CHARTER BY JOHN EARL OF MORETON, AFTERWARDS KING JOHN, TO THE MASTER AND BRETHREN OF THE TEMPLE OF SALOM, IN JERUSALEM.

Joħs Com̃ Moretoñ Omnib3 hoïb3 ⁊ Amicis suis Franc̃ ⁊ Angł ⁊ Hÿb Salt̃. Sciatis me concessisse ⁊ confirmasse đo ⁊ Frib3 milicie templi Salom̃ Ierłm omnes donationes ꝑrarum ⁊ ħoïnum ⁊ elemosinar^{9} q̃ eis rõnabilıꝑ facte sunt vł fient in posꝑm. tam in eccłiis. q^{m}m in reb3 et possessionib3 mundanis. Qr̃ volo ⁊ firmıt̃ p̃cipio qđ p̃đci fr̃es ⁊ eoꝝ hõines ões possessiones ⁊ elemosinas suas ħant ⁊ teneant cū soca ⁊ saca ⁊ toll ⁊ theã ⁊ infangenethof. ⁊ cū oïb3 aliis libtatib3 ⁊ libis consuetudinib3 ⁊ quietanc̃ suis. In bosco ⁊ plano. In pratis ⁊ pasturis ⁊ molenđ. In viis ⁊ semitis. In stagñ ⁊ vivariis. ⁊ mariscis ⁊ piscariis. ⁊ grangiis ⁊ virgultis infra civitates ⁊ burg̃ ⁊ ext^{m}. ⁊ In oïb3 locis ⁊ ĩ omnib3 reb3. Solutas. ⁊ libas. ⁊ quietas de scir̃ ⁊ de hunđr ⁊ placitis ⁊ querelis. ⁊ murdro ⁊ latrocinio ⁊ waponť. ⁊ scutag̃ ⁊ geldis ⁊ denegelđ. ⁊ hidag̃. ⁊ assisis ⁊ de oꝑationib3 castelloꝝ ⁊ pontiū ⁊ parcoꝝ et vivarioꝝ ⁊ de fertdwit̃ ⁊ de hengewit̃ ⁊ de flemenefremth ⁊ de warpeñ ⁊ de averpeñ. ⁊ de blodwita ⁊ de fichtwit̃ ⁊ hundredpeñ. ⁊ de thethingpeni. Ut quieti sint de omni telloneo ⁊ passag̃ ⁊ pontag̃ ⁊ lestag̃ ⁊ stallag̃ ⁊ de omni sectari servicio. ⁊ oꝑe servili ⁊ exactiõe. ⁊ de omnib3 aliis occasionib3 ⁊ consuetudinib3 sectarib3. excepta sola justic̃ mortis ⁊ membrorum. Hec omnia eis concessi ꝑpetuam elemosinã ꝑ amore đi ⁊ ꝑ aïa Reg̃ H. pr̃is mei ⁊ ꝑ salute mea. ⁊ Ric̃ Reg̃ đni ⁊ fr̃is mei ⁊. A. regine mr̃is mee ⁊ oïum añcessorum ⁊ successorum meorum ubiꝗ in ꝑris meis. Sic̃ H. Rex pr̃ meus. ⁊ Ric̃ Rex dñs ⁊ fr̃ meus eis con[cesserun]t ⁊ confirmaverunt. T. Gaufr̃ Com̃ de Ꝑthic̃. Witt de Wenñ. Witt [.....]ichetot. Theobalđ Walꝑi. Hug̃ de Malalū. Rad Ꝑluch. Rog̃ de Pl[.....] Rad Morin. Rob. Marmiun. Apđ Ro tho ma g̃.

(*Endorsed in a somewhat later hand.*)

Joħs Comes Moretoñ cõfr̃mato de libtat̃.

This charter was granted by John before his accession to the throne, and probably during the absence of King Richard, his brother, in the East, or during his subsequent captivity.

The manuscript from which the preceding copy has been derived was in the possession of the Master and Brethren of the Temple at their Preceptory of Rothley, in the county of Leicester. Upon the dissolution of the order it passed with other evidences to the Order of the Hospital, and was by them preserved until their own dissolution by Henry the Eighth.

This charter then passed, with the accumulated evidences of the Preceptory and Commandery of Rothley, to the grantee or purchaser of the Soke, under the royal grant, and it is still preserved among the muniments at Rothley Temple, whence the present copy has, by permission, been obtained.

The charter is written cross-wise upon a sheet of thin white parchment 12 inches long by 7 broad. The writing is contained in twenty-two lines, and occupies the upper two-thirds of the membrane. It is clearly written, in an upright hand, with tall heads to the letters, in brownish black ink, and is perfectly legible. In the lower part of the parchment are six holes, forming an oval of three inches by two, for the attachment of the seal, which, however, is completely gone, nor do any marks whatever of the wax remain upon the parchment. The three lower holes are double, the lower margin of the parchment being turned up as usual. The charter has been carelessly treated, and has been attacked apparently by mice in three places. Parts of three words are thus rendered illegible. One of these is supplied within brackets; the two others, being proper names, have not been attempted.

As the charter is common to the order of the Temple at large, and has no especial reference to the particular Preceptory in which it has been preserved, there is reason to suppose it not to be the original document; a supposition strengthened by the appearance of the parchment, which seems never to have borne a wax seal. But, though probably not original, it is evident from its appearance and the handwriting both of the deed and its endorsement, that it is of the same or nearly the same date with the original, and is doubtless an authenticated copy transmitted from the Temple in London to the Master and Brethren of Rothley.

The collection of ancient charters printed by the Record Commission, contains no charter by John as Earl of Moreton, nor is there one to be found among the evidences of the Order of the Temple, as collected and printed by Dugdale and his Editors in the Monasticon. Hence the peculiar interest of the present document.

Charters resembling this were granted by John to the Templars shortly after his accession, and similar ones exist of the dates of the 11th and of the 37th Hen. III., in the latter of which some of the Saxon Law terms, then becoming obsolete, are explained.

Of the witnesses to the present charter the names of some occur elsewhere after the Earl became King. Thus Geoffrey Earl of Perch grants a charter in the second of John. Theobald, the son of Walter, occurs in another of the 15th of John, as does Hugh de Malalouay in the 1st of John; Robert Marmiun also witnesses a charter in the 5th of John.

It may be remarked that the word "me," in the second line of the charter, is corrected into "nos" in the charters granted after John's accession. The "Habendum et tenendum" clause, supposed to have been introduced into general use under John, appears here; but the "reddendum" clause, introduced under the same monarch, is wanting. The words "Hiis testibus," so constant in later charters, do not appear here; they were occasionally inserted under Richard the First, but came into general use under Hen. III. It is remarkable that this charter bears the date of the place (Rouen) only.

G. T. C.

DESCENT OF SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL PROPERTY IN ROMANBY TOWNSHIP, IN THE PARISH OF NORTH ALLERTON, NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

When an historian of "Allertonshire," (that is to say, the district bounded by Durham on the north, Bulmer wapentake on the south, Cleveland on the east, and Richmondshire on the west,) appears, the following matter may assist him in detailing the topographical history of Romanby.

During, and at the close of the seventeeuth century, one of the most important families, if not the *only* one of *consequence*, resident here, was a branch of the wide-spreading Yorkshire house of Metcalfe; and Thornborough Hall in Romanby was its seat. This family is of great antiquity in Yorkshire, and so populous, that there is scarcely a town or village in the North and West Ridings which cannot own an inhabitant named "Metcalfe." It is written, that, even in the fifteenth century, Thomas Metcalfe, Sheriff of Yorkshire, was attended to the assizes by one hundred and fifty Metcalfes mounted on white horses. There is a tomb in the mother church of North Allerton to one Mark Metcalfe its Vicar, with the date 1593; but the name is really so common in the county, that it is impossible to