

**THE CHRONICLE OF WILLIAM  
DE RISHANGER, OF THE  
BARON'S WARS. THE MIRACLES  
OF SIMON DE MONTFORT**

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The Chronicle of William de Rishanger, of The Baron's Wars. The Miracles of Simon de Montfort by James Orchard Halliwell

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**JAMES ORCHARD HALLIWELL**

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*W. G. Murphy Vicar of Eton  
1867*

THE CHRONICLE OF  
**WILLIAM DE RISHANGER,**  
OF  
THE BARONS' WARS.

THE  
**MIRACLES OF SIMON DE MONTFORT.**

EDITED FROM MANUSCRIPTS IN THE COTTONIAN LIBRARY,

BY

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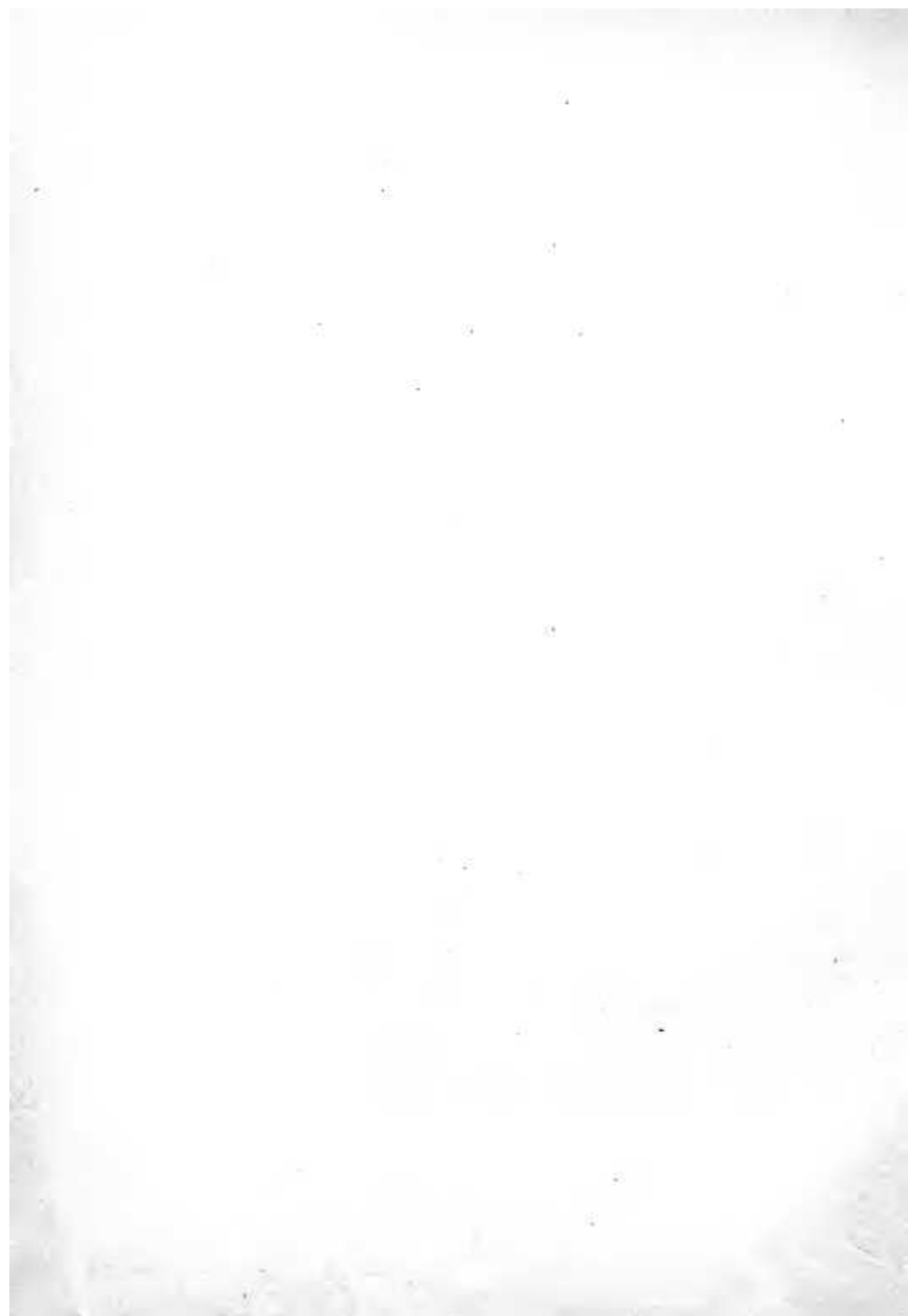
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## INTRODUCTION.

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FOR centuries the monastery of St. Alban was celebrated for its historians. Wendover, Paris, and Rishanger\* were the principal writers who sustained its reputation in the thirteenth century, and pursued their labours under the shelter of its walls. Of the last we know little, save that, on the death of Matthew Paris in 1259, he was appointed Historiographer † to King Henry

\* Wendover is the alleged author of the history which goes under the name of Matthew Paris as far as the year 1234. One copy only of the chronicle so attributed is preserved, viz. in the Douce collection at Oxford, and will shortly be published under the editorial care of the Rev. H. O. Coxe. Another copy was formerly in the Cottonian library (Otho, B. v.), but it unfortunately was destroyed in the fire. We shall afterwards enter more particularly into the subject of the claim of Wendover. The history of Matthew Paris extended to 1259, when it was taken up by Rishanger and continued to 1322. These are termed *the great chronicles of St. Alban*, by an anonymous writer, in MS. Cotton. Vitell. A. xx. fol. 77, r<sup>o</sup>. who gives a short abridgment from them.

† It is not, I believe, known when the office of Historiographer Royal was first instituted in this country. Bale (iv. 94) quotes PON-CAMD. SOC. 15. b



III. and probably continued in that office to the time of his death.\* Certain, however, it is, that on the 3rd of May 1312, Rishanger was sixty-two years of age, and had then been a Benedictine † monk of St. Alban's for forty-one years; and we learn this fact from the following memorandum in MS. Bib. Reg. 14 C. I. which is in his own handwriting: ‡—"Memorandum quod ego frater Willelmus de Rishanger cronigraphus, die Inventionis Sanctæ Crucis, anno gratiæ M.ccc.xij., qui est annus regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi quintus, habui in ordine xlj. annos et in ætate lxij. annos." Bale had evidently seen this note when he wrote his brief notice of Rishanger; § and his assertion that the historian *flourished in 1312*, has been converted by Pits to *died about 1312*, and by

ticus Virunnius in an inquiry which bears on the custom of sovereigns having their histories written for the benefit of posterity, and in such a manner as to preclude the possibility of the authors being swayed by the opinions of the reigning monarch. Cf. præf. ad Mat. Par.

\* Vossius de Hist. Lat. p. 790. Cf. Bale, iv. 94, et Pits, 403.

† St. Alban's was a Benedictine monastery.

‡ A fac-simile of this curious note, together with a specimen from the chronicle itself, will be found at the commencement of the volume. See also Casley's Catalogue of the Royal Library, p. 230.

§ His words are, "Claruit anno a Christi Jesu natalitio 1312, annos ætatis habens 62, in monachatu vero 41, sub prædicto rege Edwardo secundo, in suo tandem cœnobio sepultus."—Edit. Basil. 1557, p. 377.

Tanner that he *died in 1312*.\* But as Walsingham, who is not likely to have made an undue confession of his plagiarism, expressly states, under the year 1322, that the preceding portion of his chronicle is abridged from Rishanger, it is but fair to conclude that Rishanger's continuation of Paris ended in that year; † and as there appears to be no alleged reason for an abrupt conclusion, the probability is, taking his advanced age into consideration, that he died in that year, or very shortly afterwards. The following is a complete list of his writings, as far as the MSS. which remain have enabled us to discover. ‡

1. OPUS CHRONICORUM.—Cf. Bale, iv. 94; Pits, 403, (458). This chronicle extends from 1261 to 1293, and

\* This statement is followed by Newcome, in his History of St. Alban's, p. 173, probably on the authority of Tanner, though not any is cited.

† Walsingham seems to say that the chronicles of Rishanger were at St. Alban's in his time:—"Cætera qui voluerit videre plenius, in chronicis Wilhelmi Rishanger apud Sanctum Albanum latius poterit reperire, ubi recordatum regis habetur de omnibus memoratis."—Edit. 1603, p. 116. It may be as well to observe that the MS. Arund. Coll. Arm. No. 7, p. 121, reads *plenius* instead of *latius*, which is the only variation from the printed edition that the MSS. afford. Cf. MS. Bib. Reg. 13 B. IX. fol. 214, r<sup>o</sup>, a.

‡ I may observe that all these are mentioned by Bale, though with several errors. His list is, as usual, copied by Pits; and the mistakes of both are left uncorrected by Tanner.

was undertaken at the request of abbat John de Hertford. A copy of it is preserved in MS. Cotton. Claud. D. VI. :—“ Incipit liber cronicorum editus ad instantiam venerabilis patris nostri domini Johannis, Dei gratia abbatis hujus ecclesie; ”—fol. 115, r<sup>o</sup>, β. He vouches for his veracity in the following terms :—“ Quicquid vero de recentioribus ætatibus apposui, vel ipse vidi, vel a fidedignis viris audivi.” Pits\* says, that he thought this work was in the library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge; but he has confounded it with a copy of King Edward’s letter to Pope Boniface.

2. ANNALES REGNI EDWARDI I. In MS. Bib. Reg. 14 C. I. fol. 4, v<sup>o</sup>, α.—19, v<sup>o</sup>, β; where it is entitled “ Quædam recapitulatio brevis de gestis domini Edwardi regis, cum quibusdam aliis accidentibus in tempore suo.” This work was written after Edward’s death—“ post obitum domini Edwardi, illustris regis Angliæ, recapitulando in genere et compendiose concludendo, frater Willelmus de Rissanger cronicator, de multis pauca tangendo, ad Dei honorem et animæ regię recommendationem redigit in scripturam; ”—fol. 4, v<sup>o</sup>, α. A particular mention of the death of Prince Alfonso occurs, and a few verses on that event. A brief life of the sanctified Louis is also intro-

\* De Scriptoribus, 403 (458).