in quinque eius aquas praedictas tam ministris meis, quam abbati et monachis suis pro suis dictis fugitiuis describere feci et notare. Dictae namque aquae uocantur istis nominibus uidelicet Schepishee ad orientem in cuius ripa occidentali crux lignea stat uetusta, et distat ab ipsa aqua per decem pedes, aequaliter posita in medio inter duos angulos eiusdem insulae, scilicet Asuiktoft, qui est angulus et meta dictae insulae contra uulturnum, et Teduarker qui est angulus et meta dictae insulae contra subsolanum. Secunda aqua, quae claudit dictam insulam ad austrum uocatur Southee, in cuius ripa posita est crux lapidea, distans a Namanlandhirne per quinque perticatas, et a Southee per sex perticatas, ubi Southee intrat in aquam de Nene quae currit ad pontem de Croyland: sed metae



fugitiuorum in illa parte diriguntur in mariscum occidentale per Einfet, contra africanum, et sic usque ad Foluardstakyng contra corum, et sic diuertendo ad boream, ubi Southlake intrat in aquam de Ueland ex opposito lapideae crucis, quae stat in boreali ripa dictae aquae de Ueland, distans ab ipsa aqua per quinque pedes, quae currit inde ad praedictum pontem de Croyland: sed metae fugitiuorum ab illa cruce diriguntur in mariscum boreale directe usque ad Oggot, qui est angulus metarum contra faonium, et sic redeundo uersus orientem per Uodelade, usque ad Apynholt, et ibi ascendendo per aquam de Ueland, quae est quarta aqua claudens insulam in illa parte, sicut tertia aqua de Nene claudit eam ex altera parte pontis de Croyland usque ad seuueram de Asendyk, cadentis in Ueland, ubi stans fracta crux lapidea distat ab ipsa aqua de Asendyk [per tres perticatas in eius ripa australi; et ipsa aqua de Asendyk]<sup>1</sup> est quinta aqua claudens ab illo loco insulam praedictam, contra aquilonem usque ad Asuuyktoft. Si extra istas quinque aquas et metas praenominatas fugitiuus inuentus fuerit, tanquam Semei extra Ierusalem publicis legibus subiiciendus, poenam quam meruit patietur. Quod si infra praedictas aquas et metas, et praedictarum aquarum ripas exteriores homicidium, furtum, uel aliam forisfacturam fecerit, per balliuos dicti monasterii capiendus, iuxta [demerita]<sup>1</sup> in ipsa insula, cuius immunitatem perdidit, patietur, et ibidem iudicandus in carcere abbatis condemnabitur. Et ut istud meum priuilegium firmiter et fortius ad posterum perseueret, per dominum meum Ecgbertum regem Uest Saxoniae, et Athelulphum filium eius illud obtinui confirmari.

Offero etiam secretario dicti monasterii in ministerium sanctissimi altaris chlamydem coccineam, qua indutus eram in coronatione mea, ad capam inde siue casulam faciendam; et in aecclesiae sanctissimae orna-

<sup>1</sup> Wanting in the MS.





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quatuor carucatas terrae arabilis, continentes in longitudine octo quarentenas, et octo quarentenas in latitudine, et XLV. acras prati, et mariscum continens in longitudine XVI. quarentenas, et VIII. quarentenas in latitudine, et aecclesiam eiusdem uillae, et unum molendinum, et dimidium alterius molendini, et totam piscariam in aqua a molendino uersus occidentes usque ad finem eiusdem marisci eiusdem uillae uersus orientem. Item donum eiusdem Algari militis in Repyngale, uiz. tres carucatas terrae arabilis, et XL. acras prati. Item donum Normanni quondam uicecomitis in Sutton iuxta Bosuorthe, duas carucatas terrae, et unum molendinum uentricium. Item donum eiusdem Normanni in Stapilton, uiz. manerium et duas carucatas terrae. Item donum eiusdem in Badby, uiz. quatuor hidas terrae cum appendiciis. Item donum domini Algari comitis in Holbecke, et in Cappelade, uiz. quatuor carucatas, et sex bouatas, et octodecim acras prati et mariscum. Item donum eiusdem in uilla sua de Spaldelyng, uiz. tres carucatas terrae. [Item donum eiusdem in uilla sua de Pyncebek, uidelicet unam carucatam terrae. Item donum eiusdem in Algarkirke uilla sua, uidelicet undecim bouatas terrae: et in parochia de Sutterton tres carucatas terrae, et unam bouatam, et XXVI. acras prati,]<sup>1</sup> et quatuor salinas cum aecclesia eiusdem uillae. Item donum Osuui militis in Draytona, uiz. octo hidas terrae et quatuor uirgatas et aecclesiam eiusdem uillae. Item donum Asketelli coqui mei in Glapthorn, uidelicet, tres uirgatas terrae. Item donum Uulgeti quondam pincernae mei, in Peiekyrke tres uirgatas terrae. Item donum [Edulphi]<sup>1</sup> nuncii mei in Laithorp, unam bouatam terrae. Item donum Siuardi uicecomitis in Kyrkeby, tres bouatas terrae, unam mansionem, et tria cotagia. Et in Staundon donum Sigburgae comitissae, quinque hidas terrae, et donum Uulnoti dapi-

<sup>1</sup> Wanting in the MS.



feri mei in Adyngtona, uidelicet, duas hidas terrae, et piscariam cum aduocatione aecclesiae eiusdem uillae, et in alia Adyngtona ex dono eiusdem unam uirgatam terrae. Istas terras et tenementa praedicto monasterio Croylandiae, et monachis ibidem deo seruiantibus, in pacificam et perpetuam possessionem concedo, trado, et confirmo, habenda de me et haeredibus meis quibuscunque regibus Merciorum post me successuris, in puram et perpetuam eleemosynam libere, quiete, et solute ab omnibus oneribus saecularibus, exactionibus, et uectigalibus uniuersis, quocunque nomine censeantur. Quod si quis aduersarius, instigante diabolo, in quibuscunque praedictis terris aut tenementis, tot regum spatio pacifice possessis et eorum auctoritate confirmatis, calumniam ponere uoluerit in futurum, me et successores meos reges Merciorum profiteor presenti chirographo et polliceor, dicti monasterii futuros in perpetuum defensores.

✠ Istud chirographum domino Siuuardo abbati patri meo, et Etheldrithae sanctissimae uirgini, pro Christi amore ibidem reclusae, carne quidem cognatae meae, sed (quod magis est) in Christo charissimae sorori, quondam promissum, in praesentia dominorum meorum Ecgberti regis Uuest Saxoniae et Athelulphi filii eius, coram pontificibus et proceribus maioribus totius Angliae, in ciuitate Londonia (ubi omnes congregati fuimus pro consilio capiendo contra Danicos piratas Angliae littora assidue infestantes) signo sanctae crucis confirmaui. ✠ Ego Celnothus archiepiscopus Doroberniensis consului. ✠ Ego Enbaldus archiepiscopus Eboracensis consignauui. ✠ Ego Osmundus Londoniensis episcopus collaudauui. ✠ Ego Helmstanus episcopus Uintoniensis assensum praebui. ✠ Ego Hereuinus episcopus Lichefeldensis consensi. ✠ Ego Cedda Herfordensis episcopus aspirauui. ✠ Ego Adelstanus Schireburnensis episcopus procurauui. ✠ Ego Humbrichtus Helmamensis episcopus approbauui.



✠ Ego Uuilredus Dommocensis episcopus annui. ✠ Ego Herferdus Uuigorniensis episcopus gratum habui. ✠ Ego Goduvinus Roffensis episcopus faui. ✠ Ego Hedda abbas de Medeshamsted ratificaui. ✠ Ego Ambertus abbas Ripadii interfui. ✠ Ego Kyneuvinus abbas de Bardeney astiti. ✠ Ego Ecgbertus rex Uuest Saxoniae concessi. ✠ Ego Athelulphus filius regis Uuest Saxoniae consensum dedi. ✠ Ego Uulhardus dux affui. ✠ Ego Athelmus dux audiui. ✠ Ego Herenbrichtus dux acceptaui. ✠ Ego Suuithunus presbyter regis Ecgberti praesens fui. ✠ Ego Bosa, scriba regis Uuithlafii, manu mea chirographum istud scripsi. ✠ Ego Uuithlafius domini nostri Ihesu Christi gratia rex Merciorum, ad sanctae matris aeclesiae honorem, et diuini cultus exaltationem, anno incarnationis eiusdem nostri saluatoris octingentesimo tricesimo tertio, in festo Sancti Augustini confessoris, doctoris, et apostoli nostrae gentis, haec pauca offero, pluraque offerem, quin corpus meum in morte mea tam sancto monasterio promitterem, nisi antea sepulturam meam Ripadio deuouissem. Ueruntamen spiritus meus permanebit uobiscum in aeternum.

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CCXXXIV.

ECGBERHT OF KENT, 833.

✠ REGNANTE in perpetuum dño nño ihu xp̄o. Cum cuncta cotidie fugitiue uitae tempora prosperis et aduersis causis consistere cernimus . rapidissimoq: cursu annorum spatia regnorumq: ubiq: gaudia . finita esse manifestissimis signis declaratum est Quapropter ego ecgberhtus rex cantie nec non et aliarū gentium . cum consensu ac licentia meorum optimatum non ꝑ pecunia sed ꝑ remedio animae meae et pro expiatione scelerum meorum . aliquantulam partem terrae iuris mei id est centum quinquaginta iugera





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## CCXXXV.

ABBA, 835.

✠ Ic abba . geroefa cyðe 7 writan hate hu min willa is þæt mon ymb min ærfe gedoe æfter minū dæge . ærest ymb min lond þe ic hæbbe 7 me god lah 7 ic æt minū hlafordū begæt. is min willa gif me god bearnes unnan wille ðæt hit foe to londe æfter me 7 his bruce mid minū gemeccan 7 siððan swæ forð min cynn ða hwile þe god wille ðæt ðeara ænig sie þe londes weorðe sie 7 land gehaldan cunne . gif me ðonne gifeðe sie ðæt ic bearn begeotan ne mege þonne is min willa þæt hit hæbbe min wif ða hwile ðe hia hit mid clennisse gehaldan wile 7 min broðar alchhere hire fultume 7 þæt lond hire nytt gedoe . 7 him man selle an half swulung an ciollan dene to habbanne 7 to brucanne wiððan ðe he ðy geornliocar hire ðearfa bega 7 bewiotige. 7 mon selle him to ðem londe . III. oxan . 7 II. cy . 7 L. scepa 7 ænne horn . gif min wif ðonne hia nylle mid clennisse swæ gehaldan 7 hire liofre sie oðer hemed to niomanne ðonne foen mine megas to ðem londe 7 hire agefen hire agen . gif hire ðonne liofre sie . . . . ynster to gānganne oðða suð to farranne ðonne agefen hie twægen mine megas alchhere 7 aeðelwold hire . twa ðusenda 7 fon him to ðem londe 7 agefe mon to liminge . L. eawa 7 . v. cy . fore hie 7 mon selle to folcanstane in mid minū lice . X. oxan . 7. X. cy . 7. C. eawa . 7. C. swina . 7 higum ansundran . D. peñd . wiððan ðe min wif her be nuge innganges swæ mid minū lice swæ siððan yferran dogre swæ hwæder swæ hire liofre sie . gif higan ðonne oððe hlaford þæt nylle hire mynsterlifes geunnan . oðða hia siolf nylle 7 hire oðer ðing liofre sie . þonne agefe mon ten hund peñd inn mid minū lice me wið legerstowe 7 higum ansundran fif hund peñd fore mine sawle . 7 ic bidde 7 bebeode swælc monn se ðæt min



lond hebbe ðæt he ælc̅e gere agefe ðem higum æt fol-  
 canstane . L. ambra maltes . 7. VI. ambra gruta . 7. III.  
 wega spices 7 ceses . 7. CCCC. blafa . 7 an hriðr. 7. VI.  
 scep . 7 swælc monn seðe to minum ærfe foe ðonne  
 gedele he ælcum messepreoste binnan cent mancus  
 goldes 7 ælcum godes ðiowe peñd 7 to s̅ce petre min  
 wærgeld twa ðusenda and freoðomund foe to minũ  
 sweorde 7 agefe ðer æt feower ðusenda 7 him mon  
 forgefe ðer an ðreotenehund pending . 7 gif mine  
 broðar ærfeweard gestrionen ðe londes weorðe sie  
 þonne ann ic ðem londes . gif hie ne gestrionen oðða  
 him sylfũ ælles hwæt sele æfter hiora dege ann ic his  
 freoðomunde gif he ðonne lifes bið. Gif him elles  
 hwæt sæleð ðonne ann ic his minra swæstar suna  
 swælcum se hit geðian wile 7 him gifeðe bið. 7 gif þæt  
 gesele þæt min cynn to ðan clane gewite ðæt ðer ðeara  
 nan ne sie ðe londes weorðe sie þonne foe se hlaford  
 to 7 ða higon æt Kristes cirican and hit minum  
 gaste nytt gedoen . an ðas redenne ic hit ðider selle ðe  
 se monn seðe Kristes cirican hlaford sie se min 7 minra  
 erfewearda forespreoca and mundbora 7 an his hlaford-  
 dome we bian moten.

✠ Ic cialnoð mid godes gefe arcebiscop ðis write  
 7 ðeafie 7 mid cristes rode tacne hit festniæ.

✠ Ic beagmund p̅r ðis ðeafie 7 write.

✠ Ic werhard p̅r aþ ðis ðeafie 7 write.

✠ Ic abba geroefa ðis write 7 festnie mid cristes  
 rode tacne.

✠ Ic aeðelhun p̅r ðis ðeafie 7 write.

✠ Ic abba p̅r ðis ðeafie 7 write.

✠ Ic wigmund p̅r ðis write 7 ðeafie.

✠ Ic iop p̅r ðis ðeafie 7 write.

✠ Ic osmund p̅r ðis ðeafie 7 write.

✠ Ic wealhhere diaç ðis write 7 ðeafie.

✠ Ic badanoð diaç ðis write 7 ðeafie.

✠ Ic heaberht diaç ðis write 7 ðeafie.

✠ Ic noðwulf subdiaç ðis write 7 ðeafie.



✠ Ic wealhhere subdiaċ ðis write 7 ðeafie.

✠ Ic ciolwulf subdiaċ ðis write 7 ðeafie.

*Indorsed :*

✠ Heregyð hafað ðas wisan binemned ofer hire deg 7 ofer abban ðæm higum et cristes cirican of ðæm londe et cealflocan . ðæt is ðonne ðritig ombra alað. 7 ðreo hund hlafa ðeara bið fiftig hwhite hlafa. an weg spices 7 ceses . an ald hriðr. feower weðras . an suin oððe sex weðras . sex gos fuglas . ten henn fuglas . ðritig teapera gif hit wintres deg sie . sester fulne huniges . sester fulne butran . sester fulne saltes . and heregyð bibeadeð ðem mannum ðe efter hire to londe foen on godes noman ðæt hie ful gere witen ðet hie ðiss gelesten ðe on ðissem gewrite binemned is ðem higum to cristes cirican . and ðæt sie simle to higum heodlese ymb twelf monað agefen . 7 se mann se to londe foe agefe hire erfehonda . XIII. pund pendinga . 7 hio forgifeð fiftene pund for ðy ðe mon ðas feorme ðy soel gelæste.

*Indorsed in a more modern hand :*

Anno DCCC°XXX°V°.

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## CCXXXVI.

### ECGBERHT OF WESSEX, 835.

✠ IN nomine dei et domini nostri Ihesu Christi redemptoris mundi! Anno dominicae incarnationis DCCC.XXX.V. indictione XIII. Ego Ecgbert rex Occidentalium Saxonum dedi [monasterium illud] Mercham, quinquaginta manentium, ad Abbendune cum licencia et consensu totius nostrae gentis et unanimitate omnium optimatum. Haec donatio fuit facta in Pascha in Dorchecestre; et postera uice eandem donationem liberaliter in Natali confirmauimus, anno imperii nostri XXXIII. Et sic mandamus in nomine patris et filii et spiritus sancti, ut nullus superueniat hominum ibi





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Ego Eaduald abbas.✠. Ego Uulfhar dux.✠. Ego Osmod dux.✠. Ego Uuigferd dux.✠. Et multi alii hanc libertatem praescriptam cum his testibus infra nominatis firmiter in Ihesu Christo cum signaculo sanctae crucis confirmantes roborauimus.

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CCXXXVII.

UUIGLAF OF MERCIA, 836.

✠ REGNUM dī querendum ⁊ sup uniuersa lucra terrena paulo testante apostolo quae enim uidentur temporalia sunt sed que non uidentur aeterna sunt quid prod ⁊ homini totum mundū lucrare si anima eius detrimentum patietur. Quapropter ego uuiglaf rex merciorū cum meis episcopis et ducib: et magistratib̄ illut monasteriū in heanbyrg in circuitu cū silua ad eam ptinentem et cum campis et pratis et cum omnib: utensilib̄ et cum putheis salis et fornacibus plumbis ⁊ uillis et omnia illuc ptinentia in caelestem culmen generaliter p totum gentem merciorum et pro absolutione criminum n̄orum liberaliter liberamus a modicis et a magnis causis a notis et ignotis praeter uallis et pontes constructionem Factum ⁊ haec donatio in craeft anno dominicae incarnationis . DCCC°XXX°UI°. indiç . uero . XIII° . regni k̄ n̄i a dō concessi .VII°. p redemptione animae meae placabile atque dilectabile mente praedicta loca liberabo cum uniuersis casallis q̄ ipsis locis uniuersis s̄t̄ subditi hoc modo p aeuum liberabo a pastu regis et principū ⁊ ab omni constructione regalis uille et a difficultate illa quā nos saxonice faestingmenn dicimus haec omnia mente concedo spontaneo. Scitote ergo uos q̄ hanc labens regnū p't me obtineatis q̄re hoc munus ⁊ hanc libertatem scripsi ⁊ scribere p̄cipi q̄ in d̄m meū desidero et in a ineffabilem misericordiā cōfido ut dñs n̄r ihs x̄ps meas iniq'tates quas p ignorantiam feci d̄s delere faciat Credo p hoc bonum a



cunctis me emundare dignet̃ q̃ scriptũ ⁊ peccatũ ibi emenda ubi nascit̃ modo posteros meos p̃ gloriosũ 7 p̃ mirabile nomen dñi ñri iħu xp̃i humiliĩ supplico ut elemosinã quã in altitudinẽ caeli culminis in manus dñi datã habeo communit̃ p̃ me 7 p̃ totũ gentem merciorũ tã benignĩ stare demittetis 7 multiplicare dignemini.

✠ Ego uuiglaf rex merc̃. ✠ ego cyneðryþ regina.  
 ✠ ceolnoð archieþi. ✠ cyneferð eþi. ✠ raep̃hun eþi.  
 ✠ eaduulf eþi. ✠ heaberht eþi. ✠ eaduulf eþi.  
 ✠ alhstan eþi. ✠ beormod eþi. ✠ husa eþi.  
 ✠ cunda eþi. ✠ ceolberht eþi. ✠ cynred eþi.  
 ✠ eanmund aþ. ✠ uueohtred aþ. ✠ beornhelm aþ.  
 ✠ ego sigred dux hanc donationem signo crucis xp̃i ɔfirmavi. ✠ mucoel dux. ✠ tiduulf dux.  
 ✠ aep̃elhard dux. ✠ cyneberht dux. ✠ aep̃eluulf dux.  
 ✠ alhhelm dux. ✠ humberht dux. ✠ aelfstan dux.  
 ✠ mucoel dux. ✠ wicga. ✠ aldred. ✠ aldberht.  
 ✠ aelfred. ✠ hwithyse. ✠ werenberht. ✠ wulfred.  
 ✠ wiglaf. ✠ eanuulf. ✠ alhmund. ✠ berhtuulf. ✠ ecghard.

✠ ðes friodom waes bigeten aet wiglase cyninge mid ðaem tuentigum hida aet iddeshale end ðaes londes friodom aet habeccaham mid ðy ten hida londe aet felda bi weoduman. end mucele esninge ðaet ten hida lond aet crogleage hæbben heora dæg 7 æfter heora dæge agefe mon ðæt land into ðære halgan stowe into weogurnacestre.

*Indorsed in a hand scarcely legible :*

ðis is heanbirige friodom. Se waes bigeten mid ðy londe aet iddeshale 7 aet heanbyrig ten hida ðaes londes 7 aet felda ten hida on beansetum . 7 biscop gesalde sigrede aldormenn six hund scillinga on golde . 7 mucele aldormenn ten hida lond aet croglea.



## CCXXXVIII.

BADANOÐ, 837.

✠ Ic badanoð beotting cyðo 7 writan hato hu min willa is ðet min ærfelond fere ðe ic et æðeluulfe cyninge begæt 7 gebohte mid fullum friodome on æce ærfe æfter minum dege 7 minra ærfewearda ðet is mines wifes 7 minra bearna. ic wille ærist me siolfne gode allmehtigum forgeofan to ðere stowe æt cristes cirican 7 min bearn ðer liffest gedoan 7 wib 7 cild ðæm hlaforde 7 higum 7 ðære stowe befestan ober minne dei to friðe 7 to mundbyrde 7 to hlaforddome on ðæm ðingum ðe him ðearf sie 7 hie brucen londes hiora dei 7 higon gefeormien to minre tide swæ hie soelest ðurhtion megen 7 higon us mid heora godcundum godum swę gemynen swæ us arlic 7 him ælmeslic sie 7 ðonne ofer hiora dei wifes 7 cilda ic bebeode on godes noman ðæt mon agefe ðæt lond inn higum to heora beode him to brucanne on ece ærfe swæ him leofast sie. 7 ic biddo higon for godes lufe ðæt se monn se higon londes unnen to brucanne ða ilcan wisan leste on swæsendum to minre tide 7 ða godcundan lean minre saule mid gerece swe hit mine ærfenuman ær onstellen . ðonne is min willa ðæt ðissa gewriota sien twa gelice oðer habben higon mid boecum oðer mine ærfeweardas heora dei . ðonne is ðes londes ðe ic higum selle. xvi. gioc ærðe londes 7 medwe all on æce ærfe to brucanne ge minne dei ge æfter swæ to ationne swæ me mest red 7 liofast sie.

✠ ceolnoð aꝛc episċ ðiss writo 7 festnię mid cristes rode tacne

✠ alchhere dux ðiss writo 7 ðeafię

✠ bægmund pꝛb aþ ðiss writo 7 ðeafię

✠ hysenoð pꝛ ðiss writo 7 ðeafię

✠ wigmund pꝛ

✠ badenoð pꝛ

✠ sigemund

✠ eðelwulf





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## CCXL.

## ECGBERHT, 838.

✠ REGNANTE in perpetuum dño dō nño sabaoth. Congregatum est venerabile concilium in illa famosa loco que appellatur cyningestun in regione suðregie. Presidente ꝛ huic eadem dō devote congregatione ceolnotho aꝛc episꝓ ceterisq: per plurimis episꝓ nec non excellentissimis regib: nñis ecgberhto et aetheluulfo cum omnibus gentis suæ optimatib:.. Omnesq: in unum consona mente ac sincerissima cordis intentione spiritaliũ sæculariũq: rerum necessitatibus inter semet ipsos commune consilio scrutantibus . quomodo pax et unianimitas ecclesiarũ dī totiusq: populi xp̄iani eorum sæculari dicioni per dī omnipotentis gratiam subiecti firmissimi dilectionis uinculo seruari potuisset. Inter ea uº a prefato uenerabili aꝛc episꝓ ceolnotho flagitatum ÷ quod a regibus prenominaſ ecgberhto et aetheluulfo illis in sempiternam aelemosynam illum agrum æt mallingum ad ecclesiam xp̄i que sita est in dorouernia ciuitate reddidissent. quod ante a baldredo rege ad eandem ecclesiam perdonata est. sed a quibusdam dictum est quia cum recta libertate facta non esset. quia in fugatu eius conscripta et concessa fuisset. Tunc uº pro intima caritatis affectu precibus episꝓ aduentes cum consilio ac licentia omniũ sapientum eorum spiritaliũ seculariumq: graduum qui inibi congregati fuissent . hoc preſatum agrum æt mallingum pro sempiterna salute animarum suarum ac spe remunerationis æterne ad prenominatam ecclesiam xp̄i in perpetuam hereditatem cum omni libertate beniuola mente tradidissent. Hac uº condicione interposita haec prenominata donatio firma permaneat. quod nos ipsi nñiq: heredes semper in posterum firmam inconcussamq: amicitia ab illo aꝛc episꝓ ceolnotho eiusdem congregatione ecclesiae xp̄i habeamus et ab omnibus successoribus eius hoc idem



patrocinium ac protectionem illius sedis nos et hereditas nra nriq: heredes quicumq: di uoluntatis fuerit quod illi sint in omnibus necessitatib: nris absq: omni dubitatione spontaneum paratumq: amicali amore semper inueniant seu etiam familie liberoru monasterioru qui antiquitus sub iure dominioq: abbatum abbatis-sarumq: constitute fuerint qui me meumq: patrem ecgberhtu regem pro suis propriis ac maximis necessitatib: sibi ad protectionem et ad dominiu elegerunt spiritalesq: dominos id ÷ epis̄c mecum constituti propria uoluntate mecum habuerunt. ut in omnib: libertas et regula monasterialis uite rite ac recte ab omnib: illis seruetur. Sed et post dies meos sue libertatis electione absq: omni obstaculo cuicumque personis digni habeantur. Insuper etiam pro hac nra susceptione electioneq: nequaquam a cuicūq: potestatis homine siue regi t̄ epis̄c maioris minorisue personis accusati calumniantur neq: libertas eoru semper in posterum in aliqua frangatur. Nullaq: altercatio alicuius questionis inter nos nrosq: heredes et hereditatem nram et illum arc̄c epis̄cpum successoresq: eius et ecclesiam xp̄i et familiam eius ex hac die et deinceps inimicaliter exorta sit. sed pax nra conglutinata amore uigere florere crescereq: inter nos nrosq: carissimos amicos perpetualiter ualeat. duasq: scripturas per omnia consimiles huius reconciliationis conscribere statuimus. alteram habeat arc̄c epis̄c cum telligraphis ecclesie xp̄i. alteram ecgberht et aetheluulf reges cum hereditatis eoru scripturis. Actum ÷ k̄ anno dominice incarnaẽ. DCCCXXVIII. Indict. I. die IIII. feria . his testib: consentientib: qui hanc nrm reconciliationem signo sc̄e crucis xp̄i confirmantes subscripserunt.

✠ Ego ceolnoht gratia di arc̄c epis̄c hanc reconciliationem et istam confirmaẽ cum signo sc̄e crucis xp̄i roß 7 sub.

✠ Ego bægmund p̄r aß cons̄ 7 sub.

✠ Ego uerhard p̄r aß cons̄ 7 sub.



- ✠ Ego brunhard p̄r con̄s 7 sub̄.
- ✠ Ego hysenoth p̄r con̄s 7 sub̄.
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- ✠ Ego hunred p̄r con̄s 7 sub̄.
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- ✠ Ego beornnoð p̄r con̄s 7 sub̄.
- ✠ Ego heaberht diaċ con̄s 7 sub̄.
- ✠ Ego badanoð diaċ con̄s 7 sub̄.
- ✠ Ego uuealhhere diaċ con̄s 7 sub̄.
- ✠ Ego ceolwulf sub diaċ con̄s 7 sub̄.
- ✠ Ego noðwulf ð diaċ con̄s 7 sub̄.
- ✠ Ego ceolwulf ð diaċ con̄s 7 sub̄.

Pro ampliore itaq: confirmatione iterũ adducta ÷ hæc scedula corã ætheluulfũ regẽ et optimates eius in uilla regali qui appellatur uultũn his testib: consentientib: et subscribentib: quorũ nomina subter prænotata s̄t.

- ✠ Ego æðeluulf rex con̄s et sub̄.
- ✠ Ego alhstan episċ con̄s 7 sub̄.
- ✠ Ego eadhũn episċ con̄s 7 sub̄.
- ✠ Signũ mã wulfhardi p̄rin.
- ✠ Siġ mã æðeluulfi p̄rin.
- ✠ Siġ mã eanwulfi p̄rin.
- ✠ Siġ mã eadberhti diaċ.
- ✠ Siġ mã æðelheardi miniš.
- ✠ Siġ mã ecgberhti miniš.
- ✠ Siġ mã alhstani miniš.
- ✠ Siġ mã osmundi miniš.
- ✠ Siġ mã hudan miniš.
- ✠ Siġ mã ôsrici ministri.
- ✠ Siġ mã ceolrædi miniš.
- ✠ Siġ mã uulflafi miniš.
- ✠
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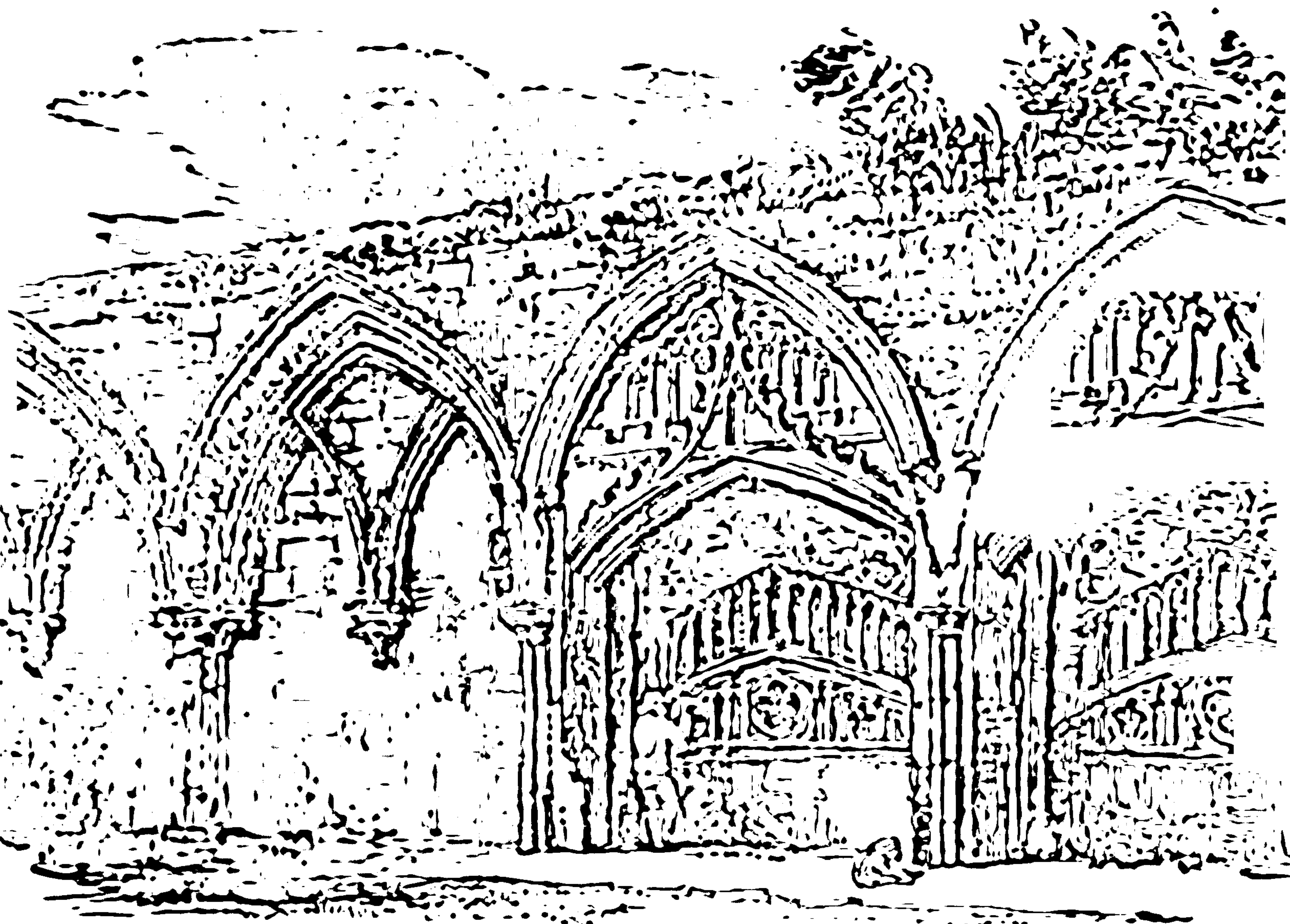


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