

**WALTER DE
WENLOK, ABBOT
OF WESTMINSTER**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649103171

Walter de Wenlok, abbot of Westminster by Ernest Harold Pearce

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ERNEST HAROLD PEARCE

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WALTER DE WENLOK





Photo by D. Weller

A CONTEMPORARY EFFIGY, PROBABLY OF WALTER
DE WENLOK

Frontispiece

ECCLESIASTICAL BIOGRAPHIES

WALTER DE WENLOK
ABBOT OF WESTMINSTER

BY

ERNEST HAROLD PEARCE, Litt.D., F.S.A.
BISHOP OF WORCESTER

HONORARY FELLOW OF PETERHOUSE
SOMETIME CANON AND SUB-DEAN OF WESTMINSTER

WITH A FRONTISPIECE

LONDON
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING
CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE
NEW YORK: THE MACMILLAN COMPANY

1920



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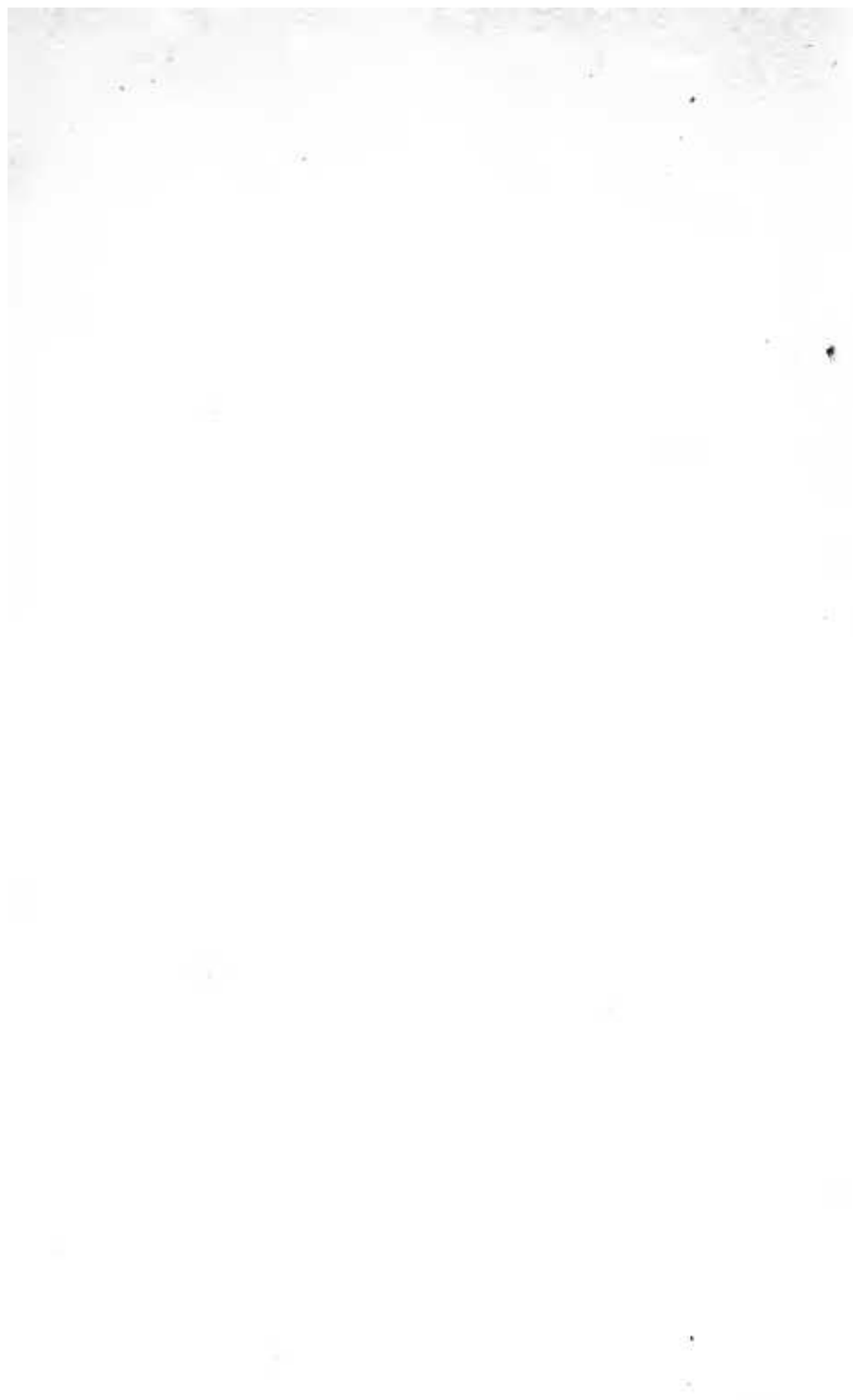
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PRIORI ET CONVENTUI
BEATE MARIE VIRGINIS WIGORN:
MULTARUM HAUD IMMEMOR CURIALITATUM

D. D.

ADUENA WESTMON:



PREFACE

THE name of Walter de Wenlok is attached to a very large number of the Abbey muniments, and the organisation of the Convent's multifarious interests was never more methodical than during his reign. A monograph about his doings and about the conditions of the Monastery during his time might therefore run to a considerable length, and when I first took it in hand, I laid my plans accordingly.

But, first, the War brought administrative work that filled my days, so that the Abbot could be only the solace of my evenings. And then I was transplanted to what he would call the "partes occidentales," which he knew so well—Persnore and Longdon and Castle Morton and Wich and Malvern; with the result that all I could hope to do was just to make an end, and realise sadly that never again should I be able to write books based on unedited Westminster documents. I have lived with Wenlok so long that it is a real grief to send him away.

Since I left the Abbey, I have been kindly allowed by my dear friend, the Dean, to pay an occasional visit to the beloved Muniment Room, and have received much help from the Rev. H. F. Westlake, F.S.A., upon whom the mantle of Dr. Edward Scott has suitably fallen. But borrowing a key is not quite the same joy as using your own; and, if any leisure can be found amid the tasks that now fall upon me, I must devote it, say, to the doings of some Bishop of Worcester, a dignitary on whom Abbots of Westminster were apt to keep a shrewd, watchful eye.

ERNEST WORCESTER.

THE CASTLE,
HARTLEBURY,
Maundy Thursday, 1920.