



## **The Boundary Wall of the Monastery of St Alban**

***By Revd. Henry Fowler***

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This paper should be read in conjunction with Fowler's plan of the monastery boundary produced in 1876. A digital copy of the plan is available on the Society's web site and can be downloaded here:

[http://www.stalbanshistory.org/page\\_id\\_537\\_path.aspx](http://www.stalbanshistory.org/page_id_537_path.aspx)

In conducting several excavations in the area around the Abbey church in 1875 & 1876, Fowler transformed contemporary understanding of the archaeology and history of the medieval monastery. The plan, one of several, and this paper are the results.

The most recent evaluation of Fowler's work is by Dr. Isobel Thompson.<sup>1</sup> She notes that in producing this material, his aim was to describe the extent of the monastery as it existed in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. Over 135 years later this work remains fundamental to our understanding of the monastery's precincts, largely due to Fowler's archaeological skills as well as his close knowledge of the area and the documentary sources.

For further information email [library@stalbanhistory.org](mailto:library@stalbanhistory.org) or visit our web site [www.stalbanshistory.org](http://www.stalbanshistory.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Alban's Buried Towns, An Assessment of St Albans' Archaeology up to AD 1600, R. Niblett & I. Thompson, Oxbow Books (2005), pp 199 & 215-7 (*copy in SAHAAS Library*)

I.  
THE  
BOUNDARY WALL  
OF THE  
**Monastery of S. Alban,**  
PROTO-MART. BRIT.

*A PAPER READ BEFORE THE S. ALBANS ARCHITECTURAL  
AND ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY, FEB. 22nd, 1876.*

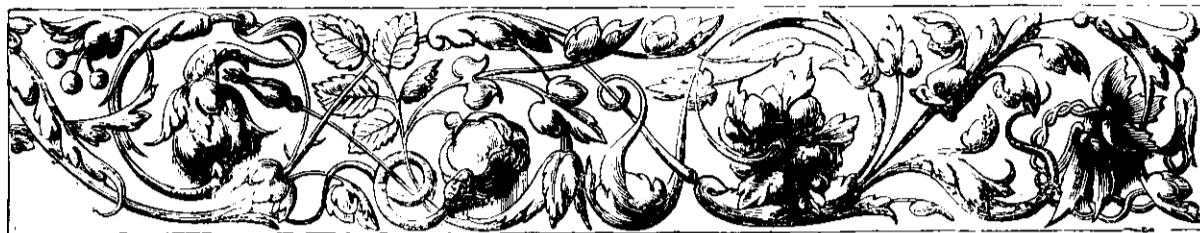
BY THE  
REV. HENRY FOWLER, M.A.,  
*Member of the Society.*

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THE  
BOUNDARY WALL OF THE MONASTERY  
OF S. ALBAN:

*A Paper read before the S. Albans Architectural and Archæological Society.*

**B**EFORE commencing my Paper I have to thank this Society, in whose proceedings I have long felt much interest, for the honour they have done me in electing me a Member. I fear I am but imperfectly qualified to be a reader on an Archæological subject, my regular duties do not leave me sufficient time for mastering these matters; still, as I have been requested to say something, I have much pleasure in contributing, in a humble way, to the common stock of information respecting our local antiquities. My fear is that my own interest in the subject may lead me to overtax your patience. I must first ask leave to amend the title of my Paper, and make it "The Boundary Wall of the Monastery, and its Adjuncts, in the time of Abbot Thomas de la Mare."

Not a particle of this wall is now to be seen, yet I suppose few persons will doubt that such a thing once existed. A monastery, like a college, would require such a protection. We know that most of our colleges are surrounded with high walls, which enclose the gardens and grounds as well as the other accessories of the buildings; and these walls are furnished with gates, kept by porters, and thus control is exercised over the ingress and egress. So it was with the monasteries. We find strong gates fortified by towers, and the *garcio portæ*,\* or porter, is often mentioned.

I need not stop to dwell on the obvious purposes of the enclosing wall, they would be analogous to those of a college wall, with the addition of that of furnishing a means of defence in disturbed times. I suppose in Saxon days no wall would have been much protection against the raids of the Danes, but during the Wars of the Barons this must have sometimes proved a serviceable defence. When the French came to S. Albans (to which

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\* Seven gatekeepers or doorkeepers are mentioned in a list of the servants of the Monastery, in the time of Abbot John de Maryns.—*Vide* Appendix (A).

A.D. 1216. circumstance, perhaps, we owe the name of the street called "French Row"), Abbot  
 Matt. Paris. William Trumpington very wisely did not trust much to his wall, and he succeeded in  
*Hist. Maj.*, p. 290: pacifying Prince Louis for the nonce with a douceur of eighty marks of silver.  
 Wats ed.  
*Gest. Abb.* I. 259.

Later on, however, we find Abbot Hugh de Eversden making effectual use of his line  
 of defence, with the aid of two hundred of the king's archers, against a very vigorous  
*Gest. Abb.* II. 161. assault, in the time of the hand-mill disturbances, when Holywell Gate was besieged and  
 battered for five days successively.

I will just observe here, that the gates will furnish convenient points by which to  
 mark out the wall. Six of these are distinctly mentioned, besides the Great Gate still existing.

I must now leave general remarks, and call your attention to some passages in the  
 Latin Chronicles [now edited in the "Rolls Series" by H. T. Riley, Esq.], with special  
*Gest. Abb.* III, reference to the time of Abbot Thomas de la Mare. In the third volume of the *Gesta*  
 p. 122. *Abbatum* we have the very words of a licence granted by King Edward III. to the Abbot  
 and Convent, authorizing them to fortify the Monastery with a wall of stone and cement  
 [*de petra et calce*], and to crenellate the same; dated at Woodstock, the 31st year of his  
 A.D. 1357. reign.\* It is not stated that Abbot Thomas did build the wall; but, as the obtaining the  
 licence is reckoned among his benefactions to the Abbey, I suppose we may conclude that he  
 acted upon it; and that it was this new, or renewed, wall with its battlements, which was  
*Gest. Abb.* III. assailed about twenty years after in the stormy times of Wat Tyler's insurrection.  
 287. A.D. 1380, 1

It is probably to about the same period that a document relating to another wall, built  
 by Abbot Thomas, is to be assigned; and as this contains some curious particulars, which  
 admit of some illustration with reference to the present state of the ground, I will occupy a  
 short time here with considering it. I will just read an extract from my translation of the  
 passage, and then give a short summary of the contents, as I understand them, making  
 reference to a plan of the ground. The document says:—"In former times the Abbey was  
*Gest. Abb.* III. bounded on the sides towards the town by a continuous stone wall extending from the west  
 185. door of the church all round as far as to Haliwell gate, which is near the bridge. But, in the  
 course of time, some tenants, who held of the officials of the Monastery certain plots of  
 ground in front of the wall, built their tenements up to the wall, and, in some places, even  
 upon the wall. They were not, however, permitted to pierce the wall, or make any windows  
 on the side towards the Abbey, until the old officials, who were well acquainted with these  
 matters, having died off, others came into office who were not aware of the danger which  
 might arise in this quarter. Wherefore, seeing that the care for the preservation of the wall  
 and collecting the rents, exercised by the old officials, was relaxed, and no surveyor came  
 to inspect the state of things, as had been the wont, the tenants began to perforate the  
 wall, and to make windows in their houses opening towards the church; and some persons  
 even presumed to commit a trespass in the Sacrist's garden, contrary to the rules of  
 honesty. Moreover some persons, still more unprincipled, had the assurance to sell as  
 freehold some of the plots which they held of the Convent as annual tenants; and thus  
 great damage accrued to the Monastery. The Abbot therefore, desiring to remedy so  
 great a mischief, with the consent of his Council, and the assistance of his Seneschal,  
 John de Middleton, and Master Henry Yevelee, of London, his stonemason, caused the  
 aforesaid pieces of land to be measured in circuit; and allowing to the same tenants a

*Lib. Benefact.*  
*Nero D. VII.*,  
 Cott. Lib., Brit.  
 Mus.

\* For document *vide* Appendix (B).

certain space for curtilages, which he also had measured, he finally caused a mud wall (*murum terreum*) to be built between them and the Sacrist, for the purpose of completely excluding these tenants; which mud wall was to be inspected every year by the Sacrist, to see that no one carried his buildings close to the wall, as aforetime, to the detriment of the church.

“MEASUREMENT OF THE LAND ADJACENT TO THE WALL, FORMERLY CALLED THE WALL OF THE CEMETERY, AND LE VINEYERD.

“It is to be noted that Thomas, Abbot of the Monastery of S. Alban, built a certain wall of earth for enclosing a certain place, called Le Vineyard, at S. Albans, adjoining the Monastery. Commencing at the south from a certain ancient earth wall, called Syentries Walle, and extending to a certain plot which John Couper occupies towards the east, it extends thence from the said tenement westwards as far as the road which leads from the Monastery towards Le Wexurs-gate. Outside which wall is a portion of the land of the said Monastery, lying within the ancient stone wall, with which the above-named area of the Vineyard was lately enclosed, which ancient stone wall is in many places demolished.

“A certain plot of land, which contains, including the width of the aforesaid ancient stone wall on the south, viz., at the end, between the tenement lately belonging to John Swanbourne and the aforesaid new wall, at the bottom, 18 feet. And it is to be noted that John Swanbourne has built a certain *jete* on the land of the aforesaid Abbot. Moreover in the place where the aforesaid wall is situated (the ground occupied by the *jete*) contains in length 12 feet, in the middle  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and at the north end 1 foot, *et cætera*; for which land he has not satisfied the lord abbot.”\*

\* \* \* \* \*

It appears, then, that this new mud wall was to enclose two distinct plots of ground—the Vineyard and the Sacrist’s premises; and the latter portion towards the west end, as we shall see presently, would include a cemetery. I will now refer to the plan, and I must first explain that this has been made from measurements carefully verified, with the assistance in some parts of two authentic maps—that of the Parish of S. Alban, dated 1818, which has been kindly lent me by our rector, Mr. Lawrance, and the Borough Map, which I was allowed to examine by the courtesy of the ex-Mayor; from the latter the houses in George Street are given. The idea of making the plan originated in conversations with Mr. Ridgway Lloyd, who, I need not say, is very fully conversant with our Monastic subject.

The “Vineyard” or “Vintry” is identified by some existing title deeds with this beautiful garden, which will long be associated in the minds of many with the memory of Mr. Blagg. The monastic vineyard, however, extended much further to the north than the garden.

*Lib. Benefact.,*  
fol. 45.

The Sacrist’s house † is known to be on the north side of the north transept of

\* For the remainder of the document, see Appendix (C).

† “For the making of two windows in the church—one on the north side next the Sacristy (*borealem in partem juxta Sacristariam*).—*Vide* Lib. Benef., Nero D. VII., Cotton Lib. British Museum.

the church, and we now see some of the foundations which have been laid open by Mr. Chapple. This garden would occupy the site of some of the modern gardens here.

The word "syentric"\* is probably another form of "scentorie," or "centrie," which is a corruption of "cemetery," as we learn from the "Rites of Durham." So the "syentrics walle" would be the cemetery wall. The words of the document appear to mean that the "vineyard" was once called "the cemetery." Perhaps it was a cemetery in Saxon times, and was afterwards converted into a vineyard by the Normans.

*Amundesham  
Ann. I., Appendix  
D., p. 445.*

The site of the monks' cemetery of later times is ascertained to be at the south and east of the Lady Chapel by the discovery of stone coffins; and this vestry or chapel of the Transfiguration is stated to be built in the cemetery.

We have no guide as to its limit on the north, except it be the line of the present wall adjoining a buttress of the Lady Chapel. This marks a difference of levels, which would seem to indicate an old boundary. Alterations in the ground, however, were made here, I believe about half a century ago. Not many years since, it appears, there was a transverse wall here, which separated the plot called the "Sumpter Yard" from the ground next the church.† "Le Sumpter Yard" is mentioned in the charter of King Edward VI., as given to the Corporation, and its site is preserved by tradition. I suppose it was a stable-yard, attached to the guesten house for white monks, which was situated somewhere near.‡

*Gest. Abb. II.  
128.*

I conjecture that the "syentrics" or "centrics" wall, which must have been a transverse wall with respect to the new mud wall, was on this line, as marked in the plan. In the map of 1818 the sumpter yard is shewn as open on this side towards the vineyard, and so it is in Chauncy's map.

The ancient stone wall mentioned in the document was, I suppose, situated on a bank or terrace, which extends behind the houses on Holywell Hill; there is an ascent of several steps to this from the yards of the houses, but I cannot hear of any foundations of such a wall being discovered on this terrace.

I will now give a summary of the measurements of the mud wall, from south to north, running nearly parallel to the old wall, which was broken down in many places. At the south end John Swanbourne's house, with its latrine, built against the old wall, faced the new wall for the length of 18 feet, and the distance between this house and the mud wall was 18 feet. I suppose this house may have extended down to the Rectory Lane, and have stood on the site of the yards of the house now called "Ruth's Charity."

Then Thomas Carter's house faced the new wall for 41 feet, and it was built overhanging the old wall about a foot. Next, the back of William Nunny's house extended for 14 feet. Then the tenement belonging to the "Nuns of the Cell" faced the new wall 17 feet. No other tenement is mentioned between this and the house of John Couper at the north-east corner. The whole length of this portion of the wall was 15 perches 13 feet (260½ feet); the perch it is said contained 16½ feet.

\* "At the east end of the said Chapter Howse there is a garth, called the Centrie Garth, where all the Priors and Monnkes was buryed."—"Rites of Durham," Surtees Socy. Ed., page 51.

† *Ac omnes capellas, revenestria et le sumpter yard ibidem.*—*Vide* Clutterbuck's Herts, Vol. I. Appendix, p. 29.

‡ One side of this "hostry" was contiguous to the cloister towards the sartory or tailory, which cloister I suppose must have been in the infirmary court.—*Vide Gest. Abb. III 416.*

The distance between the new wall and the old at the north-east corner is given as 9 feet. The space between the walls was to be a margin of neutral ground. The measurements are now given from the north-east corner to the "Waxhouse Gate." Mr. Lloyd first called my attention to the fact that this gate is said to be opposite the Great Cross,\* and so must have stood on the site of the houses (or a portion of them), which enclose the entrance to the "School Lane," or Abbey Passage. This Gatehouse was rebuilt by Abbot Whethamstede, and is represented in Chauncy's picture-map as a battlemented tower, apparently an octagon.† We learn from Dr. Stukely that it was pulled down in 1722, soon after he had taken a sketch of it. Probably here the wax tapers were made for use in the Church.

The wall is said to extend from the tenement of John Couper as far as the road which leads from the Monastery to the "Wexurgate." This road would probably be the present lane. The east wall of it would terminate somewhere against the church, so as to bound the vineyard on this side; and the other wall, I suppose, would join some of the buildings of the Sacrist's chequer.

*Gest. Abb. III.*  
277.

One morning, in the year 1369, several thousand people were assembled to witness a remarkable funeral procession, which was marshalled in this lane, and seen advancing from the church up to the Waxhouse Gate. It was the funeral of a princess of the blood royal, Blanche, Duchess of Lancaster, the first wife of John of Gaunt. The obsequies had been celebrated on the previous evening in the church, where the body rested on its way from the north to London. John de Buckingham, Bishop of Lincoln, celebrated mass. The Bishop of Cloyne preached the funeral sermon, and, the next morning, the Abbot, with the whole convent habited in frocks, escorted the bier up this road, probably issuing from the church by a door in the north aisle of the presbytery.

The length of the north wall from east to west is given as 10 perches 4 feet (169 feet). The situation of the old wall is not mentioned; but the distance from the back of the tenements to the new wall is on the average 45 feet. The names of the occupiers are John Sandrugge, Robert Cook, John Madbrock, John Barbour, John Drye, John Bower, Richard Bower, and Richard Chapman.

At the tenement of John Drye the wall was strengthened with one "botras" of stone (7 feet thick, and 8 feet wide) on each side of the wall. In a garden corresponding to this site in High Street (formerly called "The Vintry") there are some large squared stones of a very old appearance, which may have belonged to this buttress. As the measurements are not given from the street the position of the wall cannot be determined with certainty; but by placing it as it is on the Plan the measurements are made to correspond exactly with those of the document. The line of the wall, where it joins the wall of the road to the Waxhouse Gate, would coincide with a very old-looking wall in a cellar of a house in the School lane, about 85 feet from the street.

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\* "In renovatione Portæ Lapideæ positæ ex opposito contra Magnam Crucem."—See Appendix (F): *Amundesh. Ann. II.* 199.

† *Vide* "Extracts from the History of the Abbey of S. Albans," p. 47, by the Rev. H. J. B. Nicholson, D.D., late Rector of the Abbey.



The foundations of an old gateway have been found in the stable yard here (marked on the Plan), which would probably be the entrance to the vineyard.

Newcome, *Hist.*  
*of S. Albans*  
*Abbey*, p. 257.

Newcome gives a much more euphonious name to this "syentries walle." He says:—"This mud wall began from a stone wall, near Wernes Gate, called 'Plum-tree Wall.'"\* He does not give an authority for "Wernes Gate." If it is a monastic name, I suppose it might designate an entrance to the Sumpter Yard, at the end of the Rectory lane.†

Now to proceed more rapidly to trace the line of the wall westward from the Waxhouse Gate to Romeland (which we ought to call Roomland), and thence to the Church.

Twenty-one tenements are enumerated as facing the wall, besides several vacant spaces and gardens. Most of the houses are very narrow—as some of the tenements in George Street are now—and some of them are said to be built on the old stone wall, and with an upper story overhanging it a foot and a-half. I will give one specimen of these curious pieces of mensuration:—"Note, that the distance between the tenement of the said John de Birstone, which John Smyth of the Abbey occupies, and which adjoins the above mentioned other tenement of the said John de Birstone—the distance between this and the said new wall—is 2 perches  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet; and the stone wall there is 2 feet in thickness."

The width of the three tenements belonging to this John de Birstone is not given.

*Nero D. VII.*,  
fol. 101.

I have here a rough copy of an illumination from the "Liber Benefactorum" in the British Museum, representing a house in Dagnal Lane of about this period. It is entitled, "The well-built manse of William Langeleye in Daganale Strate," and the rent was sixty shillings a year. It may perhaps serve as a specimen of the timber and plaster houses which rested against the stone wall of the Monastery.

The length of the mud wall here from east to west is given as 30 perches (495 feet). And if we take as a guide a modern wall which bounds a garden here, and marks a great difference of levels, and continue the line east and west, making it terminate on the Abbey bank at Romeland, about 50 feet from the corner, we obtain a line just this length; and it also terminates at the wall of the road leading to the Waxhouse Gate, just opposite to the line of the wall of the Vineyard.

Then the document says, that the length of a certain vacant space extending straight along the wall towards Roomlande is 7 perches 7 feet ( $115\frac{1}{2}$  feet), and this measurement, taken from the west end of the line I have just mentioned, brings us to the gate of the modern churchyard. Here some Monastic building once stood. I am indebted for this information to Mr. Chapple, who has found, I believe, some very massive foundations

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\* Perhaps, however, Newcome intended by "Plum-tree Wall" the west wall of the lane to the Waxhouse Gate, and (as has been suggested to me) his "Wernes Gate" is a misreading of "Wexurs Gate."

† I am informed that less than a century ago the Rectory lane was entered from the street by an arched passage, beneath a house, which extended over the front court of the Rectory.

here. Perhaps this edifice was the "Polyandrium"\* or charnel-house built by Abbot William Trumpington for receiving the remains of those who died during the interdict in the time of King John.

*Gest. Abbat. III.*  
418.

*Gest. III.* 384.  
*Gest. I.* 281.  
*Amundesh., Ann.*  
*I.* 440.  
*Gest. Abb. II.*  
363.  
*Rites of Durham,*  
Surtees So. ed.,  
p. 81.

I suppose the mud wall would terminate here, and the boundary would be completed to S. Andrew's chapel by a stone wall, with a gate in it, giving admission to the cemetery. This western portion of the enclosure was certainly a cemetery, which originally extended to the old stone wall on the north. A passage in the *Gesta Abbatum* tells us that most of the tenements in "Chirche Strate" (now George Street) and "Halywelle Strate" (Holywell Hill) were built against the "wall of the cemetery." And I am informed that unmistakeable evidences of ancient burials still continue to be found here within 30 feet of the street. The western boundary of the cemetery cannot be given with certainty, but perhaps it was the line of this garden wall. All the eastern portion belonged to the Sacrist. He was an important officer of the Church, and seems to have had the charge of the repairs, and to have superintended the building works generally—at least, until the time of Abbot Whethamstede. There was a bellfoundry in his premises—perhaps a plumbarium, or cistern for melting lead—and other workshops. In the "Rites of Durham" he is called the sexten or sagersten, and it is said, "his office was to se that there should nothing be lackinge within the Churche, as to provyde bread and wyne for the Church, and to provide for wax and lyght in wynter. He had alwaies one tonn of wyne lyinge in the said checker for the use of the sayd Church. . . . Also his office was to se all the glass wyndowes repayred and mendid, and the plumbers wourke of the Churche, with mending of bells and belstrings (and leathering); and all other workes that was necessary to be occupied, both within the Church and without the Church; and to see the Church to be clenely keapte."

At Durham he slept in the Great Dormitory: not so, however, as it appears, at S. Albans. †

I will only stay to notice one other matter on this side the Monastery. In the tenement of Roger Miles (about 80 feet from the Waxhouse Gate)—I suppose in the space between the two walls—the "fons" or well is said to be situated.

*Gest. Abb. III.*  
443.

This is the only notice of a well I have met with in the Chronicles.‡ The rain-water tanks of Abbot John Moot on the other side of the church were for flushing the drains, and not for drinking purposes. It would be interesting to discover how the water supply for the Monastery was managed. There are several old wells remaining in the Abbey precincts. The measurements do not appear to admit of the "fons" of this document being identified with a very old well, now covered in, but marked in the Parish map, and which would fall within the mud wall. This latter may have been the Sacrist's well, as it lies just above his house. The "fons" probably supplied the houses in "Chirche Strate."

\* Thomas, Bishop of Durham, dedicated this charnel-house, "Polyandrium Conventuale, in quo sepulta fuerunt corpora fidelium in Interdicto."—*Gest. Abb. I.* 269.

† This may be inferred from the rule that the hebdomadarius or officer appointed to celebrate High Mass for the week must during that time lie in the Dormitory, even though he should be the Sacrist (*etsi fuerit Sacrista*).—*Vide* Constitutions of Abb. Thos. de la Mare, *Gest. Abb. II.* 430.

‡ In the survey of the Monastic buildings, made in the second year of Edward VI., "the well house, a sesterne of leade, with a pype to the same," is mentioned, apparently in connection with the lavatories of the great Cloister.

*Gest. Abb. III.*  
418.

I will now conclude this portion of my task with a passage of the *Gesta* which contains a rather remarkable statement. I have already quoted the first part of it referring to the old stone wall. It occurs in the enumeration of the faults of Abbot Thomas, following his laudation, written of course after his death :—

“The wall also of the cemetery of the Monastery was destroyed, upon which wall most of the tenements in Chirche Strate and Halywelle Strate are built, and which had been a safe and unfailing boundary between the town and the Monastery—this wall was demolished for the sake of the stone, which was used for other purposes. Also the other walls of earth or mud, lately constructed, were totally destroyed (*totaliter sunt destructi*) in his time, and by the connivance (*sufferentia*) or neglect of his officials.”

No wonder then we are unable to find traces of this wall now.

A.D. 1453.  
*Registrum I. 95.*

*Regist. I. 99.*

We must now proceed on our perambulation down Holywell Hill; and the name of John Swanbourne, whose house we noticed just now at the corner of the vineyard, may serve to introduce us to the site of the wall here. We read in the *Registrum* of Abbot John Whethamstede that a descendant of a certain John Swanbourne (probably this same person), who possessed houses and lands in S. Albans, died a minor, intestate, and leaving no heirs, and, in consequence, Abbot John Stoke claimed the estate as lord of the Fee. A connexion however of the daughter of John Swanbourne turned up, who came down from Essex, and installed himself in possession. Abbot Stoke could not persuade him to quit, and the matter remained in abeyance. But, when Abbot Whethamstede returned to office, he took measures to enforce his rights; and at last a compromise was arranged, by which Thomas Barington, the claimant, was to give up possession for an annuity of 60 shillings and a gown. The only thing which concerns us in the matter is that this property included eleven houses on the west side of Holywell Street, which are all described as extending from the street to the wall of the Convent garden. Four of these houses are said to be bounded on the north by the tenement of the wardens of the chapel of All Souls, established in the town. The houses were divided into several groups interposed between other tenements; so probably some would be near the upper part of the street towards the Rectory lane, and others at the lower end. The inference seems to be that there were gardens extending down the whole of this side of the Monastery, enclosed by Abbot Thomas's crenellated wall.

*Gest. Abb. III.*  
444.

The term “*gardinum*” probably includes orchards. We read of the Prior's garden and orchard, with its dovecot, which must have been near the Prior's manse\* here, and bordering to the north on the Monks' Cemetery.

*Gest. Abb. III.*  
443.

*Gest. III. 462.*

I do not know whether the Archdeacon† and Chamberlain, who were located in the Infirmary Court, had their separate gardens. But it seems probable that the Abbot would have grounds attached to his painted chamber (*Pictoria*), situated between the Infirmary and the Great Orchard, to which he retired, perhaps, when indisposed. We read in the survey of the Monastic Buildings,‡ taken in the second year of King Edward VI, of the “*Laundry*

\* The site of the Prior's manse is identified with that of the present “*Orchard House*” by documents in possession of the Rector of S. Albans. The survey of the 2nd of Edward VI. speaks of “*The Pryor's lodgyng, with all the edifyces belongyng thereunto, and the walls aboutt the Pryor's orcharde.*”

† The Archdeacon was subsequently removed to the Great Orchard.

‡ *Surveys of the Site of the Abbey of S. Albans, 2nd Edward VI, Feb. 1*; by Robert Chester and Frances Southwell. Edited and annotated by the Rev. Mackenzie E. C. Walcott, B.D., F.S.A., Precentor and Prebendary of Chichester.

*Amundesh. I.* 279. Garden," with its "mudde wall," and of the "New Ordynance Orcharde," attached to the Office of the Master of the Works, established by Abbot Whethamstede, with its "middle wall," and a "mudde wall" on the south side.

*Gest. Abb. II.* 413. The garden called "Parvum Gardinum," which supplied vegetables for the Convent kitchen, and was assigned to the Kitchener by Abbot Thomas, would probably be in "Kitchener's Mead," a meadow on the west side of the Abbey Mill Lane, close to the river. This was protected by a mud wall, well tiled (built by our Abbot's Prior, John Moot), and by a pond called "Priours Ponde." There is a pond in this meadow now.

*Gest. Abb. III.* 415.

The site of the Magnum Gardinum, or Great Garden of the Monastery, is a problem somewhat difficult to solve; but I should place it in the field called "Pond Wicks," near the river.\* Through this field, according to Stukeley's rough plan, the sewage of the Convent would appear to have been carried into the river; and perhaps it was partially utilized in the garden. It seems to be implied in a passage in Abbot Richard Wallingford's Constitutions that the Great Garden was outside the Convent Wall. It is said that when the monks were letting blood in Lent they were forbidden to go before dinner outside the gates (*extra portas*), except to S. Germanus and the garden; the garden intended would probably be the Great Garden, which was for the common benefit of the monks. I suppose, therefore, that this garden was "extra Portas." Then it is described as close to "Aumencresmor," or Almoner's Swamp, which there are reasons for supposing to be the meadow† in which were the fish ponds of Holywell House, and Pond Wicks Field would suit this description. Now if this was outside the wall, we must look for the south corner of the wall somewhere here (*see* Plan). Holywell Gate, we have seen, was very near the bridge (*juxta pontem*). I suppose it may have stood at the end of the Grove Walk;‡ no trace of it is visible now; and then the south wall may have run parallel with this walk.

*Gest. II.* 205.

*Gest. II.* 413.

*Vide Appendix.*

We have now to draw the line of the wall from "Haliwellegate" to the entrance of the Sumpter Yard. There is a steep bank extending behind Ivy House and the other houses (*see* plan) as far as the modern lane leading to the Abbey Orchard. This seems to mark the site, and if a line be drawn in continuation, parallel to the street, up to the bank on which the Rectory stands, I suppose this would be very near the line of Abbot Thomas's crenellated wall.

Now to return for a moment to the Great Garden. I suppose it was mainly a pleasure ground for the monks to take exercise in, but, strange to say, Abbot Thomas had it converted into a pasture ground|| for the neats which the Sub-Cellarer had under his charge, to supply the Convent larder, the fruit trees being reserved for the Sub-Almoner. Before this the Almoner was master of the garden, and we find that the "Almoner's Gate" opened into this garden. The *Liber Benefactorum* says, "Abbot Thomas, with the aid of William Wyntershulle, the Almoner, constructed the gate with its chambers, which is called the

*Gest. Abb. II.* 412.

*Lib. Benef.*  
fol. 24.

\* See Appendix (D).

\* I have since discovered that there are better reasons for placing Aumencresmor in the swampy ground at the bottom of Pond Wicks.—*Vide* Appendix (D).

† Some excavations made in Pond Wicks since the above was written have shewn that this opinion was incorrect.—*Vide* Appendix (D).

|| *Vide* Appendix (D). The apple-house (*domus pomorum*) with, perhaps, a cider-press, was in this garden which apple-house the Sub-almoner in Abbot Thomas's time surrounded with ditch.—*Gest. II.*, 414.

Almoner's Gate, and turns its back to the Great Garden" (*Quæ respicit Magnum Gardinum*). This seems to be the only clue we have to the position of this gate.

*Lib. Benef.*,  
fol. 23.

We must now pass over to the Abbey Mills; and here I am indebted for some interesting information to the kindness of Mr. Woollam. It would appear that the modern water-mills stand in the same position as the ancient mills, which are described as being within the Abbey (*infra Abbathiam*\*).

*Gest. I.* 328.

The Convent Brasery or brew-house, which was rebuilt by our Abbot, is said to be close to the Mill (*juxta molendinum*). The foundations of it have been found in altering the modern buildings. It is also mentioned as situated here in a Terrier still preserved. (See Appendix.)

In the Survey of Edward VI. we read of a "Barne and a Brew-House adjoynyng to the same situate betwene the Barne reservyd for the King's Majesty's stable and the Ryver."

This Brasery must have stood between the Mill stream and Flood-gate stream (*Mullestrem et Flotegatestrem*).

*Gest. Abb. II.*  
161.

Now, to solve the problem of the situation of Derne Gate and the wall adjoining it, we must refer to a certain pond called "Kitchener's Pond."

*Gest. II.* 310.

Abbot Michael, we are told, assigned to the Kitchener a certain pond† lying to the east of the foss of the Convent Brasery, extending as far as to Derne Gate.

This "foss," I take it, must be the mill-stream, and the pond would be in this lower meadow (labelled in Chauncy's map Fishpool Mead), probably close to the river (as has been suggested to me by Mr. Woollam). No such pond exists now. The Kitchener (or clerk of the kitchen) was to have this (fish) pond on the condition of keeping in repair "the wall from Derne Gate to the end of the said wall,"‡ which wall was "over against the said pond." This description is by no means clear; but I venture to suggest that the wall was on the line of the old hedge here, which has disappeared, but is still marked by a line of trees, as has been pointed out to me. If this was the wall, I suppose Derne Gate may have stood here on the old road, which I shall speak of presently. It would give access to the Great Orchard, "Magnum Pomarium," often spoken of.

*Gest. III.* 441

We read that Abbot John Moot built a mud wall from the hay-house to the gate of the Great Orchard. I should suppose that this was the northern boundary of the orchard, situated, perhaps, on the line of this hedge, for the hay-house would probably be near the stables. Abbot Whethamstede built a stone wall on the east of it; this might be where the old path used to pass up towards the Church, and the wall would separate the Great Orchard

*Amundesh. II.*  
274.

\* The word "infra" appears to be used in these documents in the sense of "intra"—as in the expression, "Infra septa Monasterii et extra." Within the bounds of the Monastery and without.

† This is probably the pond (*stagnum*), which was paved at the bottom by Abbot John de Hertford.—*Gest. I.* 328.

‡ It seems not improbable that "the end of the said wall" may denote the point where it joined Almoner's Gate.

from the "New Ordynance Orcharde" of the same Abbot, and perhaps the Laundry Garden mentioned in the Survey of Edward VI.\* Probably a road leading from Holywell Gate and the Great Garden would exist here in monastic times.

To return to Derne Gate—The road on which I suppose it to have stood seems to have passed over the river by a bridge just at the junction of the Mill stream and Floodgate stream; for it has been pointed out to me that the foundations of the pier of such a bridge exist still in the river at this point. Mr. Woollam has discovered an old road extending from this point to another bridge over a stream in the meadow here, and it is traceable hence as it bends to the left to join the old back lane. This latter † is probably the "Fulling-mill Lane, which led from the Fulling-mill here to a Fulling-mill near Sopwell. The other Abbey mill was, of course, a flour-mill. Perhaps over these bridges the building materials were conveyed from the ruins of the Roman city. It may have been a more convenient road than the ancient Causeway, after that was breached to drain the Fishpool.

Our next point is S. German's Gate.

*Gest.* I. 153. Mr. R. Lloyd first drew my attention to the statement that the bodies of the Monks who died at Redbourn were brought to S. German's Gate on their way to interment in the Monastery Cemetery. It would seem likely that this gate would be at the corner of the Monastery nearest to S. German's Meadow. I conjecture it may have stood where an old ale-house, called "The Round House," now is.

The cellars of this curious place appear to have an opening into a subterranean passage.‡

*Gest.* I. 328. If the Monks' funerals were brought along by the river, or by one of the roadways mentioned as existing in S. German's Meadow—(the body appears to have been conveyed in a cart [*carecta*], drawn by horses)—this would be a convenient point for entering the Monastery, and they would be carried up the Great Orchard to the stone in the Infirmary previously to interment. The bank on which this gate-house would stand is a portion of the dam of the later Fish Pool.

*Lib. Benefact.*, fol. 24. We must now proceed up the old road, called the Abbey Mill Lane, which would be outside the wall here, till we arrive at the "Water Gate" (*Aquæ Porta*), which was rebuilt from its foundations by Abbot Thomas.

I need not say that it is not visible now; but if we could have walked up this lane in the year 1721 we should have seen a battlemented tower of three stories, something resembling the clock-tower in the town.

It is described in the "Survey" mentioned before as "a squar Gate-House, called

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\* "A middle Wall belongyng to the New Ordynance Orcharde—tymber and tyles, 20s. A mudde wall on the south parte of the New Ordynance Orcharde—tymber, 13s. 4d. The mudde wall abought the Laundry Garden, with a lytel Howse adjoynyng to the same—26s. 8d."—Survey 2nd of Edward VI.

† "Ab Antiquo Fullyngmulle quondam sub Eywode, usque ad aliud Fullyngmulle sub Abbathia."—*Gest. Abb.* III. 319.

‡ There was probably a cock-pit here after the Monastic times, as the sign of "The Fighting Cocks" seems to indicate.

Hames Gate, wherein Mr. Parker, one of the quyres lyeth." I have been told there are some old prints of it existing, but I have not seen one. In the King's Library, however, at the British Museum there is an original sketch of the Abbey by Lievens, a disciple of Rembrandt, which shows this gate-house distinctly; also a portion of the stables, and some other Monastic buildings, in which probably in the time of Edward VI. certain "ryders of the King's horse" were located. Lieven's sketch, I suppose, was taken in the latter part of the seventeenth century. I here exhibit a pen-and-ink copy of it, and must apologize for its tameness.

Dr. Stukely tells us the tower was pulled down in 1722. Before the draining of the Fishpool this gate-house would have been rather nearer the water than subsequently. Perhaps, however, it derived its name from being placed near the well which supplied the stables. There is a very old well\* on the west side of the Abbey Court still, but covered in. This gate would be the south entrance to the menial quarter of the Monastery, with its stables, hay-house, granaries, servants' lodgings, and so forth.† There was a thoroughfare right through to the Great Gate, as at present. The "good Duke Humphrey" is said on one occasion to have ridden by this road through the midst of the Abbey Court on his way to King's Langley Palace. I was informed that the traditional site of the gate was a little above the point where the roads divide, and I have so placed it in the Plan. There is a steep declivity, with a clump of trees, on the east side of it. Just above this a line indicating foundations is given in the Map of 1818. I suppose the wall joining this gate-house with S. German's Gate would pass along the edge of the upper road to the Mill. The level of this is considerably above that of the outer road.

*Annandesh. 1. 8.*  
A.D. 1425.

We have now to connect the Watergate with the north-west corner of the Great Court of the Monastery. Here we may avail ourselves of the assistance of that very curious picture-map hanging in the Council-chamber below, which I have been permitted to examine. It appears to be a copy, made by John Boys, of an original map by Benjamin Hare, dated 1634. It represents the Great Gate as standing nearly in the middle of the north side of the Court; a continuous line of buildings forming the west side, a similar line on the east side, and a gate tower, and wall, and gabled buildings on the south side. This gate-tower seems to be placed much higher up the lane than I have represented it; but as the drawing is very rough, and evidently inexact in various particulars it may possibly be inaccurate in this respect also. The long range of buildings on the west must represent the stables, for we learn from the Survey of 2nd Edward VI.‡ that "on the west side of the seid courte (the Abbey Court) bene the King's Stables."§ In the map of 1818 is marked a row of cottages which, I am informed, were formerly known by the name of "The King's Stables." The document says:—"At the ende of whiche stables ys the purveyors lodgying called the

\* Since writing the above I have been informed by the possessor of the ground here that the well referred to is described in title deeds as "The King's Well," and that it exists beneath the drawing-room of the modern house here.

† *Vide* Appendix (A).

‡ I am indebted to Mr. R. Lloyd for drawing my attention to this valuable document.

§ This Survey appears to comprise all the Conventual edifices, with some minor exceptions, and therefore proves that these existed in Edward VI.'s reign (as has been pointed out by Mr. Mackenzie Walcott), and that they were not demolished by Sir Richard Lee. Sir Francis Bryan is said to be "Keper of the Seite of the seid Monastery."

Almery"—(*i.e.*, Almonry). We must therefore place the Almonry somewhere at the north-west side of the Court, and the Seneschal's House is close to it, for it is said to be between the Almoner's House and the Stable Gate.\* There seems to be nothing now to guide us as to the western limit of these buildings except the modern boundary of property here. If we take the western wall of the garden attached to the Grammar School as the limit, we get a line on the north side of the Court, with the Great Gate nearly in the middle, as represented in Benjamin Hare's map.

*Gest.* III. 441.

*Lib. Benefact.*,  
fol. 22.

Fol. 18.

*Gest. Abb.* I. 314.

The Great Court† is said to contain an acre and a-half, so the buildings enclosing it must be arranged in such a way as to include this area. On the west side we have the line of the Stables, defined by the situation of the Cottages, and extending northwards nearly to the Seneschal's House, leaving room for the Stable Gate. On the north the range of edifices adjoining the Great Gate. On the east we find a line of wall existing in 1810,‡ as shewn in Carter's "Delineations of the Abbey" (this probably belonged to Abbot de la Mare's guesten house for noble visitors), extending southward from the Church about 160 feet; and, on the south side, opposite the Great Gate, we learn from the Book of Benefactors, that Abbot John de Hertford erected a very long and beautiful range of building for the upper servants or yeomen of the Monastery.¶ I have therefore ventured to mark on the plan the site of such a building,§ so placed as to enclose with the other lines about an acre and a-half, and in this way I suppose we obtain an approximation to the true plan of the "Magna Curia."

*Gest.* I. 179.

*Matt. Paris.*  
*Hist. Major*, p.  
856. Wats. ed.

The Stable erected by Abbot Robert de Gorham is called the "Long Stable"¶ (*Longum stabulum equorum*), so I suppose it would be a single Stable and not a double Stable. Matthew Paris informs us that it would contain, easily, about three hundred horses—*vide* Appendix (E). It must therefore have been longer than the side of the Great Court (which would be about 255 feet), and probably extended nearly down to the Water Gate, as represented in the plan.

*Lib. Benef.*, fol.  
23.

I suppose that behind the Stables would be the Stable-yard; and then, as no trace of foundations appears to be known here, I conjecture that the boundary of property, as marked in the map of 1818, may indicate the boundary of the Monastic premises. This brings us up to the north-west corner of the Court—the Seneschal's House, the Almonry (rebuilt by Abbot Thomas), and the Great Gate.

The Almonry might perhaps extend into Hyde's Close, now the play-ground of the

\* It would appear that Henry VIII., and probably subsequent sovereigns till Charles I., kept in the Great Court a large stable establishment, and perhaps Oliver Cromwell had a troop of horse quartered here. The Survey tells us that the buildings of the Court were reserved to the officers of the King's stable. "In the upper parte of the Great Gate-House ys the Master of the Horse lodgyng."—Survey, Edward VI.

† "There ys A Quadrant Courte conteynyng by estymacon i. acre dim."—Survey, Edward VI.

‡ I am indebted to Mr. Chapple for drawing my attention to this fact.

¶ This would appear to have been converted by Henry VIII. into garners. "There bene upon the south parte of the same Courte Garners, called the King's garners."—Survey, Edward VI.

§ There is a slight elevation of the ground in the field here, corresponding to this site.

¶ Having a gangway down the middle and a row of stalls on each side. Perhaps a third line of beasts may have been hitched to posts in the middle. This arrangement, I have been informed, has been found at Gloucester.—*See* Appendix (E).



*Lib. Benef.*, fol.  
22.  
*Gest.* II. 282.  
*Gest.* II. 176.

Grammar School. The Great Gate House has an interesting history of its own, on which it is not my province now to dwell. I will only just recall the fact that it was rebuilt by Abbot Thomas, with its chambers, prison cells, and vaults or dungeons, not on the site of the Old Gate (which was probably nearer to the Church), but on the site of the Old Almonry. This Gate House, it appears, was connected with the Abbot's lodging by a pentise or covered way, built against the wall here. And thus we are brought up to the western wall of the Church, which must be the goal of our protracted perambulation of the Boundary Wall of our Monastery.\*

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\*The periphery of the wall would be about a mile, as was that of Battle Abbey.—*Leland*.

## APPENDIX.

### (A.)

In Volume II. of the *Registrum* of Abbot John de Whethamstede, Appendix D, page 335, is contained a Catalogue of the Servants of the Monastery who contributed to a feast, conjectured by Mr. Riley to have been given at the election of Abbot John de Maryns, A.D. 1302. One hundred and four individuals are enumerated who may be thus classified:—

INDOOR SERVITORS.		
Sacrist's Department	... ..	{ Organist. Laundryman.
Infirmary	... ..	{ Clerk. Doorkeeper. Cook.
Abbot's Hostry	... ..	{ 2 Cooks. 3 House-servants.
Hostry of Convent..	... ..	{ A Tiler. Clerk. Butcher? (Claver). Saucemaker. Soupmaker. 2 other Servants.
Sartory or Chamberlain's Department (in the Infirmary Court)	... ..	{ A Tailor. Cordwainers or Shoemakers. Laundryman. 3 others.
Abbot's Bakery	.. ..	7 Servants.
Convent Bakery	... ..	6 Servants.

The other House Servants are—Refectoryman, Kitchenman, Larderkeeper, Parlourkeeper, Laundryman and 7 Gatekeepers or Porters.

The Trades include 3 Brewers, 1 Miller, 4 Tilers, 1 Tanner, 1 Blacksmith, 1 Farrier, 1 Maltster, 1 Cooper, Bakers, Tailors, Shoemakers, 1 Carpenter.

The Stable and Farm Servants are 4 Grooms, 2 Warreners, 1 Huntsman, 1 Fisherman, 2 Croftmen, 3 Carters, 2 Pigkeepers.

It seems remarkable that no Gardeners are enumerated. Perhaps the Monks were their own Gardeners.

I suppose the menial quarter would be at the south of the Great Court. On its north side, would be the handsome edifice, built by Abbot John de Hertford, for the upper Servants or Yeomen, with its three chimneys and larder beneath. The road would, perhaps, pass under this through an arched entry. On the west, would be the continuation of the Long Stable. On the south, the Water-gate, with its wall, the Hay-house, the Servants' Lodgings, in which the King's Riders were afterwards located. On the east, might be the Servants' Dining Hall, called (in the Survey) the "Olde Hall"; and extending eastward from this would be Bakehouses, Workshops, &c. There appear to have been Garners, lower down to the south, in the Great Orchard, close to the road. The Smithy must have been close to the Stable, perhaps in the Stable-yard. The Stable-gate was at the north end, close to the Seneschal's House. We have also to find room for the Tan-pits, Pigsties, Poultry-house, Fuel House, and, I suppose, a Slaughter-house. The Tailors and Cordwainers, or workers in leather, were located in the Infirmary Court, near their master—the Chamberlain.

## (B.)

## "LITTERA REGIS DE LICENTIA FIRMANDI ABBATHIAM ET AD KERNALLANDUM.

"Edwardus, Dei gratia Rex, Angliæ et Franciæ, et Dominus Hiberniæ, omnibus ballivis et fideibus suis, ad quos præsentis litteræ pervenerint, salutem.

"Sciatis quod de gratia nostra speciali concessimus, et licentiam dedimus, pro nobis et hæredibus nostris, dilectis nobis in Christo Abbati et Conventui de Sancto Albano, quod ipsi mansum Abbathiæ prædictæ, sive eandem Abbathiam, muro de petra et calce firmare et kernellare, et mansum illud, sic firmatum et kernellatum, sive dictam Abbathiam, sic firmatam et kernellatam, tenere possint sibi et successoribus suis in perpetuum, sine occasione vel impedimento nostri, vel hæredum nostrorum, aut ministrorum nostrorum quorumcunque. In cujus rei testimonium, has Litteras nostras fieri fecimus Patentes. Teste meipso apud Wodestoke, septimo decimo die Junii, anno regni nostri Angliæ tricesimo primo, regni vero nostri Franciæ decimo octavo."

## (C.)

Also it is to be noted that the said John Swanbourne has built a certain latrine, extending in length from the said *jete* 25½ feet, and it contains in length 6 feet, and at each end 1 foot; and between the aforesaid new wall, and the outer side of the aforesaid old stone wall, the distance is 17 feet less 2 inches.

And a certain Thomas Carter has built his house in the place where the ancient wall, &c., extending from the said latrine, 31 feet in length, which house is built on the land of the said Abbot, extending in length 41 feet, and (in width) on the south side 1½ feet, and on the north side half a foot, and in the middle 9 inches; and the distance from the said new wall to the outer side of the stone wall, at the south end, is 16 feet less 2 inches, and at the north end, 14½ feet. And it is to be noted that two gutters (*stillicidia*) extend from the tenement of Thomas Carter, viz., the woodwork half a foot, and the lead work a foot, and they lie between the said new wall, and the tenement of William Nunny, close to the said tenement of Thomas Carter, and outside the limit of the said stone wall to the length of 14 feet.

And it is to be noted that the tenement, belonging to the Nuns of the Cell, extends in width beyond the ancient stone wall of the said Monastery 1½ feet, and the distance of the said new wall to the outer side of the said stone wall here is 12 feet, and the said tenement extends to a length of 17 feet on the land of the said Monastery. And it is to be noted that the outer side of the said stone wall is distant from the said new wall, at the end towards the north, 9 feet. And it is to be noted that the measurement of the length of the old stone wall, from the end at the south, to the end of the said new wall at the north, is 15 perches and 13 feet, and the perch contains 16½ feet.

And note that between the end of the said new wall, at the north, and the tenement of the said Monastery, which John Sandrugge occupies, he built (the wall) towards the street. At the end of the same new wall, towards the west (*i.e.*, reckoning from the west point of that part of the wall which is opposite to John Sandrugge's tenement), the length (or distance to the back of this tenement) is 2 perches 14 feet, and the tenement of the said Monastery, which the same John Sandrugge occupies, is in width 24 feet.

And note that between the tenement of the said Monastery, occupied by Robert Cook, adjoining the tenement of John Sandrugge, and the new wall aforesaid, the length (distance) is 2 perches 14 feet from north to south, and the width is 23 feet. And note that the tenement of the said Monastery, which John Madbroc occupies, adjoining the tenement which Robert Cook holds, has the measurement, towards the same parts, of 2 perches 12 feet, and in width 21 feet. And note that the tenement of the said Monastery, which John Barbour holds, adjoining the tenement which John Madbroc occupies, has the measurement of 2 perches and 12 feet in length, and in width 24 feet. And note that the tenement of the said Monastery, which John Drye occupies, adjoining the tenement which John Barbour holds, contains in length, between the said new wall at the south, and the tenement of the said Abbot, towards the street, 2 perches and 10 feet, and in width 25 feet. And there is in the tenement, which the said John Drye holds, one buttress (*botras*) containing, in thickness, 7 feet, and in width, on both sides (of the wall), 8 feet. And note that the tenement of the said Monastery, which John Bower now holds, adjoining the tenement which John

Drye occupies, contains, between the said new wall, and the tenement of the said Monastery, towards the street, in length 2 perches 10 feet, and in width 11 feet. And note that the tenement, which Richard Bower holds, adjoining the tenement which John Bowers holds, contains, between the said new wall, and the tenement, towards the street, in length 2 perches and 10 feet, and in width 11½ feet. And note that between the tenement of Richard Chapman, towards the street, and the said new wall at the south, there are 2 perches 10 feet in length, and in width 11 feet, and the said tenement is situated close to (*juxta*) the Waxhouse Gate.

And note that from the end of the said new wall, at the east, to the end of the said new wall, at the west, which terminates at the Waxhouse Gate, there are 10 perches 4 feet.

Measurements west of the Waxhouse Gate. And note that at the east end (of the wall), at the Waxhouse Gate, the distance between the tenement of the Monastery, towards the street, which John Pykebon (Pick-bone) occupies, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 7 feet in length, and the width (of the tenement), at the north, is 11½ feet, and at the south, 5 feet.

And note that the distance of the tenement of John Tavener, towards the street, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 7 feet, and the width 12½ feet. And note that the distance between the adjoining tenement of John Tavener, belonging to the Monastery, towards the street, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 7 feet, and in the width, it is 13½ feet. And note that the distance between the tenement of Richard Merstone de Barnet, towards the street, adjoining the tenement of the Monastery, which Henry Fletcher now occupies, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 7½ feet, and the width is 11 feet. And note that the length between a certain vacant space adjoining the tenement of Richard Merstone, which tenement and space Richard Tornour now holds, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 7½ feet, and the width of it 10 feet. And note that the distance between the tenement of Richard Walyngforde, towards the street, adjoining the said vacant space, and the new wall, is 2 perches 8 feet, and the width of it 12 feet.

Note that the distance between the tenement of Richard Baldewyn, adjoining the tenement of Richard Walyngford, which tenements are now vacant, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 8 feet, and the width is 11 feet 3 inches. And note that the distance between the tenement of the said Monastery, which Roger Miles now occupies, in which the well (*fons*) is situated, and which tenement is contiguous to the tenement of Richard Walyngford, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 8 feet, and its width is 24 feet.

And note that the distance between the tenement of the said Monastery, adjoining the said tenement in which the well is situated, which (tenement) Sabina Peny now occupies, and the said new wall is 2 perches 7 feet, and its width 15½ feet.

And note that the distance between the tenement of the said Monastery, adjoining the tenement of the same Monastery which William Netmaker now occupies, towards the street, and the said new wall is 2 perches 7½ feet, and the width is 43 feet.

And note that the length between the tenement of the Nuns of the Cell, adjoining the tenement of the said Monastery, which Richard Lokyer occupies, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 7 feet, and its width is 39½ feet.

And note that the distance between the tenement of John Birstone, which tenement Thomas Skynner occupies, and which is contiguous to the tenement of the Nuns of the Cell, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 7 feet, and its width 12 feet. And note that the distance between the tenement of the said John de Birstone, which John Smyth of the Abbey occupies, and which adjoins the (above) tenement of the said John de Birstone, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 7½ feet, and the stone wall there contains 2 feet in thickness.

And note that distance between the two tenements of the said John Birstone (of which two tenements Agnes Scolemaister occupies both the gardens), and the said new wall, is 2 perches 7½ feet, and the said houses are situated upon (*super*) (or overhanging) the stone wall 1½ feet.

And note that the distance between the tenement of the said John Birstone, which Agnes Scolemaister occupies, which tenement belongs to the Nuns of the Cell, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 8 feet, and the width is 17 feet, and it is situated wholly upon the stone wall, which tenement was once Stephen Hattere's.

And the length of a certain vacant space adjoining the said Monastery, which (space) was once occupied by the tenement of Stephen Hattere, measured to the said new wall, is 2 perches 8 feet, and the width of it 16 feet, and

the distance between the tenement of the said Monastery, adjoining the said vacant space, which tenement Richard Cook occupies (and the said new wall), is 2 perches 8 feet, and its width 16 feet.

And the distance between the tenement of the said Monastery, adjoining the said tenement which Richard Cook occupies, and the said new wall, is 2 perches 1 foot, and the width 17 feet.

And the distance between a tenement of the said Monastery, adjoining one vacant space belonging to the said Monastery, and the said new wall, is 2 perches less 3 feet, and the width 14 feet.

And the length of a certain vacant space belonging to the said Monastery, extending straight along the wall towards Roumelond (*extendentem se directe ad murum versus Roumelond*), is 7 perches and 7 feet, and in width, on the side of that space, towards the west, it is 15 feet, and at the end of that space, towards the east, it is 1 perch 13 feet.

And note that the mud wall (*murus terreus*) extending from the stone wall, which leads to the Wexursgate as far as to Roumelande, contains in length 30 perches, and the perch throughout contains 16½ feet.

## (D.)

Since I wrote my paper, some information has been derived from excavations made in Pond Wicks Meadow by the kind permission of the owner, C. Woollam, Esqre. At the end of March last, in digging for the foundations of a new lodge, an old flint wall was laid open, and its course was traced to its extremities by Mr. R. Lloyd and myself, acting for our Archæological Society. It extends from the north wall of the meadow at a point (where it was found to be broken off) 6 feet west of the eastern corner of the wall, to a distance of 123 feet southwards; at the south end, it is 45 feet from the wall on the opposite side of the road. It passes through the roadway of the "Grove Walk," and is only a few inches below the surface there; thus proving that this was not a Monastic road, as I had previously supposed it was. Its width uniformly, where excavated, was about 2 feet 9 inches; at its south end, which was well finished off, were several courses of Roman bricks at one angle, and thin tiles at the other, forming a neat and sharp corner. Mr. Chapple informs me that he believes it to be of the 13th or 14th century. I suppose that this wall was the eastern boundary of the Great Garden, which may have been enclosed on the south by a wooden paling fencing it off from the swampy ground towards the river. This ground was probably Aumeneresmor, described as "*sub Magno Gardino.*" *Gest. II., 413.*

The declivity of Holywell Hill, or Holmhurst Hill, terminates with the end of the wall. This discovery has proved that Holywell Gate must be to the north of this wall, and, after careful examination of the ground, I have arrived at the conclusion that its site is occupied by two mounds, covered with trees, a few yards on the north side of the wall of the "Grove Walk," in the meadow now belonging to Mr. Hart. There is an old entrance to this field between these mounds, and I am informed that foundations have been found beneath them. Here, then, would be the south-east corner of the fortified wall, and the strong boundary wall would extend hence westward to meet the wall of the Great Orchard. Almoner's Gate would, probably, be at the junction. The situation of the Great Cloaca, opened about 25 years ago in this field, has been pointed out to me, and is laid down on the Plan. Its continuation southward to the river is, perhaps, indicated by a slight depression in the ground here. Some attempts to find it, by digging last April, failed, but proved that the ground had been disturbed.

The upper end of this Cloaca is nearly due south of a similar subterranean passage discovered many years ago in the garden of Orchard House; and if these two points be connected, as in the Plan, we probably obtain the line of the drain on which stood the Private Dormitory, or Rere Dorter, re-erected by Abbot John Moot.

The present appearance of the ground, and information respecting some foundations, have convinced me that the Rere Dorter extended southwards in a line with the Long Dorter, to a distance of about 200 feet from the Chapterhouse.

## (E.)

## THE LONG STABLE.

MATTHEW PARIS. HIST. MAJ. (ED. WATS, A.D. 1640), p. 855. A.D. 1252.

Three days after this, Geoffrey de Lizian purposing to lodge in the Monastery at S. Albans, sent forward his avant-courier to give notice of his coming, and announce his intention. This official, on arriving at the gate of the Monastery Court (the Great Gate), without a word of salutation, accosts the porter (*Janitorem*), thus:—"Ho, there! my lord is coming; he is at hand; his will is to lodge here. Where is he to be quartered?" "Where it pleases him," answered the porter. "Nay," replied the man, "my lord's excellency is of the blood royal; he will lie nowhere but in the royal palace, yclept the king's house (*Regis Regia*)." "Right so, Master Marshal," answered the Janitor, "nathless an't please ye, 't is the wont for those who would be our guests, to crave our hospitality in terms of courtesy, and not demand it as their right, for our house is a House of Charity." The Marshal, with a savage glance, retorts, "Cease your prating, sirrah, and shew me the Marshalsey, where we are to stall our rouncies." Thereupon he was shown the Long guesten Stable, wherein some three hundred horses can be stalled with ease [*Longum stabulum hospitum ubi ferme trecenti equi sine difficultate possunt stabulari*]. It so chanced that there was a goodly company of worthies, both religious and lay, accommodated that day in our Monastery, and their beasts withal well put up and foddered. With impudent effrontery, in swaggers the Marshal, and seeing the grooms and horses of the guests, he waxes wrath; thereupon, with ribald threats, he invades the stable, snaps the halters, turns all adrift, and will not suffer one stable-boy to harbour in the place, albeit it was most spacious.

The historian then goes on to lament that the times were such that the Lord Abbot (John de Hertford) found it prudent to smother his just indignation at these affronts.

I am informed that a piece of ground, on the west side of the site of the cottages, which were called the King's Stables, is still legally entitled the "Dung Yard."

## (F.)

## THE WAXHOUSE GATE.

The sub-structures of the Waxhouse Gate may still be seen in the cellar of the house, on the east side of the entrance to the School Lane, now occupied by Mr. Thorpe, the ironmonger. The external flint walls are about 8 feet thick, and a huge mass of masonry extends from the south wall into the middle of the cellar. In the garden of this house, which falls within "Le Vineyerde," human bones have been found, affording an evidence of the Vineyard having once been a Cemetery.

I cannot conclude these notes without recording my best acknowledgments to all those inhabitants of S. Albans who have most readily afforded me such local information as they possessed. Whenever I have asked for admission to private houses and gardens in the Abbey precincts, it has been most courteously accorded to me. And my especial thanks are due to those gentlemen who have allowed me to take measurements in their grounds, and in some cases make excavations, for illustrating the subject of this Paper.

