

Samuel Pegge  
An historical account of . . . the Textus Roffensis  
London  
1784

AN  
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT  
OF THAT VENERABLE  
MONUMENT OF ANTIQUITY  
THE TEXTUS ROFFENSIS;

...

By SAMUEL PEGGE, M. A.

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An Historical Account of that venerable Monument of Antiquity  
the TEXTUS ROFFENSIS.

[Read at the SOCIETY of ANTIQUARIES, London, June 18, 1767.]

THOUGH the history of a single book may seem at first sight to be both uncommon and trivial, yet when one considers the antiquity, and the great importance of the monument, commonly known by the name of TEXTUS ROFFENSIS /1; the practice of our editors who are so careful and industrious, as to give us an exact account of every single edition of the author they publish; and, lastly, what has been lately done by Mr. Webb in his pamphlet concerning the record of Domesday, the following narrative of the compilement, the contents, the fate, history, transcripts, and publications of this august and most valuable remain, may not be altogether insignificant or displeasing; especially as some things will arise that are very remarkable and interesting.

I suppose we may safely depend upon Mr. Wharton, who, by the favour of the then dean and chapter of Rochester, had the book in his custody for some time, for the author of it. He observes, that Ernulf /2, bishop of Rochester, sat in that see from A. D. 1114, to A. D. 1124, in the reign of king Henry I. and compiled the book, which is written in a very elegant hand. The bishop was very old at the time, not less than 80, or 82; for

/1 In Dugdale's *Monasticon* it is called *Chronicon Claustræ Roffensis*; and bishop Godwin, in his *Life of Ernulfus*, speaks of an *History of the Church of Rochester*, left by Ernulfus, which I suppose is nothing but the *Textus*.

/2 He is otherwise written *Arnulf*, *Arnulph*, *Earnulph*.

2

he was 84 when he died, A. D. 1124 /1, and yet the collection seems to have been made about 1120, according to Dr. Harris, in his *History of Kent* /2, or 1122 according to Mr. Hearne /3, and this latter I take to be the truer account; but as to Ernulf's being the author, an inscription in a very antient hand, in the front of the book, supposed by Mr. Wanley /4 to be no less than 400 years old, attests the same, *Textus de ecclesia Roffensi per Ernulfum episcopum* /5; and it is observable, that there is nothing in the book of a later date than the time of the prelate here mentioned; for as to the 13 later archbishops of Canterbury,

and the 15 later bishops of Rochester, these have all been added by a more modern hand, as appears from the form of the letter, and the difference of the ink; one person added the 6 bishops that followed Ernulf in succession, and another, more recent, has added the 9 following them. To these may be added, says Mr. Wharton, some matters relative to the time of the bishops, John and Ascelin, inserted after the leaf 203; but all the rest of the book is written in a hand coeval with bishop Ernulf /6.

In respect of the contents of this famous MS. the book consists of two parts; the first containing the laws and constitutions of the Anglo-Saxon kings, in Latin and Saxon, transcribed from ancient copies; and the second giving us a register or chartulary of the church of Rochester, from the autographs, with some other matter relating to that cathedral, written in the times of Ernulf and his successors; but these last in a later hand. Bishop

/1 Hearne in his *Præfatio*, Wharton, and Gul. Malmsb. p. 234.

/2 Pag. 32. Dr. Harris though varies from himself in this respect, for in a note inserted by him in the original at Rochester, on the reverse of the second leaf, he conjectures the *text* might be compiled A. D. 1115, which is not so credible.

/3 See his *Præfatio*, p. xxxv.

/4 Dr. Hicke's Thes. tom. III. p. 273.

/5 Text' de ecc'e Roffn' per Ernulfu' Ep'm. Mr. Wanley, l. c.

/6 Mr. Wharton's Angl. Sacr. tom. I. p. xxx. seq.

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Ernulf was a Norman /1; and, in regard to the first part of the work, Mr. Hearne applauds him extremely for his great diligence and application, in making himself master of the Saxon language then growing into disuse, and his commendable care in preserving and perpetuating this momentous code. The above short account of the contents is taken from Mr. Wanley, in whom may be seen, by those who are desirous of it, a very exact list of all the articles that compose the first part, with a general representation superadded of what is to be found in the second. I shall content myself with giving the following abbreviation from Mr. Wharton; 'The laws of Ethelbert, Ælfred, Guthrun, Edward the Elder, Edmund, and Ethelred, in Saxon /2. The exorcism of the Ordeal, the laws of K. Cnut, the constitutions of William I. Extracts from the decrees of the Popes, the institutions of K. Henry I. A. D. 1101, the succession of the Popes and Emperors, of the Patriarchs of Jerusalem, and the other four patriarchal sees /3, the names of the archbishops and bishops of England, from the time of Augustin the monk, distributed according to their sees, in Latin. *Judicia civitatis London* /4, the genealogy of K. Edward the Confessor from Adam, the genealogies of all the kings of the Heptarchy from Adam /5, in Saxon. The privileges, charters, and ordinances of the church of Rochester, in Latin and Saxon.' Bishop

/1 Whoever desires a further account of him may consult Malmsbury, Mr. Hearne's Preface, p. xiv. and Appendix No I. II. III. IV. Wharton, A. S. tom. I. p. 33. Bishop Tanner's Biblioth. Gunton's History of Peterborough, Cave's Hist. Lit. &c.

/2 These are far from being all.

/3 Rather *the other three*, for there were but 5 in all, and those of Rome and Jerusalem are mentioned before. However, there are only two in the original, Alexandria and Antioch.

/4 These are laws of K. Athelstan; they are extant in Brompton inter X. Script. col. 852. and in Wilkins; see also bishop Nicolson's Hist. Libr. p. 134.

/5 i. e. they are carried up to Woden, who in the former is carried up to Adam.

4

Nicolson's account of this matter is still shorter; but, as he

mentions some things nevertheless, omitted by Wharton, I shall insert it. 'It furnishes us,' says he, 'with the laws of four Kentish kings (Ethelbert, Hlothere, Eadred /1, and Withred) omitted by Lambard /2, together with the Saxon form of oaths of fealty, and wager of law; the old form of cursing by bell, book, and candle; of Ordale, &c.' /3

I enter now upon the fate, history, transcripts, and impressions of this book, and its parts.

The first person that made any use of our MS. since the restoration of learning, was that great reviver of Saxon literature, Lawrence Nowell archdeacon of Derby, and dean of Lichfield. The famous Kentish antiquary William Lambarde was a disciple of his in the Saxon tongue, of which he is reckoned the second restorer /4; and the dean having made certain transcripts from the Textus, imparted them to him, giving him withal other assistance, and the use of his notes, towards the completing his Archæonomia /5; he also gave him his Vocabularium Saxonicum /6, and died A. D. 1577 /7.

The abovementioned Mr. Lambarde published his Archæonomia, A. D. 1568, in quarto, wherein are various transcripts from this MS. But these, as Dr. Hickes has clearly shewn /8, were not copied by him from the original book, which he did not see till the year 1573, when his name occurs in the margin of it, as

/1 *Eadric*, as I suppose.

/2 Meaning in the Archæonomia.

/3 Nicolson, Hist. Libr. p. 134.

/4 Wood, Hist. & Antiq. Lib. II. p. 216.

/5 Wood, Ath. I col. 186.

/6 Tanner, Bibl. p. 554.

/7 Bishop Tanner says, 1576; but see Dr. Br. Willis's Cath. tom. I. p. 400.

Mr. Wood is doubtful where he is buried, unless at Lichfield; but Dr. Willis rather thinks it was at Weston in Derbyshire.

/8 Hickes, Epist. to Sir Barth. Shower in 2d tome of his Thes. p. 88.

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it does in various places, but they were put into his hands by his preceptor the dean of Lichfield, and he published them in this volume with his own English translation.

Archbishop Matthew Parker, and his Assistant John Josceline /1, appear next to have used our MS. for the Antiq. Brit. Eccles. being printed A. 1572. *Lib. Roff.* is often cited in the margin.

Afterwards, A. D. 1576, Mr. Lambarde's first edition of the Perambulation of Kent appeared; and there we have an extract printed from our MS. concerning the maintenance and support of Rochester Bridge, in Saxon and Latin; the Saxon being also translated by him into modern English /2. It occurs also in Elstob's transcript to be mentioned below, and in Mr. Hearne's Appendix, p. 379. Archdeacon Denne has also transcribed the Latin part into his copy of Hearne's edition; and you have the Latin, Saxon, and English, in Dr. Harris's History of Kent, p. 260. Mr. Lambarde cites the MS. again, p. 271. 317. and 343. of this first edition. He has also there printed Brihtric's will, p. 357, from it, though he has not noted that, and has given us an English translation of it. This curious monument has likewise appeared in Dr. Hickes's Thesaurus /3, both in Saxon and Latin; in Hearne's Textus Roffensis, p. 110, you have the Saxon part, and in the preface, p. xxv. the Saxon with Mr. Lambarde's English version; as likewise in Dr. Harris's History of Kent, p. 201.

A. D. 1623, Mr Selden published the Monkish Historian Eadmer; and in the Spicilegium, 197, has printed from this MS. the famous pleading at Pinnenden Heath, near Maidstone in Kent (now called Pickenden Heath), between archbishop Lan=

franc and Odo bishop of Baieux, in Latin. This hath been many times reprinted since, as by Sir William Dugdale in his

/1 Of whom, see the History of Lambeth Palace.

/2 Perambul. p. 307, seq. edit. 1576. The Author's 2d Edition of this book was published A. 1596. which is an enlarged, and the best edition.

/3 Tom. II. in Epist. ad Barth. Shower, p. 51. See also tom. III. p. 241.

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Origines Jurid. Mr. Wharton, in Anglia Sacra, tom. I. p. 334; and lastly, by Dr. Harris, in his History of Kent, p. 50.

A. D. 1626, came out the first part of Sir Henry Spelman's Glossary; and therein he inserted from this MS. the old form of excommunication, or cursing by bell, book, and candle /1. This appears also in Mr. Hearne's edition of the Textus, p. 55.

The book, after this, was in the utmost danger of being secreted, and finally estranged from the church, before half of it had been either printed or transcribed; one Leonard, a doctor of physick, had got it into his hands, and kept it two years; but the dean, Walter Balcanqual, and the chapter, getting scent of the purloiner, bestirred themselves, and at last recovered their MS. but not without a bill in chancery. Concerning this transaction, the following note is now entered on the 2d leaf: 'Venerandum hoc antiquitatis monumentum per integrum biennium desideratum, surreptore tandem detecto, ac restitutionem strenue negante, decreto supremæ curiæ, quam cancellariam vocant, non exiguis hujus ecclesiæ sumptibus, recuperavit, rediditque pristinis dominis curavit Gualterus Balcanqual hujus ecclesiæ decanus anno post natum incarnatum 1633.' This memorandum, which is also copied by Mr. Wanley in Dr. Hicke's Thes. tom. III. p. 273. is now pasted on the 2d folio, and is probably the hand-writing of dean Balcanqual; it is also anew transcribed with the following note, *This is written on the wooden cover of this book, and thence copied by J. H. D. D. P. R.* that is, John Harris, D. D. Prebendary of Rochester. It appears clearly from Hearne's Preface, p. vi. that Dr. Leonard was the pilferer, for he had the book in his keeping, A. D. 1632.

/1 We read there, *In dentibus mordacibus, in labris, sive molibus*; and so Mr. Hearne gives it also, p. 58. but certainly we ought to read, *in glabris sive molaribus*. It is the fault of the original scribe, for Dr. Denne has not corrected it in his book to be mentioned below.

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Whilst the book was in Dr. Leonard's custody /1, Sir Edward Dering, the first baronet of the family, a gentleman of great parts and learning, and of immense application, made a transcript with his own hand /2 of the whole of this book, that had not been already printed, or was not expected to be printed /3, which will be again mentioned below; and this he did with a public-spirited design of having it pass the press. Sir Edward's hand is seen often in the margin of the original book; and from one place it appears, that he had recourse to the book, A. D. 1644, the very year he died, and after the MS. had been recovered into the hands of the dean and chapter.

The first volume of Sir Henry Spelman's Councils came out A. D. 1639; wherein he has inserted several transcripts from this MS. but it is a question whether he ever saw the original; for hear what Mr. Johnson says, 'By this inspection (of the MS. in relation to K. Wiltred's laws) I further learned, that Sir H. Spelman did most probably never view the MS. itself. For there are some mistakes so very gross, that none used to the reading of Saxon monuments could possibly be guilty of them. The transcript from which he published them seems to have been

made by some one that was a stranger to the Saxon letters /4.'

A. D. 1640, John de Laet, a celebrated scholar of Antwerp, translated the laws of Ethelbert, Hlothere and Eadrie, into Latin. He never saw the original, but had a transcript sent him by Sir Henry Spelman; and the original Saxon, with its version, may be seen in Dr. Hickeys's Thesaurus /5.

/1 Hearne's Præfat. p. v.

/2 So I understand Mr. Hearne.

/3 However, there were many things in this transcript that had been already published, as appears from Hearne's edition of it.

/4 Johnson's Pref. to Collection of Laws, &c. p. iii.

/5 Tom. II. in the Dissent. Epist. p. 88. seq.

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Abraham Whelock, Arabic Professor and public Librarian at Cambridge, reprinted Mr. Lambarde's *Archæonomia*, A. 1644, in folio. He had the use of a copy of Mr. Lambarde's edition, amended in various places by the editor /1, and moreover made several additions to the work.

I suppose it might be about the same time that Mr. Somner collated Sir Henry Spelman's first volume of Councils, in the articles taken from the *Textus*, with the original; for that he compared the printed book therewith, we learn from Mr. Johnson /1 and bishop Kennet's Life of Mr. Somner /3. The volume so emended by him is now in the library of the church of Canterbury, and has been made use of by Dr. Wilkins.

During the time of the grand rebellion, bishop Nicolson supposes, this book was wisely committed to the care of Sir Roger Twysden, one of the learned editors of the X *Scriptores*; for in his custody, he says, he found it often referred to by Sir William Dugdale, in a work which he composed during these troubles /4.

A. D. 1655, the first volume of Sir William Dugdale's *Monasticon* came out, wherein Mr. Dodsworth and he have made good use of our MS.

A. D. 1664, the second edition of Sir H. Spelman's Glossary was published; this contained the entire work, of which the former part had been corrected and enlarged by the author; and in the new, or second part, are inserted the forms of the ordeal trials, from our MS. which were also in Sir Edward Dering's transcript, and have since appeared both in Mr. Hearne's edition of that transcript, and in Mr. Browne's *Fasciculus* to be mentioned below. It ought to be here noted, that though this second part of

/1 Hickeys's Thes. *ibid.* p. 87.

/2 Johnson's Pref. to Collection of Laws, &c. p. iii.

/3 Bishop Kennet's Life of Mr. Somner, prefixed to Somner's Roman ports and forts, p. 89.

/4 He means Sir William's *Orig. Jurid.* See Nic. Hist. Libr. p. 134.

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the Glossary did not appear till anno 1664, yet it was compiled at the time the first part was, as we are informed in the preface to the last and best edition, printed A. D. 1687.

A. D. 1666, Sir William Dugdale's *Origines Juridiciales* appeared, into which he copied from our MS. as mentioned above, the famous pleading at Pinnenden Heath, having made use of the MS. whilst it was lodged in the hand of Sir Roger Twysden.

Mr. Edward Browne, the worthy and learned rector of Sundrich in Kent, reprinted the *Fasciculus rerum expetendarum et fugiendarum*, anno 1689, in folio; and in the Appendix, or vol. II. p. 903, the *Officium Ordalii* is printed, as transcribed by him from the original MS.

A. D. 1691, Mr. Wharton published his *Anglia Sacra* in two

tomes, folio. The dean and chapter of Rochester intrusted him with their MS. to Lambeth, where Mr. Wharton then resided as chaplain to archbishop Sancroft, and from thence he has transmitted into his first volume, p. 329, seq. whatever was suitable to his present design; and this was the first publication of this part of the MS.

In the same year, came out Dr. Gale's *Hist. Brit. Sax. Anglo Daniæ Scriptores XV.* and p. 792. he has inserted from our own MS. *Genealogias per partes in Britannia regum regnari*, which he styles a rare monument, formerly transcribed by him from this very ancient book. Charles Bertram, of Copenhagen, has since reprinted these Genealogies from Dr. Gale's edition, in his *Brit. Gent. Hist. antiq. Scriptores Tres*, printed at Copenhagen, anno 1757 /2. A part of these genealogies appear also in Hearne's edition of Sir Edward Dering's Transcript, p. 60, and the whole of them in that Transcript which was made by the Elstobs. See below.

/1 See above, A. D. 1664.

/2 See the Preface prefixed there to Nennius.

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Dr. Hickeys, in the second tome of his Thesaurus published anno 1703, obliged the world with his famous *Dissertatio Epistolaris ad Bartholomæum Showere*. The doctor was a person of great accuracy, and had recourse to the original MS. not only for the pieces already mentioned, but likewise for several others, which he has given us in that excellent epistle.

In 1705, Mr. Humphrey Wanley's large Catalogue of the northern books, both printed and MS. came out, making the third volume of Dr. Hickeys's Thesaurus; and here, p. 273. seq. we have a list of all the articles contained in our MS. as mentioned above, from his own ocular inspection.

A. D. 1712. the MS. was at London, and, I imagine, for the use of Dr. Harris, who was prebendary of Rochester, and was then upon his History of Kent; for though this work did not appear till anno 1719, yet he had begun it, as he tells us, eight years before. Mr. Johnson was desirous of collating Sir H. Spelman's edition of K. Wihtred's laws, with the original, but in a complaining strain tells us; 'That noble MS. was not at home in its proper repository, during the whole time that I was composing this work /1.' The work came out A. D. 1720, being his Collection of Laws, &c. However, the MS. was now in London; for the rev. Mr. William Elstob, and his sister Mrs. Elizabeth Elstob, employed one James Smith, a boy of ten years old, to make a transcript for them, in folio, of such parts of the MS. as had not been before published /2. This transcript the brother and sister collated and examined together, and it was finished x kal. June, or 23 May, 1712, being very fairly written in three months time; and a very extraordinary performance it is for such a boy. Every page of it answers to the

/1 Mr. Johnson's general preface to his Collection of Laws, &c.

/2 There are some things nevertheless in this transcript that had been printed before, as is noted above in several places.

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pages of the original book: and as what it contains more than the Dering transcript printed by Mr. Hearne will be noted hereafter; I shall only observe here, that this transcript, on the death of Mr. Elstob, came into the hands of his uncle, Dr. Charles Elstob, prebendary of Canterbury; and when he died, it was purchased with the rest of Mr. William Elstob's Saxon transcripts by Mr. Joseph Ames, secretary to the Society of Antiquaries at

London; and I bought it at his auction, anno 1760.

But this Mr. William Elstob, and his learned sister, being persons not generally known, though both of them exceedingly eminent in their way, I shall here insert a short account of them, from the papers of the sister, . . .

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. . . may be depended upon /1.

I proceed now to speak of the remaining publications of the *Textus Roffensis*:

Dr. Harris's History of Kent was published, anno 1719, as was mentioned. He has printed several extracts from the *Textus*, as has been already noted, but always gives the Saxon in the common type; I think nothing appears here, but what had been already published, except that p. 32. he gives us the Arabick numeral characters from it, as they appear on the top of each leaf, or each other page, which he supposes to be of the same age with the book itself, which might be finished, as he conjectures, about anno 1120 /2. This I think to be a point very doubtful, since the numerals that appear in the book, where they are often applied, are always Roman, a strong presumption, that these characters on the top of the leaves have been added since. However, the Doctor has added these numeral characters to Mrs. Elstob's alphabet on the reverse of the second folio in the original, in his own hand-writing, with this note: *This shews these Arabic characters to have been used here about the year 1115, when Ernulfus was consecrated* /3.

/1 Some farther particulars both of Mrs. Elstob and her brother may be seen in the *Anecdotes of Bowyer*, pp. 11. 48. 110. 316. 498. 502. 528.

/2 See what has been said above on this subject.

/3 See what has been said upon this.

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I have heard that a bad accident happened to our MS. at this time, which endangered the entire loss of it. Being carried by water from Rochester to London, and back again, the book by some means or other fell in its return into the water, but was happily recovered, and without much damage /1; for when I saw it, about the year 1742, by the favour of the late archbishop Herring, who was then bishop of Bangor and dean of Rochester, it was in a very good condition, being a small quarto on vellum, bound in red /2. The book has been in perils both by land and water, and I presume this last escape will prove a sufficient warning to the dean and chapter, not to suffer it to go any more out of their custody.

Upon the return of the book to its abode in Rochester, the learned Mr. John Johnson /3, rector of Cranbrook, in Kent, had recourse to it; these are his words: 'Since my translation of those Laws (of Wihfred king of Kent) was printed off, I was informed that this *Textus* was restored to its place of residence, and I had the favour of perusing it; but I found no variation of moment, but what Mr. Somner had taken notice of in his written notes; yet, by inspecting the original, I was able to distinguish between Mr. Somner's conjectural emendations, and those which he made from the text itself /4.' Mr. Johnson's *Collection of Laws, &c.* came out, anno 1720, in 2 vols. 8vo.

A. D. 1720, Mr. Hearne, the famous Oxford Antiquary, published Sir Edward Dering's transcript in 8vo. by subscription, at 5s. for the small, and 10s. for the large paper. The transcript had lain in the library at Surenden-Dering, from A. D. 1632,

/1 'The MS. itself,' says Mr. Johnson, who saw it after this disaster, 'is in a very fair hand, and well preserved, save where it is *tarnished by the salt-water* it took in its late travels.' Pref. to Collection of Laws, &c. p. iv.

/2 It has been new bound since Dr. Harris used it, probably after its recovery from the deep.

/3 Of whom a particular account will be annexed to this Dissertation.

/4 Johnson's Preface to his Collection of Laws, &c. p. iii.

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and from thence the late John Anstis, Esq. Garter King at Arms, my very worthy friend, borrowed it for Mr. Hearne of the late Sir Edward Dering, a gentleman for whom I shall always profess the highest esteem. The MS. does not now appear in the library, having never been returned by these gentlemen; this, however, is not a thing of much consequence; since the first Baronet had always intended his MS. for publication, and as it is now printed, and we can perfectly rely upon the editor for the accuracy of his performance /1. Mr. Hearne had both Sir Edward Dering's leave for the publication, and that of the late Bishop Atterbury, which last was procured for him by Mr. Anstis. The editor has not printed the whole of Sir Edward Dering's transcript, for he has omitted some things, either already published, or that might be published by others, confining himself chiefly to such matters as might relate *ad rem diplomaticam* /2. Thus, for example, he has omitted the *Judicia Civitatis Lundoniæ*, because they are almost all extant in Brompton, and were intended to be inserted by Dr. Wilkins in his edition of the *Legg. Anglo-Saxon.* It is a mistake, therefore, in Bishop Tanner, to say, that the *whole Textus Roffensis* was printed by Mr. Hearne /3. There were some additions made by Sir Edward in the margin of his transcript; concerning these, the editor tells us, lest they should be thought an objection to the authority of the copy, 'Exscriptorem fuisse virum eruditissimum, ipsique nulla privati emolumenti spe fuisse decretum annotationes paullo prolixiores ac uberiores in registrum hoc scribere /4.' But we do not find that Sir Edward made any great advances in the design of a commentary; Mr. Hearne goes on, 'Adeo ut notulæ marginales

/1 The instrument which the accurate Sir William Blackstone has given us, p. iv. of his Introduction to his superb edition of Magna Charta, &c. is copied from Hearne's edition.

/2 Hearne's Præf. p. vii.

/3 Tanner's Biblioth. p. 265.

/4 Hearne's Præf. p. xiii.

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(e quarum sane numero sunt clypei cum crucibus decussatis), lineæque sub aliquibus vocibus in textu ductæ, sunt exscriptoris; quas omnes ideo adjungendas censuimus, ne eruditorum quisquam fidem nostram suspectam haberet, &c.' As to these shields *cum crucibus decussatis*, they are the arms of Sir Edward Dering, which Mr. Hearne seems not to be aware of; for the coat of this family is O. a saltire S. and the shields are always put against those places where mention is made of the name of Dering, or of persons that might probably belong to his family, and in order to insinuate the same: see pp. 184, 185. 192. 200. 218. 235.

I would further note, that the transcript, procured by the Elstobs, contains something more than this of Sir Edward. There you have the genealogies printed by Dr. Gale; the names of the popes and emperors, the bishops of Jerusalem, the bishops of Alexandria, the bishops of Antioch, the archbishops of Canterbury, the bishops of Rochester, printed by Mr. Wharton, and



the bishops of the several sees in England. That chasm in Hearne, p. 127, is supplied, as likewise are all the other chasms; a large Saxon instrument beginning *waða se biscop gaðwine*, &c. occurs also in Elstob's transcript; and the catalogue of books, which is so short in Hearne, p. 234, extends here to many pages.

My late good friend the very worthy and learned Dr. John Denne, archdeacon of Rochester, has been at the pains of collating his copy of Mr. Hearne's edition with the original MS. throughout. He has noted where every leaf of the original begins, the true readings of the MS. in several places, an omission here and there, and has transcribed the marginal additions that appear in the original by several later hands, as Mr. Lambard, Sir Edward Dering, &c. The Doctor has moreover noted with the utmost care and diligence in what other MSS. the several instruments treasured up in this chartulary are also to be found,

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as in the *Registrum Temp. Roff.* and the Cotton Library, which makes his book of greatly more value than the naked edition of Mr. Hearne. The Doctor was afterwards pleased to give me leave to transcribe into my copy all the annotations here mentioned, together with the references above, which I got done by a very careful hand, the Rev. Mr. Richard Husband, minor canon of Rochester, my respectable friend.

A. D. 1721, Dr. Wilkins's edition of the *Anglo-Saxon Laws* came out in folio. He has compared the Laws of Ethelbert, Holthere, and Eadric, with our MS. and supplied the defects and chasms in De Laet's version; what other use he has made of the original, may be seen in his Preface.

A. D. 1737. This gentleman published *Concilia Magnæ Britanniæ*, &c. in 4 volumes, folio; and in the first volume are many articles from Spelman's former edition, compared with the Textus, and chiefly as I think, by Mr. Somner, as may be collected from the Doctor's Preface, p. iii. compared with Bishop Kennet's Life of Somner, p. 89.

#### COROLLARY.

The *Textus Roffensis* is doubtless in very safe and good hands; but if, by any accident, an unexpected misfortune should now happen to it, sufficient care has been taken to perpetuate it, by the several publications above-mentioned; the transcripts /1 made by the Elstobs, and the collation made by Dr. Denne, of which last there are at present two copies. However, whereas Dr. Wilkins says, 'Maxime venerandum hoc monumentum antiquitatis in summum reipublicæ literariæ commodum typis expressum extat /2;' this is not strictly true, some parts of the MS. having not been yet *printed*; but they are nevertheless secured by the transcripts. SAMUEL PEGGE.

/1 I express it plurally, on account of Mrs. Elstob's own transcript on vellum, mentioned above.

/2 Dr. Wilkins, Præf. ad Tanner's Biblioth. p. xlv.

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Biographical Anecdotes of Mr. JOHNSON.

JOHN JOHNSON, the celebrated author of a singular doctrine concerning the Eucharist, . . .

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<Though written and read in 1767, this paper was not printed till much later. It eventually appeared, as Number XXV, in the series of occasional publications issued by John Nichols under the title 'Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica'. It is an interesting piece of work, but very inaccurate in places. The reader should be warned that Pegge's account of the history of the book, up till the 1660s (pages 4–9), is not to be relied on. – C.F. November 2011.>