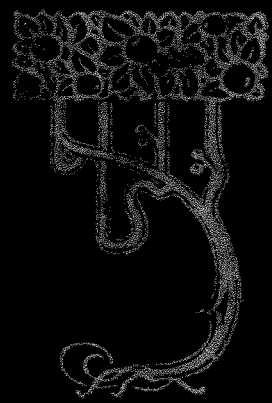




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EDWARD CECIL, VISCOUNT WIMBLEDON

*From the engraving by SIMON PASSE (1618)*

*British Museum*

THE  
**W**IMBLEDON AND  
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waste land of the manor, under this new system, and of the gradual development of the rights enjoyed by the tenants of the lord of the manor over it—rights which have operated to secure its preservation to us in its present condition—forms another story which even to glance at, would take me far outside the limits allowed me for this paper.

MONTAGUE S. GIUSEPPI.

## MERTON PRIORY

A.D. 1114—1539

**T**HE story of Merton Priory is closely interwoven with that of four of the most interesting centuries of English history; and although, unfortunately, hardly any traces of the material buildings now exist, few religious houses, perhaps, have left a richer legacy of records, of which the Cartulary, preserved at the British Museum, is the most important. It is upon this and the other documents so admirably edited by Major Alfred Heales in his 'Records of Merton Priory' that we propose to found this slight sketch.\*

There appears to have been some doubt as to the exact date of the foundation of the Priory, but it seems safe to assign it to the year 1114. 'Henry (I) King of the English,' says the Chronicle of Merton, 'gave the Ville pertaining to the Crown called Meriton or Merton, to Gilbert the Knight, formerly Sheriff, to possess freely in

\* 'The Records of Merton Priory,' by Major Alfred Heales, F.S.A., F.R.S.L., etc., London, 1898.