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WYCLIFFE'S PREFERMENTS AND UNIVERSITY DEGREES.

THE following two documents are the only ones yet found in the Vatican archives which throw light on Wycliffe's preferments, and especially on the chronology of his university degrees. They belong to the registers of petitions and the so-called Vatican registers. The yet unexplored series of Avignon registers may also in its turn be expected to yield its contribution. The information contained in these two documents has been utilised by Mr. Rashdall for his article on Wycliffe in the 'Dictionary of National Biography,' lxiii.

J. A. TWEMLOW.

I.

1362, 24 November, Avignon. Petition to Urban V from the University of Oxford for provision to be made to John de Wyclif, priest, M.A., of a canonry and prebend and a dignity of York, notwithstanding that he holds the church of Filingham,¹ value thirty marks. Granted in Westbury.² *Reg. Supplic. (Urban. V.), xxxiv. f. 207.*³

f. 207. ROTULUS MAGISTRORUM UNIVERSITATIS OXONIE.

Sanctitati vestre supplicans filii vestri humiles et devoti cancellarius et ceteris unanimis magistrorum universitatis Oxonie quatenus gratias infrascriptas eis de benignitate [*sic*] solita concedere dignemini et signare, cum reservacione, inhibicione, et decreto, acceptacione, et anteferri, ac aliis clausulis consuetis et eciam oportunis, et eciam executoribus, ut est moris.

The fifth petition on the roll occurs on *f. 207 d.*

Item. Supplicans sanctitati vestre quatenus Johanni de Wychif [*sic*] Eboracensis dyocesis, clerico et presbytero ac magistro in artibus, de canonicatu et prebenda cum dignitate in ecclesia cathedrali Eboracensi dignemini providere, non obstante quod ecclesiam parochialem de Filingham Lincolnensis dyocesis, taxe xxx marcharum sterlingorum, optinere noscatur. Fiat in ecclesia de Westbury diocesis Vigorniensis, B.⁴ *In margin W. [i.e. Wigorniensis].*

¹ Fillingham, Co. Lincoln.

² Westbury-on-Trim, Co. Gloucester.

³ *Calendar of Petitions*, i. 390.

⁴ The capital letter added after the word *Fiat* is, in the case of Boniface IX (1389-1404) and his successors of the Roman obedience, and so down to the present pope, invariably the initial letter of their Christian name. For the popes of the Avignon period, however, and their successors of the obedience of Avignon it is not clear what determined the choice of the particular letter used in their signatures. John XXII (James Arnaldi d'Ense) and Benedict XII (James Novelli, *alias* Fournier) both have, like Urban V, *Fiat B.* Clement VI and Gregory XI, who were each named Peter Roger, or Rogier, both sign *Fiat R.* The *Fiat G* of Innocent VI (Stephen Alberti, Aubert) least of all admits of explanation. Of the popes of the obedience of Avignon during the schism Clement VII (Robert of Geneva, *Gebennensis*) has *Fiat G*, and Benedict XIII (Peter de Luna) has *Fiat L*; and their practice suggests that in the fuller form of Urban V's name, William Grimoard *de Beauvoir*, may be found a possible explanation of his *Fiat B.* Although a satisfactory explanation has not yet been given, it is meanwhile permissible to doubt whether, as suggested by Bresslau (*Urkundenlehre*, i. 738), the choice of initial letter in the signatures of the fourteenth-century popes was purely arbitrary. Several of them, including Urban V,

The date, *viii Kalendas* [corrected from *Idus*] *Decembris anno primo*, occurs, as usual, at the end of the roll.

II.

1878, 26 December, Avignon. Grant by Gregory XI to John Wiclif, M.A., S.T.M., rector of Lugdgersale,⁵ that he may retain his canonry and prebend of [Aust in] Westburi, even after he obtains possession of a canonry and prebend of Lincoln; notwithstanding the clause to the contrary in the provision lately made to him by the pope of a canonry of Lincoln, with expectation of a prebend, soon after which provision he became licentiate, and then master, of theology. *Reg. Vat. (Greg. XI), cclxxiv. f. 188.*⁶

[Gregorius etc.] dilecto filio Johanni Wiclif, canonico Lincolniensi, magistro in theologia, salutem &c. Litterarum sciencia, vite ac morum honestas, aliaque probitatis et virtutum merita quibus personam tuam fidedignorum testimonio iuvari percepimus, nos inducunt ut te dono specialis favoris et gracie prosequamur. Dudum siquidem tibi de canonicatu cum reservacione prebende ecclesie Lincolniensis tunc in ea vacantis uel vacature per nostras litteras providimus, volentes inter cetera quod quamprimum vigore litterarum ipsarum canonicatus et prebende predictorum possessionem fores pacificam assecutus, canonicatum et prebendam ecclesie de Westburi Wigorniensis diocesis, quos tunc temporis obtinebas prout adhuc obtines, quosque ex tunc vacare decernimus [*sic*], omnino dimittere tenereris, prout in eisdem litteris plenius continetur. Nos igitur, volentes te qui eciam ut asseris in artibus magister existis, et cito post datam dictarum litterarum in theologia licenciatus et demum magister fuisti, premissorum meritorum tuorum intuitu prerogativa prosequi favoris et gracie potioris, tuis in hac parte supplicacionibus inclinati, volumus et tibi parochialem ecclesiam de Lugdgersale Lincolniensis diocesis obtinenti apostolica auctoritate concedimus quod, voluntate et decreto nostris supradictis nequaquam obstantibus, predictos canonicatum et prebendam dicte ecclesie de Westburi, eciam postquam vigore dictarum litterarum predictos canonicatum et prebendam dicte ecclesie Lincolniensis, quos nondum adeptus es, fueris pacifice assecutus possis licite retinere. Nulli ergo etc. nostre voluntatis et concessionis infringere etc. Datum Avinione, vii Kalendas Januarii anno tercio.

ELIZABETHAN GLEANINGS.

III. *Pius IV and the English Church Service.*

It has long been known that Pope Pius IV did something in the way of prohibiting those Englishmen who were likely to attend to papal commands from participating in the worship of the English church. I am not aware, however, that the document in which were monks, but it is not known what, if any, cloister names they assumed. (The signatures of John XXII, Benedict XII, and Gregory XI, whose registers of petitions have disappeared, are preserved, it may be remarked, in their chancery rules. See E. von Ottenthal, *Regulæ Cancellariæ Apostolicæ* [Innsbruck, 1888], pp. 2 sqq., 9, and 81.)

⁵ Ludgershall, Co. Bucks.

⁶ *Calendar of Papal Letters*, iv. 193 (in the press).