

A ROCHDALE CHARTER

By William Farrer, Hon.D.Litt.

THE following grant to the monks of Fountains, made by Robert, son of Hugh de Wardhill, with the consent of Suane and Simon, his brothers, concerns a ridding called Morbrokerode, in the town of Wardle, near Rochdale. The date lies between 1190 and 1198. It is taken from the fourth volume of the great Chartulary of Fountains Abbey (*s.t.* Wardhil, *n.* 1), a volume which had long been missing, but which was discovered about a year ago in a solicitor's office in London, and has recently been acquired by the trustees of the John Rylands Library:

“Sciunt omnes presentes et futuri quod ego Robertus filius Hugonis de Wardhill dedi et concessi et hac presenti carta mea confirmavi, assensu et concessione fratrum meorum, Suani et Symonis, et aliorum heredum meorum, Deo et Sancte Marie et monachis de Fontibus in puram et perpetuam elemosinam, pro salute anime mee et animarum fratrum meorum et antecessorum meorum, unam essartam que vocatur Morbrokerode, cum omnibus pertinentiis suis sine ullo retinemento in villa de Wardhil, cum communi pastura ejusdem ville, libere et quiete de¹ omni servitio et seculari exactione, in bosco et plano et in omnibus aisiamentis ad eandem villam pertinentibus; et de bosco qui pertinet ad predictam villam capient predicti monachi ad edificandum et comburendum et ad sepes faciendas in predicta terra. Et ego Robertus et heredes mei warantizabimus prefatis monachis hanc predictam terram contra omnes homines. His testibus: Henrico clerico de Rachedal', Hugone de Eland,

¹ “pro”; Chartul.

Henrico fratre suo, Rogero de Mideltona, Willelmo de Radelclive, Henrico et Ricardo fratribus suis, Matheo de Glodic, Roberto de Liversege et Henrico filio suo, Hunfrido de Laceles et Ricardo filio suo, Jordano de Hetona et Johanne filio suo, Serlone filio Ricardi, Galfrido clerico de Alemanebiri, Ricardo Cheverol, et multis aliis."

A tenement in "Warthill" was confirmed to the monks of Fountains by Richard I on 9th November 1198.¹ Swane de Wardhull and his sons are mentioned in the Coucher Book of Whalley (Chetham Society, iii. 783).

¹ *Memor. of Ripon*, i. 16.