

**FASTI MONASTICI AEVI SAXONICI; OR, AN
ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE RELIGIOUS
HOUSES IN ENGLAND PREVIOUS
TO THE NORMAN CONQUEST, TO WHICH IS
PREFIXED A CHRONOLOGICAL CATALOGUE
OF CONTEMPORARY FOUNDATIONS**

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Fasti Monastici Aevi Saxonici; Or, An Alphabetical List of the Religious Houses in England Previous to the Norman Conquest, to Which Is Prefixed a Chronological Catalogue of Contemporary Foundations by Walter de Gray Birch

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WALTER DE GRAY BIRCH

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FASTI MONASTICI AEVI SAXONICI:

OR

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST OF THE

Heads of Religious Houses in England

PREVIOUS TO THE NORMAN CONQUEST,

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

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Foundations.

BY

WALTER DE GRAY BIRCH.

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1873.

Preface.

Those who are in the habit of turning over the leaves of Kemble's 'Codex Diplomaticus,' Dugdale's 'Monasticon Anglicanum,' and similar works, during their researches into the early monastic history and literature of England, cannot fail to lament the want of indexes for names of persons, which have been omitted in every work. It occurred to me therefore in the first instance to compile for my own use a comprehensive list of the Heads of Religious Houses in England and Wales during the Saxon period, intending at some future opportunity to prepare similar lists of the other dignitaries who occupy a place in these books. I found this when completed so useful, that in the hope of others who are engaged in kindred pursuits deriving some benefit from it, I here present it with a preliminary chronological list of nearly three hundred Religious Houses established in England and Wales previous to the Norman Conquest, at the same time interpolating among the names additional references to other sources, printed and manuscript, which contain notices of such individuals as come within the scope of my task, and have great pleasure in laying the result before the Council of the Royal Society of Literature.

The list as it now stands forms a complete index to the ten valuable works mentioned in the subjoined List of Authorities at

pages 14, 15, as far as concerns heads of monasteries,—presenting at one view the name (with orthographical variants), the title, the house presided over, the date and reference of every personage of the class and period above mentioned. A curious instance of the use of this list will be found in the note at page 28. The total number of separate entries amounts to several thousands.

It would have been superfluous for me to add a secondary series of references. Those I have given are in almost every case the only ones which point directly to original sources, and consequently the only available ones for the plan I proposed to myself. It will be noticed that I appear to have occasionally deviated more or less from strict alphabetical sequence; but this has been unavoidable, as I wished, by a particular but simple method of grouping similar names, to indicate the possibility, but by no means to assert the positive fact, of their relation to identical personages. It is well known that great allowances must be made for dialectic variation and the caprices of authors and scribes at such an unsettled period. The great number of later copies of such early documents as those contained in the works tabulated, exhibit numerous variations in the orthography of proper names; and to have introduced these in every case would have swelled the size of the present work far beyond reasonable limits, while no corresponding advantage would have been gained. As it is, in the orthography of even contemporary documents a very wide diversity will be found to exist; for instance, on pages 22–25, upwards of fifteen variants of the true Saxon forms *Ælfsige* or *Æðelsige* present themselves. It would have been impossible to bring before the eye the fact that Dugdale's *Egelsine*, abbot of St. Augustine's, Canterbury, was identical with *Æðelsige* of the 'Anglo-Saxon Chronicle,' if I had tied myself down to strict adherence to the alphabetical system, as these names would have appeared in different portions of the List.

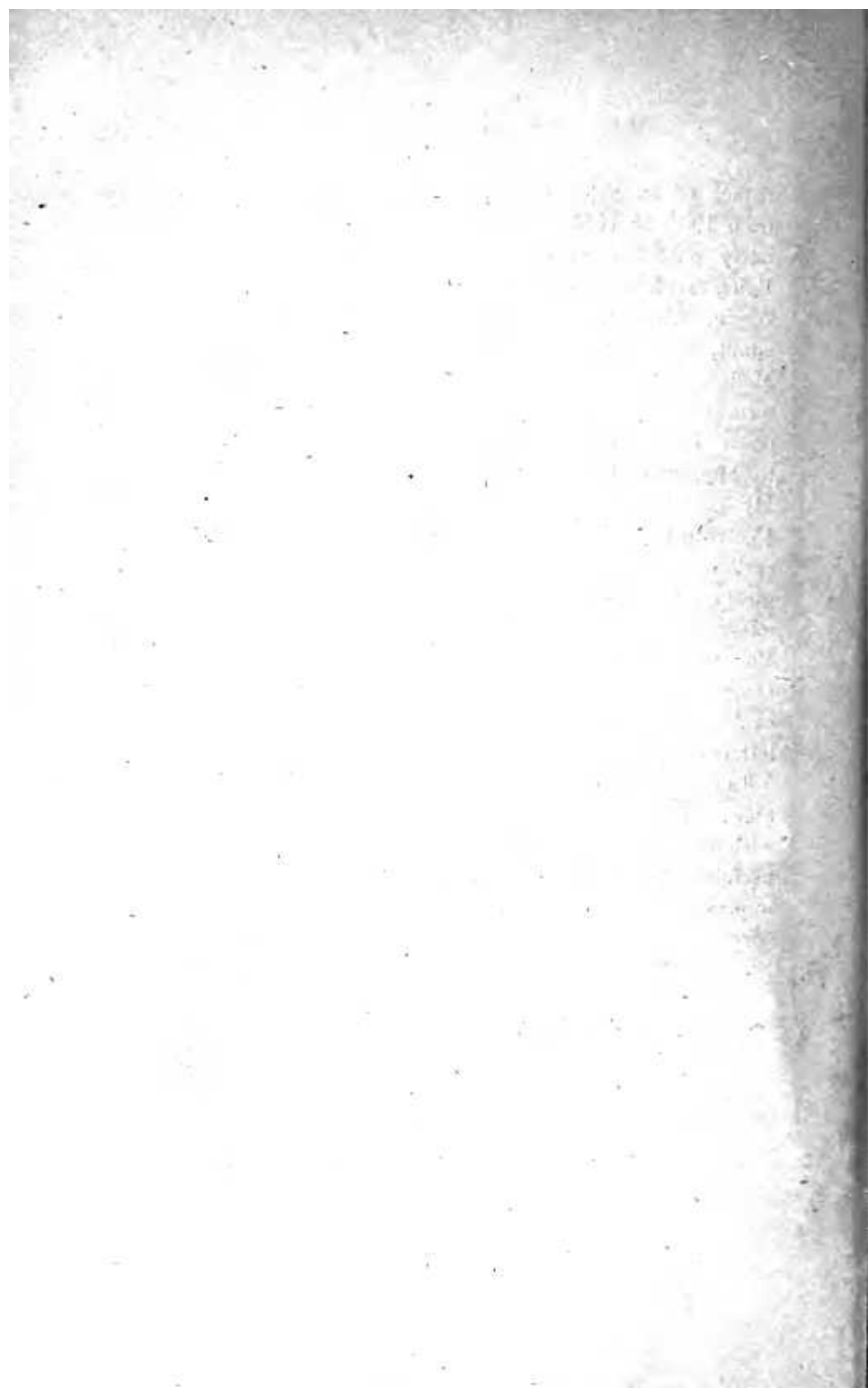
As an instance of the occurrence of numerous forms representing the name of one personage, the reader may select the

names of an abbot of Newminster, who occupied the dignity from 1034 to 1057. They are given in the 'Liber de Hyda,' lately published under the direction of the Master of the Rolls, as follows:—Elfwin or Elfwy, Alwy, Ælfwin, Ælfwig, Alwin, Alwinus. I am, on the other hand, quite prepared to admit, nay rather to state, for example, that Ælfsi, abbot of Medeshamstedo in 992, was never known by the standard form of his name, Ælselsige; but the variant forms which occur in the vicinity of this name on page 22 may refer to him, and this possibility I leave to others to determine. My object then is attained in laying before the student of Monastic Chronology an alphabetical series of names, of which certain groups are, however, subject to a subordinate chronological arrangement when by their evident similarity, they can be referred to a standard form occurring more or less frequently. For a large proportion of such names probably indicate the same individual personage. By this method, too, one is enabled to trace the gradual transition and elimination of single letters and final syllables.

In conclusion, I will venture to hope that the errors unavoidable in the preparation of such a work for the first time, and without a pioneer, will not be found so numerous as to mar its usefulness; and I shall thankfully receive any suggestions for improvement or alteration.

WALTER DE GRAY BIRCH.

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CHRONOLOGICAL LIST

OF

Religious Houses in England and Wales before the Conquest.



Name.	County.	Order.	Ascribed Date of Foundation
Glastonbury	Somerset	Monks under St. Patrick	A.D. 31 (<i>Tanner</i>); 63 (<i>Dugdale</i>).
		Benedictines under St. Dunstan	435; refounded 688 (<i>Fl. Worc.</i>); 984.
Winchester	Hants. . . .	Monks of St. Mark	169, destroyed in 266; re- stored 300— <i>c.</i> 500.
Bancornaburgh, or Bangor	Flint	Monastery	<i>temp.</i> St. Patrick and St. Augustine; destroyed early 7th cent., <i>c.</i> 613.
Man	I. of Man	Episcopal see	<i>c.</i> 360, or rather 447.
Holyhead	Anglesea	Monastery	<i>c.</i> 380.
Menevia, or St. David's	Pembr.	Monastery	<i>c.</i> 470.
(<i>Unknown site</i>)	Glamorgan	Monks or Canons	<i>c.</i> 474.
Ramsey	Pembr.	Monks	before 486.
Gloucester	Glouc.	Episcopal see	before 400— <i>c.</i> 570.
Llanccarvan	Glamorgan	Monastery	<i>c.</i> 500.
Bangor	Flint	Episcopal see	early 6th century.

Name.	County.	Order.	Ascribed Date of Foundation.
Amesbury . . .	Wilts. . .	British monastery, Nunnery . . .	destr. in 6th cent. restored c. A.D. 980.
Llanwet, St. Bene- dict's	Cornw. . .	Monastery . . .	508.
Bachannis, St. Piro's	Carmarth. . .	Abbey	c. 513.
Bardsey, or Insula Sanctorum	Carnarvon . .	? Abbey	before 516.
Vallis Rosina	Pembr. . .	Monks	after 519.
Padstow, or St. Petroc's	Cornw. . .	Monastery . . .	c. 520.
Llandaff	Glamorgan . .	Episcopal see . .	522.
Mauritanea, or St. Paternus	Cardigan . .	Episcopal see and monastery . . .	c. 550.
St. Asaph's	Flint . . .	Episcopal see and monastery . . .	middle of 6th cent.
Bangor, or Banchor	Carn. . . .	Monastery . . .	middle of 6th cent.
Llanbadarn fawr	Cardigan . .	Episcopal see and monastery . . .	middle of 6th cent.
Rochester.	Kent . . .	Episcopal see and secular priests . .	c. 600.
Canterbury, Christ Church or Holy Trinity	Kent . . .	Benedictines . . . Seculars	c. 600-829. 830-1003; [1011, destroyed by Danes,
Malmesbury	Wilts. . .	Nunnery Abbey Seculars Benedictines . . .	603. c. 675. 950-970. 970.
Canterbury, St. Augustine's	Kent . . .	Benedictines . . .	605.
Westminster	Midd. . .	Abbey Benedictines . . . Rebuilding in . . .	c. 610. 958. 1049.
St. German's	Cornw. . .	Collegiate; priory; Episc. see; Se- culars become Regulars in . . .	614. 1050.
Tinmouth (Tunnacaestir)	Northumb. . .	Benedictine mo- nastery Re-founded in . . .	617 x 633 (<i>Dugd.</i>); be- ginning of 8th cen- tury (<i>Tann.</i>). 671 x 685. destr. by Danes 8th, 9th, and 10th cent.
Icanhoe	Linc. . . .	Monastery . . .	624-870 (654, <i>Tann.</i>).