

**CHRONICA JOCELINI DE
BRAKELONDA, DE REBUS
GESTIS SAMSONIS ABBATIS
MONASTERII SANCTI EDMUNDI**

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Chronica Jocelini de Brakelonda, de Rebus Gestis Samsonis Abbatis Monasterii Sancti Edmundi
by Jocelin de Brakelond

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JOCELIN DE BRAKELOND

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ABBATIS MONASTERII SANCTI EDMUNDI.

NUNC PRIMUM TYPIS MANDATA

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CORRIGENDUM.

P. 129, l. 30, for " baserpent," read " ba serpent."

P R E F A C E.

THE present Chronicle comprehends the annals of the Monastery of St. Edmund from the year 1173 to 1202. The early pages give a rapid sketch of the state of the Monastery under Abbot Hugh, intended as an Introduction to the History of the Government of Samson de Totington, his successor, whose acts are the chief object of the Chronicle. Abbot Hugh died in 1180, and was succeeded by Samson in 1182, after a vacancy of a year and three months.

Jocelin de Brakelond, the writer, a native of St. Edmundsbury,¹ dates his Chronicle from the year when the Flemings were taken prisoners without the town (alluding to the battle of Fornham in 1173), in which year, he tells us,² that he took the habit at St. Edmund's, having made his noviciate under Samson, then Master of the Novices, afterward Abbot, to whose charge he had been

¹ The Long Brakelond, leading from the North Gate to the Market Place, and the Little Brakelond, are ancient streets of St. Edmundsbury mentioned in deeds 33 Edw. I. Regist. Croftis, MS. Harl. XXVII. fol. 5. 10 v. 14. 15.

² Vide Chron. p. 1.

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specially committed.¹ According to Bale,² he studied at Cambridge; but for this we have not seen any authority. At the time of the election of Abbot Samson, Jocelin was the Prior's chaplain; and within four months was promoted to be chaplain to the Abbot,³ with whom he lived, to use his own language, day and night for six years.⁴ In 1198 and 1200, he did the honours of the abbey as guest-master,⁵ perhaps still continuing one of the Abbot's chaplains; and was afterward almoner, an office which he filled at the death of Samson in 1211.⁶

A contemporary monk of St. Edmund's has recorded⁷ the character of our Chronicler in these simple words: "Dominus Jocelinus elemosinarius noster, vir religionis eximie, potens in sermone et opere."

Jocelin de Brakelond wrote⁸ on the miracles of St. Robert, the boy martyred by the Jews at St. Edmundsbury in 1181. Bale, and later bibliographers, also ascribe

¹ Ibid. p. 3.

^{*} Script. Illust. Bas. 1559, p. 259.

² Chron. p. 19.

³ Ibid. p. 27. Bishop Tanner, in error, represents that our author was cellarist of the monastery in the 9th Richard I. confounding him with Jocellus or Jocellinus, twice cellarist, and afterward appointed to the Altar. Vide Chron. pp. 84, 86, 91; *Chronica de Electione Hugonis Abbatis* MS. Harl. 1005. fol. 164.

⁴ Chron. pp. 71, 95.

⁵ Ibid. p. 50. Chron. de Electione Hugonis Abbatis, fol. 165.

⁶ Chron. p. 50.

⁷ Ibid. 12.