

Bishop *Radulphus de Salopiá*, or *Ralph of Shrewsbury*,\* made certain statutes and ordinances, dated 7 Id. April, A.D. 1347,† a table of which is given in the Appendix; and in the following year began to erect a new college for their residence, obtained the king's letters patent confirming his gift,‡ and had the same ratified by the prior and chapter of Bath, and the dean and chapter of Wells, appointing "a certain place of the soil of the church of" "St. Andrew at Wells, and the houses in the same place, built and to be" "built by the said Ralph, to have and to hold to them and their successors," "vicars of the church aforesaid, for their common and perpetual cohabitation." Also, allowing him to charge his "lands and tenements in Congresbury," "parcel of his bishopric aforesaid, with an hundred shillings annuity," and "certain other lands and tenements with the appurtenances in Wookey, with" "another hundred shillings annuity," and "to give and assign the same ten" "pounds annuity to the said vicars, celebrating and which shall celebrate" "divine service in the said church, in augmentation of their sustenance, to be" "perceived and had yearly out of the said lands and tenements to the same" "vicars and their successors for ever." It appears that this college consisted of "the hall, kitching, bakehouse, and other houses in the same place, built" "and to be built."§ He endowed their body with other lands which he had obtained from the Feoffees of Walter de Hulle, in Wellsleigh, Eston, and Dulcot,|| together with a yearly charge of £6. 13s. 4d. upon the vicarage of Chew.

\* *Radulphus de Salopiá*, multum hic à Wellensibus nostris celebratur, quod Collegii Vicariorum primus extiterit fundator.—*De Præsulibus*, p. 376, in *Vitá Radulphi de Salopiá*. He was Keeper of the King's Wardrobe, Chancellor of the University of Oxford (in 1323), and was elected Bishop of this diocese by the two chapters of Bath and Wells on the 2d of June, 1329; he was consecrated, prior to obtaining the Pope's approval, on the 3d of December following; and Walsingham says, it cost him "a huge sum of money" before he could procure a full confirmation from the Court of Rome. He was a munificent benefactor to his Cathedral and diocese, rebuilt the Church at Winscombe from the foundations, constructed the court-house at Claverton, and a great chamber at Evercreech, with many other edifices upon the episcopal estates. He erected a house for the choristers and their master on the west side of the cloisters, and surrounded the episcopal palace at Wells with a strong stone wall and a moat. He also procured, "with great cost," the disafforestation of Mendip forest, and gave some rich ecclesiastical vestments, with many other things, to his churches at Bath and Wells; of which Godwyn says that he believed, in his time, nothing remained but a great chest bound with iron, in which the chapter seal was kept. He died at Wiveliscombe on the 14th of August, 1363, and was buried before the high altar in the presbytery at Wells, but his tomb was removed to its present situation in the north aisle, close to the second column from the east, at the back of the choir; because, says Leland, in his *Itinerary*, vol. iii. p. 108, it obstructed the priests in their ministrations. BRITTON'S *Wells Cathedral*, pp. 38, 39, and 109. See also *Anglia Sacra*, pars i. in *Vitá Radulphi de Salopiá*, p. 568. DUGDALE'S *Monasticon*, vol. ii. pp. 278, 279.

† *Monasticon*, vol. vi. p. 1466, and notes. See, also, the Appendix.

‡ Pat. 22. Edward III. p. 3, m. 16. Pro mansio vicariorum et terris in Congresbury et Woky.

§ See this deed of gift in the Appendix.

|| Pat. 26. Edward III. p. 2, m. 6. Pro ten. in Wellese, Eston, et Dulcot, ex dono feoffatorum Walteri de Hulle, archidiacon. Bathon.