CHARTER OF KING HENRY II. GRANTING THE VILL OF REINES, NOW RAYNE, IN ESSEX, TO GERVASE DE WELLIS.

(From the Original in the possession of Robert Cole, Esq. F.S.A.)

This charter relates to the manor of Rayne, near Braintree, in Essex, which Morant, in his History of that county, vol. ii. p. 401, states to have been in the possession of the family of Welles from the reign of Henry II. until carried by an heiress in marriage to William de Rushbrooke in the middle of the fourteenth century. Morant does not, however, mention the name of Gervase de Welles, who by the present charter appears to have been the grantee from Henry II.

The date of the charter is nearly determined by the names of the witnesses. John de Oxenford became dean of Salisbury in 1165 and bishop of Norwich in 1175: he is the only John in the list of deans of Salisbury in the reign of Henry II. The earl William de Mandeville succeeded to the earldom of Essex on the death of his brother in 1167. Saher de Quinci was subsequently earl of Winchester. Reginald de Curtenai and Hugh de Laci both ranked as Barons. When the charter passed the seal the King was *apud Vallem Rodolei*,—at Vaudreuil, a royal castle of which many particulars will be found in the indexes to "Magni Rotuli Scaccarii Normanniæ sub Regibus Angliæ," edited by Mr. Stapleton for the Society of Antiquaries, 2 vols. 1840, 1844.

H. Rex Angł 7 Dux Norm̃ 7 Aquit̃ 7 Com̃ Andeg̃ Archiep̃is Ep̃is Com̃ Baroñ Justic̃ Vic̃ 7 om̃ib3 fidelib3 suis Angł salt. Sciatis me dedisse Gervasio de Wellis villā de Reines p̱ servicio suo que est de Constabłaria cū om̃ib3 p̱tinentiis suis tenendū sibi 7 h̃edib3 suis de me 7 h̃edib3 meis p̱ servitiū unius Militis Qr̃ volo 7 firmit̃ p̃cipio qd̃ p̃dict̃ Gervasius 7 h̃edes sui post eū habeant 7 teneant p̃noĩatā villā cū om̃ib3 p̱tinentiis suis. in bosco 7 plano. in pratis 7 pasturis. in aquis 7 molendinis. in vivariis 7 piscariis. in viis 7 semitis. 7 in om̃ib3 aliis locis 7 aliis reb3 ad eand̃ p̱tinentib3 bñ 7 ī pace 7 liḃe 7 q̱ete 7 integre 7 honorifice cū om̃ib3 liḃtatib3 7 liḃis consuetudinib3 suis p̱ p̃dictū servitiū. T. Joh̃e Decano Sar̃. Com̃ Wiłło de Mand̃. Regiñ de Curtenai. Regiñ de Pavilli. Hug̃ de Creissi. Sediero (*sic*) de Quinci. Hug̃ de Laci. Joh̃ de Solineio. Widoñ de Sc̃o Walico. Roḃto de Stilt̃. Wiłło de Albeneio. Roḃto fił Pet̃. apd̃ Vallē Rodolei.

(*The seal lost.*)

Indorsed, Carta de Rege H. Registrat̃.