

historic interest entitle it to the honor once more, and it is therefore given in full, forthwith.

*“Eadward cyngre gret Leofwine bishop and Eadwine eorl and ealle mine theignes on Steffordscire freondlice. And ic kythe eow theat ic hadde gegifan Criste and Sancte Peter into Westminstre thaet land aet Pertune and aelle thera thinga thaes the thaer inn to herthon wuda and on felda mid saca and mid socna swa full and swa forth swa hit me sy fan on handa stod on eallen thingam than abbute to bigleofan and tham gebrothran the binnan than mynstre wouniath and ic nane men gethafian that thaer gentige aenig thaera thinga thaes the thaer into hyrth. God eow ealle ge heulde.”*

Translation :—“Edward the King greets Leofwine, Bishop and Edwine Earl and all my thanes in Staffordshire in friendship. And I tell you, that I have given to Christ and Saint Peter at Westminster the land at Perton, and all those things that thereunto belong, in forest and field, saccage and soccage, as fully and as free, as it stood to my own hand, in all things, to sustain the abbot and brethren, who dwell within the minster; and I will permit no man to disturb anything that thereunto belongs. God preserve you all.”

This Leofwine was the last to bear the title of Bishop of Lichfield and the first abbot of Coventry. The see had formerly been called Chester, and more lately promiscuously Chester or Lichfield, but after the death of Leofwine the latter became the see of Lichfield and Coventry, and so remained until 1836; after having been separated previously into the two diocese of Chester and Lichfield.

Speaking of this grant, Robt. W. Eyton, the leviathan antiquary of Shropshire, says, in his *Domesday Studies of Staffordshire*,—“Westminster Abbey had one estate in Staffordshire, viz., Perton. Domesday says nothing as to the ownership of Perton in Saxon times. It was King Edward's and was probably a member of the King's Manor of Tettenhall. The charter whereby the king gave Perton to the Abbey is extant. Inasmuch as it is addressed to Edwin as Earl of Mercia, it will have passed in the last four years of the king's life 1062-1065.” Some authorities have assigned the date of 1053 but in the absence of a good reason for this, I prefer to accept the date indicated by the above unusually careful and correct antiquary. J. P. Jones in his “*History of Tettenhall*” very pertinently remarks, “one cannot but admire the terse directness of this Anglo-Saxon King's language, as contrasted with the ambiguity and needless pomposity of later Latin deeds. His meaning is so clear, that one would imagine there could be no mistaking it.” Its clearness, however did not prevent litigation of a very protracted nature from taking place, for a period of nearly three hundred years. The violent political events and changes that convulsed the kingdom after the death of this pious king, chiefly owing to the demoralizing influences of his sacerdotal reign, very naturally led the crafty and astute monks of Westminster to surmise that their title to Perton was of a very insecure description, and they lost no time in taking advantage of the evident desire of Norman William to propitiate the priesthood, and thereby to get a confirmation of their title to this property. Accordingly we find that in the first year after the disaster at Hastings, the king issued a writ, early in 1067, that confirmed the grant of his monkish predecessor. Eyton says; “within the first three months of the year 1067, if we could trust to dates supplied by monastic chronicles, but at all events, before the summer of 1068 was ended, King William issued a writ, which, while it shows much of the contemporary order of things in Staffordshire, clears and corrects many points of more general history. The writ is in