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ORIGINAL LETTERS, &c.

RELATING TO THE

BENEFACTIONS OF ARCHBISHOP LAUD

TO THE COUNTY OF BERKS.





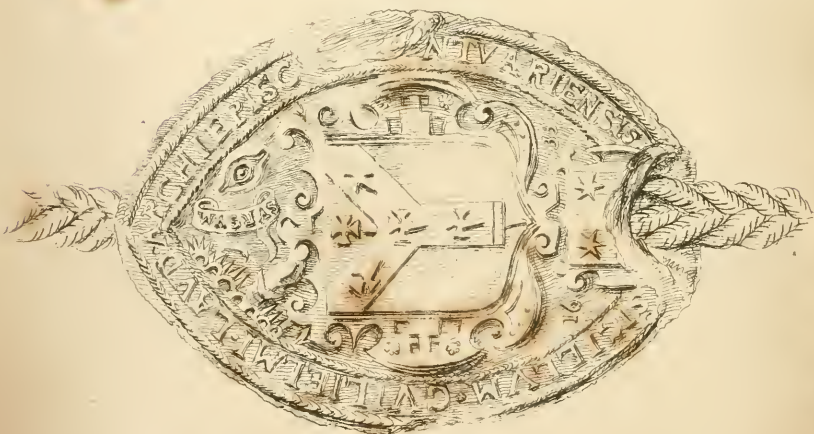
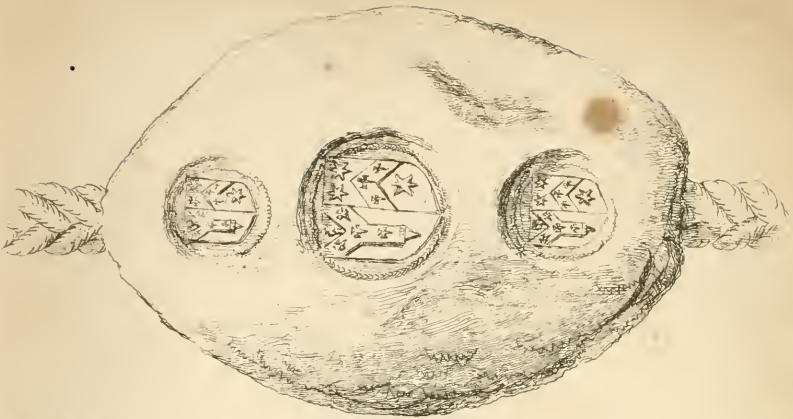
57 Kings Parade

(The Lea)

19th May 1841.

My dear Sir

I send you half a dozen  
copies of the little book about  
Archbishop Laud's character,  
and avail myself of this  
opportunity of reiterating my  
thanks for your very kind  
assistance. I wish I could



SEAL OF WILLIAM LAUD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

From the *Parkhurst Ashmolean Society* [1841]

ORIGINAL LETTERS,  
AND OTHER DOCUMENTS,  
RELATING TO THE  
BENEFACTIONS OF WILLIAM LAUD,  
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY,  
TO THE  
COUNTY OF BERKS.

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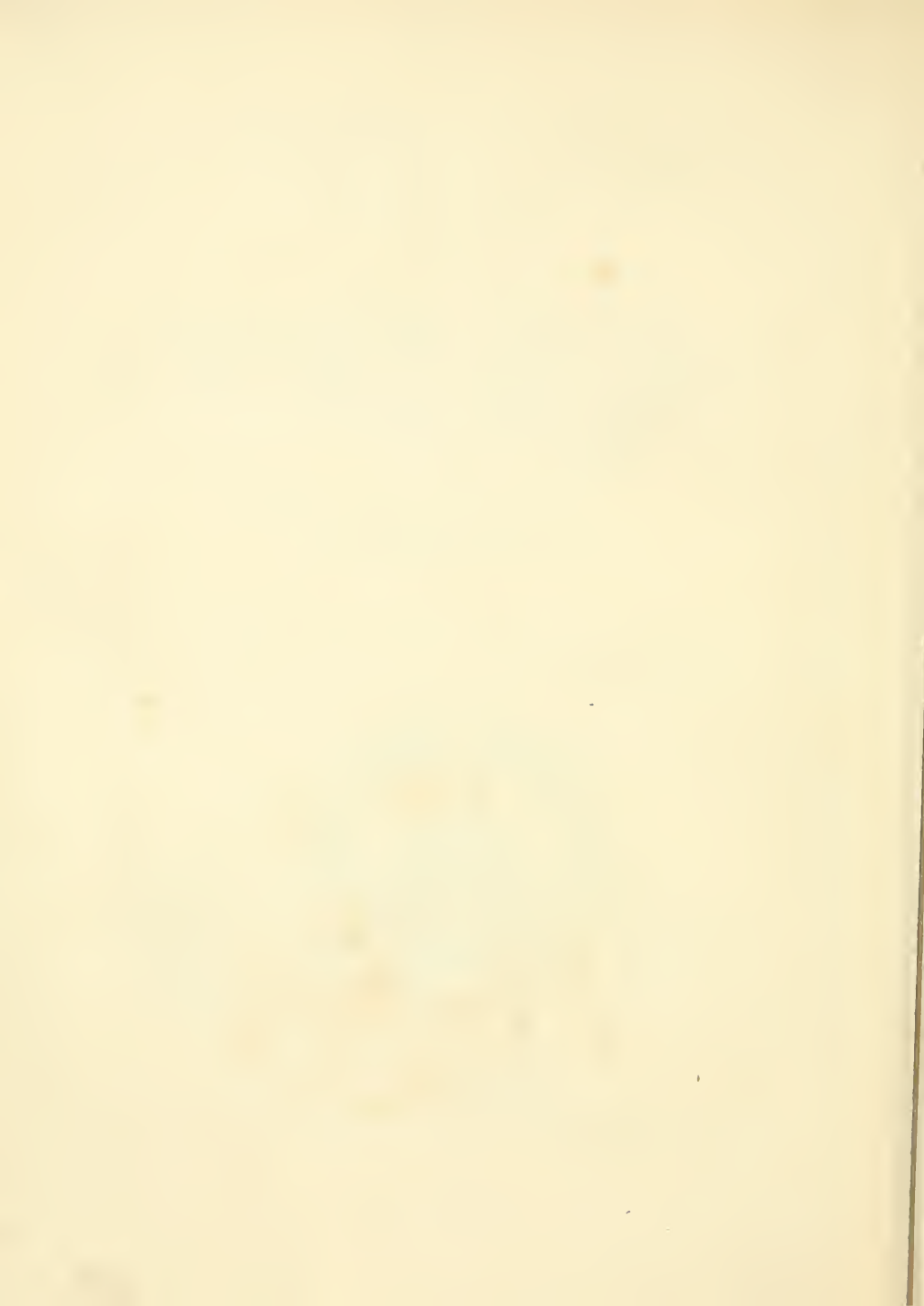
EDITED BY JOHN BRUCE, ESQ. F.S.A.



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M.DCCC.XLI.



325

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OF THE  
BERKSHIRE ASHMOLEAN SOCIETY,  
ELECTED MAY 23, 1840.

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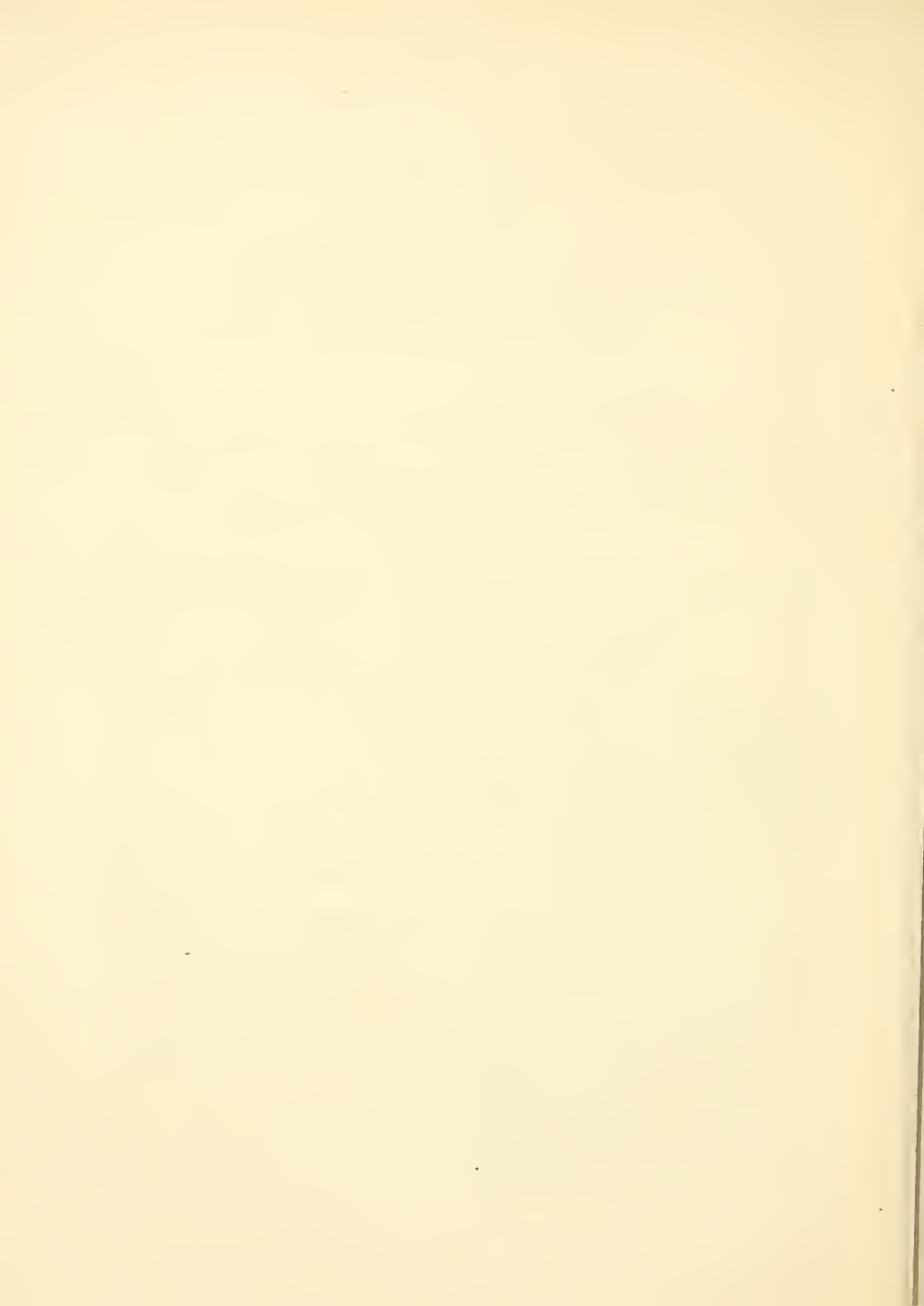
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## INTRODUCTION.

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IT falls within the province of the local historian to commemorate the actions of celebrated persons born within the limits he desires to illustrate, and his obligation to do so is the more certain in the instance of an individual who has maintained in after-life a connection with the place of his nativity, whether as possessing property, exercising influence, or devoting his wealth to advance its prosperity. A consideration of this obligation induced the Council of the Berkshire Ashmolean Society to determine upon printing the documents which are contained in the following pages. Archbishop Laud, from whom most of them proceeded, was a native of the chief town in that county to which the attention of the Society is to be directed, and the documents themselves principally relate to acts of charity and munificence on the part of the Archbishop, which yearly revive throughout the county of Berks the memory of his anxiety for its welfare. It is indeed only as a benevolent and charitable native of Berkshire, that, in this Society, we have anything to do with Archbishop Laud. The merits or faults of his

political conduct constitute a most important subject of consideration, but it is one upon which I am sure it would not be agreeable to the Council that I should enter. They would have the Archbishop set before the members of the Society, not as the advocate of political principles respecting which men will differ to the end of time, but as a man of kindly feelings and sympathies, labouring to better the condition of his poorer fellow-subjects, and especially of those connected with him by the tie of a common birth-place.

It weighed also with the Council in directing this publication, that it will tend to correct the erroneous notions which are prevalent respecting the nature of Archbishop Laud's Berkshire charities. In one author we read, that "in his native town of Reading he founded an excellent school;" in another, that "he founded an hospital in Reading;" in a third, that "he erected and endowed an almshouse in Reading;" and these representations, which are the mistakes of writers of character and authority,—the main props of English biography,—have been repeated, or have been but partially corrected by later inquirers. In the following pages an endeavour is made not only to give the history, but to explain both the nature and the extent of the Archbishop's munificence exercised towards his native county. In the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature* (ii. 205),



there is an interesting paper, written by Archdeacon Todd, upon the services rendered to general literature by Archbishop Laud; in the following pages we have an illustration of his liberality flowing in another direction; and, with respect to both, we may adopt the language of the Archdeacon, and assert, that his "bounty was more like that of a King than of a subject." "In bestowing," as was said of an Archbishop with whom Laud has been compared, "he was most princely."

As a further illustration of the character of this celebrated man, I have added, in the Appendix, a transcript of his will, which has hitherto been known only through the abridgment published by Wharton in the first volume of the Archbishop's Remains, p. 454. Wharton had principally in view the Archbishop's public character, which before his time had been treated with great injustice.\* He consequently omitted many passages of the will which relate more particularly to the Archbishop's private affairs; but, at the present day, and with reference

\* It is gratifying to know that Wharton's work was duly appreciated at Reading. In the Corporation Diary, under the date of 19th September, 1695, occurs the following entry: "It is alsoe agreed, that a small deske be fixed to the wainscott on the left hand side of the chimney in the counsell chamber, and that the booke (lately bought by the company, and this day brought thither by Mr. John Blake,) intituled, The History of the Troubles and Tryall of the most Reverend Father in God William Laud, late Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, deceased, be chained to the said deske with a small brasse chaine."

to the purposes of this publication, those very passages are amongst the most interesting. We form our notions of the Archbishop as a prelate and a statesman, from the principles which govern the parties in the Church and State to which we attach ourselves; but men of all parties feel an interest in stripping a public man of the decorations which dazzle those who see him only at a distance, in following him to his own chamber, in observing who are his friends and what his pursuits, in tracing the character of his thoughts in his unstudied expressions, and penetrating, through the medium of his unpremeditated actions, even into his feelings and affections. The passages omitted out of Wharton's publication of the Archbishop's will are precisely of the kind which enable us to do this with respect to him, as a few instances will prove. For example, there is evidence of character, and proof of constant affection in his legacies to the widow and children of the Duke of Buckingham (p. 63). The memory of that nobleman was, perhaps, more unpopular than that of any man who had lived in modern times; but Laud did not scruple to place his widow and children next in order, in his will, after his sovereign and his college, and to declare, that he "had a faithful heart to love, and the honour to be beloved of him." Wharton omitted two of these bequests.

Again, it is pleasing to find that the secluded, severe churchman, whom we are taught to consider as morose

and churlish, could describe the accomplished and elegant William Cavendish, the first Duke of Newcastle, a poet, a musician, and a wit, as his "much honoured friend," and that he left him, in that character, his best "diamond ring, worth £140 or neere it" (p. 63). This bequest was omitted by Wharton.

The bequests to his domestic chaplains (p. 64) lead to a knowledge of the class of divines whose presence he secured near himself. Amongst the legacies of that description it will be observed that he leaves to Dr. William Haywood, the well-known Vicar of Saint Giles's in the Fields, who was deprived by the Long Parliament, and suffered great hardships during the Rebellion, one of the seal-rings impressed upon the reverse of the seal to the Deed of Gift to Reading, which is engraved in the frontispiece. The particulars of these bequests were omitted by Wharton.

The Archbishop's attachment to places is exemplified by his donations to the poor of all the several parishes in which he had resided (p. 64). The long enumeration will enable any future biographer to trace his course of preferment. These also were omitted by Wharton.

So again, the names of his servants (p. 66), which were omitted by Wharton, illustrate passages in his Diary, and show the nature of his establishment, whilst his bequests to them throw light upon his conduct as a master.

His fondness for music may be inferred from the enu-

meration of his instruments ; an organ, a chest of violls,\* and a " harpsico in the parlour at Lambeth" (p. 65). The organ here mentioned is distinguished from that in his chapel, which, with his barge and pictures (as well those he found at Lambeth as those he added) he bequeathed to his successor, if the troubles in the State left him any.

In Wharton's abridgment of the passage relating to the Archbishop's books (p. 67), there are some omissions which are worthy of note. The "Vulgar Bibles" were no doubt copies of the Vulgate.

The passage relating to the Archbishop's sermons (p. 68) was altogether omitted by Wharton. He had revised some of them, with a view to the press, and had marked them with the letter Y ; but he directed that even those should not be printed until they had been perused by one of his reverend friends Bishops Juxon and Wren, or by Dr. Steward, Dean of Saint Paul's, "nor yet then unless the times will beare them."

The passages which contain bequests to his nephews and nieces, the descendants of his brothers and sisters of the half blood, which are inaccurately abridged in Wharton, will be found to contain information which rectifies

\* *A chest of violls* was a case, or box, with several partitions, usually lined with green baize, and intended to preserve viols (the predecessors of the violin) from injury by the weather. A chest held six or more instruments, and was often curiously ornamented.

mistakes of the Archbishop's biographers respecting his family connections.

In all these respects, and others which it would be tedious to enumerate, the Archbishop's will contains particulars which are desirable to be known, but are not to be found in Wharton's abridgment. I have therefore printed the whole will, and I point out these differences between the copy and the abridgment, not by any means with a design to depreciate Wharton, but to account for the re-publication, and to draw attention to some of the facts which are thus disclosed. The will was first printed in the Appendix to the present volume from a copy in the Harleian MS., No. 4115, fo. 34, but upon making application at the Prerogative Office to compare it with the original, I was informed, that, by the regulations of that Office, I could not be allowed to do so. The copy in the Harleian MS. being inaccurate in some minor particulars, the Council of the Berkshire Ashmolean Society were thus obliged to incur the expense of procuring from the Prerogative Office an office-copy of the whole Will, which, by payment of another fee, I was permitted to examine with the original. The will having been already set up in type, I did not think it worth while to put the Society to the further expense of altering the orthography: it will therefore be understood that, except in the case of palpable errors, the ortho-

graphy of the copy now printed is that of the Harleian MS., but that, in words, it is an accurate representation of the original. The will was altogether written by the Archbishop's hand, and was signed by him at the bottom of every page. It has two seals affixed upon the last page, one in wax, the other upon a wafer covered with paper: both are impressions of one of the seals which appear upon the reverse of the seal of the Deed of Gift to Reading, as represented in the frontispiece.

As a further local illustration of the subjects to which the letters relate, I have introduced them with a brief sketch of the history of the ancient Hospital of Saint John, Reading, out of which arose the Grammar School which forms the subject of several of the Archbishop's letters, and the Master of which is one of the recipients of his bounty. In the Appendix I have also inserted all the documents and manuscript-entries illustrative of the history of that Hospital which I have been able to find. Two of them have been printed before, but I did not think that circumstance a sufficient reason for their omission from a collection which is now, as far as I know, complete.

With the addition of this introductory matter and the will, it is hoped that the volume will be found not only to illustrate an interesting episode, if it may be so termed, in the Archbishop's life, but to exhibit a striking proof of

the value of that portion of our educational system by which school and college are linked together. The son of humble parents, whose dreams of ambition on his behalf probably never pictured his ascent beyond the station of a successful merchant, is sent to a borough-school, attached to which are two scholarships at Saint John's, Oxford. He distinguishes himself, and obtains one of them. The road to promotion is thus opened to him, and the blessing of Providence upon the steady exertion of his faculties enables him to rise to the Chancellorship of Oxford and the Archbishoprick of Canterbury. In its general outlines the tale is too common to be marvellous, but the gratitude of the Archbishop to every spot which afforded him a resting place on his ascent is almost unexampled. Berkshire owes him a large debt for that portion of his munificence which fell to her share, and in acknowledging the obligation, and making known its amount, the Ashmolean Society is but performing a duty which has been too long delayed.

The Society is indebted to the Trustees of the Church Charities of Reading for their ready permission to transcribe and publish the Letters and Deed of Gift, which are in their possession. In the examination of the papers with the originals, I was much facilitated by the kindness of John Jackson Blandy, Esq. the Town Clerk of Reading; and, throughout, I have received the most effective and

valuable aid from my friends John Richards, jun. Esq. and William Richard Drake, Esq. whose residence at Reading afforded me great facilities for the acquisition of information. Mr. Drake was kind enough to make transcripts for me of all the Letters and the Deed of Gift.

I beg also most respectfully to acknowledge my obligation to the Rev. Philip Wynter, D.D., Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and President of Saint John's College, for information most kindly furnished to me from the archives of that College.

The frontispiece, which is an excellent specimen of proper pictorial illustration, and a most effective representation of the original, is a contribution to the Society from Mr. Henry Clark Pidgeon, who, during a residence of several years in the county of Berks, gave great attention to its antiquities, and having now devoted himself to art as a profession, was anxious to have his name thus associated with the first publication of the Ashmolean Society. The frontispiece was not contributed until after the description of the Seal at p. 28 had been printed, which accounts for the omission of a reference to it in that place.

JOHN BRUCE.

*London, 14 February, 1841.*



TABLE OF REFERENCE TO THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.

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- I. 1634. Aug. 27. Order from Charles I. to the Corporation of Reading to remove certain shambles lately fixed up in Browne's Hill, Broad Street, in that town . . . . p. 8, n.
- II. 1636. May 2. Letter from Secretary Windebank to the Corporation of Reading, that, upon a vacancy in the Mastership of Reading School, his Majesty's pleasure is, that they shall not choose a Master without the consent of the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishop of the Diocese . . . . p. 10
- III. — November 30. Letter from the Corporation of Reading to Archbishop Laud informing him of the death of the Master of Reading School and begging his directions . . . . p. 11
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- VI. — December 15. Letter from Archbishop Laud to the Corporation of Reading seconding the recommendation of Mr. Page . . . . . p. 17
- VII. 1640. March 26. Deed of Gift from Archbishop Laud to the town of Reading for binding out poor boys apprentices, marrying poor maidens, and augmenting the Vicarage of St. Lawrence, and the Salary of the Master of Reading School . . . . p. 21

- VIII. 1640. March 28. Letter from Archbishop Laud to the Corporation of Reading, announcing the completion of his charitable intentions on behalf of the town, and giving them some directions thereon . . . . . p. 29
- IX. — June 25. Letter from Mr. Thomas Turner to Mr. John Jennings, Mayor of Reading, requesting him to come up or send to Archbishop Laud for £100, half a-year's rent of the lands at Bray . . . . . p. 30
- X. — July 17. Letter from Archbishop Laud to Mr. John Jennings, Mayor of Reading, directing the payment of £25 to the Executors of Mr. Taylor, the Vicar of Saint Lawrence, who had died on the 9th May 1640 . . . . . p. 31
- XI. — November 13. Letter from Archbishop Laud to the Mayor and Aldermen of Reading, sending them half-a-year's rent of the Lands at Bray, and stating his reasons for not interfering with their choice of a Member of Parliament . . . . . p. 33
- XII. — November 10. Letter from Mr. Thomas Turner to Archbishop Laud, petitioning, on behalf of a poor widow, that one of her sons might be apprenticed to herself . . . . . p. 35
- XIII. — November 29. Letter from Archbishop Laud to the Mayor and Aldermen of Reading in reply to Mr. Turner's petition . . . . . p. 37
- XIV. 1641. October 28. Letter from Archbishop Laud to the Mayor and Aldermen of Reading commenting upon his troubles, and requesting them to send a trusty person to him in the Tower to receive half-a-year's rent of the Lands at Bray . . . . . p. 39
- XV. — December 23. Letter from Archbishop Laud to the Mayor and Aldermen of Reading, thanking them for their care in the execution of their Trust, and directing a payment to be made to the Town Clerk for his trouble . . . . . p. 40
- XVI. 1642. October 20. Letter from Archbishop Laud to the Mayor of Reading, requesting him to come or send for the money for the year past . . . . . p. 42
- XVII. — October 27. Letter from Archbishop Laud to the Mayor and Aldermen of Reading, sending them £160 in full for a year's rent of the lands at Bray, which is all he could

- receive, and that he had it not in his power to make up the deficiency, and prescribing the way in which it should be disposed of . . . . . p. 44
- XVIII. 1662. November 1. Letter from Mr. George Thorne, Mayor of Reading, to Mr. Dalby, the Steward or Recorder of the Town, requesting him to attend Sir Orlando Bridgman, who formerly kept Archbishop Laud's Courts, and endeavour to find the Court Rolls of Bray . . . . . p. 48
- XIX. 1663. May 8. Letter from Mr. Edward Dalby to the Mayor of Reading, reporting his interview with Sir Orlando Bridgman . . . . . p. 49
- XX. 1665. October 6. Letter from Dr. Baillie, President of St. John's College, Oxford, upon the inability of the Vice Chancellor and himself to make their Visitation that year, and making two requests respecting the regulation of the Charity p. 51
- XXI. Charter of Endowment of the Hospital of Saint John, Reading  
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- XXII. Consent of Hubert Walter, Bishop of Salisbury, to the appropriation of the Church of St. Lawrence, Reading, to the Hospital of Saint John . . . . . *ibid.* p. 56
- XXIII. Ceremonial upon the reception of a brother or sister into the Hospital of Saint John . . . . . *ibid.* p. 57
- XXIV. Allowances to be made to the residents in the Hospital of Saint John . . . . . *ibid.* p. 58
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# ARCHBISHOP LAUD'S BENEFACTIONS

TO

## BERKSHIRE.

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AMONGST the many public institutions of the town of Reading, there is no one, with the exception of the Abbey, which has contributed more either to its advantage or celebrity, than THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL. It had its origin in a presumed act of usurpation on the part of one of the Abbots of Reading, the particulars of which have been rather inaccurately related.

At no great distance from the gate of the Abbey, and west-north-west from Saint Lawrence's Church,\* there anciently stood, as if in contrast with the magnificence of the royal foundation, an Almshouse or Hospital for poor religious persons. This humble building, being dedicated to Saint John the Baptist, was styled SAINT JOHN'S HOUSE, and a chapel in the north chancel of Saint Lawrence's Church, called Saint John's Chapel, was set apart for the use of its inmates.†

The circumstances under which this Almshouse or Hospital was founded were most benevolent. It had come under the observation of Abbot Hugh, the second of that name and the eighth Abbot of Reading, that, whilst the rich traveller never failed of

\* Leland's Collect. ii. 30.

† Coates's Reading, 310.

a splendid reception at the abbey-gate, the poor wayfarer and the solitary pilgrim, if not actually repelled, too often met with treatment which was equally repugnant to Christian charity and to the pious wishes of the royal founder. As a remedy for such unseemly conduct, the Abbot and Convent determined to build a place of reception which should be set apart for the poor and needy. Hence the erection of Saint John's House, which they placed just without the Abbey-gate, so that those who did not apply, or did not find entrance there, might be received into this humbler dwelling with all becoming courtesy.\* Twenty-six poor persons, who were the constant residents in the new Hospital, were provided for in the following manner. With the consent of the Bishop of the diocese, the church of Saint Lawrence was annexed by the Abbey to the Hospital,† as a maintenance for thirteen poor persons of either sex; and other thirteen, who were all to be men, were to be supplied with all things necessary out of the alms daily distributed by the Abbey. The needy travellers, for whose use the Hospital was primarily designed, were to be maintained out of the profits of a mill at Leominster, which were relinquished by the Abbey to the Hospital. Hugh, the Abbot under whose sanction this transaction took place, governed the Abbey from about A.D. 1180 to A.D. 1199,‡ and the diocesan who gave his consent to it was Hubert Walter, Bishop of Salisbury, elected to that see on the 15th September 1189,§ and translated to the archbishopric of Canterbury in the

\* Vesp. E. v. fo. 19, verso. Dugd. Mon. IV. 42; and see Appendix, I.

† Vide the consent in the Appendix, No. ii. It sets forth the payments to a curate in the twelfth century. Amongst them, he was to have twenty shillings per annum for his apparel, such allowances of meat and drink as if he were a monk of Reading Abbey, seven pence per week for meat, a decent residence, and all legacies to the church under six pence; when they were above that sum he was to divide them with the Abbey. When obliged to attend ecclesiastical synods, the monks were to provide him with a horse. Vide Appendix, II.

‡ Dugd. Mon. iv. 39.

§ Rad. de Diceto, 648, Twysden. Bromton, 1161, *ibid.*

year 1193.\* The foundation may therefore be dated between the two latter years.

The form of admission of the brethren and sisters is entered in one of the chartularies of the Abbey, and seems to have been simple and impressive. The inmates of the house being assembled, the applicant repeated the 51st Psalm and certain ejaculatory prayers; after which supplication was offered upon his behalf, that God would receive him into the number of the faithful, in like manner as he was received into that fraternity, and would grant to him, through the one Mediator, opportunities for the performance of good deeds, and grace to persevere in them; and that, as brotherly love united the assembly then present on earth, so piety might render the new brother finally worthy to join the company of the faithful in heaven.

This appears to have been all the ceremony on the admission of a brother; when the new member was a sister, there was a further, or perhaps another, service. The hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* was sung by the sister about to be admitted, kneeling before the altar; after which a prayer was offered, that she to whom had been given the grace of continence, might be pardoned all her sins, and might finally attain to the companionship of heaven. She was then sprinkled with holy water; her veil and *chlamys*, or outer garment, were blessed, and supplication was offered for her perseverance in her purposes of integrity and chastity. She was then clothed with the cap, veil, and *chlamys*, and, having received the kiss of peace from each of the sisterhood, was instructed in their privileges and mode of government, and so the ceremony ended.†

Various particulars of the allowances made to certain of the brethren and sisters are preserved, and give an insight into the mode in which houses of this description were managed. One brother, who had been a shoemaker in the *Sartuarie*, or Soutry, in Reading,‡ and who was admitted in 1336, received every week

\* Rad. de Diceto, 669, Twysden. Gervase, 1523, *ibid*.

† Vespas. E. v. fol. 2, verso; and vide Appendix, No. III.

‡ This was probably the place known afterwards as Cobbler's Row, and formerly

seven loaves, termed the Abbot's chopyns — no doubt made of fine flour — and three of a coarser kind, made of *blackwyth*, or black wheat; he had also half a mess of meat daily; and was allowed three ells and a half of russet for his habit, and twelve pence for his shoes and in reward for his services in the almonry, which he was to render in turn with the monks. In the same year there were five sisters who received weekly seven white loaves termed *pryk* or *prykke*d loaves; and three who received three white loaves of the founder's weight, and six smaller ones called *miches*. At each of five great ecclesiastical festivals every sister received an entire dish of meat, or one penny. Four pence per annum was allowed for the expense of the lamp hanging in their hall, and at Easter and Christmas one halfpenny was to be given to each sister, and one penny to the prioress, for an oblation. A candle proper to be blessed was to be furnished to each of them at the feast of the Purification; and two shillings and sixpence was to be given to each for her habit. When any one of the sisters died, the almoner had the disposition of her effects, but was to give to each of the sisters a halfpenny or a farthing, to offer on behalf of the deceased, and to the prioress a penny. The almoner was to repair their house and chapel, and allow their maid servant seven *miches* weekly. Any act of incontinency, in either brother or sister, was to be punished with expulsion.\* Other particulars of a similar character will be found in the Appendix, No. IV.

The character of the foundation seems gradually to have deviated very widely from the intentions of the founders; and, by the middle of the fifteenth century, the brothers had disappeared, and the house had become simply an almshouse for the widows of decayed townsmen of repute. They still retained their chapel in Saint Laurence's Church, where these religious women — “*wydowes in chast lvyngg*” — resorted “to say ther prayers

situate on the south side of the market-place. It was taken down about the end of the last century, and the site thrown into the market-place.

\* *Vespas. E. v. fol. 6, and fol. 80, verso; and see Appendix, IV.*



in certain seasons of the day and niȝt;” but the revenues of the church, and the profits of the mill, were lost, the inmates of the house receiving, “out of the Abbey, every weke, certeyne of bred and ale, and also money; and, as yt ys seyde, oons in the yere a certeyn clothyng.”

Whether this state of things led to inconveniences and immoralities—which is very likely—does not appear, but, about A.D. 1465, Abbot John Thorne suppressed the house altogether. Some years afterwards Edward IV. came through Reading in his way to Woodstock, and “ryding over Caversam brydge,”\* certain persons took occasion to prefer a complaint against the Abbot for various usurpations, and, amongst them, for the suppression of Saint John’s House. The King listened to the complaint, and referred it to the consideration of Richard Beauchamp, Bishop of Salisbury, commanding him to investigate the circumstances, and see that all things were regulated according to the intentions of the founders. This occurred in 1479, and Bishop Beauchamp shortly afterwards held a Visitation, which is said to have disclosed many things to the discredit of the Abbey, and to have rendered the Bishop “full ylle content.” The complainants were in hope that their ends were gained, and that the Hospital would be restored, but the Bishop had scarcely departed from Reading when he was seized with illness, and within a few days died.†

Whatever may have been Abbot Thorne’s reasons for the suppression of Saint John’s House, he seems to have perceived after the Bishop’s visitation that the Abbey would not be allowed to retain the resumed revenues in peace. Determining therefore to apply them to another purpose, he gave out “unto hys neyghbores” that he was about to convert the dwelling-house into a free-school, with a master who was to have a salary of ten marks, and an usher with one of five; and that Master Robert Shor-

\* Coates, Appendix, No. ix.

† Additional MS. Brit. Mus. 6214, fol. 14, vide Appendix, V.; and Dug. Mon. iv. 47.

borne, the Dean of Saint Paul's, had given forty pounds as an endowment for the school. Still the execution of the project was delayed; neither master nor usher made his appearance, nor was "man, woman, ne chyld relevyd ther."\*

After some years the former complainants renewed their supplications,† but nothing was done until 1486, when Henry VII. visited Reading. When at the Abbey, his keen eye was attracted by the old, deserted ruins of Saint John's House, and the inquisitive monarch, of whom it has been remarked that he exercised in his kingdom the authority of a watchman rather than that of a sovereign, inquired of Abbot Thorne, "What old house is that?" The Abbot gave its history, and the King, apparently not disapproving of its suppression, merely remarked, that its revenues should be converted *in pios usus*. The Abbot then explained his scheme for a grammar-school, which the King not only sanctioned, but agreed to endow the school with an annual sum of ten pounds, to be paid out of the crown-rents of the town of Reading.‡ Further delay was impossible; "one William Dene, a rich man and servant in the Abbey, gave two hundred marks in money,"§ and thus endowed, both with an income and with ready cash, the work was soon completed. The memory of Henry VII. its founder, if he may be so termed, was long preserved in Reading School by his portrait on panel, which used to be suspended in the school-room,|| and bore the following inscription,

" VIRGINIBUS SEDES FUIT HÆC MONIALIBUS ÆDES,  
HOSPITIUM HENRICUS MUSIS DONAVIT AMICUS."

It does not lie within my subject to pursue in detail the history

\* Additional MS. Brit. Mus. 6214, fol. 14, vide Appendix, V.; and Dug. Mon. iv. 47.

† Coates, Appendix, No. ix.

‡ Leland's Collect. ii. 31. The Charter granted to the town of Reading by Elizabeth acquits the town of the ten pounds annually paid to the schoolmaster. Coates's Reading, 311, et seq.

§ Leland's Coll. ii. 31.

|| Coates, 311, et seq.

of the School which was thus founded; but I must mention, that Sir Thomas White, Lord Mayor of London in 1553, and the munificent founder of Saint John's College, Oxford, annexed two scholarships in that college to the school of Reading, and vested the appointment to them in the corporation of that town.\*

The eminent prelate whose letters I shall hereafter introduce, was born at Reading on the 7th October, 1573, and was a pupil in the grammar-school for some years before 1589.† The place of his birth, a house on the north side of Broad Street, was standing until within a few years, when it was taken down and a row of houses termed Laud Place erected on its site. His father was William Laud, a native of Wokingham, who carried on the trade of a clothier in Reading, and filled "all offices in the town save the mayoralty."‡ His mother, whose christian name was Lucy, was daughter of John Webbe, of Wokingham, and sister of Sir William Webbe, Lord Mayor of London in 1591. She was first married to John Robinson, a clothier in Reading, by whom she had a son William, afterwards a Doctor in Divinity, a Prebendary of Westminster, and Archdeacon of Nottingham, and five daughters, one of whom was the mother of Dr. Cotsford, and the other of Dr. Layfield, both eminent clergymen. The future Archbishop was the only issue of his mother by her second marriage.§

Laud's progress at Reading school was such as gave token of future eminence, and his master there, although described by him as "an ill schoolmaster," had sufficient discrimination to perceive the promising character of his diminutive and sickly pupil. "When you are a little great man," he is reported to have said to him more than once, "remember Reading school!"|| The words may have stimulated his youthful ambition, and prompted him, in after life, to the acts of munificence I am about to commemorate. Laud removed from Reading to Saint John's College at

\* Coates, 315.

† Hist. of Troubles, 1.

‡ Ibid. 473.

§ Heylyn's Laud, p. 42; and vide Appendix, VI.

|| Le Bas's Laud, p. 4, upon the authority of Lloyd's Memoirs, 255.

Oxford, in July 1589, and in the following June was elected by the Corporation of his native town to one of Sir Thomas White's scholarships in that college.\*

"The ill schoolmaster," whose memorable words I have quoted, had long yielded up his chair, and the "little great man" had become Archbishop of Canterbury, and Chancellor of the University of Oxford, when the first of our documents brings him again into connection with Reading school. It was now presided over by Andrew Byrd, a man of considerable attainments, who united the professions of pedagogue and physician, and was well thought of in both of them. Byrd had been schoolmaster for, at any event, twenty-six years,† and was probably in a state of ill-health when the following letter was addressed to the Corporation of Reading by the King's Secretary of State. There can be little doubt, from the subsequent correspondence, that it was written at the instance of Laud, and it is at once memorable and characteristic, that his first interference with Reading school was by an act of authority which, even in those days, was unjustifiable,‡ and

\* Hist. of Troubles, 1.

† Coates, 335.

‡ Although clearly illegal, it is to be feared that, during the reigns of James I. and Charles I. a summary interference of the Crown in the affairs of Corporations was not at all uncommon. The following curious paper, the original of which is in the possession of the Corporation of Reading, proves the length to which this interference was carried. Such acts of absolute power were thought by some persons to come within the prerogative of the King as *parens patriæ*; but the better opinion, from a period considerably anterior to the reign of Charles I., was, that the King could not command the performance of any judicial act, except through his courts of justice. *Rex præcipit* was held to mean *lex præcipit*, and the law could only speak through the judges. (Coke's 1st Inst. 130 a. 2nd Inst. 186.)

CHARLES R.

Trustie and welbeloved, we greete you well. Whereas we understand that the place commonly called Browne's hill, at the end of the Broad Streete, neere the Butchers' Rowe, in your Towne, was wont to be a place of recreation to walke in, and faire and open for ayre, at other times, and that, heeretofore, upon markt daies, the shambls vsed there by Countrie Butchers were mooveable, and sett aside att night, after the markt, and so the place left free and handsome all the weeke after. And whereas we further understand, that the said place is now pestered with vnhandsome shambls

which in ours would be esteemed tyrannical. That his intentions were good need not be disputed, but it is equally clear that his mode of carrying them into effect was indiscreet and arbitrary. It was by such acts that he too often fastened upon his designs, at their outset, suspicions from which no subsequent experience of his good meaning could altogether set them free. "He was a man of great courage and resolution," remarks Lord Clarendon, "and being most assured within himself, that he proposed no end in all his actions and designs but what was pious and just—as sure no man had ever a heart more entire to the King, the Church, or his country,—he never studied the easiest ways to those ends; he thought, it may be, that any art or industry that way would discredit, at least make the integrity of the end suspected, let the cause be what it will.\* He did court persons too little; nor cared to make his designs and purposes appear as candid as they were, by shewing them in any other dress than their own natural beauty, though perhaps in too rough a manner; and did not consider enough what men said, or were likely to say of him."†

sett up and fixed there, so that all the roome is continually taken up, and the beautie and pleasure of that streete vtterly lost. We have, therefore, thought fitt to take notice of this inconvenience, and doe hereby require you to take present order that the said standing shambles be forthwith taken downe, and the hill left free and open for mooving shambles, as in former times. And, if there be anie Cage, or Roundhouse there, or anie other incumbrance whatsocuer to that Streete, which hath not bene there heretofore, Our will and pleasure is, that the same be forthwith remoovede into some more fitt place, and the Hill presently cleered, as you will answere the contrarie. Given, vnder our signett, at our Court at Woodstock, the seuen and twentieth day of August, in the ninth yeare of our reigne.

*(Superscription.)*

To our trustie and welbeloved the Mayor and Burgesses of our  
Towne of Reading, in our County of Berks.

\* There seems a little obscurity here. Probably the sentence should stand thus:— "being most assured within himself that he proposed no end. . but what was pious and just. . he never studied the easiest ways to those ends; he thought, it may be, that any art or industry that way would discredit, at least make the integrity of the end suspected. Let the cause be what it will, he did court persons too little."

† Hist. Rebell. lib. i.

SECRETARY WINDEBANK TO THE CORPORATION OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

After my hartly commendacions.

HIS MAJESTY, vnderstanding that by the paynes and diligence of Andrewe Byrd, Dr. in Phisick and Schoolemaster of the Free Schoole in that Towne, the said Schoole is become very considerable, and diuers good Schollers have bene bred there, in his princely care that it be supplied for the time to come with able Schoolemasters, hath commanded me to signify his pleasure to you, that, whensoever the place of Schoolemaster there shall become void by the death, resignation, or other auoydance of the said Dr. Byrd, you forbear to chuse or admitt any person thereunto, without the consent and approbation of the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury his Grace, and the Lord Bishop of that Dioces, for the time being. This tending so much to the good of your Towne, and of the publique, His Majesty expects your conformity herein, and that you giue him accompt thereof accordingly at the next vacancy of the said place. And so I bid you hartily farewell, and rest,

Your very loving frende,

Westminster, 2 May, 1636.

FRAN: WINDEBANK.\*

*(Superscription.)*

To my very loving frindes the Mayor and Burgesses  
of the Towne of Reading now being, and that  
hereafter for the time shalbe.

\* Windebank was an intimate friend of Laud's. Witness the two following extracts from his Diary:—

“ [1629] Aug. 14. Dies erat Veneris; I fell sick upon the way towards the Court at Woodstock. I took up my lodging at my ancient friend's house, Mr. Francis Windebank. There I lay in a most grievous burning fever till Monday, Sept. 7.

“ [1632] June 15. Mr. Francis Windebancke, my old friend, was sworn Secretary of State; which place I obtained for him of my gracious master King Charles.”  
(Hist. of Troubles, 44. 47.)

Other passages relating to Windebank occur at pages 21, 24. His house was at Hains Hill, in the parish of Hurst, in Berkshire. (Ibid. 24, 25.)

The event which was evidently anticipated when Secretary Windebank's letter was written, soon took place: Dr. Byrd died on the 28th of November, and on the succeeding Wednesday, the 30th, the following letter was addressed by the Corporation to the Archbishop:

THE CORPORATION OF READING TO ARCHBISHOP LAUD.

*From the original Draft in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

May it please your Grace,

In May last wee received letters from the Right Honourable Mr. Secretarye Windebank, a true coppye whercof wee heere inclose, and, in obedience to his Majestyes pleasure in them declared,—our schoolmaster's place now voyde by the disease of Doctor Byrd, who dyed Mondaye night last,—wee all make our address unto your Grace for dyrection what wilbee expected on our parts best to bespeake our conformetye, and our loyall and dutifull readynesse of submission, whereto wee shall applye; and wee are the rather incoraged to craue assistance in the way wee are to goe, havinge lately found so lively expressions of noble respects towards us, for which, and for all honorable favours, wee beseech your Grace receive the retorne of our humble and thankfull acknowledgments, with this, that wee hold it ours, and the townes greate honor and happiness to live in the looks and love of your Grace, which, howbeit wee cann never deserve, yet shall it bee ever in our care and studye to make appear wee are,

In all thinges to be commanded by

Your Grace.

*Superscription.*

To the Right Reverend Father in God the Lord  
Archbishopp of Canterbury his Grace.

30th November, 1636.

Probably the foregoing letter was sent to Croydon by a messenger who waited for the Archbishop's reply, which is dated on the following day.

ARCHBISHOP LAUD TO THE CORPORATION OF READING.

*From the original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

Salutem in Christo. After my hartly commendacions, &c.

I have receyued your kinde letters, and read in them the death of Dr. Birde, who hath taken a great deale of paines, and done a great deale of seruice in your schoole at Readinge, and hath brought up diuers of your sonnes, and some of them are at this daye uery able men to doe God, the Kinge, and the Church, seruice. And, if you desire the flourishing of that schoole, and the like good to be continued to your children hereafter, it will lye upon you, by the aduise of your freindes, and the best care your selues can take, to fitt your selues with an able and a painfull man, that will be contented to doe as Dr. Birde did in his beginnings. And, to doe him right that is gone, I doe not thinke it will be an easye thinge in all respectes to equall him; but what helpe or assistance I can giue you in that, or any thing else that may doe good to the towne, I shall, neyther now, nor at any tyme else, while I lye, be wanting. Besides, you are much bound to his Majesty, that he hath been pleased to descend soe lowe, as by his Secretary to take care for the well fitting and furnishing of that your schoole, for which I purpose, God willing, in your names, on Sunday next, to give his Majesty thankes, and, withall, to acquaint him, how ready and carefull you are to conforme to such direccions as he was pleased to giue you by Mr. Secretary.

Two thinges there are, which will be great hindrances to the getting of an able schoolemaster into that place. The one is, the poorness of the stipend, not exceeding, as I remember, £10 per



annum. The other is, that the house which heretofore belonged to the schoolmaster, and stood very conveniently for him, you have neglected, when the tyme was, to renewe and continue in your handes, to the schoolmaster's use. Soe that now, there being noe house for him, and the tymes being soe chargeable for all thinges of necessary use, yourselves must needs conceyue it will be a thinge of great difficulty to gett a sufficyent and a carefull man that will be content to reside upon the schoole for such maintenance, unless you can thinke upon some way how to recouer that house, or another, and to make some addicion to encrease his means, which I referr to your consideracion; and, in the mean tyme, I shall doe the best I can to informe my selfe, and provide you, of as able a man as I can gett.

I pray give me leave to putt you in mynde, that you have noe preferment for your schoole, but onely for two places into Saint John's College in Oxford, and, by God's blessing, of later tymes, some of your sonnes have thrived extraordinarily well there, and at this time there are two hopefull younge men in the colledge,\* and, therefore, I thinke you shall doe very advisedly to write to the President and senior fellowes to name some able and sufficyent man to you, which I presume they will not refuse to doe, and take it kindly besides. And this I assure you, that, as well as I loue that place, if they haue not a sufficyent man to send you, they shall not send unto you any one unsufficyent, or any waye unfitting. And I doe hereby pray you, together with those letters

\* William Brackston and William Creed, the two young men referred to, and both natives of Reading, fully justified Laud's hopes. The former, who was son of an Alderman of Reading, became one of Laud's chaplains; the latter was an eloquent preacher, and a divine of great eminence. During the Usurpation he was Rector of East Codeford, or Codeford Saint Mary, in Wiltshire, and, shortly after the Restoration, was appointed Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Oxford, and Archdeacon of Wiltshire. He died on the 19th July 1663, and was buried in Christ Church, Oxford. Vide *Athenæ Oxon.* Bliss's edit. iii. 637; Coates's *Reading*, 435.

of your owne, to send these of myne, in which I have desired the President, for my sake, to take all the care that possibly he can, and to fitt your schoole with a Saint John's man, if it may be, or else to provide you some able and sufficient younge man in the University, whose fitness I will examine my selfe, before I will absolutely recommend him to you.

Soe, with thanks for your kinde remembrance of me, in the close of your letters, and giving you hereby assurance that I shall allwayes be most ready to serve the towne in all things which are within my power, I leave you all to God's blessed protection, and rest

Your very louinge friend,  
to serve you,

Croidon, Decemb. 1, 1636.

W. CANT.

*(Superscription.)*

To my very louinge freindes, the Mayor and cheife  
Burgesses of the towne of Reading, in Berks, these.

The Archbishop's advice was promptly acted upon. I have not been able to procure the letter which was written to the president and fellows of Saint John's, but its tenour may be gathered from the reply. There is no copy of it at Reading, and the Rev. Dr. Wynter, the President of St. John's, having very kindly searched for the original amongst the archives of the College, informs me that he cannot find any such letter.

The following is the reply.

THE PRESIDENT AND FELLOWS OF SAINT JOHN'S COLLEGE,  
OXFORD, TO THE CORPORATION OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church  
Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

Right Worshipful Mr. Major, and the rest of the Magistrates,  
The loue and respect we finde that you beare unto the colledge,  
in your late desire of being furnished for a schoole-master from our

house, and so wauing the immediate election in this case, we heartily wish that wee be as well able to satisfy, unto your content, as wee are willing to returne thanks for them, to the utmost of our power. Your owne kinde proffer, and the knowne deserts of the deceased incumbent, but above all, the ingagements you justly pretend to my Lord's Grace of Canterbury (whose pious munificence hath by all right entitled him our patron, and us his servants), make us jealous that we cannot be too carefull, nor too well prouided to answer your expectation to the full. Neither may we imagine that our best endeavours will be ill bestowed, in the due supply of that place, whose happinesse in present it is to make an honest boast of having enriched the Church abroad with such eminent persons, and furnished us at home with such hopefull ones. May it please you, therefore, to take notice, that in a deliberate care, not altogether disproportionable to your owne good intendments, we have, according to your request, submitted one to my Lord's Grace his approbation, who himselfe also hath writte effectually to the colledge that we should be very carefull on your behalfe. His name is Mr. William Page, a master of arts and fellow of our house; a man able for his schollershippe, conformable to the doctrine and discipline of the Church, and for his demeanour (for ought we could ever understand) unblameable. To say the truth, such a one of whome our hope is, that you will never have sufficient cause of being ashamed to owne him, nor we to have nominated him.

We may not forgett likewise to thanke both your care and bounty for the free promise of an improuement to your ancient stipend, if the master's discreete carriage and sedulous attendance shall meritt it. Which, as it cannot but adde an edge to his industry for the deserving of it, so it enforecth us to acknowledge the second time that wee cannot thinke any man too good, nor his paines too greate for that schoole, whose overseers are so ready to cherish both with an unasked-for liberality; and thus, with a hope

that we have furnished you, and with our wishes that it may so prove, to your full content, wee take leave and rest,

Your very louing friends,

RICHARD BAYLIE, President.\*

THOMAS ATKINSON.

HENRY WARNER.

JOHN SMITH.

NICHOLAS VILETT.

NATHANAEL CROOCHER.

Saint John's, Oxon.

December 5th, 1636.

*(Superscription.)*

To the Right Worshipfull Mr. Maior of Reading,  
and to the Worshipfull the Magistrates, our very  
loving friends, deliver these.

\* Dr. Baylie, the celebrated president of Saint John's, is too well known to require any note; but I cannot forbear mentioning one circumstance in his history, which is especially honourable to Laud. In 1611, when Laud was a candidate for the Presidentship of Saint John's, Baylie, then a young man, was warmly attached to the cause of his opponent. At the time of election, as the scrutiny proceeded and it became apparent that it would be favourable to Laud, Baylie suddenly snatched up the scrutiny paper, and, in a moment, tore it to pieces. This foolish act of youthful intemperance threw doubt upon the validity of the whole proceeding, and the question was brought before James I. who confirmed Laud's election. In ordinary cases Laud and Baylie would have been bitter enemies for ever; but, in this instance, as well as in others which might be produced, what was said of another Archbishop of Canterbury was true of Laud,

“do my Lord of Canterbury

But one shrewd turn, and he's your friend for ever.”

Laud saw that Baylie was a promising young man, and he determined to win him. He released him from the censures inflicted upon him as soon as possible; he gave him his favour, appointed him one of his chaplains, married him to the daughter of his maternal brother, Dr. Robinson, aided him to obtain the very Presidentship of which he had sought to deprive his future patron, and, finally, appointed him the sole executor of his will. (Heylyn's Laud, 60, 61; Le Bas, 19, 21.) Dr. Baylie returned Laud's kindness with a warm and constant friendship, not only to him but to the cause which he had so much at heart. The R. B. found upon some of the money coined at Oxford for Charles I. are Dr. Baylie's initials, and the money in question was coined out of the plate belonging to Saint John's. (Fasti Ox. i. 470, ed. Bliss.)

This letter was in a few days succeeded by the following recommendation from Laud :

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY TO THE CORPORATION OF  
READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

Salutem in Christo. After my hearty commendacions, &c.

Upon the receipt of your first letters to me after the death of your worthy schoolmaster, and my ancyent acquaintance, Dr. Byrd, I writt to St. John's College, in Oxon. as yourselves knowe; to this end, that if they could furnish your towne with an able and sufficyent schoolmaster, I might not be dryuen to looke farther. The rather, because of the relacion which our worthy founder hath left between that colledge and your schoole.

In these my letters I laide soc strict a charge upon the President and senior fellowes of that house, that they should name noe man to me for whose both honesty and discretion, as well as sufficyency in learning, they would not be as answerable to me, as I must be to the Towne; as that I thought it fitt, more letters then one should pass between us before I would resolue to recommend any to your choyce. In this respect, if I haue made you staye a little the longer, yet I hope you will take it kindly, partly, because you may, by this, perceyue how carefull I am to name noe man to you till I have taken him and his worth into serious consideracion; and, partly, because this staye can be noe great hindrance to your children, Christmas being neare, in which tyme there is noe great schooling.

I haue seen the letter which you sent to the colledge. It is a uery kinde one, and with a great deale of respect both to my selfe and them, for which I hartily thanke you. And you can neuer doe your selues, nor the Towne, more right, then to thinke upon some waye for the bettering of the Schoolmaster's allowance: for till that be done, you may, by favour and God's blessing, gett

a sufficient Schoolmaster, but the place, of it selfe, as it now standes, will neuer inuite an able man to continue, and reside upon it. And whereas you write, that you will consider of some incouragement by adding to the schoolmaster to hold up the reputacion of your schoole, I doe not onely thanke you hartily for it, but doe hereby promise you, that, if I lyue to outgrowe the great expenses I have been at, I will doe somewhat alsoe my selfe, being sensible to this daye what it is to be bredd under an ill schoolmaster.

Now, after all deliberacions, I doe hereby recommend unto you the bearer hereof, Mr. Page. He is a Master of Artes, and fellowe of St. John's Colledge, which he is willing to leaue, and reside upon the schoole. He was bredd at a uery good schoole himselfe, and therfore knowes the better how to be a schoolmaster. Besides this, I have receyued from Mr. President and the fellowes, a uery large testimony of his sufficiency in that kinde of learning, as alsoe of his honesty and sobernes in conuersacion. He was with me at Croydon, and, by that exercise of his which I my selfe sawe, I hope he will answeere the testimony giuen him. And, therefore, I doe hereby recommend him to you, and pray you to make choyce of him for your schoolmaster. And, when he is in that place, I shall not faile to laye all my powers upon him, to be diligent and carefull in the discharge of his duty to yourselves and your children. And yet, notwithstanding this testimonye given me concerning him, I shall desire you to trye him (if you thinke fitt) by any or all of your three learned ministers that lyue with you in the towne, whom I doubt not but he will satisfye. Thus, with the remembrance of my love to yourselues, and my dayly prayers for the good of that place, I leaue you all to the grace of God, and rest,

Your uery lovinge and assured freind,

Croydon, December 15, 1636.

W. CANT.

(*Superscription,*)

To my uery worthy freindes the Mayor and cheife  
Burgesses of the Towne of Readinge, in Berks, these.

The bearer of these testimonials was immediately appointed to the vacant mastership. He has been the subject of several mistakes: 1. Coates, in his list of Masters,\* interposes, between Dr. Byrd and him, Dr. John Denison, a learned divine, who resided at Reading, and was successively minister of all the parishes there, but who does not appear to have been ever master of the school. Anthony Wood speaks of Dr. Denison as "chief moderator of the free-school in Reading,"† but, whatever that may mean, it is clear that he did not succeed Dr. Byrd as master. 2. It is evident that the person recommended by the Archbishop and Saint John's College was a Master of Arts, and a Fellow of that College; but Anthony Wood‡ has mistaken him for a gentleman of the same name, who was of All Souls' College, and was admitted Doctor in Divinity in 1634. In these particulars Wood has been followed by Coates,§ but the two William Pages were clearly distinct persons. The Doctor was a celebrated divine, and rector of East Locking, in Berkshire; the Master of Arts was a poor schoolmaster, only not obscure enough to be beneath the notice of the Commissioners of Sequestration, who ejected him in 1644. Dr. Wynter informs me that he was admitted scholar from Merchant Taylors' School in 1628, and that he became M.D. in 1653, which renders it probable that he supported himself during the Usurpation by the practice of physic; at the Restoration, he procured a writ of restitution to the school,|| but it was abandoned; and on the 6th March, 1660-1, he resigned his right¶—probably for a consideration.

Hitherto Laud's interference with Reading had been of a questionable, if not of an improper kind, but far better things had been floating in his mind. As a town, Reading stood next in his affection to Oxford, and his paper entitled, "Things which I have projected to do, if God bless me in them," contains two schemes for its advantage. The latter of the two, as it stands in the paper, but the first executed, was "A Charter for the town

\* Coates, p. 336.

† Athen. Ox. ii. 439. ed. Bliss.

‡ Ibid. iii. 654.

§ Coates, p. 337.

|| Ibid.

¶ Ibid. 341, n.

of Reading, a Mortmain of, &c."\* Against this note, Laud, at some subsequent period, wrote "Done;" and it was carried into effect on the 17th of December, 1638. The charter which was then granted by Charles I. will be found in Man's History of Reading,† and an abstract of it in Coates.‡ It contains a clause enabling the Corporation to purchase lands to the value of £500 *per annum*, which is no doubt what Laud alludes to in the words "a Mortmain of, &c." The charter then granted continues to be the governing charter of the borough, subject to some slight alterations made by charters granted in the second and tenth years of Charles II. and one in the reign of William IV.; and also to the changes introduced by the Act lately passed for municipal reform.

Laud's other project was thus described by him: "To settle an Hospital of Land in Redding, of 100 pounds, in a new way. I have acquainted Mr. Barnard, the Vicar of Croydon, with my project. He is to call upon my executors to do it, if the surplusage of my goods, after debts and legacies paid, come to three thousand pounds."§ This was the original memorandum, and against it Laud subsequently wrote, "Done, to the value of £200 *per annum*."

The origin of this design is recorded by Laud, in his Diary, thus:—" [1634] Jan. 1. The way to do the town of Reading good for their poor; which may be compassed, by God's blessing upon me, though my wealth be small. And I hope God will bless me in it, because it was his own motion in me. For this way never came into my thoughts (though I had much beaten them about it) till this night, as I was at my prayers. Amen, Lord!"|| This, it will be remembered, was written but a few months after his accession to the Archiepiscopate, and his design was probably then limited, as mentioned in his memorandum, to £100 *per annum*: it was not carried into execution until six years afterwards, and then the amount was made up to double that sum.

\* Hist. of Troubles, 69.

† App. p. i.

‡ P. 65.

§ Hist. of Troubles, p. 69.

|| Ibid. p. 50.



The exact nature of his settlement will best appear from the following abstract of his Deed of Gift; but I may shortly state, that he conveyed to the Corporation of Reading certain lands at Bray, in Berkshire, of the value of £200 *per annum*, reserving to himself the right of disposing of the rents during his lifetime, but directing that, after his death, the Corporation, every first and second year, should lay out £120 of the income in apprenticing at Reading twelve poor boys, ten of them born in Reading, one in Wokingham, "where," he says, "my father was borne," and one at Bray, where the lands were situate. Every third year no boys were to be apprenticed, but the £120 was to be bestowed in marriage portions to six poor maids, five from Reading, and one from Wokingham. The Reading boys were to be sons of persons of good reputation, and inhabitants of not less than fourteen years' standing. The girls were in like manner to be children of honest parents, and to have served one mistress, or dame, for the space of three years. In this manner £120 of the income was to be expended for ever; of the remaining income, £50 *per annum* were to be paid to the Vicar of Saint Laurence's, Reading; £20 *per annum* to the Schoolmaster of Reading School; and the remaining £10 *per annum* was to be set apart to defray the expenses of a triennial visitation by the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, the President of Saint John's College, and the Warden of All Souls', to whom he gave very large powers of inspection and control.

ABSTRACT OF ARCHBISHOP LAUD'S DEED OF GIFT TO THE  
CORPORATION OF READING.

*From the Original, in the possession of the Trustees of the Church  
Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE, to whome this present writinge shall come. WILLIAM LAWD, BY THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD, LORD ARCHBISHOPP OF CANTERBURYE, Primate of all England, and Metropolitan, SENDETH GEETINGE in our Lord God ever-

lastinge. WHEREAS I, the said William Lawd, have latelie bought of Sir John Blagrave, of Southcote, in the countie of Berkes, Knight, Dame Magdalen his wife, Suzan Blagrave, Magdalen Blagrave, and Jane Blagrave, their daughters, the landes hereinafter mencioned, with an' intencion to dispose the rentes thereof for ever, towards the bindinge of poore boyes to be apprentices, the marryeing of poore maides, and the increase of the maintainance of the Vicar of the Church of Saint Lawrence in Readinge, and of the Schoolemaster of the Free-schoole of Readinge. NOWE KNOWE YEE, that I, the said William Lawd, that the said good and charitable workes by mee intended maie bee maintained with the rentes of the said landes (all which nowe are, or verie shortlie wilbe, of the cleere yearelie value of Twoe hundred poundes), by theis Presents doe give unto the Maior, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Reading, and their successors for ever, All that the Mannor and Lordshipp of Strowd, alias Staffertons, alias Shiplake, in the said countie of Berkes, the Mannor howse of Strowd in Bray, in the said countie of Berkes, and all the landes therewith occupied, and those messuages, landes, and hereditaments in Braye aforesaid, or elsewhere in the said countie of Berkes, called Little Strowd, Easts, Whites, Curses, and Tilehowse. And those landes called Kippinges, Brookes, Culverhowse peice, Rithies, and Ould Grove, and the messuages, landes, and hereditaments, situate in Braie aforesaid, in the occupacions of Anthony Blagrave, John Page, Richard Ellice, and Thomas Loggins, and late the landes of the said Sir John Blagrave and Dame Magdalen his wife, Suzan Blagrave, Magdalen Blagrave, and Jane Blagrave, daughters of the said Sir John Blagrave and Dame Magdalen, and all commons, courts, royalties, franchises, and appurtenances to the said mannor and premisses belonging, and all the mannors, landes, and hereditaments of mee the said William Lawd, situate in Bray aforesaid, Cokeham, Winkefeild, Maidenhead, and Winsor, or elsewhere in Berkes (SAUINGE those landes in Braie called Budds Pastures, latelie by mee demised to

Simon Winch, Gentleman, for the tearme of one and thirtie yeares, att the rent of fortie poundes yearlie, the benefitt whereof I doe intend shalbe for ever imploied for the maintainance of an Arabick lecture, by mee newelie founded in the Vniversitie of Oxford) TO HAVE AND TO HOLDE the said manor and premisses unto the Maior, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Readinge, and their successors for ever, UPON ESPECIALL TRUST and confidennce, THAT they shall permitt mee the said William Lawd, duringe my naturall life, to receaue the rentes, and to dispose the same to the vses above mencioned, or to such other vses as I shall appoint. AND after my decease, THAT they shall, for ever, truelie, faithfullie, and whollie, distribute and imploie the rentes of all the said premisses for the good vses hereafter declared, THAT IS TO SAIE, FIRST, I doe hereby will that the Maior and Aldermen of Readinge, shall yearlie meete att the Guildhall there, uppon the seaventh daie of October, and shall then, for the first yeare, chuse twelue younge boies to be bound apprentices to such trades as they cann gett maisters to take them, allowinge unto everie of them tenn poundes apeece: and the Maior, Aldermen, and Burgesses shall paie the money to their maisters, and see them bound, before Sainet Andrewe's daie followinge, payeing for the Indentures out of the tenn poundes. AND, for the second yeare, they shall, att the same time and place, chuse and bind out twelue more younge boies, with the same allowance of tenn poundes to each of them. THEIS CHILDREN, thus to be chosen and bound apprentices, shall, tenn of them, be such as haue bin borne in Readinge, one in Ockingham, where my father was borne, and one in the parish of Braye, where their landes lye: AND they shall be the children of honest poore people, whoe either want their parents, or whose parents are unable to place them abroad, yet with a more speciall care to be had of the fatherles; AND they shall be bound apprentices, all of them, in the towne of Readinge, soe longe as any tradesmen of honest reputacion there will take them; BUT, if it soe fall out

that, att anie time, there shall not be found such within that towne that will take theis youthes with this allowance to be their apprentices, IN that case, it shall be lawfull for the Maior and Aldermen to bind them in any other towne of the countie of Berkes, or in London, as they please. AND LIKEWISE, if it shall soe happen, att anie time, that there should not be youthes enough in the said towne of Readinge, soe qualified to be bound apprentices, IN that case it shall bee lawful for the Maior and Aldermen to take them out of anie towne, or village, in the countie of Berks (beginning at Ockingham). AND, because theis shall not turne to be a detriment to the towne of Readinge, by drawinge poore families thither, in hope to place their children, THEREFORE my expresse will is, and I doe hereby ordaine, that noe youth shalbe chosen out of the towne of Readinge, vnless his father hath been a dweller, and of honest reputacion, in the towne, for the space of fowerteene yeares before, at least. AND I further require, if anie of my kindred come to be distressed, and neede this helpe, that the Maior and Aldermen haue respect to them, before others, when they shall finde their want as greate, and their reputacion as good. THE THIRD yeare after my decease, I will haue the summe of one hundred and twentie poundes, above mencioned, given to sixe poore maides, towards their marriage porcions, to be named and chosen the seaventh daie of October by the Maior and Aldermen of Readinge, as aforesaid, and the money to be paid them before Sainct Andrewes daie next followinge. AND I will that five of theis maides shall be borne in Readinge, and the sixth in Ockingham; all such as have beene borne of honest parents, and have served one mistris, or dame, for the space of three yeares togeather, att the least. AND soe, for this one hundred and twentie poundes a yeare, I doe hereby will and ordaine, it shall be thus imploied for ever, after my decease; TWOE yeares for the apprentices, and everie THIRD yeare for the marriage of poore maides; as is before expressed. AND I doe hereby further will and ordaine, That, out of the rentes of the

premisses herein mencioned to be graunted, the Maior, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Reading shall for ever paie, yearelie, FIFTIE POUNDES, att our Ladie Daie and Michaelmas, by equall porcions, to THEOPHILUS TAILOR, VICAR OF SAINT LAWRENCE CHURCH IN READINGE, and to his successors, Viccars there, AND TWENTYE POUNDES, att the same feasts yearelie, and for ever, TO THE SCHOOLEMASTER OF THE FREE SCHOOLE OF READING, and to his successors, Schoolemasters there. PROVIDED ALWAIES, that if the Schoolemaster of the Free Schoole of Reading be not able and dilligent (of which I make my visitors hereafter mencioned judges), or if the Vicar of Saint Lawrence live not resident upon the Viccaridge, the paiement to either of them shall cease, and be bestowed upon the bindinge out of more youthes apprentices; BUT it shall cease noe longer then till the Viccar reside and the Schoolemaster be approved able and dilligent. AND WHEREAS I haue latelic demised all the premisses herein mencioned to be graunted (exceptinge one farme called Cures) for the tearme of one and thirtie yeares, under severall yearelie rentes, amountinge to one hundred ninetie three pounDES; NOWE, to the end all whom this poore act of charitie concerned may reape some benefitt by it, I DOE will and ordaine that the rent of theis, however improveable, yet shall never be raised nor improved by the Maior, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Readinge, above the summe of twoe hundred pounDES in the whole; neither shall they make any greater leases of the landes than for one and twentie yeares. AND WHEREAS, upon the leases by mee already made, I have provided, that, when theis leases shalbe within fower-teene yeares of expiracion, the tenants thereof shall renewe the same for one and twenty yeares, I doe hereby will and ordaine, that, upon everie lease hereafter to be made, the leassees shalbe tied to surrender the same within eight yeares then next followinge, and to take newe leases for one and twentie yeares; and for such renewall of their leases, everie tenant shall paie one yeare's

cleere vullue of the landes soe leased, over and above the rentes to be therevpon reserved, and noe more ; and everie fine soe taken shalbe laid out that present yeare, either to bind out poore apprentices, at tenn poundes a man, or to make porcions for more maides, att twentie poundes apeece, as the yeare in which the fines are taken shall happen to fall to be a first, or a second, for apprentices, or a third for poore maidens' marriages. AND if, after this faire dealinge with the tennants, they shall not paie in att the tyme and place appointed theire severall rents respectively, and renue att the eight yeares' end, and inhabite the howses themselues, and keepe them in good repaire, THEN it shall be lawfull for the said Maior, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Readinge to reenter, and possesse all for which the rent shalbe then vnpaid, or vppon which the howses shalbe out of repaire, and they may then lett to what tennants they please, vppon securitie to paie theire rent due, and to repaire the howseinge decentlie. AND, if it should happen, by any sinister act (which God forbid), that anie quarrell, or question, vnseene and soe vnprovided for, should be made against the title of theis landes, I will, that the charge of all suites therevpon ariseinge should be borne out of the rent ; and, for that time, the charitable worke shall cease, in whole or in parte, according as the charge ariseth ; BUT soe as that, soe soone as the suite (if any happen to be) shall end, then presently all shall goe on againe, and in the waie before directed. AND, to the end this worke maie the better proceed and contynue, I appoint THE VICE CHAUNCELLOR OF THE VNIVERSITIE OF OXFORD, THE PRESIDENT OF SAINT JOHN BAPTIST'S COLLEDGE, AND THE WARDEN OF ALL SOULES' COLLEDGE, IN THE SAID VNIVERSITY, for visitors of this worke of charitie ; and if either of theis twoe, the President or the Warden, happen to be Vice Chancellor, in the yeare of visitacion, which shall be kept everie third yeare, beginninge from the seaventh of October which shalbe next after my decease, THEN the Vice-president of Sainct John Baptist Colledge, in Oxeford, shalbe the third visitor for that time, and the

visitacion maie be held by them, or anie two of them, or, in case of anie extremitie, by the Vice-Chancellor onelic. THIS trienniall visitacion shalbe held in the Guildhall of the town of Readinge, vppon the seaventh of October, vnles it be a Sunndaie, and then it shall be kept the next daie after. THE visitacion shall last but one daie, but the visitors may after sett in order anie thing that is found amisse. To beare the charges of theis visitacions I allowe tenn poundes a yeare, which, against everie third yeare comes, will make thirtie poundes, with which I conceave the Maior, Aldermen, and Burgesses maye entertaine the visitors, and find them convenient man's meate and horsemeate for the night they come in, the daie they staie, and the morninge when they returne. AND I will and ordaine, that, out of the rents of the premisses, the said Maior, Aldermen, and Burgesses shall dispend the said summe of thirtie poundes for ever. ITEM, I WILL and ordaine, that a coppie of this deed be left with the President and Schollers of Saint John Baptist Colledge, in Oxford, to be kept among the Colledge Evidennces in some boxe by itselfe, that my visitors residinge there maie with more ease see the deed, and thereby prepare theire articles for the visitacion att the times appointed. AND I DOE hereby heartilie praie my successors, Archbishops of Canterburie, and the Lordes Chancellors, or Keepers of the Greate Seale of England, to give all assistance to this poore guift of mine, vppon anie iust complaint that shall bee brought vnto them, either by the towne or by my visitors, which theire inferior paines and power cannot rectifie, and that they will preserve this worke of charitie, that the heartes of the poore people (for whose releife I offerr it vpp to God, that in greate mercie gave it mee) maie blesse them, of which theire honorable care I cannot doubt. AND IN WYTNES of this my deed and graunt, I, the said WILLIAM LAWD, LORD ARCHBISHOPP OF CANTERBURIE, Haue herevnto sett my hand and seale, the sixe and twentieth daie of March, in the fifteenth yeare of the raigne of our Sovereigne Lord CHARLES, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, Fraunce,

and Ireland, Kinge, Defender of the Faith, etc. Annoque Domini  
1640. (Signed,) W. CANT.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of Orl. Bridgeman, Adam Torless, Walt. Dobson, Willm. Dell, E. Leuenthorpe, Will. Bagot, Simon Rolleston, John Houlton.\*

The seal is of red wax, appendant upon a cord of red and white twisted silk, and bears on the obverse, in the centre, the arms of the Archbishoprick, underneath which, on a smaller shield, are the arms of Laud—on a chevron, between three estoiles, three crosslets patée fitchée—and above it, on the right side of the shield, a hand issuing from the clouds, directing attention to the arms of the see, and on the left, an eye looking upwards, with a scroll which contains the word *SURSUM*; around the whole is the legend *SIGILLVM . GVILIELMI . LAUD . ARCHIEPISC[OP]I CA[NTVARIENSIS]*. On the reverse are three impressions in pale, of a small ruby seal, mentioned in the Archbishop's will, and containing the arms of the see impaling his own arms.

The Archbishop accompanied his deed of gift with the following explanatory letter. It here appears that, although by the deed the Archbishop reserved to himself the disposition of the property during his life, it was his intention that the trusts should be acted upon at once, and that he contemplated the payment to the Corporation at the proper time, of the full sum of £200 *per annum*, settled by the deed.

\* There are two of these witnesses whose names deserve particular notice. The first, who was afterwards Sir Orlando Bridgeman, was the celebrated loyalist lawyer: it is sufficient simply to point attention to his name, as seeming to indicate that Laud had his assistance in the preparation of the Deed. He held the Archbishop's Courts, and was probably his general legal adviser. The second is a name which ought never to be forgotten in connexion with that of the Archbishop. On the one hand, it exhibits an instance of "the constant service of the antique world;" and, on the other, affords a pleasing proof that Laud's infirmities of temper and manners were but the rough covering of a kind and generous heart. The history of Adam Torless is told in the two following passages from Laud's Diary:

"[1624] Oct. 2, Saturday. In the evening at Mr. Windebank's, my ancient ser-



## ARCHBISHOP LAUD TO THE CORPORATION OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

Salutem in Christo. After my hearty commendations.

I haue had a greate longing in myselfe to doe some good for the towne of Redding, according to such ability as itt should please God to blesse me with. And, I heartily thanke him for itt, I have now done itt. And I have done itt in such a way, as I hope, by God's blessing, shall bee a meanes to preuent the increase of poore in that populous towne, and yett bring none to itt. I have provided soe as that both the poore and the Vicar of St. Lawrence, whose meanes is poor, and your schoolemaster, whose allowance is not greate, shall bee better'd by itt. And, in the disposition of this my charity, I have soe far preuayled with his gracious Majestie, as that the fifty pound a yeare which I give to the Vicar of St. Lawrence, shall not fill vp anie part of the mortmaine which I formerly procured for the towne, as you will see by the instrument vnder the Broad-seale, which, together with my owne deed for the lands, I deliver'd to Mr. Maior and Mr. Brackstone, att their late being with mee, for the vse of the Towne. And itt is to remaine in your custody, not in the Vicar's. And whereas you will finde by the deed that I have exprest charitable uses for the full summe of two hundred pownd a yeare: and that the land, for these two or three yeares, will not yeeld that whole and intire summe: yett I will that you proceed, att the seuerall tymes appointed, to doe all which I have required in my deede. And I shall supply that which is wanting for the yeares aforesaid, out of

vant, Adam Torless, fell into a swoon; and we had much ado to recover him; but, I thank God! we did."

"[1641] Sept. 23, Thursday. Mr. Adam Torles, my ancient, loving, and faithful servant, then my steward, after he had serued me full forty-two yeares, died, to my great loss and grief." (Hist. of Troubles, 13, 60.)

The latter passage, it will be remembered, was written in the Tower.

my owne purse, till the rent of the lands answer in full to the summe by mee designed. This I thought fitt to doe in my life-tyme, and not burden my executors with itt. And that which I shall expect from you and your successors is, that you doe from tyme to tyme continually performe that which I have order'd by my deed, and all the vses therein mentioned, as you and they will answere itt when wee shall meete together att the judgment seate of Christ. To whose mercy and blessed protection I leave you all, and rest

Your very louing friend,

Lambeth, March 28th, 1640.

W. CANT.

(*Superscription,*)

To my very louing freinds, the Maior, Aldermen,  
and Burgesses of the towne of Redding, these.

The writer of the following letter was one of Laud's domestic chaplains. He was a native of Reading, son to Thomas Turner, Mayor of that borough in 1611, 1620, and 1630; and, like so many of Laud's friends, was of Saint John's College, Oxford. He married Margaret, daughter of Laud's friend, Secretary Windebank, and, by her, was the father of Dr. Francis Turner, Bishop of Ely. His principal preferment was the deanery of Canterbury, of which, together with several other livings, he was deprived during the rebellion, and was subjected to very harsh treatment. At the Restoration he regained his livings, and died on the 7th October, 1672, aged 81. He was buried in the cathedral at Canterbury.

DOCTOR THOMAS TURNER TO THE MAYOR OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

Sir, I am commaunded by my Lord's Grace of Canterbury to signifie unto you, that his Grace hath receiued the half-year's rent for the lands at Bray, which amounts, as I take it, to £100. If yourself will bee pleased to come upp, or els to send some suffi-

cient man authorized from your company, to receiue the sayd money, his Grace is reddey to paye it. Haueing noe other busines wherwith to trouble you at present, I commend my affectionate loue to yourself and my good sister your wife, ever resting

Your loueing brother, more willing then able  
to doe you service,

June 25, 1640.

THOMAS TURNER.

To the Right Worshipfull my worthy frend, Mr.

John Jennings, Maior of Reddinge, these bee.

From the next letter we learn that Theophilus Taylor, the Vicar of Saint Lawrence, mentioned in the Archbishop's deed of gift, died before any benefit accrued under it. The right of Taylor's executors to receive a proportionable part of the Archbishop's gift to the vicarage was submitted to his consideration; and we have here his determination of the question:

ARCHBISHOP LAUD TO THE MAYOR OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

Salutem in Christo.

Sir, I have receaued your letters of the 14th of this present Iulye. And in them the acquittance for the hundred pownd which I sent you for our Lady-daye's rent of the land which I after conueighed to the towne. In this letter you and your brethren are desirous to know what my will and pleasure is concerning the distribution of the 25 li. assign'd by halfe-yearly payment to the Vicar of St. Lawrence in the deede which I haue made to the towne. In these your letters you signifie to mee that the late Vicar, Mr. Taylor, did not dye till the 9th of May last; and that, therefore, it is conceaued the 25 li. should belong to him. The truth is, in strictnes of law and right, one halfe of the sayd summe, or neare itt, belongs to Mr. Taylor's executor (vlesse it be consider'd that my grant did not passe till after our Lady-day). But,

howsoever, Mr. Taylor was a very honest man, and one to whom I intended more good then this, had God beene pleased to lend him life to enjoy itt. And, therefore, I desire you, the Maior, and your brethren, to pay the whole 25 li. to Mr. Taylor's executor, and God send them much good of itt! Soe, hauing nothing els at present to trouble you with, I leave you all to God's blessed protection, and rest

Your very louing friend,

Lambeth, July 17th, 1640.

W. CANT.

(*Superscription,*)

To my very louing friend, Mr. John Jennings, Maior  
of the towne of Reddinge, these.

The lapse of half-a-year, and the approach of the time for paying the apprentice-fees for the twelve boys selected at the first meeting of the trustees,\* brought a communication from the Archbishop which occasioned Mr. Alderman Brackstone to be sent to him to receive, on behalf of the Corporation, one hundred pounds, the amount of the half-year's rent due at Michaelmas, 1640. The messenger upon this occasion was no doubt the same person of that name who had been with the Archbishop on a former occasion. He was Mayor of Reading in 1643, and probably was son of Anthony Brackstone, Mayor in 1637, and father of William Brackstone, junior, Mayor, in 1667.

Mr. Brackstone, upon his return to Reading, was the bearer of the following letter from the Archbishop, which contains matters of both public and personal interest. It seems that, upon the election of members for the last Parliament, which met on the 13th April, 1640, the Archbishop had used his influence with the Corporation of Reading, to procure the return of two Members. That Parliament, as is well known, soon came to an end; but another, destined to attain an endless celebrity, was

\* The meeting was on the 7th October; the money was to be paid before the 30th November.

summoned to assemble on the 3rd of November following. Upon this occasion the Archbishop made no application to the Corporation of Reading; and in the letter before us he assigns two reasons for not having done so: 1. The existence of a dispute as to the persons in whom the right of election was vested; and, 2. his anxiety lest Reading should suffer on account of his personal unpopularity. This part of the letter, with its allusion to the late attack upon Lambeth Palace, cannot but be regarded as extremely important.

Sir Edward Herbert, then the King's Solicitor General, who is mentioned in the letter, and Sir John Berkeley, afterwards active in the service of the King, and one of the attendants upon him in his lowest fortunes, were the members returned to the previous Parliament upon Laud's recommendation.\*

#### ARCHBISHOP LAUD TO THE CORPORATION OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

Salutem in Christo. After my hearty commendations,

These are to lett you know that I have sent you [one] hundred pownd, which is the rent of the lands at Bray which I have giuen to the towne, for this halfe-yeare, ending att Michaelmas. The reason why I receaue the money is because the rents are somewhat imperfect, and soe will continue for about 2 yeares. And I am willing (if God lend mee soe long life) both to make all perfect, according to my guift: and to see itt so order'd, as that nothing may crosse with that which I have done for Oxford. I desire you therefore to remember my loue to your brethren the Aldermen, that they may know thus much, and doe heartily pray you all both to pay the money, and to binde out the poore boyes apprentices, att the tymes and in the manner as is prescrib'd in

\* Coates, App. No. xiii.

my conveighance, to which I referre both myselfe and you. And soe God of his mercy blesse the Towne, and my poore guift to itt.

One thing more I shall desire yourselfe and the Aldermen to know; that the reason why I did not write vnto you to recom- mend the choyce of a burgesse for this Parliament, as I did for the last, was, not out of any opinion that you would give mee lesse respect now then you formerly did, but it was out of two consideracions: the one, because I saw that in the former Elec- tion there was a difference between you and the Commons about the right of chusing; which I was not willing to stirre a second tyme,—though what your owne right was, and what theirs, you might have certainly knowne before this tyme, had you followed my direction, and attended the King's Sollicitor, Mr. Herbert, with your Charters. The other, because I founde there was a great deale of causlesse malignitye cast vpon mee, for I know not what, as yourselves cannot but know by the tumult which lately besett my howse,\* and I was very carefull that, whatsoever malice reported of mee, or did to mee, noe part of it should in the least degree reflect vpon the Towne, by chusing a burgesse at my en- treatye. I have nothing els to trouble you with, but hope that your officer hath taken a coppie of my conveighance to lye ready for your dayly vse, that the originall may be kept the fairer and the safer. Soe wishing you all health and happines, I leaue you to God's blessed protection, ever resting

Your very louing freind,

Lambeth, November 13, 1640.

W. CANT.

*(Superscription,)*

To my very louing friends, the Maior and Aldermen of Redding.

\* The incident referred to is thus mentioned in Laud's Diary :

“ [1640] May 9, Saturday. A paper posted vpon the Old Exchange, animating prentices to sack my house vpon the Monday following, May 11, early.

May 11, Monday night. At midnight, my house at Lambeth was beset with 500 of these rascal routers. I had notice, and strengthened the house as well as I could; and, God be thanked, I had no harm: they continued there full two hours. Since, I

The next letter, which contains another case of conscience submitted to the Archbishop, was forwarded to him by Mr. Brackstone, when he went to receive the 100*l.* It is dated before the one last given, but I think it better to keep it and the reply to it together. The writer was the person before mentioned as the father of Dr. Thomas Turner, Laud's chaplain. He was a man whom Laud says, he had "cause to esteem."

## MR. THOMAS TURNER TO ARCHBISHOP LAUD.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

May it please your Grace,

There is a poore widowe in our Towne, having four small children, whose husband whilest hee lived vsed the trade of a beerebrewer there, and died soe much indebted that, his debts being paid, shee hath noe stocke left to continue that trade, nor any other meanes to provide releife for her poore children. And shee, having made suite to the Maior and Aldermen for tenn poundes, parcell of your Lordship's guift to our towne, to binde one of her children, being a boy of about 13 yeares of age, apprentice to herselfe, hoping thereby to continue her small trading, for provision of releife for herselfe and her children, they doubt whether your Lordship wilbe therewith well pleased; therefore, at the earnest request of this poore widowe, I make bold to present her suite to your Lordship, humbly entreatinge your Lordship to signifie your will and pleasure herein, and as in dutie bound, I shall rest,

Your Lordship's euer to be commanded,

Readinge, 10 Nov. 1640.

THOMAS TURNOUR.

May it please your Grace, further to give way for the binding have fortified my house as well as I can, and hope all may be safe. But yet libels are continually set up in all places of note in the city. My deliverance was great; God make me thankful for it." (Hist. of Troubles, 58.)

Clarendon states the number of the rabble at "some thousands;" and adds, that their violence was thought "so just a cause of terror, that the Archbishop, by the King's command, lodged for some days and nights in Whitehall." (Rebell. lib. ii.)

of two other poore children (with parcell of your Lordshipp's gifte), whome this bearer shall nominate.

The answer of the Archbishop is not only interesting for the characteristic way in which he viewed the application respecting the widow, but peculiarly so on account of the period at which it was written. The Long Parliament met on the 3rd of November; and a few days afterwards, their first work of any moment—the resolution to impeach Laud's gifted friend, the Earl of Strafford—took the King, the Government, Laud, and all his friends, by surprise. Clarendon says, that from the time the Earl was named, most men considered that a Committee would be appointed to receive information against him, but that Pym and his party had secretly determined to adopt a bolder course. On the 11th November, when the usual hour for the House of Commons to adjourn had arrived, an order was suddenly made that the doors should be closed, and, after several inflammatory harangues, a resolution was carried, that they should send at once to the Lords, accuse the Earl of high treason, and desire that he might be committed to safe custody. In the mean time, it had been arranged with some of the Lords, that their House should be kept from rising. About three o'clock in the afternoon the Earl, who was unwell, and had not stirred from home that morning, hearing that both Houses still sate, thought fit to go thither. He arrived just in time to listen to the accusation against himself, and be committed to the custody of the Usher of the Black Rod.\* The suddenness of this manœuvre, and its success, more especially with the House of Lords, paralysed the members of the Government, and beyond measure inspired the popular leaders. It was on the second day after this great work had been accomplished that Laud describes himself, in the following letter, as hurrying from Lambeth to the Parliament House. On the 25th November, the Earl was committed to the Tower; and three days afterwards, Prynne and Burton, having been

\* Clarendon Book iii.



released from Jersey and Guernsey by order of the House of Commons, made their triumphant entry into London. Multitudes of people, Clarendon says above ten thousand, accompanied them into the City; "the common people strewing flowers in the ways as they passed, making great noise and expressions of joy for their deliverance and return; and in those acclamations mingling loud and virulent exclamations against the Bishops, who had so cruelly persecuted such godly men."\* It was in this time of trouble, the storm lowering over his head, the sounds of Prynne and Burton's triumph ringing in his ears, and whilst the ministers of the state and judges of the law were like men in an extasy, that Laud quietly turned to the affairs of his Reading charities, and answered the application of Mr. Thomas Turner thus.

ARCHBISHOP LAUD TO THE CORPORATION OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

Salutem in Christo. After my hearty commendacions,

These are only to lett you vnderstand, that when Mr. Brackstone, one of your Companie, was lately with mee at Lambeth for the receipte of the hundred pounce due to your Towne from mee att Michaelmas last, there was a suite preferred to mee by some there whom I haue cause to esteeme, that, in the putting forth of this yeares apprentices, I would giue way that a widdow woman, left with many children, might take a sonne of her owne to be her apprentice, and haue the allowance which is assigned by my deeds. When Mr. Brackstone came to mee, I was going in haste to the Parliament Howse, and soe sent my answere by him only by word of mouth, which answere was, that I was contented, uppon the entreatie made to mee, to grant this one particuler, but that, for hereafter, I would haue noe more done in that kinde.

Now, least my verball answere then given should bee in any

\* Clarendon, Book iii.

thing mistaken, or not remembered in the future, I thought fitt to write these few lynes to you, and to signifye that, in all tymes to come, I will haue poore mens sonnes bounde to bee Apprentices according to all conditions expressed in my Deedes to the Towne, and noe other. Neither will I any more permitt, That any man, or widdow-woman, shall haue my pension, or allowance, to haue any one of theire children bounde Apprentice to themselues, because, I easily see how my charity in that kinde may bee abused.

To the end, therefore, that this will and desire of myne may bee strictly and perpetually obserued, These are to pray you, the now Maior and Aldermen, to register this Letter in your Towne-booke, and to lay up this Letter itselfe with the Euidences for the Land, that soe it may be kept in memory, and my will herein not broken. This is all that, for the present, I haue to trouble you with, But my prayers are, and shall bee, dayly, for all happines uppon you, and that place. Soe to God's blessed protection I leaue you;

Yours very loving freind,

Lambeth, Nouember 29th, 1640.

W. CANT.

(*Superscription,*)

To my very loving [friends the] Maior and Aldermen [of the] Towne of Reddinge, these.

The next letter was written from the Tower. Nothing could exceed either the rapidity or the ease with which the government was destroyed after the committal of Strafford. Before the end of 1640, Laud was in custody, and Lord Keeper Finch, and Secretary Windebank, were in exile. Within two months after the meeting of Parliament, the King had made concessions which were dishonourable, and consequently ruinous, "the great statesman Strafford, the great churchman Laud,"\* together with the

\* Whitelock's Memor. p. 38.

head of the law and the first minister of state, were all got rid of, and the course of alteration was almost unimpeded. But it is with Laud alone we have to do. Two extracts from his Diary will sufficiently illustrate the admirable commencement of the following letter :

[1640] Dec. 18. Friday. I was accused by the House of Commons for high treason, without any particular charge laid against me ; which they said should be prepared in convenient time. . . . I was presently committed to the Gentleman Usher ; but was permitted to go in his company to my house at Lambeth, for a book or two to read in, and such papers as pertained to my defence against the Scots. I stayed at Lambeth till the evening, to avoid the gazing of the people. I went to evening prayer in my chappel. The psalms of the day, Ps. xciii. and xciv. and chap. i. of Esai, gave me great comfort. God make me worthy of it, and fit to receive it ! As I went to my barge, hundreds of my poor neighbours stood there, and prayed for my safety, and return to my house. For which I bless God and them.

[1641] March 1. Monday. I went in Mr. Maxwell's coach to the Tower. No noise until I came into Cheapside, but from thence to the Tower I was followed and railed at by the apprentices and rabble, in great numbers, to the very Tower-gates, where I left them ; and I thank God, He made me patient."\*

#### ARCHBISHOP LAUD TO THE CORPORATION OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

After mye hartye comendations, &c.

These ar to remember mye loue to yourselfe and your bretheren, and God's blessinge be upon the Towne ! I cannot but be sensible of the greate affliction that lyes vpon me, in which yett, bye God's mercye and goodnes, I haue two great comforts, mye innocence, and mye patience, both which it hath pleased God bye

\* Troubles, pp. 60, 61.

his grace to giue me. In thiss mye misfortune I humblye thanke God I haue not yett forgotten mye selfe, and, as longe as I forgett not mye selfe, I cannot but remember that place.

These ar thearfore farther to lett you knowe, that I haue receaued allmost all the rent for Braye, and am readye to make the summe perfect. Soe that if you please t<sup>o</sup> send such a man to me as you will trust with the receipt of the monye, and lett hime bringe with hime an acquittance to me for the receipt, I will presentlye paye it hime. It is in siluer, and thearfore I conceaue fittest to be returned. But that I leaue to your owne wisdome: onlye I praye send a safe man to receaue it, and the sooner the better. Soe with desyer of your prayers for me, I commend you all to God's blessinge, restinge, soe longe as it pleases hime,

Your verye lovinge frend,

The Tower, October 28, 1641.

W. CANT.

*(Superscription,)*

To mye verye lovinge frends Mr. Peter Burmingham, Maior of the Towne of Reding, and the Aldermen his Bretheren, these.

The next letter sufficiently explains itself. Besides the arrangement as to the Town-clerk, it gives an account of some of the irregular applications (for perhaps the applicants did not meditate imposition,) with which, at the commencement of their trust, it was to be expected the Trustees would be troubled.

ARCHBISHOP LAUD TO THE CORPORATION OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

After my hartye commendations, &c.

I haue receaued a thankfull and a kinde leter from you, in the name of the Towne, for that little with which God hath inabled me to doe some good to that place, to which, under God, I owe mye birth. And I am verye glad to heare from you, that poore

gift of myne is like to be soe beneficiall to that place. God bless it that it maye.

In these leters you putt me in mynde, that, at the three years end, appointed for the visitation of mye gift, and the orderinge of it, thear is, and will be bye mye deed, thirtye pound to entertayne the Visitors for one daye and a night. Thiss summe you conceave will be to large for that vse, and that sixe pound of it, after the proportion of fortye shillings per annum, maye well be allowed out of it to youre Towne Clarke, for his pains in registeringe the carridge of thiss Trust residinge in you. That soe the Visitors from tyme to tyme may see howe carefull you haue bin, both of me and the poore, in thiss busynes.

The truth is, I was carefull that mye Visitors might be well entertayned, without anye the least chardge to the Towne, to whome I must be sufficientlye beholdinge for their paynes. But noe man putt me in minde of the Towne-Clarke's paynes. And mye thoughts wear soe full otherwise, that I quyte omitted it. But I hartelye thanke you for puttinge me in mynd of it, and findinge out thiss waye for hime. I doe thearfore order, that, out of the thirtye pound reserued for the Visitors' entertaynement, thear shall be for ever sixe pound, after the proportion of fortye shillings a yeare, be payed to the Towne-clarke for the tyme beinge, for his paines in thiss busynes: And for your soe doinge, thiss leter of myne shall be your warrant. And thearfore I desyer thiss leter maye both be kept and register'd.

One thinge more I am to thanke you for. And that is, your great care which I heare was taken at your last Election of Boys to be bound Apprentices, in which you wear like to be deceaved with some not borne in your Towne, but that your care preuented it. I thanke you all hartelye for thiss, and desyer the continuance of it in all particulars, for if you shall giue waye to a breach in one, it will be taken in another, and nothinge in the end remayne intyre. But I praye take heed that noe Journyeman, or anye tha is not a Housekeeper for himselfe, or is an Inmate, have anye

Boye bound with hime, for those great inconveniences which maye attend vpon it. And I am bold to giue you thiss caution, because I heare thiss was like to be putt vpon you. I haue nothinge els to trouble you with at present, but doe humblye and hartelye desyer of God, that noe abuse may pervert mye good intentions in that worke.

To whose blessed and mercifull protection I recommend both, mye selfe and you, and rest

Your verye lovinge but vnfortunat friend,

Tower, December 23, 1641.

W. CANT.

I praye send me word of the receipt of thiss leter.

*(Superscription,)*

For the right worshipfull mye verye worthye frends  
the Maior and the Aldermen of the Towne of  
Redinge, these.

The letter of the 28th October, 1641, carried the payment of the rent up to the Michaelmas of that year. The following relates to the rent of the succeeding year. Laud's anxiety respecting the safety of the money in those "broken times," will be thought fully justified, when it is considered that the King and Parliament had then just taken the field against each other. Three days after this letter was written the opposing armies met, and the first battle—that of Edgehill—was fought between them. Whitelock remarks, and no doubt truly, that upon news of these proceedings, "all countreys were alarmed and frighted, being a strange thing in England."\*

ARCHBISHOP LAUD TO THE MAYOR OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Charities  
of the Borough of Reading.*

Sir,

Now that Michaelmas is past, and you settled in your office, I would hartilie desire you, if you have anie occation of coming to

\* Memorials, p. 61.

London, you would come to me yourself: or, if not, that then you would send some bodie to me whome you will trust for the Towne, to receive the money for this yeare past, or at least soe much of it as can bee gotten from the Tennants; for I doubt Loggins will not doe well with me and the Towne att parting. When you come or send, you shall haue my Letters to your selfe and the Towne, how I thinke fitt the money should be disposed this yeare.

Soe to God's blessed protection I leave you, and rest

Your very loving freind,

Tower, Octob. 20<sup>o</sup>, 1642.

W. CANT.

I pray you, if you come not yourselfe, send one whom you and the Towne may trust, that you maie receive the money safe these broken times.

(*Superscription,*)

To mye verye lovinge frend Mr. Thackham, Maior  
of the Towne of Reddinge, these.

The next letter, which is the last from the Archbishop, is one of great interest. It would seem from the postscript, that Alderman Harrison, who had been Mayor in 1640, and filled the chair again in 1647, waited upon the Archbishop, in consequence of the last letter, and received from him 160*l.* being all the rent that had been paid up to that time. The letter disposing of that sum appears to have been written before the messenger's arrival—the postscript, which slightly alters the arrangement, being added afterwards. The Archbishop's inability to make good the deficiency, is accounted for by the following entry in his Diary, on the 15th of the same October in which this letter was written. "Resolved . . . that the fines, rents, and profits of Archbishops, Bishops, Deans and Chapters. . . . should be sequestered for the use of the Commonwealth."\*

\* Troubles, p. 64.

ARCHBISHOP LAUD TO THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF  
READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church  
Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

After my hartye comendations, &c.

I haue sent you bye this bearer one hundred and threescore pound of mye Rents from Braye, which is all I can gett of mye Rents thiss yeare past. I hope I haue ordered busynes soe as that the Towne will not suffer anye more in that kinde. But nowe, soe it is, that Loggins his tearme beinge expired, he leaves the thinge, but payes not the fortye pound rent which is nowe due. I am informed he hath made over his estate to paye debts, but wheather that be trueth, or but a pretence, I knowe not, nether am I in a condition at present fitt to releuee myeselfe, or you. Nor am I in that case, that I can make vp the summe for you out of mye owne means. Thearfore, I conceaue thear will be a necessitie of proportioninge thiss busynes thiss yeare accordinge to thiss failinge, which I conceaue, allsoe, is fittest to be done thiss waye. I would not have the number of the maydes which are nowe to be releued, lessened. But I desyre Mr. Maior, and the Aldermen his bretheren, to order it thuss, that whearas fortye pound is to be abated, they take one twenty pound of it from that which should otherwise haue bin payed to Dr. Lloyed; and other twentye proportionably from each mayde, soe that each of them may have soe much less as the twenty pound comes to. Thies is all the occasion I haue at present to wright to you, and am sorye with all mye hart I should have it. And, trulye, if mye fortunes had bin such as they might haue bin, had it soe pleased God, I would most willinglye have supplied thiss want myselfe, but nowe I must desyer them whoe bye it are putt to this loss, to heare it, as I doe more, with patience. I praye God bless the Towne and all that ar in it, and lett me haue yowre prayers to help



guide me to an end of mye troubles. Soe to God's blessed protection I leaue you, and rest

Your verye lovinge, poore frend,

Tower, October 27, 1642.

W. CANT.

Whereas I am informed by Alderman Harrison, that the day for the Visitation is past, and that there will be noe need of a Visitation during my life, I am contented for this tyme, that the money which is in banke for the enterteynment of the Visitors, be applied to the charitable use, and then Dr. Lloyd may have all his money; and the maides must be content for this yeare to take theyr seuerall summes with proportionable abatement.

W. CANT.

(*Superscription,*)

To my very louinge friends, Mr. Thomas Thackham,  
Mayor, and the rest of the Aldermen of the  
Towne of Reding in Berks, these.

The increasing distractions of the times, the greater severity of his confinement, and the attention the Archbishop was called upon to give to the parliamentary proceedings against himself,—proceedings which involved almost all the principal actions of his life,—sufficiently account for the absence of further letters from him to the Corporation of Reading. After he had remained in custody nearly three years upon a mere general accusation, the Commons preferred their charges against him. His trial, with the preliminary proceedings, occupied another twelvemonth, and, finally, the Judges reported, that nothing which was charged against him was treason by any known and established law of the land.\* The impeachment was then abandoned; an Ordinance of Attainder was hurried through both houses, and, on the 10th January, 1644-5, the Archbishop suffered death on Tower Hill, being, as he stated on the scaffold, not only the first Archbishop, but the first man, that ever died by an Ordinance in Par-

\* Troubles, p. 442.

liament.\* The iniquities of this proceeding are a copious theme, and a standing lesson, but they belong to those who treat Laud's life as a whole, and not to my confined inquiry.

Twelve months before his death (on the 13th January, 1643-4), he made his will, an admirable and beautiful document, so full of private and personal details, and so strikingly illustrative of his character and opinions, that I have thought it right to publish it in the Appendix.† In this document, after alluding to his benefactions to Oxford, "where he was bred," and to Reading, "where he was born," he charges his executor, as he will answer him at the bar of Christ, to lay out the residue of his estate upon land, and to settle 50*l.* per annum upon the town of Wokingham, 50*l.* per annum upon Henley on Thames, 50*l.* per annum upon Wallingford, and 50*l.* per annum upon New Windsor, upon the like uses, for the apprenticing poor boys, and giving marriage portions to poor maids, as he had declared of his lands at Bray, given to the town of Reading.

The will remained unproved until after the Restoration, when Dr. Baylie, the sole executor, carried it into the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, and obtained probate on the 8th January, 1661-2. Ultimately, on the 2d September, 1672, in consequence of certain proceedings in the Court of Chancery, with the nature of which I am not acquainted, a fee-farm rent of 140*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* reserved out of the lordships and manors of Hagborne, otherwise Hagbone, and Aston Upthorpe, in Berkshire, and another rent of 52*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.* issuing out of certain lands within the homage of Eye and Dunsden, in Oxfordshire, and another rent of 8*l.* 12*s.* 8*d.* reserved out of certain woodlands at Nettlebed and elsewhere, in Oxfordshire, were conveyed to Nathaniel, Bishop of Oxford, and seventeen other persons, upon trust, to pay the four several sums of 50*l.* to each of the towns mentioned by the Archbishop, to be applied by them as he had directed. On the 12th of March, 1706, Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury, and seventeen other persons, were

\* Troubles, p. 448.

† Appendix, No. vi.

appointed trustees in lieu of those originally named, and, by an agreement amongst the four towns, the rents were apportioned amongst them. I have not learned who are the present trustees, nor when there was any visitation, nor what was the nature of the original partition; but, judging from certain parliamentary returns, it would seem that there is now considerable discrepancy between the amounts received by the several towns. Whether this has arisen from taxes since imposed upon this description of property, or from what other cause, I am not informed, but in one instance the 50*l.* has dwindled down to 40*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* per annum. In each of these towns, however, the Archbishop's charity is still in existence, and sums are yearly appropriated, in apprenticing boys, or portioning young maids.

But let us return to Reading. The Corporation entered upon their duties in a most becoming manner. Upon the execution of the Deed of Gift, they provided a book, which they entitled, "The Booke of the yearely accompt of all and singular the rents, revenewes, issues, and profeyts, of the mannors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, given and conveyed to the Maior, Aldermen, and Burgesses of this Borough, and their successors, for ever, in trust, by the most reverend father in God, William Lawd, Lord Archbyschopp of Canterburie, for the maintenance of the good and charitable workes by him intended, and expressed in the conveyance thereof hereinafter registred." Then follow a transcript of the Deed of Gift, and the Archbishop's letter of the 29th November, 1640. The account of receipts and payments succeeds, and is opened with the following memorandum. "*Anno Domini* 1640. Nowe be it knowne unto all men, that, although the afore-named William Lawd, Lord Archbishoppe of Canterburie, according to the purport, true intent, and meaning of his conveyance, herein-before registred, hath received the rentes, issues, and profits, of the mannor, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, in the said conveyance mencioned, yet nevertheles, beinge willing and desirous that the good and charitable workes by him intended,

and therein expressed, might, in his life time, take effect, he, the said Lord Archbishops of Canterburie, in this yeare, being the first yeare after the sealinge of the said conveighance, hath given to the Maior, Aldermen, and Burgesses, of the said Borough of Readinge (as this yeare's rent of the said landes), two hundred poundes, in money, by them to be distributed, converted, and employed, in the manner as is prescribed in the said conveighance, of which two hundred poundes the said Maior, Aldermen, and Burgesses, have paid and distributed as followeth."

The account then succeeds and has been continued in the self-same book, from the opening of the trust to the present time. There seems but one chasm, and in that are inserted the following words:

"The said Lord Archbishop of Canterbury departed this life the tenth day of January, anno Domini 1644."

Shortly after the Restoration, the Corporation were solicited by their tenants at Bray to hold a manorial court there. The following correspondence again introduces Sir Orlando Bridgeman, and exhibits some of the pitiable consequences of the late times of disorder.

Mr. Edward Dalby, to whom this letter is addressed, was appointed Steward or Recorder of Reading, on the 28th May 1660,\* in the place of Mr. Daniel Blagrove, the regicide, who then fled to the continent. Man has omitted Mr. Edward Dalby out of his list of Recorders.†

THE MAYOR OF READING TO MR. EDWARD DALBY,  
THE RECORDER.

*From a Copy in the possession of the Trustees of the Church  
Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

Sir,—The Company being solicited by some of the tenants at Bray to keepe a court there, which wee haue power to doe from the late Lord Archbishop of Canterburie's conveyance to the

\* Corporation Diary.

† Hist. of Reading, p. 391.

Corporacion, although, being neglected, and finding the ancient Court Rolls not to be in our custody, wee make it our request to you, that you wilbe pleased, as you shall finde opportunity, to attend Sir Orlando Bridgman, who, as wee are informed, did formerly keepe the said Archbishopp's courts, desiringe his Lordshipp, if hee can, to direct you to the finding out of the said Court Rolls, that soe wee may, with your assistance, be the better enabled, after the terme, to hold a court there, which, as the tenants say, may be advantageous to vs and them.

This, by consent of my brethren, I thought good to trouble you with, remaying,

Your very louing friend,

G. T. [GEORGE THORNE] Maior.\*

Reading, 1 Nov. 1662.

MR. EDWARD DALBY TO THE MAYOR OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

Sir, — I haue had some discourse with Maior Aldworth, † concerning the business you intrusted to my care; but because Sir Thomas Doleman is not yet come to London, hee desires the matter may bee deferred till such time that both of them may consult togeather vpon the state of the case and petition; and alsoe to advise with Mr. Sollicitor Generall, or some other eminent counsell, before any adresse bee made to the Parliament; and to that purpose it will bee necessary that a copy of Mr. Kendrick's will, and alsoe of the decree in the Exchequer, bee sent hither some time the next weeke, by some trusty person who hath occasion to come to London. In the meane time, Maior Aldworth desires you would satisfy yourselues what is now the remaining stock in cer-

\* Mr. Thorne was appointed Mayor at the Restoration, in the stead of Mr. Samuel Jemmat, who was displaced. (Corp. Diary.)

† Sir Thomas Doleman, knight, and Major Richard Aldworth, were elected Members for Reading in the first Parliament after the Restoration.

taine and what lande haue been purchased by the Corporacion since the sayde decree, and to what value, and what sume was giuen for them; that soe perfect instruction may bee giuen to such person with whom you shall advise.

I haue this day presented your letter to the Lord Cheife Justice, Sir Orlando Bridgman, who told mee hee would bee very ready to pleasure the Corporacion with the Court Rolles of Bray, but hee much doubted that they might bee lost amongst many other writeings that were plundred from him in the late times of disorder; neuertheless his Lordship gaue one of his gentlemen a greate charge to make a strickt search and inquiry for them amongst the remaineing writeings and papers; and if they may bee found, to deliuer them to mee for the vse of the Corporacion: I haue for his better encouragement promised him civill rewarde for his paynes, which would haue been expected by him, and I hope will not bee ill bestowed by the Corporacion: I haue nothing else at present but my hearty wishes for your safe iourney to London, and some good occasion to bring you to the Temple, where I remaine

Your affectionat kinsman and servant,

May 8<sup>o</sup> (16)63.

EDW. DALBY.

To the Right Worshipfull George Thorne, Esq.

Mayor of Reading, these.

The first visitation of the Archbishop's Charities to Reading took place on the 7th October 1648, and, with an interruption during the Commonwealth, and also, as would seem from the following letter, in the year 1665, the visitation has been continued triennially ever since. The following letter from the Archbishop's executor, Dr. Baylie, marks the time of the introduction of a limitation of the Archbishop's bounty to members of the Church of England. It cannot be doubted that such a limitation is in strict accordance with his wishes. When the Archbishop's deed of gift was prepared, nonconformity had not acquired such a recognised standing as to render such a limitation necessary.

THE REV. DR. BAYLIE TO THE MAYOR OF READING.

*From the Original in the possession of the Trustees of the Church Charities of the Borough of Reading.*

I cannot bee confident, Right Worshipfull, that the letters which our Vicechancellor and my self subscribed and directed vnto you vpon Tuesday last are come vnto your hands; their more important buisnes was, that your worthilie respected self and your brethren might bee certified vpon what vrgent necessitie wee were here detained att Oxon, and could not attend our ductie of visitation for this yeare; and, after that, you might vnderstand how earnestlie wee were affected that it might bee obtained from you, first, that noe maide should pertake of his Grace's charitie, who had not approued herself carefull in a conformitie vnto the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England, and had manifested the same in a late receiving of the Sacrament of the Lord his Supper from the hands of one of your ministers in his parish church; whereto wee added our particular request that Sarah Hulebert, a maid servant vnto the Ladie Armorer, might bee designed by you, and pertake of his Grace's bountie and charitie; in the first of these you will doe yourselfes much right, and in the second, a kindnes to Mr. Vicechancellor and my self, who shall remain,

Your affectionate frend and servant,

RICHARD BAYLIE,

President of Saint John Baptist's Colledge.

Oxon. Octob. 6, 1665.

For the Right Worshipfull and very worthelie respected the Major of Reading, these.

From the death of the Archbishop up to 1814, the lands settled by him were let on septennial leases at an annual rent of 200*l.*; the tenants having then declined to renew, the trustees agreed to let the property at a rent which would produce a clear annual rent of 564*l.* 19*s.* 6½*d.* It was then thought right to apply to the

Court of Chancery to sanction a scheme for the application of the excess of the rent beyond the 200*l.* per annum mentioned by the Archbishop. The matter was referred to Master Jekyll, who by his report, dated 2d Oct. 1815, sanctioned the following scheme, viz. "That the 10*l.* apiece given every first and second year to twelve boys born in Reading, Wokingham, and Bray, for apprenticing them, should be increased, by adding a further sum of 10*l.* and three to the original number, making fifteen boys at 20*l.* apiece; and as to the third year, that the six 20*l.* given to the poor maidens for their marriage portions, should be increased to 25*l.* apiece, and that the number of such marriage portions should be increased by the addition of six, making together twelve poor maidens at 25*l.* apiece, which in each year will amount to the sum of 300*l.* That the stipend of the Vicar of Saint Lawrence in Reading, and to his successors, of 50*l.* should be increased by adding 75*l.*, making together 125*l.* That the stipend of the schoolmaster of the Free School of Reading of 20*l.* and to his successors, should be increased, by adding 30*l.* making together 50*l.* That the stipend to the Town Clerk for the time being, of 40*s.* for making up the accounts, and attending the triennial visitation, and for his loss of the septennial leases, the estate being now rack-rented, should be increased by adding 3*l.* making together 5*l.* That the allowance of the trustees for paying the charges of the visitation by the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, the President of Saint John's College, and the Warden of All Souls' College, visitors of the charity, directed by the donor to be 8*l.*, should be increased, by adding 12*l.*, making together 20*l.*;—which several sums amount to 500*l.*"

And further, "That in respect of the clear residue of the rents and proceeds of the said trust premises beyond the sum of 500*l.*, that the same, subject to all proper deductions, be annually divided between the several persons interested in the application of such trust estate in the following proportions: twelve twentieth parts thereof to be applied by the trustees in the binding out more



apprentices, at a premium of 20*l.* apiece, every first and second year; and the third year in portions to poor maidens at 25*l.* apiece; five twentieth parts to be paid to the Vicar for the time being, of the parish church of St. Lawrence; two twentieth parts to the schoolmaster of the Free School of Reading and his successors; subject, however, as to the two last payments, to the proviso in the Archbishop's deed; and that the remaining one twentieth part be retained by the trustees towards the charges of the visitation, and in augmentation of the Town Clerk's salary; and, in case of a diminution in the said charity revenues below 500*l.* a year, then that the several persons interested in the application of the revenues do abate in proportion to such decrease, according to the aforesaid rates; but the boys to continue in number the same, and the premiums to abate, and the maidens to abate in number, and not in value of their portions."

This scheme was put in practice in 1816, and continues to be acted upon up to the present time; renewing, from year to year, the remembrance of Laud's benevolent anxiety for the welfare of his native town. He may have been impatient, severe, indiscreet, incapable of those compromises and half-measures which may be necessary in the conduct of public affairs; but, on the other hand, he was conscientious, pious, temperate, generous; and such deeds as those which I have now set forth are a memorial in his behalf to all generations. They have outlived the clamour of strife and persecution; they defy the otherwise unconquerable malice of political partisanship;

They plead, like angels trumpet-tongued, against  
The deep damnation of his taking-off.



## APPENDIX.

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### No. I.

CHARTER OF ENDOWMENT OF THE HOSPITAL OF SAINT JOHN,  
READING.

*MS. Cotton. Vesp. E. v. fol. 19 b.*

Carta Hugonis Abbatis et conventus, de Capella  
Sancti Laurentii, et de constructione Hospitalis.

UNIVERSIS Christi fidelibus ad quos presens scriptum pervenerit, frater H[ugo] Radingensis ecclesie minister humilis, et ejusdem loci conventus, unanimes in Domino salutem. Ad universitatis vestre noticiam volumus pervenire, excellentissimum quondam regem Anglorum Henricum primum, domum Radingensem fundasse ad sustentationem monachorum ibidem Deo devote ac religiose servientium, et ad susceptionem hospitem transeuntium, precipue tamen pauperum Christi ac peregrinorum, sicut ex ipsius carta, penes nos habita, satis dilucide perpendi potest. Verum divitibus, ut ipse eorum timor exigit, splendide ac honorifice ex more receptis, pauperes et peregrini minus reverenter quam decuit, et longe aliter quam regia devotio disposuit, in retroactis temporibus suscepti sunt; unde cum ipsius elemosine non solum participes, verumetiam procuratores simus, ut in conspectu Dei illam fideliter dispensemus, eam in quantum sufficimus etiam pauperibus volumus esse communem. Cui [cujus?] rei causa, ad relevandum inopiam pauperum, et subsidium peregrinorum, hospitale quoddam extra portam construximus, ut qui admissus non fuerit in hospicio superiori, ibi saltem, quam reverenter poterit, suscipiatur; unde, assensu et consensu dyocesis episcopi, domini H. Walterii, ut carta ipsius super eodem negotio apud nos habita testatur, ecclesiam beati Laurentii prefato hospitali in perpetuum elemosinam concessimus, ad sustentationem xij. pauperum in vietu et vestitu et in aliis necessariis, aliis xij. pauperibus fratribus consimilia alimenta ex cotidiana et consueta elemosina nostra subministrantes. Ad usum vero peregrinorum transeuntium concessimus omnes exitus molendini Fulrez de

Leoministre. Et ne hec donatio nostra lapsu temporis apud posteros in dubium veniat, aut alicujus ausu temerario infringi et irritari attemptetur, eam sigillorum nostrorum appositione communire dignum duximus. Omnes autem quicumque predictæ donationis fautores et defensores extiterint, concedimus participes esse omnium bonorum que fiunt in domo nostra, et in prefato hospitali. Si autem quis in contrarium venire presumpserit, conterat eum Dominus in eternum.

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No. II.

CONSENT OF HUBERT WALTER, BISHOP OF SALISBURY, TO THE APPROPRIATION OF THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE'S, READING, TO THE HOSPITAL OF ST. JOHN.

*MS. Cotton. Vespas. E. v. fol. 20 a.*

Hec carta excerpta est a carta generali confirmationis Huberti W[alterii] Episcopi Sarisburiensis.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus ad quos presens carta pervenerit, Hubertus, Dei gratia Sarisburiensis Episcopus, salutem in Domino. Ne beneficia que a Christi fidelibus, pio affectu et affectuosa pietate, locis religiosis et viris in eis jugem Deo prestantibus famulatum, misericorditer impenduntur, sive processu temporis sive malignantium versutia, possit in posterum perturbari, episcopali decet ea prospectione et protectione communiri. Attendentes igitur fervorem religionis dilectorum nobis in Christo filiorum Abbatis et Conventus Radingie, et hospitalitatis gratiam peregrinis, et advenis, et omnibus caritatis beneficium postulantis, impensam eisdem monachis, auctoritate pontificali confirmamus ecclesiam Sancti Laurencii de Rading cum omnibus obventionibus et pertinentiis suis ad usus pauperum Dei in Hospitali quod juxta eandem ecclesiam situm est collectorum. Ita quidem quod perpetuus vicarius, ad presentationem eorundem monachorum, a nobis, vel successoribus nostris, institutus, in eadem ecclesia, xx. solidos annuatim de eisdem monachis ad indumenta sua percipiet; et panem et potum sicut monachus ejusdem monasterii; et septem denarios per ebdomadam pro compagno; et hospicium honestum; et legata sua usque ad sex denarios et infra, supra autem quod exererit, cum monachis dimidiabit; oblationem etiam suam percipiet per quatuor sollempnitates anni. Ipsi etiam monachi dyaconum propriis sumptibus invenient eidem ecclesie et capellano minis-

trantem. Indulsimus quoque eidem vicario, quia infirmis et pauperibus in prefato hospitali oportet eum curam et diligentiam impendere, ut ad capitulum, nisi in burgo Radingie, venire non cogatur; sed ad synodum pro statutis ecclesie audiendis, semel in anno, cum aliis sacerdotibus et clericis conveniat, et tunc hiidem monachi capellano equum invenient; et si forte episcopus in presentiam suam eundem capellanum pro excessu vel crimine suo vocaverit, ubi episcopus voluerit in episcopatu suo coram eo comparebit. Datum apud Sunning per manum Willielmi Raimundi, xiiij kalendas Maii Pontificatus nostri anno septimo. Hiis testibus.

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No. III.

CEREMONIAL UPON THE RECEPTION OF A BROTHER OR SISTER INTO  
THE HOSPITAL OF SAINT JOHN, READING.

*MS. Cott. Vespas. E. v. fol. 8 b and 11 a.*

*Modus recipiendi fratres vel sorores in hospicio Sancti Johannis. In primis genuflectendo dicat psalmum Miserere mei Deus, ex integro, cum gloria patri. Kyrieleison. Pater noster. Et ne nos. Salvum fac servum, vel ancillam tuam. Mitte ei, Domine, auxilium de sancto. Esto ei, Domine, turris fortitudinis. Domine, exaudi orationem. Dominus vobiscum. Oremus. Oratio. Suscipiat te Dominus in numero fidelium suorum, et [sicut?] nos, licet indigni, suscipimus te in fraternitatem istam, concedatque tibi, per unigenitum suum, mediatorem Dei et hominum, locum bene agendi et instantiam perseverandi; et, sicut nos hodie caritas fraternitatis specialiter conjungit in terris, ita divina pietas, que fraterne dilectionis est autrix et amatrix, cum fidelibus suis conjungere dignetur in celis; per Dominum.*

*Iterum genuflectendo coram altari dicat ymnus, Veni Creator spiritus; deinde levet se et dicat, Dominus vobiscum. Oremus. Omnipotens sempiternus Deus, respice propicius super hanc famulam tuam, quam ad novam continencie gratiam nocare dignatus es; tribuas ei remissionem omnium peccatorum suorum, atque ad celestium donorum consorcium pervenire concedas; per Dominum.*

*Postea aspergatur aqua benedicta. Item benedictio velaminis et clamidis. Dominus vobiscum. Oremus. Deus, bonarum virtutum et omnium benedictionum largus infusor, exaudi preces nostras, et has vestes, quas famula tua pro conservande castitatis signo se ad operiendam ex-*

poscit, benedicere et sanctificare digneris; famulam tuam, Domine, custodiae tue pietatis muniat, ut integritatis et continencie sancte propositum quod, te inspirante, suscepit, te protegente, illesum custodiat; per Dominum.

*Postea mittendo velamine super caput dicat, Velet te Dominus hoc velamine, in signum humilitatis et pudicie. In nomine Patris.*

*Deinde mittat capicium et imponendo clamidem dicat, Induat te Dominus clamidem, in signum integritatis ac continencie salutaris. In nomine Patris.*

*Postea osculetur ab omnibus sororibus, et enumeratis sibi beneficiis sororitatis et gubernacionem loci, et cetera ad placitum, et sic finitur.*

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No. IV.

ALLOWANCES TO BE MADE TO THE RESIDENTS IN THE HOSPITAL OF  
SAINT JOHN, READING.

*MS. Cott. Vespas. E. v. fol. 6 a.*

Memorandum, quod Johannes Yweyn percipiet omni anno de Elemosinario Radyngie pro calciamentis suis xl. d., in die Sancti Leonardi, et unum Warmamentum de secta pauperum, et omni ebdomada vij chopyns et iij prikkedlof, et quolibet die dimidium ferculum et unum potellum cervisie pro cochia.

Memorandum, quod Margeria de York, soror Hospitalis Sancti Johannis Baptiste, que nuper percepit vij chopyns per ebdomadam, ex convencionem pristina, modo percipiet iiij. panes fundatoris et iij chopynos, sicut Alicia de Quapelade.

Die veneris in crastino nativitatis Sancti Johannis Baptiste, anno regni regis Edwardi tercii a conquestu xlix°. intravit Johanna Grome domum hospitalis Sancti Johannis Radyng, et pro sorore domus predictae recepta est, ad percipiendum quolibet die unum panem vocatum prikkedlof, et j potellum cervisie, et in aliis sicut una sororum ibidem percipit in omnibus, ad terminum vite sue.

Die Veneris in festo Sancti Calixti Martiris anno regni regis Ricardi secundi a conquestu tertio intravit Matilda domum hospitalis Sancti Johannis Radyng, et pro sorore domus predictae recepta est, ad percipiendum quolibet septimana iiij panes fundatoris et iij chopynos.

*Ibid. fol. 80 b.**De liberacionibus per Elemosinarium faciendis.*

Vicarius Sancti Laurentii vij panes de pondere fundatoris in ebdomada ;  
 Garcioni ejusdem vij panes blakwyth in ebdomada . . . . .

*De fratribus in domo Sancti Johannis.*

Fratribus in domo Sancti Johannis commorantibus liberacio facienda est prout inter elemosinarium et ipsos fuerit conventum. Anno regni regis Edwardi tertii a conquestu x<sup>o</sup>. unus frater erat, T., quondam sutor de Sartuarie, intuitu caritatis admissus, qui percipit vij panes de chopyn abbatis, et iij blakwyth, per ebdomadam ; et dimidium ferculum in die ; iij ulnos de Russet et dimidium pro Wanamento ; xij d. pro sotulariis et serviciis per vices ad elemosinarium.

*De sororibus.*

Item, anno supradicto vj. fuerunt ibidem sorores, quarum quinque quelibet vij panes albos de ij pryk. percepit ; et iij sorores, quarum quelibet iij panes albos de pondere fundatoris, et vj miches percepit. Et quelibet pro compernagio biduo quadrantem percipit.

Nichilominus tamen, quelibet sororum in diebus Pasche, Penthecostes, Omnium Sanctorum, Nativitatis Domini, et die Martis ante quadragesimam, unum ferculum integrum carniū, vel denarium percipit ; et quatuor denarios in anno pro lampade in aula earum pendente ; et quelibet ad festum Pasche et Nativitatis Domini pro oblatione obulum, excepta Prioressa, que in hūis festis j. d. percipit. Et quelibet earum unam candelam honestam ad festum Purificationis beatæ Mariæ percipit. Quelibet pro Warnemento ij. s. vj. d. percipit. Et cum aliqua sororum moritur, de bonis ejus elemosinarius dispendit ; quelibet tamen sororum, pro oblatione que pro defuncta offerre debet, unum obolum, vel quadrantem, excepta Prioressa j. d., percipit. Domos etiam earum elemosinarius reparabit, una cum capella earum. Ancilla etiam sororum omni ebdomada vij miches percipit. Si quis autem frater ibidem, vel soror, de incontinenca convicti fuerint, de ipsa domo perpetuo expellentur.

vj sorores habent xxiiij albas panes, item xix chopin.

## No. V.

MEMORIAL RESPECTING THE SUPPRESSION OF SAINT JOHN'S HOSPITAL  
AND OTHER HOUSES OF ALMS IN THE PATRONAGE OF READING  
ABBAY.

*Additional MS. Brit. Mus. 6214, fol. 14.*

On a tyme as Kyng Edward the iijth came thorough Redyng towards Woodstocke, in the sixth yere of hys regne, complaynts were made unto hym by the towne and the countrey uppon th'abbott and the covent of Redyng, of certeyne weys, brydgys, chapells, and howsys of almes, not kepte nor maynteynd accordyng to ryght and conscience, and as they have ben wonte of old tyme, to the whych as hyt ys seyde they have bothe londs and lyvelods suffycent. As fyrst a parte of Caversham bryge, with a chapell there vpon of the Holy Gost; also a chapell, at the west end of the towne, of Seynt Edmund's the Kyng and Martyr, wherin lyeth the bouys of many Cristen people; and now yt ys made a barne, &c. Also ther was without th'abbey gate a place called Seynt Johnys Howse, wher in were founde and kepte certeyn relygyous women, wydowes in chast lvyngg in Godds seruyce, praying niȝt and day for the Kyng's estate, and for the sawles of ther founders and benefactors, wherin was a feyr chapell of Seynt John Baptist for the seyde women, to sey ther prayors in certain seasons of the day and niȝt, and wher also massys were seyde many tymes in the yere, and other devyne seruyce also: whyche women went to have out of th'abbey, every weke, certeyne of bred and ale, and also money; and as yt ys seyde, oons in the yere, a certeyne clothyng; and thys was ordeyned for such women as had been onest mennys wyvys, that had borne offyce in the towne be fore, and in age were fall in poverté, or that purposed no more to marye, &c. And now ther ys nother Godds seruyce nor prayour, nor creature a lyue to kepe hyt. But th'abbott takethe the profyitt therof, and dothe no suche almes nor good deds ther wyth. More over, an other chapell ther was in the est syde of the towne, callyd Mary Magdelyn Chapell, and lyvelod therto for to releve therin syke folks, as lazarrs, and an howse for them to dwell in be syde, with feyr londs perteynyng therto; wherof th'abbott takethe the profyitts, and hathe taken downe the seyde chapell and all the howsys ther to apperteynyng. And so ther be no poer people relevyd therby as now, &c. nother were not many days. Whyche complaynt made as ys a boue rehersyd, the seyde King Edward the iijth commaunded my lord



Rychard Beuchampe, then beyng bysshop of Salysburye, in ryzt streyt wyse to see the reformacon of all thes thyngs shortely to be had. And that every thyng were dysposed accordyng to the foundation and fyrst ordenaunce, &c. Neuertheles thus hyt happned; after the Kyng had gevyn thys commaundment, the seyd bysshopp came to the place in hys ordenarij vysytacon, and to th'entent to haue take due examinacon and utter knowlege, and so due dyrececion of thes maters, he contynowyng hys vysytacon tyll a certeyne day, departed from the place full ylle content, not only for thys, but, as yt ys seyde, for many other thyngs mysordred within the place, in like wyse by wyfulnes of the seyd abbott and his accessoriis.

And within a few days after he dysseced by Godds vysytacion. And so all thos maters stondyth styll hyderto vnreformred. Notwithstandyng my lord of Salysbury, that last dysseced, seyde, that who so ever ys bysshopp of Salysbury ys one of the founders of the howse of Seynt Johns, as he had euydence to shew, and entendyd yef God had lent hym lyfe yt shuld have been retored a yen to the vse of systeris as yt was of old, accordyng to the fyrst fundacion. Whych place as now th'abbott hath transposed to the forme of a Fre Scole, seyng vnto hys neyghbores, that he hath so provyded that a scole Master shuld haue of hym yerly x. marke, and an Vsshar v. marke, to teche ther gramer free, &c. Seyng, more over, that Master Robert Shorborne, now Dene of Pollys, had gevyn hym to the same entent, xlii. Nevertheless ther ys as yet nother scole, nor man, woman, ne chyld relevyd ther. But the place hath the prophytts therof thys xxxv yere.

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No. VI.

WILL OF ARCHBISHOP LAUD, FROM THE ORIGINAL IN THE PREROGATIVE COURT OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

JANUA. 13, 1643-4. IN DEI NOMINE, AMEN. — I, WILLIAM LAUD, by God's great mercy and goodnes, Lord Archbishopp of Canterbury, beynge in perfect health, though at this time a prisoner in the Tower of London, God knowes for what, in due and serious consideracion of human frailty, doe hereby make, ordaine, and declare this my Last Will and Testament, in manner and forme following.

And first, in all humility and devocion of a contrite heart, I heartily begg of God pardon and remission of all my sinnes, for and through the merit

and mediacion of my alone Saviour Jesus Christ. And, though I have been a most Prodigall Sonne, yett my hope is in Christ, that for his sake, God, my most mercifull Creator, will not cast off the bowells and compassion of a Father. Amen, Lord Jesu. In this hope and confidence, I render up my soul with comfort in the mercyes of God the Father, through the meritts of God the Sonne, in the love of God the Holy Ghost : And I humbly pray that most Blessed and Glorious Trinitie, One God, to prepare me for and preserve me in that houre of my dissolucion, and to make me wait every moment when my changeing shall come, and in my change to receive me to that rest which he hath prepared for all them that love and feare his name. Soe Amen : Lord Jesu, Amen.

Whomesoever I have in the least degree offended, I heartily aske God and him forgiveness. And whosoever have offended me, I pray God forgive them, and I doe. And I hope and pray that God will forgive mee my many great and grievous transgressions against him. Amen.

For my faith ; I dye, as I have lived, in the true orthodox profession of the Catholique faith of Christ, foreshewed by the prophetts, and preached to the world by Christ himselfe, his Blessed Apostles, and their successors ; and a true member of his Catholique Church, within the communion of a living part thereof, the present Church of England, as it stands established by lawe.

Secondly, I leave my body to the earth, whence it was taken, in full assurance of the Ressurreccion of it from the grave at the last day. This resurrection I constantly believe my deare Saviour Jesus Christ will make happy unto mee, his poore and weary Servant. And for my buriall, though I stand not much upon the place, yet if it conveniently may bee, I desire to be buryed in the Chappell of St. John Baptist College in Oxford, under the Alter or Communion-Table there. And should I be soe unhappy as to dye a prisoner, yet my earnest desire is, I may not be buryed in the Tower. But wheresoever my buryall shall be, I will have it private, that it may not wast anie of the poore meanes which I leave behinde mee to better uses.

Thirdly, For my worldly estate, I will, that my debts bee presently paid, which at this time, I prayse God, are very small.

Then for St. Paule's Church, it grieves me to see it at such a stand ; and though I have, besides my paines, given largely towards it, and the repayres thereof ; yet I leave it a blessing of 800*l.*, which will be truly paid in for

that worke, if ever it goe on, while the party trusted with it lives. But my Executors are not charged with this; 'tis in safe but other hands.

Item, I take the boldnes to give to my Deare and Dread Sovereigne King Charles (whom God blesse) 1,000*l.* and I doe forgive him the Debt, which hee owes mee, being 2,000*l.*, and require that the two tallies for it be delivered upp.

Item, I give to St. John Baptist's College in Oxford, where I was bredd, all my Chappel-plate, guilt or parcell-guilt; all my Chappell-furniture; all such Bookes as I have in my study at the time of my death, which they have not in their library; and 500*l.* in money, to be laid out upon land. And I will, that the rent of it shalbe equally divided to every Fellow and Scholar alike, upon the 7th day of October, every fourth year. Something els I have done for them already, according to my ability: and God's everlasting blessing be upon that place and that societie for ever.

I give to the Right Honourable Katheraigne Lady Dutches of Buckingham, her grace, 100*l.*

I give to the Right Honourable George, Lord Duke of Buckingham, his grace, my chalice and patens of gold; and theis I desire the young Duke to accept, and use in his Chapell, as the memoriall of him who had a faithfull heart to love, and the honour to be beloved of his father. Soe God blesse him with wise and good counsells, and a heart to follow them.

I give to the Right Honourable Mary, Lady Dutchesse of Richmond, daughter to my most honourable friend George Lord Duke of Buckingham, my cupp of gold with a cover to it.

I give to my much honoured friend William Lord Marquesse of Newcastle my best diamond ring, worth 140*l.* or neere it.

By father and mother I never had brother or sister, but by my mother many; they were all auncient to mee, and are dead, but I give to their children as follows:

To Henry Robinson, sonne to my brother Dr. Robinson, 200*l.*

To his brother John Robinson, 200*l.*

To his brother Thomas Robinson, 200*l.*

To their sister Elizabeth, wife to Doctor Baylie, 100*l.*

And to their sister Lucie, 100*l.*

To Dr. Cotsford, sonne of my sister Amye, 100*l.*

To Dr. Edward Layfeild, sonne of my sister Bridget, 100*l.* haveing already provided well for both of them, as alsoe for some other above named.

To Elizabeth Holt, daughter of my sister Bennett, 50*l.* and I had given her as much before, besides yearely allowance.

To William Bole, sonne of my sister Elizabeth, 50*l.* and I forgive him the debt which he owes me.

To \_\_\_\_\_, daughter to my sister Bridgett, and now wife to Mr. Snow, 50*l.*

Item, I give to them which have been my chapleyns in house, as followeth :

To Dr. Thomas Turner, my ring with a diamond and the garter about it.

To Dr. Thomas Walker, my ring with a saphire in it.

To Dr. Ed. Martin, my ring with a hiacinth in it.

To Dr. William Haywood, my ring with an emerald, being my seale ring, with the armes of my sea joyned to my owne.

To Dr. John Oliver, one of my watches.

To Mr. John Alsope, the other of my watches.

To Mr. George Wilde, my ring with a toadstone in it.

To Mr. Thomas Maye, my auncient friend, my ring with an emeraud, in which onely my armes are cutt.

Item, I give to the poore of severall places to which I have or formerly have had reference, as, namely,

To the poore of Magdalen parish in Oxford, 5*l.*

To the poore of the parish of Saint Giles there, 5*l.*

To the poore of Stanford in Northamptonshire, neere Lutterworth, 5*l.*

To the poore of North Kilworth in Leicestershire, 5*l.*

—— of Ibstoke in Leicestershire, 5*l.*

—— of Kuckston in Kent, 5*l.*

—— of Norton in Kent, 5*l.*

—— of West Tilbury in Essex, 5*l.*

—— of Creeke in Northamptonshire, 5*l.*

—— of Huntington, 5*l.*

—— of Lincoln, 5*l.*

—— of Carmarthen, 5*l.*

—— of Aberguilley, 5*l.*

—— of Brecknock, 5*l.*

—— of Wells, 10*l.*

—— of Fulham, 5*l.*

To the poore of Canterbury, 10*l*.

— of Lambeth, 10*l*. } Besides what I have given to theis two  
 — of Croydon, 10*l*. } places already in perpetuity.

To the University of Oxford, where I was bred, and to the town of Redding, where I was borne, I have given already in perpetuity, as God hath made me able.

Item, I give to soe many of my servants as did continue my servants to the time that the storme fell upon mee, as followeth, but to noe other but such as I now name, haveing done otherwayes very well by many of them :

To Mr. William Sherman, 20*l*.

To Mr. Walter Dobson, 20*l*.

To Mr. Wi. Dell, 20*l*.

To Mr. Benjamin Holford, 20*l*.

To Mr. Symon Rolleston, 50*l*.

To Mr. George Snath, 50*l*.

To Mr. James Southes, 50*l*.

To Mr. Henry Joyner, 40*l*.

To Mr. Thomas Smith, 40*l*.

To Francis Lee, 20*l*.

To John Holden, 10*l*.

To Philip Clarke, 5*l*.

To Giles King, 5*l*.

To Nicholas Tasker, 10*l*.

To Ralph Merrifeild, 40*l*. besides what I have already done for his uncle's sake.

To John Sturt, 5*l*.

To Mr. Ralph Watts, 10*l*.

To Thomas Sadler, 10*l*. To John Howell, 10*l*. To Richard Cressall, 10*l*. To John Flud, my chamberkeeper, 5*l*. To Thomas Lambert, 5*l*. To Ed. Nutt, 5*l*. To Christopher Hunt, 5*l*. To Walter Morris, 5*l*.

To William Harman, 40*l*.

To Mr. John Cobb 50*l*., my organ that is at Croyden, my harp, my chest of violls, and the harpsico in the Parlour at Lambeth.

And my will is, that all these my legacies bee paid to the severall Legatees

within the space of one yeare after my death, if the times grow quiet and fitt for such payment in my name, or els soe soone as they shall be soe.

The remainder of my estate, above that which is given, or shalbe added in this my will, I charge my executor (as he will answer mee at the bar of Christ) that he lay it out vppon land, as farr as it will goe; and then setle it by some sure course in law to such uses, and under the same condicions, as I have setled my land at Bray, upon the town of Redding. And if my meanes will reach so far, I will that 50*l.* a yeare be setled upon the towne of Ockingham, and 50*l.* a yeare upon Henly upon Thames, and 50*l.* a yeare upon Wallingford, and 50*l.* upon Windsor, to the uses aforesaid for ever. If it rise to lesse, I will that there be a proportionable and even abatement to all theis places; but if it purchase more (as it must needs if I bee justly dealt with) whatsoever is above this 200*l.* a yeare I will shalbe setled upon my kinseman Doctor Richard Baylie, president of Saint John's Colledge in Oxford, during his life, and on his sonne William Baylie and the heires of his body lawfully begotten for ever.

For my Lease of Barton Farme, neere Winchester, and held of the Cathedrall Church there, which I purchased in the name of my servant Mr. Richard Cobb, the rent whereof is 370*l.* per annum, I dispose of it as followeth:

First, I give out of it, during the terme of the Lease, 50*l.* a yeare to William Baylie, above named; secondly, 50*l.* a yeare to my kinseman John Walker, sonne to Dr. Thomas Walker; thirdly, 40*l.* a yeare to the eldest sonne of Dr. Layfield, my kinseman, and 50*l.* a year to the City of Winchester, to be employed in all things as the land which I gave to Redding is, saving that I will have this imployed for the binding out of apprentices onely.

Then I geve out of the same Lease 40*l.* a yeare during that terme, to my servant Mr. William Duckett, and 40*l.* a yeare to my servant Stephen Hall, in regard these two have indured a long imprisonment with me.

Item, I give out of the same Lease 50*l.* a yeare to Dr. Baylie aforesaid, and 50*l.* a yeare to Mr. Richard Cobb, above-named.

And if the Cathedrall att Winchester be suffered to stand and enjoy its lands, I leave the power of renewing this Lease to Dr. Richard

Baylie, he paying to Mr. Richard Cobb 100*l.* for his paines taken for mee in this purchase, and making good whatsoever I have given before out of this Lease during the whole yeares of my purchase.

And Whereas I have given and do hereby give two 40*l.* out of this Lease yearely, during the terme of it, to my servants Mr. William Duckett and Mr. Stephen Hall, my will further is, that if either of them dye within that terme, or both, hee or they soe dyeing shall have free power to dispose by his or their will as hee or they please of the 40*l.* a yeare respectively to each of them belonging during the time aforesaid.

Item, I give to my successor (if the present troubles in the State leave me any) my organ in the chapell at Lambeth; provided that he leave it to the sea for ever. Likewise, I give him my barge, and furniture to it. As for the pictures in the gallery at Lambeth, I leave them to succession; as well those which I found there, as those which I have added. But in case the Archbishoprick be dissolved, as 'tis threatned, then I will, that my executor add the organ, the barge, and such pictures as are mine, to my estate, that is if they escape plundering.

Item, I give to my servant Mr. Richard Cobb (besides that which I have already given him) 50*l.* if he deale truely with my estate. To my servant Mr. John Goodwyn, 10*l.* To my servant Mr. Ed. Sayer, 10*l.*

By this Will I doe revoke all former wills; and doe charge my Exceutor (as he will answer me before Christ) that he performe my will punctually in all particulars, which the rapine of the time shall not have plundered from him, or the vyolence of it over-ruled him.

Item, I give to my godsonne William Wrenne, sonne of my worthy friend the Lord Bishop of Ely, 100*l.*

Item, I doe lay upon Dr. Baylie above-named, the care of all my papers and paper-books, if they can scape the violence of the time. And I doe give unto him two Vulgar Bibles in octavo, covered with vellam, and an English Bible in 4to, cover'd with murrey leather, in which are some briefe noates upon the Liturgye; and a noat-booke in folio, covered with vellam, with the letter A. upon it on both sides, in which is my catalogue of bookes, in relacion to my studdy, and my directorie to allmost all my other papers and bookes: All which papers and paper-bookes I give unto him alsoe, but with this charge, that he burne all that he thinks not fitt to use

himselfe, that my weaknesse, whatere it bee, bee not any man's scorne ; and my dilligence, I am sure, cannott bee.

As for my Sermons, I leave them likewise to Dr. Baylie's care ; all that are faire written, and have this marke [Y] before them, I have revised, and yet I will not have any of them printed unles they bee perused either by Dr. Juxon, Lord Bishop of London, or Dr. Wrenn, Lord Bishop of Ely, or Dr. Steward, Deane of Saint Paules, my reverend friends, nor yet then unless the times will beare them.

And I doe hereby name and appoint Doctour Richard Baylie, President of Saint John Baptist's Colledge in Oxford, my sole Executor of this my last will and testament ; and I doe give him, besides what I have already given him, 200*l.* for his paines. But if Dr. Baylie shall not be living at the time of my death, or shall dye before he make due probate of this my will, then I make executor of this my will my kinseman Mr. John Robinson of London, merchant, and give him for his paines 200*l.* And in case he dye before me, or before he make due probate of this my will, then I make Dr. Edward Layfeild my executor, and give him for his paines as before ; and in case he dye before me, or before he make due probate of this my will, then I make Dr. Thomas Walker, Master of University Colledge in Oxford, my executor, and give him for his paines as before to Dr. Bayley ; and whosoever of those fower above named lives to bee my executor as is heere appointed, I doe hereby require the same care of him both in respect of my estate and of my papers, which I have laid upon Dr. Baylie.

And my expresse will is, that whatsoever my estate amount unto, my executor shall have noe more of it, then is particulerly and by name given in this my will.

And I doe heartily pray my Executor to take care, that my booke written against Mr. Fisher the Jesuite, may be translated into Latine and sent abroad ; that the Christian world may see, and judge of my religion. And I give unto him that translates it, for his paines, 100*l.*

Item, I doe hereby constitute and appoint my worthy friends William Juxon Lord Bishopp of London, Walter Curle Lord Bishopp of Winchester, Matthew Wren Lord Bishopp of Ely, and Bryan Duppa Lord Bishopp of Sarum, overseers of this my last will and testament, and I doe give them for their paines 10*l.* a peece.



If my estate will reach it, I give blacks to my Executor, my overseers, and those servants which attend me in my prison, and noe other.

Thus I forgive all the world, and heartily desire forgiveness of God and the world: And soe againe commend and committ my soul into the hands of God the Father, who gave it, in the merritts and mereyes of my Blessed Saviour Jesus Christ who redeemed it, and in the peace and comfort of the Holy Ghost who blessed it; and in the truth and vnitye of his Holy Catholique Church, and in the Communion of the Church of England, as it yet stands established by lawe.

I most willingly leave the world, being weary at my very heart of the vanities of it, and of my own sinnes many and great, and of the greivous distractions of the Church of Christ almost in all parts of Christendome, and particularly in this kingdome: which distractions God in his good time make upp, who well knowes upon what many of them are grounded.

And in token that this is my last will and testament, I have subscribed my name to every page of it, and sealed it in the presence of those whose names are under written.

ITA TESTOR W. CANT.

Geo. Snaith.

Stephen Hall.

Edm. Sayer.

William Harman.

Ralph Merryfeild.

For the money to bear the charge of those Legacies expressed in my will, and other intendments, I have, for fear of the present storme, committed it to honest, and, I trust in God, safe hands. And I doubt not but they will deliver the mony in their several custodies to my Executor for the uses expressed, but I forbear to name them, least the same storme should fall on them, which hath driven mee out of all I have considerable in my own possession.

W. CANT.

This will was proved by Dr. Richard Baylie, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the 8th January, 1661-2.



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