

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO A
HISTORY OF
THE CISTERCIAN
HOUSES OF DEVON**

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Contributions to a History of the Cistercian Houses of Devon by J. Brooking Rowe

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J. BROOKING ROWE

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DEVON.

BY
J. BROOKING ROWE,

FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQVARIAN;
FELLOW OF THE LINNÆAN SOCIETY;
MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ARCHEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND;
HONORARY MEMBER OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF CORNWALL;
AUTHOR OF "A FAUNA OF DEVON;"
"THE ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY OF OLD PLYMOUTH;"
ETC. ETC.

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1878.

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ERRATA.

- Page 8, paragraph 6, last line, for "among" read *is*.
" 39, for Sir George Augustus "Hoxthfield" read Sir George Augustus
Eliott.
" 85, paragraph 123, line 12, for "Nishop" read *Abbot*.
" 105, " 143, " 3, for "Erno" read *Erme*.
" 123, " 179, " 1, for "Churstowa" read *Churchouse*.
" 141, " 205, " 6, for "M" read *B*.
" 142, line 3, for "hertis" read *hoitia*.
" 142, " 6, for "Trivarant" read *Triceant*.

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NOTE.

THE following papers are reprinted from the *Transactions* of the Devonshire Association. Referring to an observation in paragraph 2, page 4, as I arranged my materials, I found it unnecessary to carry out my original intention of giving a concise history of each Abbey, as by so doing I should have been repeating to a great extent what is already in print. Buckland and Buckfast I have treated somewhat fully. What I have said of Newenham is only additional to the collections of Mr. Davidson, and the whole may be considered as supplementary to the works of Dugdale and Oliver, and may be of assistance to the author who at some future period undertakes to write a full history of these religious houses, the inmates of which did so much to make our county a good laud—a land of wheat and of barley, of flocks and of herds.

16, LOCKYER STREET,
PLYMOUTH.

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THE
CISTERCIAN HOUSES OF DEVON.

INTRODUCTORY.

I.
BUCKLAND.

THE
CISTERCIAN HOUSES OF DEVON.

1. We have in this county (for although Thorncombe was in 1842 made a part of Dorsetshire, I include Ford Abbey as belonging to Devon) examples both of the earliest and latest foundations of the Cistercian order of monks.

Always excepting the most valuable work of the late Dr. Oliver, little attention has been hitherto paid to the monastic institutions and ruins of the county. Perhaps this neglect has arisen from the unfortunate state of decay into which nearly all the buildings have fallen. Devonshire seems to have suffered more than any other part of England, and cannot be said to possess any monastic ruin of importance, and there is none perhaps except Dartington and Ford, in which the existing remains give any idea of its former architectural glories. And yet Devonshire possessed upwards of thirty religious houses, some of the first importance, and ranking among the noblest in England. The bare mention of the great Benedictine monasteries of Exeter and Tavistock, the Cluniac house at Barnstaple, the five abbeys of the Cistercians distributed over the county, and last, but by no means least, the Augustinian Priory of Plympton, to say nothing of the numerous smaller establishments of the preaching orders and friars, will show how much of interest there is in the investigation of the subject.

2. Unfortunately, the task is not easy; and to work out properly the history of even one of these, requires an amount of time which few are able, and still fewer willing, to devote. But even by a person whose time is much occupied, and with whom the labour is one of love, a something can be accomplished; and I think that a concise history of each house,