

**CHETHAM SOCIETY: REMAINS, HISTORICAL
AND LITERARY, CONNECTED WITH THE
PALATINE COUNTIES OF LANCASTER AND
CHESTER. VOL. XXII. NOTITIA CESTRENSIS,
OR, HISTORICAL NOTICES OF THE DIOCESE
OF CHESTER. VOL. II. PART III. PP.353-621**

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FRANCIS GASTRELL & F. R. RAINES

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Notitia Cestriensis,

OR

**HISTORIC NOTICES OF THE DIOCESE
OF CHESTER,**

BY THE

RIGHT REV. FRANCIS GASTRELL, D.D.

LORD BISHOP OF CHESTER.

NOW FIRST PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT, WITH ILLUSTRATIVE
AND EXPLANATORY NOTES,

BY

THE REV. F. R. RAINES, M.A. F.S.A.

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CROSTON,¹ about 400^l p.[er] an.[num.] 61 Acres of Glebe, and 7 Cottages.

Patron, Mr. Pilkington, the pres.[ent] Rectour, who had the Advowson from Mr. Layfield.²

This Church was approp.[riated] by Pope Martin 5, to y^e Mon.[astery] of Syon near London, reserving a power to y^e Ordinary to assign a fit portion out of y^e profits to y^e Vicar, by vertue of w^{ch} y^e Bp. of Cov.[entry] and Litch.[field] an.[no] 1420, founded a Vicaridge, (the presentation to w^{ch} was to be in y^e Abbess and Convent of Syon;) and y^e value of y^e Rect^y being then computed at 130 marks, or 86^l.13^s.4^d, y^e Bp. ordered y^t y^e Vicar sh^d pay y^e Mon.[astery] 80 marks, and keep y^e other 50, or 33^l.6^s.8^d,

¹ Dedicated to St. Michael. Value in 1884, £1,538. Registers begin in 1728.

The Manor of Croston was given by Edmund Leigh, who, in the 17th Edward I. married Annabella, daughter and coheires of Richard Fitton, Lord of Great Harwood, to Sir William Heekyte, who had married Matilda, another daughter of Richard Fitton; and this donation was confirmed by Sir William Leigh in the 22d Edward III. 1348. A moiety of the Manor, however, appears to have been vested in Sir John De la Mere before this time, and Isabel and Isolda were his daughters and coheires; the former having married Sir Thomas Fleming, Baron of Wath; and the latter, William del Lee, who, in the 48th Edward III. held the moiety of the Manor of Croston and Mandalegh. Elizabeth, the daughter of William, and sister and coheires of John Fleming Esq. Baron of Wath, married Thomas Heekyte Esq.; and Alice, the daughter and heires of William Lee, married Thomas Ashton, the father of Sir William Ashton of Croston, about the time of Henry VI.; and the moiety of the Manor of Croston became vested in the families of Ashton and Heeketh. Ann, daughter and coheires of Richard Ashton Esq. married John Trafford Esq. who died in the year 1686, whose representative, Sir Thomas Joseph de Trafford Bart. is now seized of a moiety of the Manor of Croston; and Moncha, the other daughter and coheires of Richard Ashton Esq. married Alexander, son of Bartholomew Heeketh of Aughton Esq. and conveyed the other moiety to his family, which was sold by Sir Thomas Dalrymple Heeketh Bart. to the Rev. Streynham Master D.D. Rector of Croston, who conveyed it by sale, about the year 1826, to Thomas Norris Esq.

A Church existed here at the Conquest, when Roger de Poitou granted to the Monastery of St. Martin of Sees in Normandy, the Priory of St. Mary of Lancaster, and many dependent Churches and Chapels, among which is named the Church of Croston. The patronage, however, appears to have been exercised by the Priory of

St. S. A. d.	
Pr. A.	0.12. 4
Syn...	0. 2. 0
Tre...	0.12. 8
Fam.	603
(in whole Par.)	
Pap.	84
Dim.	00

to himself, together with all other profits that could be made of the living. In consid.[eration] of w^{ch} he sh^d bear all Burdens, and pay to [the] B.[ishop] of Cov.[entry] and Litch.[field] 6^s.8^d; to [the] A.[rch] D.[eacon] of Richmond, ["Chester," is inserted in another hand,] 13^s.4^d; and to y^e Poor, 10s; and should swear to perform these things at his Institution. *Old Reg.[ister,] xx.*

An.[no] 30, H.[enry] 8, the Rect.[ory] and Vicaridge were leased out by y^e Mon.[astery] and Vicar, from 5 years to 5 years, to y^e end of 99 years, the Lessee paying to y^e Vicar, 38^l.5^s.10^d p.[er] an.[num,] and to [the] Mon.[astery,] 53^l.6^s.8^d; to [the] B.[ishop] of Chester, 6^s.8^d, and to [the] Archd.[eacon] of Chester, 38^s.8^d, for Syn. Proc. and Indemnities, and 10^s to the Poor:

Lancaster. "Croston Rect. Sententia Delegatorum Gregorii Pape super quadam pensione annus 2 marc. Will. Banaster Rectori tercio partis Eocl. de Croston cum medietate Capell. de Eccleston ab Abbatis de Furnes predicto Rectori debet. Hiis testibus Joh. de Taunton, Precentore majoris Eocl. Lincoln et aliis." This ancient Instrument is now in the Augmentation Office, marked A.B. and shews that Eccleston, now a Rectory, was formerly only a Chapell. — Ducarel's *Repertory of the Endowment of Vicarages*, vol. ii. *Lamb. Libr.* In the year 1588 a stipend of £3. 19s. 9d. was payable out of the possessions of the Duchy of Lancaster to the Clerk of Croston. — Birch's *MSS. Brit. Mus.* It was valued in the year 1291 at £23. 6s. 8d. and no Chapels are then mentioned. Martin V. who succeeded to the Popedom in the year 1417, appropriated the Rectory to the Abbey of St. Saviour of Sion; and William de Heyworth, Bishop of Lichfield, ordained a Vicarage in the year 1420.

On the dissolution of the Monastery of Sion the Advowsons passed to the Crown, and were conveyed *inter alios* to Anthony Browne of Southweld in the county of Essex Esq. Justice of the Common Pleas. They were afterwards frequently sold. The Crown, however, occasionally exercised the right of patronage, probably through defect; and on the 10th of December 1695, Zachary Taylor M.A. was presented to the Rectory by William III. on "the recommendation of certain Commissioners appointed by the King to dispose of Ecclesiastical promotion in his absence from England." In the year 1756 the patronage became vested in Legh Master Esq. M.P. whose son, the Rev. Robert Master D.D. was afterwards Rector, and whose grandson, Streynsham Master D.D. is the present Rector. Dr. Master sold the Advowsons to Le Gendre Nicholas Starkie of Huntroyd Esq. who in the year 1821 again conveyed them by sale to George Smith Esq. M.P. brother of Lord Carrington.

There are two Chapels in the Church called the Rufford and Becconsall Chapels. The former was a Chantry founded by the Heakeths, and dedicated to St. John the Baptist. Queen Elizabeth, in the 27th year of her reign, at the instance of Thomas,