Membrane 12—cont.

Thornton, John de Neuton, Walter de Wytryngham, Walter de Brikenhale and Walter de Brumpton, brethren of the hospital, who say as touching the estate of the hospital that William II., son of William the Conqueror, who founded the hospital and a chapel there in honour of St. Peter, called it the hospital of St. Peter, York, and founded it for the support of poor persons, that he made there a master and keeper, who made brethren, chaplains, and others, and sisters, wearing the dress they now wear, to celebrate divine service, tend the poor and keep the goods of the hospital by the advice and order of the said master and brethren, and the said king gave them thraves, called by reason of their chapel thraves of St. Peter, to wit, one thrave of every kind of corn for every plough in the counties of York, Lancaster, Westmoreland, and Cumberland, for support of the poor and sick there, by two charters, which the dean and chapter of the greater church of St. Peter, York, by their own authority have taken in the hospital against the will of the brethren, and still detain; that king Henry I. gave them the common, which they have in the forests of Yorkshire, to wit, pasture for their animals, wood for firing and building, and other liberties; that king Stephen built in the high street adjoining the hospital a church in honour of St. Leonard, and changed the name of the hospital to that of St. Leonard; that king Henry II. gave them the grange of Aton, with many other lands and rents; that king Richard I. confirmed to them all the grants of these kings and of others, and all the said kings granted the custody of the house, and made masters and keepers whenever the hospital fell void in their times; that king John confirmed all these things, and made there as keeper and master one Paulinus de Ledes, after whose death he conferred the custody of the hospital and made keeper and master there one John, a brother of the hospital, who held the custody for two years, when, in the time of the war of the said king against his barons, the dean and chapter forcibly removed him from the hospital and the custody thereof; and to the present time they have made a master there and have possessed themselves of the advowson; and that king Henry III. confirmed all grants of his progenitors and others, and granted to them the land which they hold in Esynghaid for one priest celebrating at the altar of St. Edmund in the said church of St. Leonard, and for a rent of 1 mark at the Exchequer. Also, to the second article as to the appointment of the master or keeper of the hospital, they say that the kings used to grant the custody and mastership at will, as well to seculars as to religious, as a frank almonry and free chapel, without presentation to or institution by any ordinary, and without any visitation by the ordinary, unless by the king and his ministers when necessary, until the time when the dean and chapter possessed themselves of the advowson, neither did the ordinaries at any time, or do they now, make visitations in the churches of St. Giles, York, or Boghes, which they held as appropriated in the times of those kings, although in churches appropriated since their time, as Saxton, Neuton, and Ruford, they make visitations as before the appropriation, and the masters do for these as other rectors do for their churches. Also to the third article, whether the masters or keepers appointed have held the custody permanently or at will, they say that they are not removable without just cause. To the fourth article, as to the conditions upon which the master has held, they say that the hospital, inmates and goods ought to be in his custody and at his disposal, advised and aided by the brethren, but reliefs, perquisites of courts, and altar dues are reserved to him to provide therewith gifts, courtesies, and other matters, as he shall deem expedient, and that the common seal of the hospital ought to be delivered to the custody of two of the brethren under the seal of the master, with assent of the brethren, and accounts rendered yearly before the master and brethren at their Exchequer. To the fifth article, touching other matters affecting the state of the house, they say that brother Roger de