

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The greater part of the work for this volume was completed during my tenure of the Esher Research Studentship in 1933-5; I am indebted to the Trustees for the means to undertake it and carry it through. The use of the cartularies and original charters of St. Paul's, which involved long periods of work in the cathedral library, was made possible by the kind permission of the Dean and Chapter and the assistance of Mr. Gerald W. Henderson, Sub-Librarian and Keeper of the Muniments. At every stage in the production of the text Professor Stenton gave his advice and generous constructive criticism. Mr. Charles Johnson helped me in editing the Latin writs of the Norman kings, and Miss Whitelock gave me equally important assistance with the English writs and excerpts from Saxon charters.

When the book was in proof Miss E. Jeffries Davis revised many of the captions and the *index nominum*. The time and trouble which she so devotedly expended on the work produced many improvements and corrections: in particular the sections of the *index nominum* which deal with London topography owe much to her specialized knowledge. At this stage, too, the book benefited from the scholarship of Dr. Hubert Hall and Mr. C. R. Cheney. As successive literary directors they handled all the proofs, improving the text and solving various difficulties with unfailing generosity and patience.

These are my major debts. I am glad to have this opportunity of acknowledging all the varied assistance which I have had, and of thanking those who have given it. The total debt seems so great that I claim full responsibility only for such mistakes as may remain. I hoped to make a final collation of the text with the manuscripts; but at Easter, when the proof was ready for this, threatening "political tension" necessitated the removal of the muniments of St. Paul's from the cathedral for an indefinite period. The final check has therefore not been possible; nevertheless, it is hoped that the text is free from all but minor errors.

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