ROBERT GROSSETESTE
AND THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL AT OXFORD
(C. 1229-1253)

The mendicant revolution of the early thirteenth century fascinated Master Robert Grosseteste, who monitored the development of the Dominicans and Franciscans from their arrival in the university town of Oxford and formed friendships with key players such as Jordan of Saxony and Agnellus of Pisa. The friars’ simple lifestyle, espousal of evangelical poverty, dissemination of the Gospel and zeal for the renewal of the Church at all levels struck a chord in his heart. Some of his pupils, colleagues and friends were drawn to the ranks of the two mendicant orders, such as Robert Bacon, John of St Giles, Adam of Exeter and Ralph

1 This is an expanded form of a paper delivered at the conference entitled Science, Imagination and Wonder: Robert Grosseteste and His Legacy at Pembroke College, Oxford, between 3 and 6 April 2018. My thanks are due to Dr. Giles E. M. Gasper of Durham University for his generous assistance and hospitality. The term friars denotes Franciscans. Members of other mendicant families are expressly identified as Dominicans, Carmelites and Austin Friars.