
This volume contains the narrative of an eye-witness who details with considerable power and minuteness the circumstances which attended the final expulsion of the English from Normandy in 1449.


This work consists of two parts: the History and the Cartulary of the Monastery of St. Peter, Gloucester. The history furnishes an account of the monastery from its foundation, in the year 681, to the early part of the reign of Richard II., together with a catalogue of donations and benefactions. It treats principally of the affairs of the monastery, but occasionally matters of general history are introduced. Its authorship has generally been assigned to Walter Froucester the twentieth abbot, but without any foundation.

34. ALEXANDRI NECKAM DE NATURIS RERUM LIBRI DUO; WITH NECKAM'S POEM, DE LAUDIBUS DIVINAE SAPIENTIÆ. Edited by Thomas Wright, M.A. 1863.

Neckam was a man who devoted himself to science, such as it was in the twelfth century. In the “De Naturis Rerum” are to be found what may be called the rudiments of many sciences mixed up with much error and ignorance. Neckam had his own views in morals, and in giving us a glimpse of the manners, customs, and general tone of thought prevalent in the twelfth century, he throws much light upon the manners, customs, and general tone of thought prevalent in the twelfth century. He appears to be a metrical paraphrase or abridgment of the “De Naturis Rerum.” It is written in the elegiac metre, and it is, as a whole, above the ordinary standard of mediaeval Latin.


This work illustrates not only the history of science, but the history of superstition. In addition to the information bearing directly upon the medical skill and medical faith of the times, there are many passages which incidentally throw light upon the general mode of life and ordinary diet.


The present collection of Monastic Annals embraces all the more important chronicles compiled in religious houses in England during the thirteenth century. These distinct works are ten in number. The extreme period which they embrace ranges from the year 1 to 1432, although they refer more especially to the reigns of John, Henry III., and Edward I.


This work contains a number of very curious and interesting incidents, and is valuable, not only as a biography of a celebrated ecclesiastic but as the work of a man, who, from personal knowledge, gives notice of passing events, as well as of individuals who were then taking active part in public affairs. The author, in all probability, was Adam Abbot of Bresham, domestic chaplain and private confessor of Bishop Hugh. Bishop Hugh's consecration took place on the 21st September 1186; he died on the 16th of November 1200; and was canonized in 1229.


The authorship of the Chronicle in Vol. I., hitherto ascribed to Geoffrey Vincseauf, is now more correctly ascribed to Richard, Canon of the Holy Trinity of London. The narrative extends from 1187 to 1199; but its chief interest consists in the minute and authentic narrative which it furnishes of the exploits of Richard I., from his departure from England in December 1189 to his death in 1199.