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Camden Society. v. 86

LETTERS OF
QUEEN MARGARET OF ANJOU

AND

BISHOP BECKINGTON

AND OTHERS.

WRITTEN IN THE REIGNS OF HENRY V. AND HENRY VI.

FROM A MS. FOUND AT EMRAL IN FLINTSHIRE.

EDITED BY CECIL MONRO, ESQ.



PRINTED FOR THE CAMDEN SOCIETY.

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WESTMINSTER:
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25, PARLIAMENT STREET.

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PREFACE.

ANTIQUITIES have been defined by a great master to be "history defaced, remnants of history, which have casually escaped the shipwreck of time."^a The documents contained in this volume are emphatically "remnants," and, if they do not shed much light on the history of the times to which they relate, they will be admitted to be at least curious, from the celebrity of the writers, and from their very age. These documents are not printed from originals, but from an ancient MS. book containing copies, pronounced by competent judges to have been made in the fifteenth century.

The book in question was accidentally found, in the year 1861, amongst many other valuable documents, in a loft at Emral, the ancient seat of the Puleston family in Flintshire.^b

^a Advancement of Learning, book ii.

^b Emral is a fine old ivy-covered mansion about seven miles east of Wrexham, surrounded by a moat, in the midst of an ancient park, through which a brook called the Elphin flows, in a north-westerly direction, to the Dee. Adjoining the park to the northward is the village of Worthenbury, a family living, of which the Rev. Theophilus Puleston is the present rector. The Pulestons have resided uninterruptedly at Emral ever since the early part of the fourteenth century. The name (Puleston), originally De Pyvelisdon, seems always to have been pronounced, as it now is, Pilston. There are extant two letters, one from Edmund Earl of Richmond, father of Henry VII., dated in 1456, and the other from Jasper Earl of Pembroke, dated in 1470, both of which are addressed "Roger Pylston, armigero" (Archæol. Cambrensis, vol. i. pp. 146, 147), and Leland says, "Pilston, knight, hath much land yn Hanmere, but his chefe howse is yn Worthembre paroch, at a place caullid Emerhaule." (Leland's Itinerary, vol. v. p. 31.)

This manuscript was first brought under my notice by Frederick Peake, Esq., of Gray's Inn Square, the family solicitor of the Pulestons; and, at my request, I was, most kindly, entrusted with it by the Rev. Theophilus Puleston, to whom I was previously unknown, with permission to publish the whole, or such part of it as I might think proper. Availing myself of Mr. Puleston's courtesy, I am happy to be allowed to produce the work under the auspices of the Camden Society.

The manuscript, which is in perfect preservation, may be described as follows:—It is a small folio, very nearly, but not quite, of foolscap size, containing two hundred and twenty-seven pages. The cover is of soft sheepskin, limp and inartificial, and somewhat ragged at the sides. The paper is stout, of a good colour, not very white; two water-marks, one a star of eight sharp points, another of seven irregular and blunt points, pretty equally dividing the book. The handwriting, which I believe to be the same throughout, is thoroughly mediæval, firm, with characters, for the most part, distinct and well shaped.^a

The contents of the book are very miscellaneous.

The earlier pages contain precedents of agreements, bonds, and powers of attorney; the middle consists of the letters comprised in this volume, with some other documents in an imperfect state; and the remaining pages are devoted to accounts, deeds, and other entries in Latin, Welsh, and English; some extracts from religious works in Latin; and some old receipts for curing the ailments of horses and hawks.

The letters, which extend from p. 22 to p. 136 of the manuscript, may be divided into three periods:—

^a All the letters are certainly written by the same person; there may be some memoranda at the beginning and end of the book by a different hand.

1. Letters written during the reign of Henry the Fifth, and during the reign of Henry the Sixth, before his marriage. This period, comprising forty-two letters, extends from 1415 to about 1445.

2. Letters of Bishop Beckington, seventeen in number, written for the most part in the month of June 1442, when, being then the King's Secretary,^a he was on the point of embarking as ambassador to the Count of Armagnac.

3. Letters of Queen Margaret of Anjou after her marriage, which took place in 1445. This period embraces about ten years, commencing very shortly after the royal marriage.^b

The whole space of time covered by the letters may be stated, roughly, at about forty years, beginning with the battle of Agincourt, and ending with the commencement of the civil war popularly known as "The Wars of the Roses."

I will now state the history of the manuscript, so far as I have been able to gather it.

The words "*Constat Johanni Edwards*" are at the beginning, within the cover, written in the same hand in which the body of the volume is written; and in other books, found amongst the Puleston MSS., and plainly of the same period, the same name is found, with the addition of "*Chirkland*." I conclude, therefore, that the transcriber and owner was John Edwards of Chirkland,

^a Beckington was Secretary from June 1439 to July 1443, when he was made Keeper of the Privy Seal (Acts of the Privy Council, vol. vi. pp. civ. cv.; and Life of Beckington, by Sir H. Nicolas, p. lvi.) It is not known who succeeded him in his office of Secretary.

^b The documents contained in this division are seventy-seven in number: seventy-five letters of Queen Margaret, one letter from the King to the Queen, and the last document in the book, which I have called a "Mahometan Manifesto." Of the Queen's letters, fifteen are dated from Windsor, fourteen from her "Manoir of Pleshy," and six from Eltham. The dates of the remainder have not been preserved.

and that he lived in the fifteenth century. Amongst the Vaughan MSS. in the possession of W. W. E. Wynne, Esq., of Peniarth, M.P. for Merionethshire, is a pedigree showing that a connexion existed between the House of Tudor and the Edwards family; and from this pedigree it appears that, in the reign of King Henry the Seventh, John Edwards was appointed Receiver of Chirkland by the Crown, by Letters Patent bearing date the 2nd June, in the 13th year of that king. William Edwards of Plas Newydd, son of John, was of the King's household, Keeper of the Black Park (which is close to Chirk), and Constable of Chirk, by letters patent dated 3rd Dec. 15 Hen. VII. He died in 1532.^a The family of Edwards continued to reside at or near Chirk during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, until, near the end of the seventeenth century, an alliance took place between the families of Edwards and Puleston by the marriage of Katherine, sole daughter and heir of William Edwards of Chirk, with Sir Roger Puleston of Emral.^b On this occasion it was, as I conceive, that the manuscript volume

^a See the MSS. of Robert Vaughan of Hengwrt, a Merionethshire antiquary of eminence, in the possession of W. W. E. Wynne, Esq. Leland says, "At Chirk self be a few houses; and there is, on a smaull hille, a mighty large and stronge castel, with dyvers towers, alate welle repayred by Sir William Standeley, the Yerle of Darby's brother. There hath bene 2 parkes. One yet remaynith, caullid Blake Park." (Leland's Itinerary, vol. v. p. 31.) And, amongst the "Gentilmen of Chirk" he enumerates "Edward's Sunne, dwelling not far from Chirk Castel." (*Ibid.*) This was, no doubt, William the son of John Edwards. Neither of the patents alluded to in the text appears to have been preserved. There is, however, amongst the Ministers' Accounts at the Record Office, an entry of the payment to John Edwards of his salary as Receiver of Chirk for one year ending Michaelmas 13 Hen. VII. That Welsh letters patent should not be found in England is not, I am told, extraordinary. Carnarvon formerly had its own Record Office for Carnarvon, Merioneth, and Anglesea. Some years since, the records were nearly all thrown into the Menai, or sold to tailors, for measures.

^b Burke's Peerage and Baronetage, p. 883.

containing the letters was brought, with many other family deeds and papers, to Emral.

The family of Edwards of Chirk is said to be now extinct.*

But how are we to account for the possession by John Edwards of Chirk of the original letters, which he transcribed into a book, in the fifteenth century? I cannot satisfactorily account for it, but I have a theory on the subject, which, in the absence of direct knowledge, may be entitled to consideration.

There being a family connexion with the House of Tudor, and John Edwards being in the service of the Crown, under Henry the Seventh, we may, not unreasonably, conclude that he and his family were Lancastrians. Chirk was a royal castle; and it is not improbable that, in one or more of the hurried journeys that Queen Margaret and her ill-starred consort—that “ruler not ruling”—were compelled to make, during the “Wars of the Roses,” they

* Following William Edwards, who died in 1532, there was a John Edwards of Chirk (probably a son of William), who died 4 and 5 Philip and Mary (1557). He was succeeded by his son John Edwards, who died 25 Eliz. (1563),* and was followed by another John Edwards, who with a son, also named John, defended a suit in Chancery, commenced against them in 1615 by Sir Thomas Middleton, knight, who purchased the manor of Chirk of Lord St. John in 37 Eliz. (1595). [Extracted from what appears to be the brief of defendants' counsel in *Middleton v. Edwards* in 1615, found at Emral.] At this period the family of Edwards was Roman Catholic (Lansd. MS. No. 153, fol. 51), and John Edwards, the elder defendant, then resident at Newhall or Plas Newydd, is described in documents extant in the Court of Chancery (*Sherborne v. Lloyde*, 8th Sept. 1619, Reg. Lib. A. 1618, fo. 1189); and also amongst the State Papers of the reign of James I. (Domestic Series (Calendars), 1611—1618, pp. 191 and 220; and 1619—1623, pp. 104, 105, and 112,) as an obstinate popish recusant, convicted upon the Statute of Præmunire, for refusing the oath of allegiance. His house at Chirk is picturesquely described as surrounded by a moat, crossed by a drawbridge both in front and at the rear.

* The existence of the Edwards family at or near Chirk, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, is attested by T. Churchyard in his poem on the “Worthines of Wales.”

may have occasionally spent a short time at Chirk. Some secretary, chaplain, or other officer, in attendance on their persons, and who had charge of the royal correspondence, may have unintentionally left, or intentionally hidden, at Chirk, on being suddenly called away, the letters of which he was the official depository. This theory would account for the letters being found, as they, or most of them probably, were, at Chirk, when John Edwards entered on his office there, in the reign of Henry the Seventh. Under Edward the Fourth the penalties of treason were denounced and executed against those who were guilty of having in their possession letters from the Queen.^a But when I recollect the circumstances of her life, and the energy with which she strove to uphold the Lancastrian cause (which was her own), I cannot but think that her correspondence with her partisans throughout England must have been considerable; and I still hope that some more of it may be recovered. It will be a matter of satisfaction to me if the present publication, which is a proof that all her letters have not perished, should lead to the discovery of others. The reign of Henry the Sixth has been said to be amongst the darkest of our annals—perhaps light may yet be shed upon it. There are, I am convinced, still many muniment rooms, and other family repositories, in this country, which have not been sufficiently searched; and, remembering the

^a In Feb. 1461 (1 Edw. IV.), six noblemen and gentlemen were arrested on suspicion of having received letters from Queen Margaret; and all except one were beheaded on Tower Hill. Will. Wyc. *Annales Rerum Anglic.* (Lib. Nig. Scacc.) vol. ii. p. 492 (Hearne). Sir Henry Ellis had not met with any of Queen Margaret's letters, but he thought it probable that some must exist, either in English or French. (*Original Letters*, 2d series, vol. i. p. 94.) Miss Strickland goes much further; she says, "Of the many private letters written by her, not even a copy of one appears to have been preserved." (*Lives of the Queens of England*, vol. iii. p. 252, n. London, 1844). The present publication supplies an answer to this somewhat hazardous assertion.

singular chance which attended the discovery of the present letters, I cannot despair.^a

With regard to Bishop Beckington's letters, of which there are seventeen in this volume, (with none of which Sir Harris Nicolas was acquainted,) there does seem to be a glimmer of a reason why they should have been found in North Wales. I find in the Acts of the Privy Council, that, in the year 1444, he petitioned "that money due on account of his embassy to Guienne might be paid to him by the Chamberlain of North Wales that now is, or that for the time shall be."^b This seems to imply that he had some intimate connexion with North Wales. It is observable that some of the letters of Bishop Beckington, contained in this volume, bear marks of coming from a book or register kept by the bishop's amanuensis or private secretary. It seems to be a well ascertained fact that, formerly, official persons deemed themselves at liberty to retain, as their private property, documents, of which, at the present day, they would be considered as having the custody only during their tenure of office, and which therefore they would be bound to deliver over to their successor.^c Perhaps the amanuensis or private secretary of Bishop Beckington was an Edwards, and an ancestor,

^a See some remarks on the subject of MSS. in private depositories by Mr. Hardy, the Deputy Keeper of Records, in the Preface to the first volume of his Catalogue of Materials relating to the History of Great Britain and Ireland, p. lxxi.

^b Acts of Privy Council, vol. vi. p. 24.

^c This custom seems to have been so thoroughly understood to be the rule of official life, in former times, that to it is attributable, as is well remarked by Mr. Bruce in his Letters between Queen Elizabeth and James VI. of Scotland, published by the Camden Society (Preface, pp. i. and ii.), the finding in private repositories so many documents which we should now consider public property. To its operation we may also attribute the fact, that in the Court of Chancery no order book exists anterior to 1545, although the office of Registrar is much more ancient. It is said that the earlier registrars considered the books their own private property, and appropriated them accordingly.

or near relation, of John Edwards of Chirk, who was Receiver of Chirk under King Henry VII.

It is not, by any means, necessary that all the letters should have to come to John Edwards from the same source. Those of Bishop Beckington, and those of the reign of Henry the Fifth, and of the earlier part of that of Henry the Sixth, may have been in his possession, before he came to Chirk.

Nevertheless the question, how the originals came to the hands of John Edwards, is involved in much obscurity.

I must not omit to mention, that John Edwards seems to have copied the letters before him, without regard to their dates; and that I have attempted to reduce them to something like chronological order—with what success the reader will judge.

I have striven to identify the several persons named; and often with unexpected success. Some names, however, have utterly eluded every attempt I have made to discover anything relating to them.

It only remains that I request the gentlemen, from whom I have received so much and such kind aid, to accept my very sincere thanks for their courtesy.

To Mr. Hardy, the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records, and to all the gentlemen of that department, with whom I have had the pleasure of coming in contact, to the Rev. Joseph Stevenson, to Mr. William Hardy of the Duchy of Lancaster office, and to Mr. Courthope, Somerset Herald, I owe especial thanks.

I am also very much indebted to Mr. Carew of Exeter, to the Rev. W. D. Macray of Magdalen College, Oxford, and to Mr. Wynne of Peniarth, for information, which was most readily given, and which I could not have obtained elsewhere.

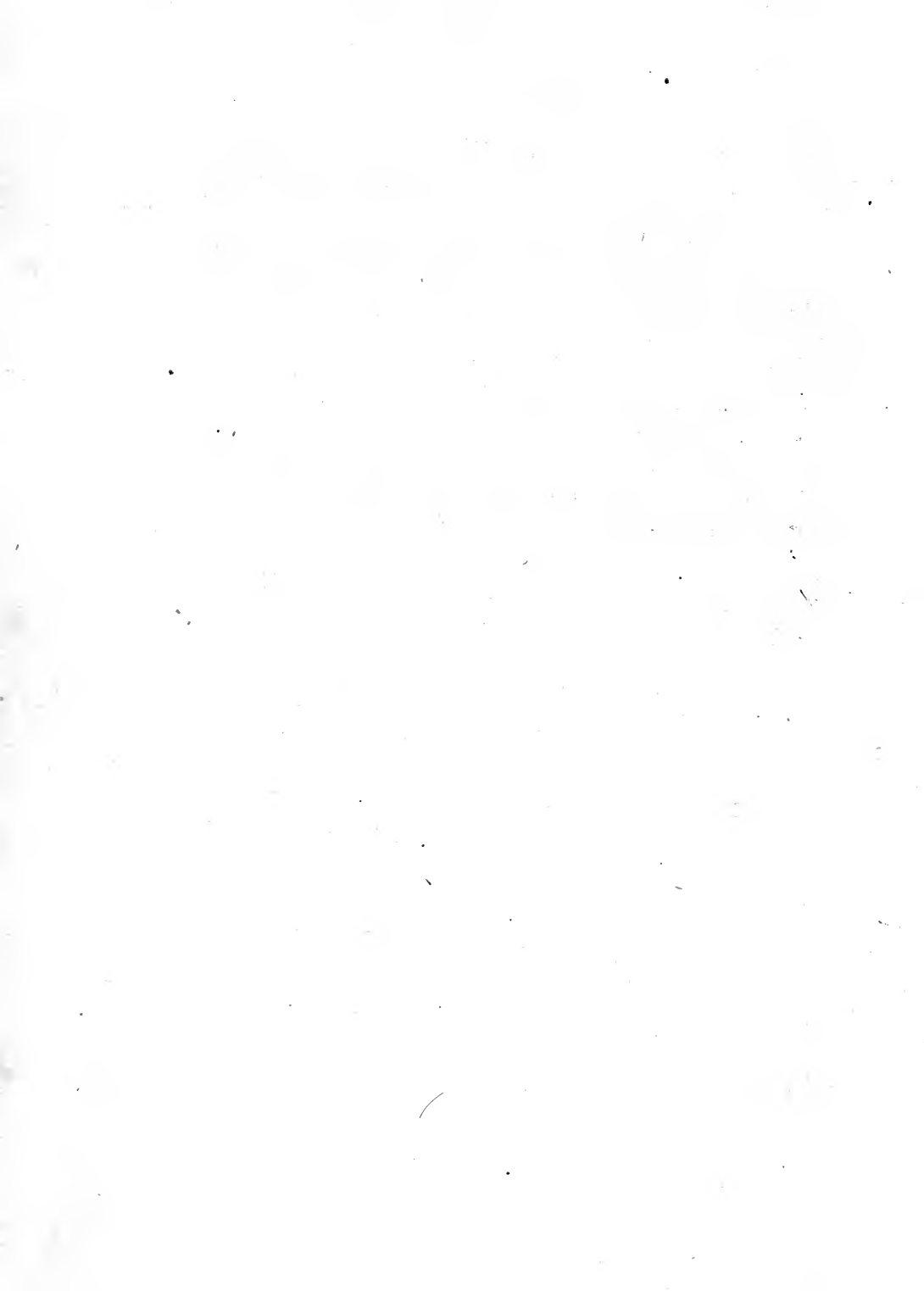
Let me also offer to my distinguished friend M. Francisque Michel, whose reputation is European, my hearty thanks for his zealous and never-failing advice and help.

I owe much to Mr. John Gough Nichols, for his suggestions, and for his careful supervision of the text, while passing through the press; and my thanks are also due to Mr. Cleghorn the engraver, who has enabled me to prefix to Queen Margaret's letters her badge, the daisy, copied from that splendid MS. volume in the British Museum, usually called the Shrewsbury Book.

I am conscious that, in endeavouring to illustrate these letters, I must, from want of leisure and imperfect knowledge, have committed many errors; where that is the case, I shall be very glad to have them pointed out.

C. M.

Monken-Hadley,
July, 1863.



LETTERS

DURING

THE REIGNS OF HENRY V. AND HENRY VI.

I.

A LETTER TO KING HENRY THE FIFTH FROM ONE OF HIS CHAPLAINS, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT.

THIS letter from one of his chaplains to King Henry the Fifth was written, as it appears to me, between the 25th of October 1415 (the day of the battle of Agincourt) and the octave of St. Martin following, *i.e.* the 18th of November of the same year. It contains many "swelling words of vanity," and much absurd declamation. It is, moreover, exceedingly obscure, and the text is so corrupt, that I have been compelled, in one place, to desist from the attempt to affix a meaning to it. It will be seen, however, through the haze of words in which his meaning is almost stifled, that the writer congratulates the King on having, within the space of nine weeks, taken Harfleur, marched through a part of France, and, finally, fought a battle to which nothing which had hitherto occurred in history, whether sacred or profane, could be compared. It was indeed a most glorious victory, obtained in a war of which the main object, as remarked by a great living author, was "plunder."^a The writer of the letter also mentions the great sickness which had prevailed in the English army, and appears to allude to the term "Prince of Priests," which was early ascribed to Henry on account of his subserviency to the clergy.^b I am unable

^a Lord Brougham's History of England and France, p. 99.

^b Foxe's Acts and Monuments, vol. iii. pp. 397, 579 (ed. Townsend, 1844). The title of '*Christianissimus Ecclesie pugil*' was also applied to Henry the Fifth. See Acts and Proceedings of the Privy Council, vol. iii. p. 3.

to say who wrote this letter, but I have sometimes felt inclined to suspect that it was Henry Bishop of Winchester, afterwards Cardinal Beaufort, the King's uncle, and, at this time, Lord Chancellor. It somewhat resembles a speech of his to the Parliament (Parl. Hist. vol. i.), and no letter in this collection was written except by a person of rank. The fact that the writer calls himself the King's "devoted chaplain" is by no means conclusive against his having been a Prince of the Church.^a The letter was probably received by the King at Calais, where he arrived on the fourth day after the battle of Agincourt, and where he remained a fortnight.^b

GLORIOSISSIME PRINCEPS et invictissime domine, ipsam quam sit aut possit capellanus devotus domino suo in terris suppremo recomendacionem humillimam. Omnipotenti regi regum, cuius judicia semper justa sunt, ipsas quas valeo cotidianas gratiarum actiones suplex exsolvo. Dum iam, quod diu sperabam, quod optaveram et antequam ab hac luce migrarem videre rogaveram, oculos ante meos conspicio (unde meum ex intimis animum speciali gaudio refocillo) inclitissimi videlicet regni Anglie gloriam et honorem, a diu soporitam (*sopitam* ?), etiam prope e memoria elapsam, sompno de gravissimo suscitatum. Jam enim yemps abiit et recessit; flores apparuerunt; vinee florentes odorem dederunt; yemps videlicet pigricie et desidie, ne dicam timoris aut vecordie; flores apparuerunt strenuissime iuventutis et milicie; vinee florentes, propago illa nobilissima

MOST GLORIOUS PRINCE, and invincible Lord, the devoted chaplain, in as humble wise as he can or may, recommends himself to his supreme Lord on earth. To the omnipotent King of Kings, whose judgments are ever just, I humbly address such daily thanksgivings as I can. Now, what I long hoped for and wished to see before I left this world, I behold before my eyes, whereby I feel my heart warmed with special delight, viz. the glory and honour of the famous realm of England, for a long time wholly lulled to sleep and forgotten, roused from its heavy slumber. For now winter is gone—the winter, that is, of sloth and idleness, that I say not timidity or madness. Flowers have appeared—the flowers of vigorous and warlike youth; and flourishing vines—

^a In a Petition addressed to Henry the Sixth, dated 14 May, 1426 (when the King was four years old), the cardinal styles himself the King's "humble chapellain."—Bibl. Cotton. Cleop. E. III. fo. 30b.

^b Hunter's Tracts (Agincourt), p. 20.

regum et procerum Anglie, que, virtuosis artibus radicata, suos quondam palmite mundi per climata diffudit; odorem dedecrunt fame et probitatis dignissime, et a seculo inaudite victorie; que, cuntis regni benevolis, mire suavitatis fragranciam, inimicis terrorem, et iura regni detinentibus spiritum aufert amplius reluctandi. Postulavit regni iusticia, pugnavit certantium prudencia, assistebat incolarum deprecacio assidua, et collectantes respexit summus iudex, cuius non est victoria in multis vel in paucis, qui superbis resistit, et humilibus graciã subministrat. Quis, queso, prudens, expeditionis tante successus futuris temporibus conspiciens, non mirabitur, et ipsius Dei potencie non ascriberet? que gesta sunt ut, in novem hebdomadarum spacio, opidum fortissimum, hominum reputacione invincibile, portusque gloriosi regni Francie tutissimus obtinere possint, et per tam spaciosas inimicorumque refertas provincias pateret progressus, et finaliter tam gloriosa inter regum annales merito aggreganda victoria haberetur. A seculo non est auditum simile neque lectum; non Machabeorum tempore, quorum historie hoc in tempore in ecclesia

whereby I understand that noble progeny of kings and nobles of England, which, rooted in virtuous arts, formerly spread their branches throughout the world, have given forth the odours of fame and of worthiest probity and of victory unheard of in all time; which to all the wellwishers of the realm are a savour of rare sweetness, to its enemies a terror, and deprives those who would cripple the rights of England of all courage for further resistance. National justice has required, the wisdom of the combatants has struggled, the prayers of the population have worked for [this consummation]. He whose victory is neither to the many or the few—who, the supreme judge of all, resists the proud and gives grace to the humble—hath looked on the combatants. What wise man, I ask, beholding, in future times, the success of such an expedition, will not marvel, and ascribe it to the power of God himself? How great are the events that have happened! when it is considered that, within nine weeks, a fortress of great strength, generally esteemed impregnable, and the safest port of the glorious realm of France, were taken; a progress opened through so many spacious and hostile provinces; and, finally, a victory obtained, which may well be deemed glorious in royal annals. Nothing like it has been heard or read of in all time. Not in the time of the Maccabees, whose history is still read in the

lecte sunt, non Sauli a propheta inuncto, non David Israelitice plebis regi preelecto, non Salamoni mortalium sapientissimo, aut Alexandro fortunatissimo, huiuscemodi data leguntur. Estimatur et pro firmo tenet ut reor magestas regia quod non sua, sed Dei manus extenta, hec fecerit universa, ad ipsius laudem, Anglorum plebis decus et gloriam, regalis nominisque memoriam sempiternam. In qua summe considerandum quid nobis fecerit Deus, ut, dum nos forte propter nostra crimina aliquantulum puniri voluerit, non in manus inimicorum, qui parcere non noscunt, tradidit, sed sue castigacionis virgam, pestem aliqualem, inter nos transmiserit; ac, ne gloriam tante victorie, qui forte non meruissent, sibimet ascriberent, ipsos absentes esse voluit, ut sibi gloria, et vobis, tanquam suo ministro, victoria preberetur. Sed sumopere cavendum consulo, ne, post tantas victorias, vincant victorie comites, quales sunt superbia, vana gloria, iactancia, verborum pompa, crudelitas, rabies, et vindicandi furor, qui victorum sunt hostes horrendi, a quibus sepe victores clarissimi victi sunt. Quin magis assit humilitas, modestia, graciaram accio, pietas, clemencia et ignoscendi

church; not in that of Saul, the anointed of the prophet; not in that of David, the chosen king of the Israelitish people; not in that of Solomon, the wisest of men; not in that of Alexander, the most fortunate, has anything similar been read. Thy royal majesty deems and firmly holds, as I presume, that not thy hand, but the outstretched hand of God, hath done all these things, for His own praise, the honour and glory of the English nation, and the eternal memory of the royal name. In which it is chiefly to be considered what God has done for us; that whilst it was His will, perchance, to punish us to some extent, on account of our sins, he did not deliver us into the hands of our enemies, who know not how to spare; but he sent among us a plague, the rod of His displeasure; and, lest the glory of such a victory should be claimed by the men who perchance did not deserve it, it was His will that they should be absent, that the glory of the victory should be to Him, and to you as His minister. Chiefly let us beware lest, after such victories, the accompaniments of victory vanquish the victors—such as pride, vainglory, boasting, swelling words, cruelty, rage, and the fury of revenge; all of which are enemies greatly to be dreaded by conquerors, and by which the most famous victors have been themselves conquered. Much more let humility, modesty, giving of thanks,

zelus. Restat igitur, princeps invictissime, ut internis affectibus Deo laudes pro hiis magnalibus referantur, et bene vivendo sibi que serviendo suppliciter deprecemur, ut opus tam gloriosum ad finem perducatur sibi gratum. Vosque, princeps metuendissime, ne in vacuum (*in vanum?*) gloriam Dei recipiatis, sed ad juris vestri persecutionem, abiecta dominandi libidine, postpositis et fugatis dolosis partis adversi tractatibus, viriliter incedatis, et ne vires interim recoligant vigilantius insistat[is]. Nemo autem mittens manum ad aratrum et retro respiciens aptus est regno: continuatum autem studium communiter ducit ad profectum; et, secundum Tullium, perfecte virtutis est non quod actum sed quod gerendum, non quod assit sed quod desit, inspicere. Regiam insuper decet celsitudinem non de quesito gloriari, sed de querendo sollicitum esse; nec nos retrahat inimicorum potencia, conturbet astudicia, aut quemvis seducant promissa pulcra. Usque quo ipsam, in corde vestro fixam et diu desideratam, cum iusticia, pacem apprehendere, et perhenniter stabilire, possitis, ferrum ignitum *securis ad axem messis* multa aptissima ma-

piety, clemency, and a warm desire to pardon, prevail. There remains, therefore, invincible prince, that, with our inmost affections, praises be rendered to God for these great things; and, living righteously and serving him, let us suppliantly pray that He may bring so glorious a work to an end pleasing to Him. And you, most dread Prince, receive not the glory of God in vain, but for the prosecution of your right, casting away the lust of power, go forward manfully (the false dealings of the adversary being retarded and put to flight) and insist, with the utmost vigilance, that he shall not regain his strength. No man putting his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom [of heaven]; but continued effort usually leads to success; and, according to Tully, it is the part of true virtue not to look on what has been done, but what remains to be done; not what a man has, but what he is wanting in. Moreover, it is fitting that your royal highness should not boast of the past, but be anxious for the future; neither let the power of our enemies drag us back; let not their astuteness disturb us; nor let any fair promises seduce any one. Until you may be able to bring about and establish, on a basis of justice, a permanent peace, which has so long been the fixed desire of your heart . . .
 fitting matter will not be wanting, nor

teria non desit, aut tepescat executor sedulus, qui quantum possibile est christianorum sanguini parcat, et, cuncta cum misericordia temperans, perducat feliciter usque finem. Sane, regum princeps dignissime, de regni subsidiis, et spiritualiter et temporaliter, in hoc casu faciendis timere non oportet; quia in tantum gaudet populus vester fidelissimus, in tam felicibus auspiciis, ut se et sua vobis offerant et preces devotissimas incessanter pro vobis effundant, et ea de causa in parlamento vestro presencialiter congregantur, clerusque regni vestri devotissimus in Octabis Sancti Martini proximo futuro Londoniam convenient, quo in tempore, non dubito, suum principem (et eorum alludam vocabulo principem presbiterorum, nuper a quibusdam vocitato,) taliter respicient, ut luculenter apparere poterit quod non tantum voce vel labiis vos laudent, sed magis operibus gloriose magnificent, et super eos diutissime regnaturum corditer concupiscant. Ad regni vestri Anglie decus, gloriam et magestatem vestram conservet incolumem summus Deus. Scriptum, etc.

ought a careful executor [of the divine will] to falter, who, as far as possible, should spare Christian blood, and, tempering all things with mercy, bring them happily to an end. Truly, most worthy Prince, it behoveth you not to fear for the subsidies of your realm, both spiritual and temporal, to be raised in this matter; because your faithful people so delight in their present happy auspices, that they offer to you themselves and their goods, and pour out for you unceasingly their devout prayers; and therefore they are now met together in Parliament; and the devout clergy of your realm will meet in London, on the Octave of St. Martin next coming. At which time, I doubt not that they will so regard their Prince—(I allude to the phrase lately used by certain persons, “the Prince of Priests,”) that it will appear plainly, that they not only laud you with their voices, but rather gloriously magnify you with their deeds, and heartily desire that you may long reign over them. To the honour of your realm of England may the great God safely preserve your glory and majesty! Written, &c.

II.

A LETTER TO KING HENRY THE FIFTH, WRITTEN FROM THE
COUNCIL OF CONSTANCE.

THIS letter was certainly written from the Council of Constance, and as certainly addressed to King Henry the Fifth. By whom it was written does not appear; but there can be little doubt that, being sent to the King of England, the writer was one of the numerous embassy, composed mainly of ecclesiastics, despatched by Henry to that famous assembly.^a The letter, while giving the current news and rumours of the day, bears, I think, sufficient impress of the hand of a churchman to make it not unlikely that it emanated, either from Robert Hallam, Bishop of Salisbury, or Thomas Polton, then a prebendary of York, the two most distinguished English ecclesiastics present at the Council.^b The Council opened the 5th November, 1414, and closed its sittings in May 1418. John Huss was burned 6th July, 1415.^c Notice of this event was probably contained in the letter of which John Hervey was the bearer.^d Before the end of July 1415 the Emperor Sigismund quitted Constance for Spain, on the very vain mission to induce Peter de Luna, the Antipope, calling himself Benedict the Thirteenth, to renounce his claim to the Popedom. Benedict was supported by Ferdinand the First, King of Aragon,^e and some other princes; but,

^a L'Enfant, Hist. du Conc. de Constance, p. 42.

^b L'Enfant, pp. 42, 456. In Rymer, ix. 773, is a letter to the King of 30th June 1419, from Florence, signed by John Ketterick, Bishop of Lichfield, and Thomas Polton, beginning *Invictissime Regum Princeps*, precisely as this letter begins.

^c L'Enfant, p. 275.

^d John Hervey (a mediæval form of *Hervey*) was, I conceive, of Thurleigh, Beds. He was employed by Henry the Fourth in 1403, in a negotiation with Owen Glendower; and also, as on this occasion, at Constance, by Henry the Fifth. He must have died before 1419, as his wife's second husband is said to have died in that year. He is buried at Thurleigh. See Paper by the Rev. Lord Arthur Hervey on the family of Hervey as connected with Ickworth, Suffolk. Lowestoft, 1858, pp. 54, 55, 110, 111. Collins's Peerage, iv. 141.

^e Benedict was of the blood royal of Aragon. He was at this time 78 years of age, and is said to have harangued the emperor for seven consecutive hours, "*sans qu'il parut aucune alteration dans sa voix, ni sur son visage.*"—L'Enfant, p. 355. Benedict never submitted to the Council, and never despaired of his own cause. He retired to the fortress of Peñíscola, on the coast of Valencia, and thence, from his own centre of unity, excommunicated Ferdinand King of Aragon, regularly, every day, until the King died in 1416. Benedict survived until 1424.—L'Enfant, pp. 366, 575.

finding him irreclaimably obstinate, they at length renounced his obedience, and entered into articles of agreement to that effect, which were executed at Narbonne the 13th December 1415, and are called the Capitulation of Narbonne. This capitulation was read in the Council the 30th January 1416.^a The letter notices an irruption of the Turks into the territories of the Emperor during his absence on the affairs of the Church. This news seems to have reached the Council in August 1415.^b It also notices the marriage of Joanna the Second, Queen of Naples, with Jacques de la Marche, as having taken place the 10th September, 1415.^c The marriage was shortly followed by the arrest, torture, and execution of Pandolfello Alogo, a former favourite of the Queen.^d This event is referred to in the letter, as also a false report of the death of a "great soldier of fortune," probably Ludovico Sforza, who was at this time in a Neapolitan dungeon, who had also undergone torture, and barely escaped with life.^e The ambassadors of Ladislas, King of Poland, arrived at Constance towards the end of November 1415.^f On the 7th of December 1415, the Council received an autograph letter from Angelo Corario, who, as Antipope, had formerly borne the title of Gregory XII. confirming the cession of his claim, which had been already made by proxy.^g It is probably to this occurrence that the closing sentences of the letter refer. Comparing the circumstances mentioned above with L'Enfant's History of the Council of Constance, I conclude that this letter was written in December, 1415. The King had already returned home after the battle of Agincourt.^h In March 1416 Sigismund arrived in Paris on his way to England. In April 1416 the death of Ferdinand King of Aragon, whose illness is mentioned in the letter, took place; and on the 7th May 1416 Sigismund arrived in London.ⁱ The object of his journey was to make peace between England and France. He remained in England until the following August, and then returned to the Continent.^k He did not reappear at Constance until the 27th January 1417.

^a L'Enfant, p. 361.

^b L'Enfant, p. 312.

^c Sismondi (Rep. Ital. vi. 175,) says 10th August.

^d Sismondi, vi. 175.

^e Ibid. p. 176. Sforza did not die until 1424, when he was drowned in the Pescara. Sismondi has given a very graphic account of his death (Rep. Ital. vol. vi. p. 229).

^f L'Enfant, 721.

^g Ibid. p. 350.

^h He arrived in London 24th November 1415.—Hunter's Tracts (Agincourt), p. 20.

ⁱ L'Enfant, p. 723. Pauli, Geschichte von England, v. 132. Hume takes no notice of the Emperor's visit.

^k English Chron. p. 43.

INVICTISSIME REGUM PRINCEPS, citra decimumnonum mensis Augusti diem vestri [vestræ] celsitudini per dominum Johannem Hervy occurrēcia nobiscum nova scripsi, quo ad in Consilio [Concilio] gesta, pauca emerant relatiōne digna. Quinymo [quinimmo] a christianissimi principis Romanorum Regis recessu reformationis Ecclesie materiam in capite et in membris tractandam solum [Concilium] duxerat, et tractavit. Nec ad tempus, quo de ipsius principis prospero successu super factis Ecclesie, pro quibus legitime decertans tot sudatos labores a temporibus sustinuit et in presentiarum sustinet, certa recepit, alia pertractare disponit; ea in ipsa reformatione iam statuens, que dum, suo tempore, mundo publicentur, veluti Deo grata, universalis Ecclesie decorativa, cuntis' uti speratur merito venient applaudenda. Nichilominus, serenissime Princeps, super conclusione quavis cum Aragonum rege et Petro de Luna principe habita, nil certi recepimus; licet et spes firmissima sit, ex multis que concilio scribuntur, finis optati. Infirmetas vero, qua rex ipse Aragonum valde deprimitur, in causa putatur prodilationis et more. In-

INVINCIBLE SOVEREIGN, since the 19th day of the month of August, when I wrote to your Highness by Mr. John Hervy the latest occurrences amongst us, very little has arisen, so far as the proceedings of the Council are concerned, worthy of mention. In fact, since the departure of the most Christian prince the King of the Romans, the matter of the reformation of the Church in its head and members is the only one which the Council has thought worthy to be taken in hand, and has treated of. Nor, at this time, when it has received certain intelligence of the success of the Prince himself in matters relating to the Church, striving lawfully for which he has borne in times past and still bears many wearisome labours, does it choose to entertain any other questions; being now engaged in establishing, in connexion with this very reformation, things which, when, at the proper time, they shall be published to the world, will, as being acceptable to God and to the honour of the universal Church, be deservedly applauded, as it is hoped, by all men. Nevertheless, most serene Prince, as touching any agreement come to with the King of Aragon and the Prince Peter de Luna, we have received no certain intelligence; although, from many written communications received by the Council, we have strong hopes of the desired issue. The illness, however, by which the King of Aragon is so much pulled down, is thought to be

super, serenissime Princeps, *litteratore* nobiscum refertur, Turcos, qui tanta potencia et sui spiritu furoris Christianorum terras et regnorum Romanorum Regis fines, precipue iam a temporibus invaserant, Christicolarum plebe permaxima sepius (proch dolor!) ense perempta, sicuti serenitatem vestram multorum scripturis, meisque inter ceteras, estimo concepisse, et iam, post multa, manus Christicola, Deo laudes, pro parte maxima trucidavit. Licet et principes aliqui Regnorum Croacie et Dalmacie, viri valdè potentes, Regis Romanorum in odium, cuius tamen erant, vel esse saltem debuerant, Turcis memoratis adhererunt, quorum singulos inopinatus casus emergens, non minus miraculose quam mirabiliter, primitus extinxit. Resque mira, sicuti relatores asserunt, secuta est. Nam qui supersunt ex infidelibus ipsis, antiquissima per eos scriptura reperta, convincuntur, qua dictatur eos infra sequentes annos quinque a Christianis funditus opprimi, vel ad fidem Christianæ religionis omnino converti. E quibus minus confusi ad propria, sicuti refertur, dispersi remeant. Hii pauci vivi relictii. Insuper, serenissime Princeps, super statu Regine Neapolitane Comitisque

the cause of the delay. Furthermore, most serene Prince, we are informed by a correspondent (?), that the Turks, who with their immense power and the energy of their native ardour had invaded the lands of the Christians in times past, specially the dependencies of the King of the Romans, slaying with the sword (alas!) great numbers of Christians (as I presume your serenity will have understood by the writings of many, and by mine amongst others), have (praise be to God!) been, for the most part, destroyed by a Christian band; and this although some princes of Croatia and Dalmatia, men of great power, adhered to the aforesaid Turks, out of hatred to the King of the Romans, whose subjects, nevertheless, they were or ought to have been; every one of whom has been destroyed by a sudden chance not less miraculous than wonderful. A wonderful circumstance, as is related, occurred. For the survivors of the infidels themselves are convinced, by a very ancient writing found amongst themselves, in which it is declared that, within the next five years, they will be wholly conquered by the Christians, or converted to the faith of the Christian religion. Of the survivors, those who had kept some order are, as it is said, returning, in different directions, to their homes. Moreover, most serene Prince, with regard to the condition of the Queen of Naples and the French

Marchio de Francia, qui cum ea Septembris x matrimonium confirmavit, legato in urbe existente, Concilio pridie plurima scribente, nova venerant, que cedula continet hiis inclusa; cuius tenor sibi, prout asserint (asserunt?), a civitate Neapolitana viro magnifico transmissus est. Et legatus ipse, suis literis posterioribus, Concilio directe affirmat Pandolfellum generalem, de quibus in cedula similiter, et fortune capitaneum magnum ibidem, qui contra ecclesiam fuerat, iam a diebus subito morti datos. Insuper, metuendissime domine, ex parte Regis Polonie, Ambassiatoribus suis in Concilio existentibus, pridie scriptum est, de spe firma quam habet super reduccione Grecorum ad ecclesiam Romanam, etc. de illis saltem qui sunt regnis suis; in quibus sunt ducenti episcopatus, ut ipsi ambassiatores affirmant. Et ob finem istum, confirmiterque ad reducendum ad vitam nostram populum quasi infantinum in Russia, sue dicioni subiecta, qui necdum fidei catholice professores existunt, de quo eius spes existat, ut scribit *Constantino Policionem* (?) vicarium generalem, in Latino, Greco et Tartarico ydcomatibus

Count de la Marche, who confirmed his marriage with her on the 10th of September, much news came the day before yesterday from one writing to the legate attending the Council in this city, which is in the schedule inclosed herein; the tenor of which, it is said, has been transmitted hither from the city of Naples by a man of high rank. And the legate himself directly informs the Council, from his later letters, that the General Pandolfello, and the great soldier of fortune there who was against the Church, as to both of whom also see the schedule, had lately died. Furthermore, most dread Lord, letters were received the day before yesterday from the King of Poland, by his ambassadors now present at the Council, of the firm hope he has of reducing the Greeks of his dominions to [the obedience of] the Roman Church, &c. amongst whom, the ambassadors say, there are two hundred bishoprics. To this end, and also for the purpose of bringing over permanently to our [mode of] life the simple population of that part of Russia, which is subject to his rule, which does not yet profess the Catholic faith, he has sent to the King of the Romans and the Council, on his own behalf, as a . . . writes, a Vicar General sufficiently versed in the Latin, Greek, and Tartaric languages, in order to gain certain favours and letters necessary for the aforesaid matters; who confidently hopes

sufficienter instructum, ad Romanorum Regem et Concilium, pro se pro consequendis favoribus certis literisque ad premissa necessariis transmisit, qui firmissime sperat ad finem prosperum in brevi reducere que premisi. Et sic, invictissime Princeps, firme credatur Altissimum, cuius res agitur, hiis postremis temporibus, velle sui gregis dominici imperii, ut juxta ab antiquo promissa unum fiat ovile, et pastor unicus, ecclesie sue sancte. Cardinale[s] nuper Gregorii, infra octo dies, omnes ad Constanciam venient, indistincte. Officialibus suis aliis nobiscum iam existentibus, et iam diu est, inter-nostros, ut rationis est, cum honore receptis. Ad victoriosum triumphum, votivis uti successibus, diu valeat et vigeat vestra celsitudo. Scriptum, etc.

to be able shortly to bring to a prosperous end the business I have referred to above. And thus, most puissant Prince, let us firmly believe that the Most High, whose cause it is, means, in these last times, as promised of old, that His flock and empire shall form one fold, and that there shall be one shepherd of His Holy Church. The cardinals, lately adherents of Gregory, are all, without exception, expected at Constance within eight days. His other officials, now and for some time past with us, have been received, as was right, with honour. May your Highness long thrive and flourish in victory and success. Written, &c.

III.

A LETTER FROM THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND TO ONE OF HIGH RANK IN ENGLAND, RESPECTING A PRESENTATION OF THOMAS POLTON TO THE PREBEND OF SWORDS.

AFTER much consideration I have come to the conclusion that this letter was written, between the years 1414 and 1419, by Sir John Talbot, Lord Furnival, who for his valour in the French wars was created Earl of Shrewsbury A.D.

1442.^a The writer was a Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whose acting deputy was his brother. Now, Sir John Talbot was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from A.D. 1414 to A.D. 1419; and his brother, Richard Talbot, Archbishop of Dublin, was his Deputy.^b I have not found any other Lord Lieutenant and Deputy standing in the same relation to each other, during the period within which the letter was probably written, nor am I at all able to say to whom the letter was addressed. Thomas Polton, LL.D. who has been already mentioned, was an English ecclesiastic of considerable note, during the early part of the 15th century. He was a prebendary of York in 1408,^c and, in 1416, was elected dean of that see.^d As one of the King's ambassadors he attended the Council of Constance (1414 to 1418), where he appears to have highly distinguished himself by upholding the rights and dignity of England.^e Considering the nature of the arguments by which he maintained the right of England to be deemed "a nation," we of the present day may perhaps be pardoned if we incline to think that the Ambassador's reasons were less convincing than the victories which had been lately gained by the English. Thomas Polton, who, in addition to his English honours, had the title of Pope's Notary, was, by Papal provision, promoted to the see of Hereford, A.D. 1420.^f Early in 1422 he was translated to Chichester;^g and, in 1425-6, to Worcester.^h He was present at the Council of Basle, and died there 23rd August, 1433.ⁱ The name of Thomas Polton does not occur in the list of the Prebendaries of Swords. The Prebend of Swords, which belonged to the Church of St. Patrick, Dublin, was so valuable that it was called "the Golden Prebend." In 1431 the revenues were divided into three parts by Archbishop Talbot, and a part only was reserved to the prebendary.^k

HIGH AND MIGHTIE PRINCE, and my right noble and gracious lorde, I recomende me unto youre high and noble lordship, with right humble hert, and souveraine desire, certainly to wete alle gracious and comfortable tidings of youre noble persone, as yo^r most

^a Synopsis of Peerage by Sir H. Nicolas, vol. ii. p. 633.

^b Annals of the Four Masters, p. 214, note (1).

^c Fasti Eccles. Anglic. vol. iii. pp. 196, 215.

^d Ibid. vol. iii. p. 124.

^e L'Enfant, Hist. du Concile de Constance, vol. i. p. 456; and Seward's Anecdotes, vol. i. p. 18.

^f Fasti Eccles. Anglic. vol. i. p. 464.

^g Ibid. vol. i. p. 245.

^h Ibid. vol. iii. p. 60.

ⁱ Ibid. vol. iii. p. 60, and Anglia Sacra, p. 805.

^k Cotton's Fasti Eccl. Hib. vol. ii. p. 136.

gentil hert best can ymagin, to my most especial comforte; Lowly thankyn youre said noble lordeship, of mony gracious supportacons, and noble helpes, to me shewid, afore this tyme, in my greet nede, without eny desert on my behalve; the which Gode rewarde, where I may not. Lowly beseking you, my gracious Lorde, for my *perseverance* (?).

High and myghte Prince, and my Right noble and gracious Lorde—It liketh to youre high Lordeshipe beningly [benignly] to understand, that youre gracious letters for maister Thomas Polton, touching his prebende of Swerdes, to me sent, I have reverently and humbly received. *Highly having* (? marvailing), my right noble lorde, of that, that the said Maister Thomas stirred your gracious lordeshipe to write to me in wise, where no gilte ne deffaute was in my personne, in that matere. For, my Right noble Lorde, his possession of the seid prebende was never emblemished by me, nor by none other, by myne ordinance. For, when I granted him a presentacon therof at London, in oure most souveraing Liege Lordes name, [I] therupon wrote to my brother, that was my Deputee in Yreland, for to put hym in execucon. The which was duely execute, as I supposed, so fer forthe that the said procuratours of the said maister Thomas couthe finde no faulte therein. And (if) they had founden any faulte in me or my brother, or any other persounes towards me, and wolde have certified therof, hit shulde have be remedied, without delaye; as I declared, openly, afore Thomas Lavington servant to the said Maister Thomas, to his procurators now at his being here.

IV.

A LETTER FROM THE TREASURER OF CALAIS TO HENRY V.

It appears to have been the custom for the Captain of Calais to *indent*, *i.e.* bind himself by deed to the King, to maintain a certain military establishment, on receiving a certain daily pay. In Dugdale's *Baronage*,^a mention is made of

^a Dugd. Bar. vol. i. pp. 244, 245.

two indentures of this kind having been entered into by Richard Beauchamp Earl of Warwick. This letter seems to imply that, if the Captain were *unindentured*, the whole charge was provided for by the Crown. The Earl of Warwick was Captain of Calais throughout the greater part of the reign of Henry the Fifth, and during a part of that of Henry the Sixth. I conclude this letter to have been written towards the close of the former reign.

SOUVERAINE LORDE, yn as humbly wise as any true liege man can thinke or devise, I recommend me unto youre noble grace. Please yow to wite, that I have received your gracious letters written at Saintliz [Senlis?] the xxj day of Juil, charging me to certiffie yow the cause, why that I restrained the souldours of youre toune of Caleys, xl dayes in a yere, for to goo into youre remne [realm] of England, for to dispose for suche thinges as they had to doo there, leving a sufficient man [number of men] in hire [their] stede. Souveraine lorde, I restrained never non, (*the more harme hathe be yours*). Bote, I being in youre full noble Reamne, and [of] the counseil of my lorde of Warrewic, Capitain of youre seid toune, I desired of my full worthy lordes of youre counseil, that the Capitain shulde endente [indent] with yow, after youre laste appointment for the pees. And your counseil wold not grante eche souldour xl dayes, withouten special commandement from yow in writing. And soo youre saide Capitaine standeth unendented with alle, and none restrained, ne no rekenyng can be made with hym, for his *retenue* [retinue], to greet harme to yow, and to me greet charge withoute youre gracious lordship. Lowly I beseke (beseche) youre hight (high) discretion, that hit may be hastely remedied, whan it best list yow, for youre prouffite and my discharge.

V.

A LETTER FROM THE TREASURER OF CALAIS TO THE KING.

THIS letter being from Calais, relating to the payment of money, and being addressed to the King in person, I conceive to have been written by the trea-

surer of Calais (probably Richard Bokeland)^a to King Henry the Fifth. Of the three persons named in it, John Skott, Guy Bussh, and Sir Raulf Racheford or Rochford, the only one of whom I can recover any trace is the last. Sir Ralph Rochford appears to have been much trusted by King Henry the Fifth, and was often employed by him.^b Sir Ralph Rochford was lieutenant of Calais 1421 ;^c it is probable therefore that the letter was written in that year.

SOUVERAINE LORDE, in as humble wise as any true liegeman can thinke or deme, I recommend me unto youre noble grace. Like it youre highnesse to conceive, that I have received your gracious letters, charging me to receive of John Skott and Guy Bussh xlvi prisoners, paying and contenting thayme resonably for thaire costages. Yf it please youre highnesse, I have received of the seid John Skott and his ffellowship xxix prisoners, and I content them of thaire costages. And, truly, they er poure men, of no value, and gret *cost drawers*;—noughtwithstandyng that they er kepte as straitely, and in as esy dieting, as I can deme, after youre commaundement. And, as touching the xvi prisouners that hit liked [you] to charge me to receive of Guy Bussh, he wold not delyver thaime to me, unless thanne I wold have content for hym every prisoner, in the weke, a crowne, beyng in his keeping, at that tyme, by the space of xii wekes. Thinking to me these costages askyng unresonable. Werupon I charged hym, on youre

^a Richard Bokeland was of a Northamptonshire family, and he sat for the county in the 3rd and 9th parliaments of Henry VI. (Bridges's Northamptonshire, vol. i. p. 10.) He was treasurer of Calais from 9 Hen. V. (1421) to 14 Hen. VI. (1436). (Calais Accounts, Record Office.) He was also victualler of Calais for some time. (Rymer, vols. ix. and x. *passim*.) In the 2 Hen. VI. (1423) he bought the manor of Edgecote in Northamptonshire, about four miles north of Banbury in Oxfordshire, for the use of himself and Joan his wife; and, by his will, which is extant in the register of Wills of Gray, Bishop of Lincoln, he bequeathed Edgecote to his widow for life, with remainder to their daughter and heir Agnes Whitingham. (Bridges, vol. i. p. 120.) A pedigree of the Bokeland family is to be found in Baker's Northamptonshire (vol. i. p. 493); but as the pedigree commences with Richard Bokeland, I have been unable to learn anything as to his descent. He was one of the executors of the will of the Duke of Bedford (Test. Vet. vol. i. p. 242), who died 14 September, 1435, and whom he survived barely a year, dying 10 August, 1436. (Bridges, vol. i. p. 118.)

^b Rymer, ix. *passim*. Acts P. Council, ii. 155 n. 205 n.; Carte's French Rolls, ii. 246.

^c Acts of P. C. ii. 365.

behalve, in the presence of Sir Raulf Racheford, and your Marshal of youre toune of Caley, and many moe persounes of youre seid toune, that the seid Guy Bussh shulde kepe thaim savelly, as he wold answere unto yo^r Highnesse, unto the tyme that I hold other commaundement from you. Souveraine Lorde, I beseche Almightye gode, etc.

VI.

A LETTER FROM KING HENRY V. TO THE LIEUTENANT AND TREASURER OF CALAIS.

THIS letter was found amongst the Calais accounts of the reign of Henry V. preserved at the Public Record Office. It is so intimately connected with the letter which follows it, that I am glad to be able to publish them together. It is impossible to determine with certainty the date of the King's letter; but after carefully examining vols. ix. and x. of Rymer, and other authorities,^a I strongly incline to the conclusion that it was written in the year 1421. The Duke of Burgundy mentioned in the letter was Philip the Good, son of John the Fearless, who was treacherously murdered at the bridge of Montereau, at the junction of the Yonne and the Seine,^b the 10th September, 1419, in the presence, if not by the command, of the Dauphin, afterwards Charles the Seventh. John of Luxemburg was a staunch adherent of the English and of the House of Burgundy.^c I conceive that Sir Ralph Rochford was Lieutenant, and Richard Bokeland was Treasurer, of Calais at this time, and that the letter was addressed to them.^d Thomas de la Croix (Della Croce) was an envoy sent by Filippo Maria, Duke of Milan, to King Henry V. as early as 1414.^e He appears to have afterwards taken service with the King, and to have been highly esteemed by him.^f The minute directions given by the King, prescribing the route of the horse and its attendants from Calais to Paris, are very curious; and strongly indicative of the then disturbed state of the country. Notwithstanding these directions, the horse appears not to have arrived at its destination; hence a second letter from the King which seems to have perished, to which the next letter is a reply.

^a Pauli, Geschichte von England, vol. v. p. 169.

^b Montereau-fault-Yonne.

^d Acts of Privy Council, vol. ii. pp. 363, 365, 367.

^e Rymer, ix. 118.

^c Biog. Univ.

^f Rymer, x. 137, 139.

BY THE KING.

Trusty & welbeloved, forasmuche as we be enfourmed Thomas de la Croix hath sent hors & certain armerers, and harnois, for us unto our town of Caleys, We wol & charge yow expressly yat ye ordaine yat y^e saide hors, and y^e men yat ar comen with hem, come to us in al seure haste, and send sum trusty man for to go with hem, that may have the oversight & gouvernance of hem alle, and yat [they] be seurely & sauflly conducted fro thens to St. Omer & so to Arras, and fro thens to Amyas [Amiens], there abidinge unto the tyme they have seure conduct from our brethre [brother] of Burgoigne or fro Sir Johan de Luxemburgh, to y^e whiche we have written for her sauf passage fro thens to Aubmalle [Aumale], fro whens our garnisons with God's grace shallen conduct hem to Parys, where we wol they shal abyde til they have heard of our wille—and, they comen to Parys, we wol that he that shal come fro you with them sende us word of theire comyng thider. Yeven under our signet in our castel at Seint Denys de Moronval beside Dreux, the last day of Juill.

To the Lieutenant and Treasurer of our towne of Caleys and eche of them.

 VII.

 A LETTER TO KING HENRY V. FROM THE LIEUTENANT AND
 TREASURER OF CALAIS.

THE horse and its attendants not arriving, as stated in the introduction to the last letter, the King writes a second letter respecting it, of the 18th of September, and sends it to Calais by Blanc Turcell, a pursuivant. The receipt of this message from the King is acknowledged by the officers of Calais; who in reply state, that they have had a similar letter from the Duke of Burgundy, which they inclose, and also another letter giving an account of some mishap that had attended their convoy, whereat they much marvel.

FULL HIGH AND MIGHTIE oure moste douted Souveraine lorde, also [as] lowly as yn any wise we most [best] can or deme, We us

recommende unto your High noblesse, unto the which please hit to understand that your gracious letters, yeven at Mewen [Meung] beside Baugency,^a in date of the xvij. day of the monethe of Septembre, hider broght by Blanc Turcell, the Poursuivant, makyng mention of the horse and other things, that Thomas De la Crosse has sent to your Highnesse, out of Lumbardy, [*have been received*]. Whereupon, ful high and mightie and oure most douted souveraine liege lorde, the soth [the truth] is, that upon that high and mightie Prince the Duc of Børguigne had, for the same cause, writen unto youre tresorer here, and to me, by his letters, whiche beeth closed within this, the men, with the same horsse, and other things that they brojt [brought], departed from hens the xxij. day of August last passed; withoute that we have sithen had tidings of hem unto ester [yester] day, that [when] unto youre seid tresorer and me was broght a letter of the same matere, which also is closed within these. Mervailing right inly moche, truly, bothe he and I, that they have be soo demened [behaved] as the letter makith mencion.

VIII.

A LETTER TO KING HENRY V. FROM AN OFFICER HAVING THE CHARGE OF PUBLIC WORKS AT CALAIS.

MENTION being made of a servant of Thomas de la Crosse being at Calais when this letter was written, and of his having been the bearer of it to the

^a The name of the town in the MS. is written *Mewes*, but, as there is no town of that name on the Loire, and that there is a town "beside Beaujency" called *Meun*, which is not unfrequently written in English as *Mewen*, I have corrected the text. Meun, Mehun, or Meung-sur-Loire, is a small town not far from Orleans, the birth-place of Jean de Meun, surnamed Clopiuel, "*parcesqu'il était boiteux*," a poet, who, in the 13th century, completed the Roman de la Rose. (Biog. Univ.) He is also known as the earliest translator into French verse of Boethius de Consolatione Philosophiæ. (Panthéon Littéraire, *Philosophie Chrétienne*, Paris, 1835; and the notice of the author, by Buchon, prefixed.) Both Thomas de Montacute, the brave Earl of Salisbury, who was mortally wounded at the siege of Orcans in 1428, and Charles VII. of France, died at Meun.

King, I conceive, but not without hesitation, that it is attributable to the year 1421. It is plain from the contents that it was written in time of war, and that the King had (probably not long before) been at Calais. Henry was in England from the 3rd February to the 10th June 1421. On the last mentioned day he landed at Calais from Dover, and with very slight delay proceeded to Rouen.^a Caen stone has always enjoyed a good reputation for building,^b and linseed oil is noted for its hardening qualities.

SOUVERAINE LORDE, in as humbly wise as any true liegeman can think or deme, I recommend me unto youre noble grace; having in myne hert continually emprinted, amonges youre other high comaundments, yeven to me at youre departyng from Caleys, that speciall commandment, by the whiche ye charged me, that I shulde algates write unto youre highnesse, from tyme to tyme, of all matiers that me semed necessarie or expedient to signiffie unto youre highnesse. In parformyng of the which youre commaundement, like it youre highnesse to conceive, that the fundament of youre chappell, withinne youre castell of Caleys, and the walles over (height above the grounde, in the lowest place, viij. fete) wherof I send yow the patrone [pattern] by John Makyn, servant to Thomas De la Crosse, bringer of this And, as touching the stone of this cuntre, that shuld be for the jambes of your dorres and windowes of your seid chapell, I dare not take upon me to sett no more therof upon your werkes, *hit freteth and fareth so foule with himself*, that, had I not ordained lynnesede oyle to bed [bathe?] hit with, hit wolde not have endured, ne plesed youre Highnesse. Wherefore I have purveyed xiiij. tons tight [weight?] of Cane stone, for to spede youre werkes withall. And more I shall purveye, in all the haste possible, for I cannot see that none other stone wolle be so proffitable for youre seide werkes; and, for God's love, souveraine lorde, like yow, of youre benign grace, to have me excused, nowe and at al tymes, of my rude and uncunnyng wrytyng to youre highnesse; the which

^a Pauli, Geschichte von England, v. 166, 169.

^b As to the use of Caen stone in the middle ages, see Mr. Hardy's Descriptive Catalogue of Materials relating to the History of Great Britain and Ireland, vol. i. preface, xxxi.

ambasseth [shameth] me ful mochel, to write unto youre high estate of any matter, savinge youre wille and commandement afore-said; the which I shall ever obeye and perfourme, to the uttermoste that is possible unto me, whiles my lyf endureth. Souveraine lorde, I beseeche Almightye gode kepe yow in continuel prosperitee, to his plesauce, and youre herts desire, and send yow victorye of all your enemies for his muche mereye.

IX.

A LETTER FROM CERTAIN OFFICERS AT CALAIS TO THE KING.

RICHARD WIDVILLE, esquire of the body to King Henry the Fifth, and chamberlain to the Duke of Bedford,^a was the bearer of letters to Calais, from the King and the Duke, to which this and the following letter are replies. They are therefore attributable to the reign of Henry the Fifth; but I am unable to affix to them any more precise date; nor can I state, except as appears from the letters themselves, under what circumstances they were written. Richard Beauchamp Earl of Warwick, then or lately Captain of Calais, was absent from his government, having left in charge the writers of the letters. During his absence they are commanded to deliver over the town (apparently) to another governor. They are anxious to stand well with the King, the Duke and the Earl, and this causes them no small embarrassment, as seems to me plain, from the language of their replies. They intimate, however, that, being deputies of the Earl of Warwick, they can do nothing without his knowledge and concurrence.

^a Richard Wydville, Widvil, or Woodville, was one of the bravest, and, according to Miss Strickland (*Lives of the Queens*, vol. iii. p. 308), handsomest men of his day. He was of a Northamptonshire family of note, and, in 7 Hen. IV., was sheriff of that county, and governor of Northampton Castle. He served with distinction under Henry the Fifth, and was one of the esquires of his body. In 3 Hen. VI. (1425) he was made constable of the Tower; and, on Whit-Monday, 1426, received the honour of knighthood, at Leicester, from the King, who, being then of the age of four years, had himself been knighted the same day by his uncle the Duke of Bedford. In 15 Hen. VI. (1437) he was fined one thousand pounds for marrying Jaquetta Duchess of Bedford, without licence from the Crown. For his valiant conduct in France, he was created Baron Rivers in 26 Hen. VI. (1448). Lord Rivers remained firm in his allegiance to the House of Lancaster until the accession of Edward IV. Soon after this, however, his daughter Elizabeth,

UNTO THE KINGE OURE SOUVREIGNE LORD.

Ful high and mightie Prince and oure right gracieux and most douted souveraing Lord: We youre humble and true obeisant subiectes recomende us lowly unto your high and mightie rioll [royal] maiestie. Unto the whiche plese hit to understande, that we received, nowe late, by the handes of youre squier and servant Richard Wideville, youre gracieux letters of prive seal, the teneur of the which we have wel understand, conceyving ther with all the credence by hym to us exposed. Upon the teneur of the saide letters [we] beseching youre saide rioll maiestie, oure right gracieux and moste douted souveraigne lorde, That we, youre humble besechers, (which alwaie have ben, beeth, and ever shal be, [and] wol be, duryng oure lyves, youre verraye and trewe obeisant subgetes,) mowen been done to and demened in manere and fourme liche [like] as contenen [are contained in] certaine articles closed with inne this same. And we at all tymes aren, and, with Godds grace, shallen be redy, at the comandement, ordinance, and be charge of letters, under seal of right worshipfull and oure ful dere lorde therle of Warrewic, be whos comandement and charge (as he that for the saufgarde and seure keeping of the toune of Caleys, was and is, unto yow oure souveraing lorde, be these letters, and seurlly bounden in bodye, goodes, liflode, and heritages), and yet not discharged thereof, as we understanden, we have charge and commandement of the keeping and governaunce [*i.e.* of Calais] and to whom, be all haste possible, and incontinent after tharrivaille of youre seid squier and servant, we have sent certaine messages [messengers] for the same cause, to obey and fulfill youre noble

widow of Sir John Grey, having captivated the King, he was taken into favour, and great honours and trusts were conferred on him. He was made Treasurer of the Exchequer, Lord High Constable of England, and advanced to the rank of an Earl. After a brilliant career, the common story is that, in 9 Edw. IV. he was seized in his house at Grafton near Towcester, by Sir William Conyers a Lancastrian partisan, who, under the name of Robin of Ridsdale, raised an insurrection against the Yorkist government; that he was hurried to Northampton, and there beheaded. (*Dugd. Bar.* vol. ii. p. 230; *Warkworth's Chronicle*, p. 6.)

charge and comandement, touching the delyverance of this youre toune of Caleys. And, full high and mightie prince, and oure right gracieux and moste douted souverainge lorde, God of his might and grace ever preserve and kepe unto his plesaunce your noble persone, with perfite eneres of yeres and right good lif and longe, for his muche mercy, etc. Writen

X.

A LETTER FROM THE SAME OFFICERS TO THE DUKE OF
BEDFORD.

FULL high and mightie Prince and oure right gracieux douted lorde, also [as] lowly as in any wise we best mowen or kannen we us recomande unto yo^r high and mightie lordship, unto which plese it to understand, that we received nowe late, by the handes of worshipfull Squier Richard Wydebyle, youre counsellor and chamberlayn, youre honorable letters in date of the xv. day of Ffeverer [February], with certain credence therupon be him to us exposed—the teneur of which we have well conceived and understande [understood] as wel as the teneur of other gracieux letters of the Kinges oure souverainge lorde, now late be youre saide counsellor and chamberlayn to be delivered and declared. Unto which letters of the Kinges oure forsaid souveraing lorde, and credence upon the same, we, [who] alwaye han ben, beth [are], and wol be, during oure lyves, his veray trewe and obeissant subyetes, as trewly disposed to oure ligeance, hanen, after oure simple pouer [poor] discrecions, devised answers suche as we trusten to Almightye God shalbe unto his plesaunce. Beseching yo^r saide lordshippe, ful high and mightie prince, and our right douted gracious lorde, that where as we hanen now late, and incontinent forthwith, at tharrivaille of your said counsellor and chamberlayn at this said town of Caleis, sent certain messages [messengers?] ffelawes of oures, unto oure worship-

full and right dere lorde therle of Warrewick, now late oure capitaine, to lete him have knowleche of the said letters, as wel as of the will of oure forsaide souveraing lorde, touching the deliverance of this his toun of Caleis; of which in al haste possible [we] truste to have answeare, [and that] hit be unto yo^r highness no displesaunce; bot that oure poore worshippes and honestees in that partie mowen bee favourably recommended unto youre said high and mightie lordeship; submitting us hooly ther inne unto youre good grace and ordinance, as they that hertely beeth disposed to obeye all youre honorable desires and doo youe true service at oure simple pouers. And, full high and mightie prince, and oure right douted and gracieux Lorde, God of his might and grace ever youe preserve and kepe, with perfite helthe of personne, and right good lyf and longe, for his muche mercy.

XI.

A PETITION BY J. B. (A SUSPECTED LOLLARD) TO KING HENRY V.

It is very difficult to say what manner of man J. B. the author of this curious petition was. That he was an ecclesiastic, and considered himself suspected of Lollardism, there is no doubt; but, although there were grounds for suspicion, he was nevertheless no Lollard. Still he greatly fears and distrusts the ecclesiastical authorities, and has no hope of justice except from the King himself. He had been compelled by false leasings^a to take sanctuary at Westminster, and is anxious that the King should himself determine his cause. He asks, first, that a particular service or manual of devotion to our Lady in Latin, "containing all the Bible, with great part of Catholic doctors for the better understanding of the same Bible," may be freely used by any one, and specially that it may be used by what he terms "a private religion," meaning, as I conceive, a religious confraternity called "Christ's Knights." This is what he mainly aims at; but, inasmuch as he intimates, besides, a very orthodox desire

^a Ps. iv. 2; v. 6.

to "werry the heathen and other heretics," in order to consolidate the unity of the Church under "our holy Father the Pope of Rome" one would have thought the Bishop of London would have deemed the purity of his faith unimpeachable. He was, however, accused of having affixed some letter to the gate of Thomas Falconer, Lord Mayor in 1414-15, and had been cast into the Penitentiary of St. Paul's.^a He was further accused of favouring Lord Cobham; of possessing a Lollard book "they clepe the Lanthorn of Light;" and of lately organizing and abetting a Lollard rising at Coventry. He denies the truth of all and every of these allegations; but the possession of the book was suspicious. A copy of the "Lanthorn of Light" "bound in red leather, of parchment, written in a good English hand," had been found in the hands of one John Claydon, a currier, a poor relapsed Lollard, who, a few years earlier, had been delivered over to the secular arm. The examination of the book was on that occasion referred to a committee of ecclesiastics, one of whom was the famous William Lyndwood, author of the "*Provinciale*," and, if their report is to be trusted, it was highly abusive of the Pope and the bishops. It is, however, remarkable that, amongst the fifteen heretical propositions which the committee found in the book, one (the sixth) is directly condemnatory of "private religions," the very institutions one of which J. B. wished to introduce.^b Lord Cobham, who was condemned for heresy by Archbishop Arundel, 10th October, 1413,^c was executed in December, 1417.^d The Duke of Bedford was Lieutenant of the kingdom in 1415, and again in 1417, when the King was absent from England.^e The Duke of Gloucester was appointed to the post, 30th December, 1419.^f The King was at home from February to June, 1421,^g

^a It is not very clear what the words "*Penituncery of Poules*" mean. I conceived them to indicate an ecclesiastical court; but it has been suggested, on high authority, that they, more probably, mean an episcopal prison, the use of which, as regarded suspected heretics, was sanctioned by an Act of the 2 Henry IV. I do not however find, in Dugdale's History of St. Paul's, any trace of either a court or prison so named attached to the metropolitical cathedral. Under the word "*Pœnitentiaria*," Ducange has "*Tribunal Romanum cui præest Pœnitentiarius Major*," and he defines "Pœnitentiarius" to be a dignity instituted in cathedral churches by the Council of Trent (Session 24, cap. 8, and Sess. 14, cap. 7), having power to absolve in reserved cases. He adds, however, that this dignity existed long before the Council of Trent. (Ducange, v. 326.) The name of an office might very soon pass into the name of a place; and, in modern English, this change has occurred with reference to this very word.

^b Foxe, Acts and Monuments, vol. iii. p. 532. "The Lanthorn of Light" was afterwards printed by Robert Redman. Ames's Typog. Antiq. (Dibdin's edit.) vol. iii. p. 246.

^c Rymer, ix. 61.

^e Rymer, ix. 305, 475.

^g Pauli, v. 166, 169.

^d Pauli, v. 147, 148.

^f Rymer, ix. 830.

and the Duke of Bedford was reappointed the 10th June, 1421.^a I conceive this petition to have been presented to the King in the spring of 1421. The Bishop of London of the period was Richard Clifford.^b The text is both obscure and corrupt; but I must leave the document and its apparent contradictions as I find them.

SADELY, mekely and truely besecheth youre true liegeman and continuel devoute bedman J. B., that sythen, by fals lesinges, he is neded to holde youre and god is Seintwary [God's sanctuary] of Westminster, ffor drede of fals prisonnement and gratter wronges, that ye wolde yeve him leev and hardiness to plaine to yow, and ye youreself, in youre owne solempne propre personne, withouten any other Juge, spirituel or temporel, be youe or any other, to be assigned in this cas, as fer [as] youre pouer streches, to here him; And who that wol obiect ayainest him, on bothe sides, to alegge and prove; And thann youre owene self, at thende, whann ye have all thinges wel herd and conceived, yeve sentence diffinityf. And, namely, of a service of oure ladye, in laten, contening al the bible, with gret part of *Catholic Doctours* for the better understanding of that same bible. And this service for devocion take it whoo so wol, who so nil leef, and hit fully to be saide, foure tymes a yeere, or, at the lest, twice; *and the labour, on the day, nozt fully iii houres*; which fourme of service he asketh to be confermed soo, that, whooever wol use hit, mowe bodely [boldly?], withouten sclandre or defame of all manere unleefffulness; and also the same he asketh for a privat religion, namcd cristys Knightis, for the same service to use. And also to *werry* [make war; (*Chaucer*)] on the hethen and other heretikes, bothe gostely & bodely, in all lawfull manere, to make oo [one] foulde and one herde, oure Lorde Jhu [Jesu] criste, and his chief Vicar in erthe, oure hooly ffather the pope of Rome. Of which matiers the same John [viz. J. B. before mentioned] toke up thre bookes, to be examined, to his ordinarie, bishop of London, sone after Estir last was; asking therof aunswere. Bote he maye none yet have, ne his bookes neithr, ne of divers billes [letters] that he

^a Rymer, x. 129.

^b Fasti Eccl. Angl. vol. ii. p. 294.

hath sent sithen. Of which therfor he asketh youe, liege lorde, both aunswer and deliverance; and also of fals lesinges falsly he [knoweth] not by whome put on him, that ye wolde holde and declare him ful innocent, ffor, got wote, soo he is. Of which lesings one is, that he shulde have made a letter y sett upon Faukener is gate thanne maire of London, and [he is] cast into the Penitauncery of Poules. [The 2d not stated.] The thridde, in declaring [himself in favour?] of John Oldecastell, Knyght. The fourthe, a booke thei clepe *the launtern of light*; the vth that he shulde, at Coventre, Sunday thre wekes nexte bifore Lammesse day last was, have taught and stirred Loullers to rise; the vith, that he shulde have made vi hundred tabardes for the same entent. And, to fore god, liege lord, al is fals and falsly fayned; and that he is ever redy to declare himself, oonely yn yo^r noble presence, right as ye and youre rightwise lawe wolle: and yet, every day, they countrefet nue lesinges, soo that he may not pursue aunswer of his service and religion aforsaide. And therfore, liege lorde, til these matiers be al finisshed, he asketh, freely, youre true and faithfull highest and most free and gracious protection, in all manere causes to ayeinst all manere of men, of what condition ever it be, he in no wise be letted: bote alwaye mowe safe goo at large, to pursue his nedes in this cas; and to take his ful counseil withoute al manere of prisonnement, and othir letting whatever, ye mowe deffende. And also, evermore, to have free honest commynge unto youre owen rial presence, in due time and place, withouten any lettynge, at his owen wille; ffor he findeth youe god and at hese to borogh (?). That that he wol never this flye, but redi appere, and youre lawfull sentence ever abyde, and with goode will take. And, on this condicion, bote not elles, he forsaketh all other priviliges and libertees of Sanctewary, ever bounden to yow and to youre righwys laws; ffor, god wote, he toke never Sante-wary bote for fere of fals prisonnementes, and therfor he besecheth you leeveth [that ye believe] not lyers against him, ffor [fore] god, he saith ne meneth bote treuthe. And all this, liege lorde, as fer as god may be plesed, and ye not displeased, he requireth you, bifore

gode, at his endeles dome, [that ye hear] and also that ye see and conceive an Informacion in latin of the same Religion, which he tooke to myn excellent and worthie lorde your brother, thanne youre lieutenant, also noble Duc of Bedford. And, more over, he asketh you al that ever he shulde, pertening and helping to this matiere, and all that is impertinent and harmyng to be had awaye. And ever to have libertee to adde and minise [minish?] change and amende, as hit may him most speede; and in noo waye delaye ne hinder, thogh he [know]not what it is. Therefore evermore, he asketh yow also al manere true and faithfull counsseill in this matier; for he is bot right simple, ne greet truste hath not ferrer [further?] thanne in god and yow. Lete hym not therefore be deceived, for godds love allmichte. And therefore, if ayenst this peticion any processe be made of any maner Juge spirituel or temporell, and soo the same John have wronge, thanne he provoketh and appelleth this cause directly to the rightwisness of god and to the liege lorde, ffor other juges in this matere he hath utterly suspecte, for greet wronges that he hath had, dreding to have more. He therfor hem utterly recuseth, and herto he fully him submitteth. Al this and eche parcel therof he asketh yow, and requireth oonly to have right, for god is [God's] love, etc.

XII.

A LETTER FROM THE SOVEREIGN TO ———

THIS letter seems to have been written by Henry the Fifth, or Henry the Sixth, (I incline to think by the former sovereign,) from France; but to whom I am wholly unable to say. The only particular of any importance it discloses, is notice of the fact that, at one period, the King of England felt so sure of retaining France, that it was contemplated having one chancellor for both realms. I cannot discover who W. M. was; but Richard Leyot was a person of some note. I have not found that he ever held any distinct office under the Crown; but he was a churchman mentioned more than once in Rymer as

having been employed, during the reigns of both Henry the Fifth and Henry the Sixth. He was a prebendary of Lichfield in 1431,^a and advanced to the dignity of Dean of Salisbury in 1446. He died 16 June 1449.^b This letter is merely a fragment.

RIGHT trusty and welbelovyd. We grete yow wel. And for as mucche as that we ben advised for to have but oon Chaunceller, bothe for oure matiers that we have adoo in this land, and also in England, We writen at this tyme unto oure right trusty & welbelovyd Clerc, Maistre Richard Leyot, for to send us over into this lande, in all, goodely haste, oure seal that he hathe in his keping. And we wol that he be forthe of oure counssail, as that he was bifore, and more over, sith that oure lorde hathe taken owte of this worlde W. M., that in his lyf was oure trewe servant, as we truste verraly, whoos soule god for his mercy assoille: we wol and charge yow that ye sende unto us oure Signett, that he hadd in kepinge, and certiffie us always, fro tyme to tyme, by comers betwene, of suche tidings as that ye han.

XIII.

A DECLARATION OR MEMORANDUM OF THOMAS ROWLEY.

JAMES THE FIRST, King of Scotland, had been most unjustly arrested in the year 1406, when a child, by King Henry the Fourth, while on his way to France. He remained in confinement during the reigns of Henry the Fourth, Henry the Fifth, and until the second year of Henry the Sixth (1423). In this year he was released, on an undertaking to pay, within six years, the sum of 40,000*l.*, not for ransom, but for his "support and education." Before returning home, he espoused in London, Joanna, niece of Richard the Second by the mother's side, and, through her father, John Duke of Somerset, granddaughter of John of Gaunt, and was presented on his marriage-day with a discharge for 10,000*l.*, being one quarter of the stipulated sum.^c The 10,000 marks men-

^a *Fasti Ecc. Ang.* vol. i. p. 601.

^b *Ibid.* vol. ii. p. 616.

^c *Scott's Hist. of Scotland*, vol. i. p. 258.

tioned in this memorandum were no doubt another instalment of the sum in question. A "cedul" appears to have been added to the original document sealed by Thomas Roweley. Thomas Roweley, Roulle, or Roule, was an ecclesiastic, and chaplain to James the First, King of Scotland. He seems to have been a diplomatic agent whose services were often required by his master.^a

In the yere of grace MIII^cXXVI, The ffriday VI^{te} day of the monethe of Decembre, Maister Thomas Roweley Clerc, for certain causes y commen from high and mighte Prince the Kyng of Scotland, unto the Kyng oure Souveraigne Lorde, and to his greet Counsell. After certain communication y had at Westminster, betwene hym and Richard Bokeland, Tresorer and Vitailer of Caleys, as touching the paiement of the some of x m^l marcs be the saide Kinge of Scotland, owing, as be terme runnen, after the stablement of the same, and due to be paied unto the Kyng our saide souveraigne lorde in the Cite of London, made hym strange,^b as in the saide Kinges name of Scotland, and said unto the saide Richard Bokeland at the saide Westminster, That at the ferthest be the ferste sunday Clene Lenton^c nexte comynge the seid somne of x m^l marcs holy shulde & shalbe redy in money to the value of good nobles, mountyng, the same somne to be paied within the toun of Bruges in Flaundes, unto all suche personnes or persone as thereof han or shullen have pouer & auctorite sufficient, be the Kinge our saide Souveraigne lorde, and that withouten any longer delaies makynge hym strange.^d Over [further?] that the said Maister Thomas permitting that, upon that the said Kinge of Scotland in al goodly haste shall sende his letters seeled under his seel unto the lordes of the Counseil of oure said souveraigne lorde, promising & afferming the same. In Witenesse of whiche thing the said Maister Thomas unto this cedul hath sett his seel day & yere aboven rehersed.

^a Acts of Privy Council, vol. iii. p. 357; Rot. Scot. vol. ii. pp. 258a, 259b, 261a, 262b, 265b, 269b, 275a & b, and 282a; Rymer, x. pp. 428 and 431.

^b Made it a matter of difficulty. See Canterbury Tales, 11,535.

^c See Paston Letters, xxii. vol. i. p. 297.

^d *i.e.* without any further difficulty.

XIV.

A LETTER FROM ——— TO RICHARD FLEMMYNG,
BISHOP OF LINCOLN.

THE bishop to whom this letter was addressed was a Bishop of Lincoln, Sleaford having been formerly a residence of the Bishops of Lincoln. His Lordship was plainly "in trouble," and, from his having to sue the King's Council for his temporalities, I conclude this was the "trouble" and "adversity" that is alluded to in the letter. This circumstance seems to point out Richard Flemmyng, who was Bishop of Lincoln from 1419-20 to 1430-1.^a Richard Flemmyng was born in Yorkshire of a good family,^b and educated at University College, Oxford. He took his degrees of B.A. and M.A., and was a proctor in 1407 and 1408. In early youth he inclined strongly to the doctrines of Wickliffe; but, "*his mouth being stopped with preferment,*" not only his zeal cooled, but he became a determined enemy to all church reform.^c He was made Rector of Boston in Lincolnshire, Prebendary of South Newbald, and (by exchange) of Langtoft,^d both in the arch-diocese of York, and, in 1419-20, was promoted to the see of Lincoln.^e In 1423 he was present at the Council of Sienna^f (Senense), and so distinguished himself there that the Pope (Martin V.) made him his Chamberlain,^g and the following year (1424) promoted him to the Archbishopric of York. This preferment Richard Flemmyng unwarily accepted without the permission of the King's Council.^h The Council thereupon seized the temporalities of Lincoln, compelled the prelate to renounce the archbishopric, and the Pope was fain to retranslate him (in 1425) by the style of Richard Archbishop of York to his former see.ⁱ It was on this occa-

^a Fasti Eccles. Anglic. ii. 17.

^b Illustribus in Anglia natus parentibus (Pitseus, t. 1, p. 615).

^c Antiq. Oxon. (Gutch) iv. 234. When I first walked up the nave of Lincoln Cathedral I almost forgave Richard Flemmyng for wishing to preserve things as they were.

^d Ibid. 234 n. (4).

^e Fasti Ecc. Angl. ii. 17.

^f Pitseus, t. i. p. 615. This author gives, as the date of this Council, 1424, sed vide contra Chron. of Hist. (Nicolas) 252. Anthony Wood, by mistake, calls it the Council of Sens (Antiq. Oxon. 234), which was held in 1485 (Nicolas, 253).

^g See the Latin epitaph published by Anthony Wood as having been formerly on the tomb, but which was *not* there in 1640 (Antiq. Oxon. (Gutch) iv. 235, 236).

^h The King's Council had assented to the election of Philip Bishop of Worcester to the Archbishopric. (Acts of Privy Council, vol. iii. xxviii. n.)

ⁱ Fasti Eccl. Angl. vol. ii. p. 17, where see, in the footnote, a very remarkable letter

sion that Richard Flemmyng petitioned, in most abject style, for the restitution of his temporalities,^a and they were restored 3rd August, 1426.^b Richard Flemmyng obtained a royal license, dated 12 Oct. 1427, to found Lincoln College in Oxford, to educate persons who should write, preach, and dispute against the "damnable doctrine" of Wickliffe. He died, however, at Lincoln, the 25th January, 1430-1, before his college was actually founded.^c I am struck with the unrelenting hostility shown by this bishop to the memory of one, whom in his youth he had so much admired. He it was who was selected by the Council of Sienna to execute the decree of the Council of Constance, which directed that the bones of the great reformer should be exhumed; to which, as one of Wickliffe's biographers observes, he, in his zeal, added the burning them.^d I believe this letter to have been written in 1426; and I have a suspicion that Bishop Beckington, at that time archdeacon of Buckingham, was the writer. I can discover nothing with regard to "Alisaundre *the Lumbarde*," Anderby, Thomas Soresby, or Wyche. There was a Richard Wyche, who may have been living in 1426, who, like Richard Flemmyng, had once been a follower of Wickliffe, and who was compelled to recant.^e Perhaps he was the last of the persons named.

RIGHT Worshipfull ffadir in Gode, and my worshipfull lorde, I recomende me unto youre lordeshipe, yn all due wise; and like hit youre lordeshipe to wite, that I have received youre letters writen at Sleaford the x day of Januer, rehercyng, muche things, the which, as ye affirme, is iche [each] worde true, on peyne of your unworshipe. By the which youre letters I understand, yn especial, that, touching the cxxx^{li}, that I paied of myn owen goods to Alisaundre for your bulles, the same Alisaundre muste paye me ayen; and Anderby to hym the said somme, as ye writen. Sir, I mervaille right muche, and can noght have mervailed to muche, that ye soo writen, considering, namely, how, at your departing hens, and many tyme before,

from the Council to the Lord Chancellor, on the occasion. There is in Flemmyng's Register, circa 1424, very distinct intimation of the see being then vacant.

^a Rot. Parl. iv. 311.

^b Fasti Ecl. Anglie. ii. 17

^c Antiq. Oxon. (Gutch) iv. 236, 237. Reg. Flem. fo. 36.

^d L'Enfant, Hist. du Conc. de Const. lib. ii. vol. i. p. 157; Lewis's Life of Wickliffe, p. 280; Godwyn de Præsulibus Angliæ, p. 297; and Lyndwood's Provinciale, lib. v. tit. 4, p. 284, note c. Lyndwood's annotator seems, however, to consider the "burning" as having been ordered by the Pope.

^e Fasc. Zizan. p. 501.

withe much more langage thanne is now to be reherced, ye desired and praied me, with greet instance, to sue unto my lordes of the kinges counsaile for deliverance of youre temporaltees; like as y did, full diligently, God knoweth. And, also, ye praied me to spede your bulles towards you, as soone as thei were comen; ye rehercyng, how greetly the delaying of youre said bulles might skaythe you. The which bulles hider comen, because that they might not be geten oute of the Lumbard's hands, on lasse than the forsaide somme first paied, as youre servants Maister Thomas Soresby and Wyche-knownen well, and also the Lumbard wol recorde, thei besoght and praied me right instantly, on youre behalve, to content the Lumbard of the said somme; and soo I did, with right good wille (God knoweth) in thaire presence, the xxvi day of August; receyving of Alisaundre a cedul of the said somme, upon good and just rekenyng, betwix you and hym. And this is so clere, that hit may nojt be said nay unto (I am seure) yf they be wel avised. Wherefore I may well mervaille of that ye write, that ye had no knowlege that I paied for yow the forsaide somme. Of which paiement Alisaundre also saieth, playnely, he certiffied yow, by letters diverse; and therby he wol abide. The which bulles, yn wise beforesaid, by me receyved, I sent thaim to yow, by youre seid servants, havyng, at all tymes, ful grete tendernesse and rewth (God knoweth) of your adversitie, thogh it be litill considered. And, as touching the ^{o^u}. that, as ye write, ye spake to Anderby of at Sleaford, etc. trewly, as me seemeth, I quyte me soo to yow in that matere, amonges other, as were thanke worth, and [if] it be well remembred. Natheles, of that and muche more I passe over, at this tyme, and praye yow hertely that, considered this that here is reherced, and the remenant that might be reherced, of my trew and kynde service unto yow, in youre trouble, ye wolle ordaine, in savyng your owen worship and me harmeles, that I be paied, as reason and good conscience wollen; soo that, for deffaute of paiement, I be nojt constreint to pourvey me of other remedye, that were me lothe; the which, after answer of this letter had from yow, I must nedes and thenke [think] to doo, on lesse than

ye woll content me. And, sir, I am seure ye wol nozt gruce so to doo, wel avised; ffor hit were to mucche ayeinst youre worship, ayeinst good conscience, and ayeinst all gentilnesse, that I shulde thus straungely be quyte [requited] for my kyndenesse, and, peraventure, cause many men herefter, that han will to do you service, wittying herof, to be warre by me—that God deffende [forbid] for youre sake, more than for myn. Right worshipfull, etc. the hooly Trinitee have yow evermore in his keypyng. Writen, etc.

XV. (1).

A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER AT CALAIS, ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND OTHERS, TO THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

I HAVE no hesitation in assigning the five following letters to the year 1428. I have less confidence in my having placed them in their right order. They chiefly relate to the displeasure shown by Richard Beauchamp Earl of Warwick towards Richard Bokeland,^a Treasurer of Calais, Richard Wydville,^b Chamberlain to the Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, and Lowis John, Warden of the Mint in London and at Calais,^c in consequence of their having,

^a *Ante*, p. 16.

^b *Ante*, p. 21.

^c Lewis, Lewis, Lodowick, or Lodewyke John was the representative of an ancient family (which also bore the name of Fitz-Lewis) formerly possessing property in Herts, but much more in Essex. It is said that the first of the family was the offspring of an intrigue of Prince Lewis (afterwards Lewis VIII.) of France with an English lady, when, in 1216, that prince invaded England, at the invitation of the barons opposed to King John. (Morant, vol. i. pp. 212, 213, note p.) It must, however, be admitted that the name *Lewis John* is intensely Welsh; and that he, in a petition presented by him to Parliament, in 1414, speaks of himself as of Welsh extraction. (Rot. Parl. iv. 45.) Lewis John was Warden of the Mint at London and Calais, and also Master of the Mint under Henry the Fifth. (Ruding's Annals of British Coinage, vol. i. pp. 33, 57.) The Hertfordshire property of this family was near Hatfield, where the name of Ludwick's or Lodwick's Hyde still lingers. (Clutterbuck, vol. ii. p. 357; Chauncy, p. 311.) Members of this family represented the county of Herts in 27 and 31 Edward III. and 1 Hen. IV. Lewis John was married three times, and Horndon or Thorndon Hall, in the parish of West Thorndon, with other lands in Essex, came to him by his third marriage, in 1438, with an

as he conceived, caused his removal from the captainship of Calais. The charge is most strenuously denied by one of the three, who I believe to have been Richard Bokeland; but, although the Duke of Bedford interested himself warmly on their behalf, both by word of mouth and by letter, the Earl seems to have remained still of the same mind. Wydvile appears to have vainly attempted to exculpate himself by throwing the blame on Bokeland and Lewis John; the latter, so far as appears, was silent. How far the Earl was justified in his suspicions it is impossible now to say, but a very sufficient reason for his ceasing to command at Calais existed in his being called upon, on the first of June of this year, to preside over the education of the young King Henry VI.^a a duty which would of course require his presence in England, and which, very likely, he thought more honourable than agreeable, especially in time of war. The Duke of Bedford, who had lately been in England, had now returned to France. There is no doubt that he had at this period succeeded in detaching the Duke of Brittany from his alliance with King Charles VII.^b of France; but I have not discovered any trace of the particular meeting of the two Dukes, which, it would seem, was expected to take place on the 20th of May at Rouen. Thomas de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, whose coming is said to be "right needful and expedient," landed from England at Calais in July, 1428, with reinforcements,^c taking the Earl of Warwick's place with the Duke of Bedford, who was now at Paris.^d He proceeded southwards, and was killed, 3rd November, 1428, at that fatal siege of Orleans, where the English, in the spring of 1429, received their first check from Joan of Arc.^e The Duke of Bedford was made Captain of Calais by patent bearing date the 5th December, 1428.^f The office of Treasurer of England was held at this time by Walter Lord Hungerford.^g

Essex heiress. (*Magia Brit. Essex*, p. 684.) He died in 1442. (*Inquis. post mortem*, 21 Hen. VI.)

^a Ry. x. 399; Rot. Parl. v. 411a; Acts of Privy Council, iii. 296; and Pat. 6 H. VI. p. 2, m. 5. The "Articles declaring how the Earl of Warwick took charge of Henry VI." which Sir John Fenn has prefixed to the Paston Letters, were not entered into on this occasion, but are of a later date (11 Hen. VI.).

^b Lobineau, *Hist. de Bretagne*, tom. i. p. 572.

^c *Acta Regia*, vol. ii. p. 244.

^d Hall, 143.

^e Lord Salisbury was mortally wounded at Orleans, but died at Meung-sur-Loire, the 3rd November, 1428. Of him an old French author (*Lefebvre de St. Denis*), quoted by a modern historian, writes thus: "Plus vaillant homme que lui ne fut en Angleterre, ni ne put être sous le soleil." (*Martin, Hist. de France*, vii. 7, 41, 47, 48.)

^f Rot. Franc. 7 Hen. VI. m. 1.

^g Walter Lord Hungerford held high office under the Crown, during the reigns of

Letter 1 was certainly addressed to the Duke of Bedford, probably to Paris, by certain officers at Calais; and, although Bokeland, Wydville, and Lewis John are named in the third person, it is clear from the Duke's reply that they were the writers. "Oure Lorde youre brother" must refer to Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, who conducted the home government as Protector, in the absence of the Duke of Bedford, but who seems at this time to have had some command at Calais.

Letter 2 is from the Duke of Bedford to the writers of Letter 1. He has spoken to the Earl of Warwick, and now incloses a letter to him respecting "the hevynesse" he entertains towards Bokeland and his friends, and he tells them how they ought to conduct themselves towards him. The advice given as to certain payments due to the Earl seems to refer to some letter from them, which has not been preserved.

Letter 3 from Bokeland to a friend (perhaps a brother) in personal attendance on the Duke of Bedford, expresses much gratitude to the Duke, and affection to his correspondent, who seems to have written Bokeland a letter, which has been also lost. Notwithstanding the Duke's letter, the Earl maintains his "hevly lordship" to Wydville, Lewis John, and him, but specially to him. He hopes the Duke will still stand his friend, or he fears he must resign his post. He also states his reasons for feeling a difficulty in complying with the Duke's wishes, with regard to the payments due to the Earl of Warwick.

Letter 4 was, I conceive, written to Bokeland from Paris by his friend in attendance on the Duke, probably early in May 1428. From its contents it would seem to have been sent to Calais with the Duke's letter. The notices of Lords Salisbury and Talbot are interesting. The siege mentioned at the end of the letter, as in preparation, was probably not of Laval, but Orleans.

Letter 5 was certainly written by Bokeland to Richard Wydville, who, being Chamberlain to the Duke of Bedford, was probably with him at Paris. Bokeland complains that Wydville has tried to make his peace with the Earl, at the expense of his friends. He professes great difficulty in believing that

Henry the Fourth, Henry the Fifth, and Henry the Sixth. He served in France under Henry the Fifth, received grants in that country, and was made a Knight of the Garter. He was also one of the King's executors. He was, for many years, Lord Treasurer of England, and sat in Parliament as Baron Hungerford from 4 Hen. VI. (1426) to 27 Hen. VI. (1449). He died in 1449, and was buried in Salisbury cathedral. (Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. pp. 204, 205, 206.) Notwithstanding the minute directions given by this nobleman in his will (Test. Vet. vol. i. p. 257) as to his place of sepulture, scarcely a trace of it exists. Walter Lord Hungerford resided chiefly at Farley Castle, otherwise Farley Montford, on the borders of Wilts and Somersetshire. The remains of Farley Castle are said to be very trifling. (Hungerfordiana, p. 102.)

Wydvile can have so acted. He ends his letter, however, by giving his correspondent a piece of news with which Wydvile, from his position with the Duke, was probably well acquainted.

OURE right dredfull and moste gracious lorde, with entier humbles of oure poure and obeissaunts hertes, we recommande us unto youre high and noble grace. Like hit unto youre highness to understand, how that wee ben enformed by the Tresourer of England, that he is instructed by yo^r highness for to reforme youre patent of the Capitaineshippe of the toune and castell of Caleys. Whereupon he desireth us, youre poure servants, to sue it forth; whiche we dare not take upon us, with outen special commandement and supportacion of yow therin; considering that nowe oure lorde of Warrewik sheweth himself alwaye hevvy lorde to Wydevile, Lowis John, and Richard Bokeland, surmetting upon thayme that they were causers therof [*i. e.* of his removal from the Captainship of Calais], which God knoweth the contrary, saving yo^r commandement, that all youre trewe ferendes as all youre poure servants dyd and as thayme owe of right to doone [as they ought of right to have done], and ever woll, to thaire lyves ende, in that and maters other. Wherfor, and it like unto yo^r goode grace, we thenke that it were right necessarye to directe youre letters unto oure lorde youre brother, as well as unto the lordes of the Counsail, to have us, yo^r poure servants, recommended unto thaire goode grace, as for al suche matere as we shall pursue unto thayme in yo^r behalf, and in especial in this matere abovesaid; and for how many yeres that ye desire to have [your patent made out]. Oure right, etc. We besech the blessed and gracieux Trinitee ever to preserve yow in honneur and prosperitee, and sende yow victorye of alle yo^r enemys.

XVI. (2).

A LETTER FROM THE DUKE OF BEDFORD TO THE OFFICERS
AT CALAIS.

RIGHT trusty and wel-belovyd, We grete you well, And doo you to wite that we han received and seen yo^r letters that ye han nowe late sent us, and fullyche understanden the contenuie of thayme; of the whiche we thanke yow right hertely, and pray yow that, for oure comforte, ye wol continue to write forth unto us, and certiffie us, from tyme to tyme, of all suche tidings as that ye shall have; and, as touching unto the hevynesse that oure cousyn of Warrewyk hath unto yow, we have spoken unto hym therof, and praied him, that, by contemplacion of oure praier, he wol be yowr goode lorde, and remoeve his saide hevynesse from yowe. And nowe we writen unto hym also for the same cause, rizt tenderly, by oure letters; the whiche we sende yow with these, prayeng yow hertely, that ye wol govern yow unto him in alle wise goodely and frendely, as that ye owe to doo; and, as unto that that [ye] desire, by yo^r said letters, for to be certiffied from us, howe that we wol that ye shall govern and demene yow from hens forthwards, in the payments that ye shall make unto oure saide Cousyn, we wol and pray yow, that, by youre goode discrecion, ye govern yowe in suche wise therin, as that ye thenke that ye owe to doo of right and reason; tendering in asmuche as that ye goodely may oure saide Cousyn in his forsaide payments. And oure Lorde, etc.

XVII. (3).

A LETTER FROM RICHARD BOKELAND TO _____.

RIGHT worshipfull Brother, I commende me to yow, etc. and have received my lordes letters, oon direct to my lorde of Warrewik,

another to me, of whiche I beseche yow to thanke lowly his goode and gracious lordeship on my poure behalf, with due recommendacion, etc. And grauntmercy, brother, hertely of youre kynde and gentill letter to me (right welcome at this tyme and at all tymes, prayeng yow entierly of continuance, at suche tymes as ys yo^r goode layser,) and mene commyng betwix for my recomfort singular [*i.e.* thanking you for your intervention], certiffieng me also, yf ther be anything that lyeth in me here to doo to youre plesaunce. as hym that ye shall fynde als well willing and as hertely doo hit to my powaire as that that toucheth myn owen personne treuly. And, brother, touching thanswer of youre letter, wol ye wite, that my maisters, etc. presented my lordes letters unto my lorde of Warrewik; with as goodely langage of lowly submission on my behalf, that I might be received to myn answer and excuses, as we cowthe devyse. Natheles, yn conclusion, it wol nozt be, as yet, me to greet sorowe and hevyness, that never, at my witting, yave any cause or occasion of suche displeasaunce unto his lordeshipp, but have doo [done] and wolde doo, God knoweth, to my saide lorde of Warrewyk any servyce to my connyng and powaire, that him luste [that he may choose to] commaunde me with all myn hert, for to stande yn grace and favour of his goode lordeshipp, as I have ever desired. But, as I am lerned, he surmittethe to me as for cause principal of his offense and hevyn lordeshipp to me wardes, like as he doeth to my cousin Wydvyle and to Lowis John, but principally to me, that I shulde have be the first fynder, chief sterer, and grettest causer that my lorde [*i.e.* the Duke of Bedford] hadd thoffice of Capitaine of Caleys, as I have certiffied youe or [ere] this, the which cause wele considered, hit semeth to many men here, that hit fitteth my lorde to supporte, socour, and remedy his poure servants here yn suche cas and semblable, bering maugree [ill-will] for his service, yf they shul darre to doo his lordeshipp trew and profitable service in his absence, the whiche, withoute his special supportacion, can nozt be don, and eche day wers than other. Wherfor, brother, I pray yow

right hertely, and as instantely as I can, meveth [to move] my lords counssail there, to stere him to tendre the poure degree of all his servants here, and specially of me, amonges other, that at this tyme bere [bear] mooste maugre, the which, withouten socour of his lordeshipp, may not doo him suche service as were thaire desire and dutee; and if like to my lordes grace to write any more in this matere unto my lorde of Warrewyk for me, I pray you, brother, sendeth [send] me a cope of my lordes letters closed in youres for my more redy instruccion, ffor my lorde of Warrewyk is soo sore meved ayenst me in this matere, as I am plainly enformed that, onless than my lorde shewe me the better and more singular lordeshipp, men sayen hit hadde be muche better for me to have surcesed of my service longe or this. And therfor, brother, as ye be that personne that I have singular truste and affeccion unto, amonges all the servants that longeth to my lorde, I beseche yow doo suche diligence anenst my lorde for remedy of this maugree be youre goode discrecion, as I, with other his servants here, may stande in herts ese and seuretee for to doo him service here, like as, amonge all erthely desirs, is my special desire, and ever hope hath be to doo; and that I might have answer herof in alle goodely hast. Also, brother, there as my lordes letters maketh mencion, that I shulde gouvern me as tenderly as I can in preferring the payments due to my saide lorde of Warrewyk, God knoweth my will were to plesse my lord of Warrewyk in that or in any other thing to me possible; but it is harde for me to preferre thos payments withouten importable [insupportable] maugre on other parties. Considering that all thassignements of Caleys wol nojt suffice yerely to paye my lorde and his soudeours and the remenant of the Cappitaines of the Marches, that is to saye, my lord of Gloucestre and his soudeours of their part, and semblably other captaines of theirs, so that the preferment of of my saide lorde of Warrewyk moste [must] of necessite cause my lorde and his soudeours to renne [run] muche the more in dette, the whiche I mooste charge. Natheles, yf my lorde wol, algates, that it so be, I pray yow certify me therof, and I shal be redy til obeye

his commandement with right good wille, as my dutee requireth, yn that, and in all other, to my powaire, while I leve, with Gods grace, that ever have yow in his hooly keeping, and grante yow right goode lyf and longe. Also, brother, for as mucche as me semeth hit were expedient that my lorde see this letter, and redde hit, I beseche yow, as I truste yow entierly, that, yf you seme it be to doo, ye wol, at goode layzer, shewe hit til his lordeship, and clerely certiffie me, by your nexte letter, what he wol say thertoo, and how he taketh it.

XVIII. (4).

A LETTER FROM ————— TO RICHARD BOKELAND.

MY right worshipfull maister, I recomende me unto yow as humbly and entierly, with all myn herte, as that I can or best maye; thanking yow, in as mucche as that in any wise I suffice, of youre goodely letters that it hath liked youe to send me at this tyme; the whiche I have received, unto my greet comforte. And, as touching the hevynesse that my lorde of Warrewik hathe unto yow, my lorde hath spoken unto hym therof, before this (as he hath tolde me); and praied him that he wold be [to] youe good lorde, at the reverence of him, and by contemplacion of his prayere; and remoeve his saide hevynesse from yowe. And nowe he writeth unto hym also right tenderly thereof, and, as that ye see that he doeth, ye may writen agenn (and it like youe) and I shall enfourme my lord therof, that he may therupon write estersoones unto him, yf that nede be. [And] as unto [that] ye wolde be certiffied by my lorde, howe that he wolde that ye shulde demene yow in the payments that [ye] shall make unto my saide lorde of Warrewik, my lorde saith, that he wol that ye govern yow unto hym, in making of youre said payments, in such wise, as that ye owe to doo of right, and as that goode feith

and conscience wolde, tendering him in asmuche as that ye goodely may. As anendeth the convention that shulde be betwix my lorde and the Duc of Bretagne, my lorde hath appointed hit to be at Rouen, the xx day of May nexte comyng; but wheder that the saide Duc wol agree him therunto or not, my lorde is not yet plainely certiffied alweys; and it [he] wolde, I shall doo as muche in youre mater as that lyeth in my powaire, with all the help that I may geete, truly and in good feith. And as unto tidinges of thees parties [parts], I have enfourmed the berer of thees of all suche as that we han here, and prayed him for to make yow reporte therof. Hit were right nedefull and expedient that my lorde of Salisbury were here, for this same day my lorde hath tithinges from my lorde Talbot, that thenemys been assembled, and wol, within thes x dayes, leye siege unto Laval, or to sum other place. My Right Worshipfull, etc.

XIX. (5).

A LETTER FROM RICHARD BOKELAND TO RICHARD WYDVILE.

RIGHT worshipful Cousyn, etc. like it yow to wite, that my lorde of Bedford wrote late a letter to my lord of Warrewik, for to remeve his displeaunce anenst my persone, touching his discharge of [the] Capitainship of Caleys, the which letter, whann hit was presented unto my said lorde of Warrewik, he saide, as I am enfourmed, that ye had be besy to excuse youreself unto his lordeship, and surmitted the defaulte hooly upon Lowys John and me; the whiche noztwithstanding, he hathe yow never the more excused, as it is saide. Saying also, more over, that other he hathe, or hathe seyn, a letter that the saide Lowis John and I shulde have written to yow against his lordeship, yn that matier; the which I cannot suppos yn yow,

Cousyn, treuly; ffor hit shulde be to me to greet mervaile, yf it so were. For God knoweth that, yf a cas felle, that touched my worship, or the contrarye, as muche as were possible, I durste right well disclose hit unto yow, as for truste of trouthe and secretness, as muche as to any personne liffyng. And, treuly, I can not remembre me, that ever I wrote to yow any thing that shulde cause my saide lorde of Warrewyk to be thus displesed towards my personne; but in wrytyng, worde, and dede [I have] geven cause the contrary, at all tymes; ever desiring yow to be the mene, that I might stand under the favour of his goode lordeship. Also, Cousyn, my lorde of Warrewik is appointed to have the King in gouvernaunce; the manere and fourme I can not certiffie yow.

XX.

A LETTER FROM R. B., A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DUKE OF BEDFORD, EXCUSING HIMSELF FROM COMING TO PARHAM ON THE GROUND OF IMPORTANT BUSINESS CONCERNING THE DUKE HIS MASTER.

THREE personages are named in this letter, the Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, Sir John Salvayne, and Fulthrop. The Duke of Bedford was Regent of France from the death of Henry the Fifth (1422) until his own death (1435), and Sir John Salvayne died in 1432. Therefore this letter was written between the years 1422 and 1432. The writer, R. B., who was a member of the Council of the Duke of Bedford, I conceive to have been Richard Bokedland, Treasurer of Calais, a strong adherent of that prince, and one of his executors. I find that Robert the sixth Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, a distinguished captain in the French wars, was at this time owner of Parham in Suffolk, and he is twice mentioned by Hall in connection and close association with the Duke of Bedford and Sir John Salvayne.* I think, therefore, that it

* Hall, pp. 121 and 163.

may be assumed, that it was to him the letter was written. Parham in Suffolk was erected in 1547 into a barony in favour of a descendant of Robert Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, who took the title of Lord Willoughby of Parham. Parham was the family seat until the end of the 17th century, when the property was sold to John Currance or Corrance, esq. of Rendlesham, whose descendant is the present owner. A Sir John Fulthorpe is also mentioned by Hall* as having been with the Duke, Lord Willoughby, and Sir John Salvayne, at the siege of Lagny near Paris (11 H. VI.). Sir John Salvayne was the second son of Sir Gerard Salvayne of Herswell and North Duffield, county Durham, and he died 19th of January, 1432. The family of Salvin still flourishes in the county palatine of Durham. What the matters were affecting the Duke of Bedford and Sir John Salvayne, to which the letter refers, cannot now, it may be fairly presumed, be ascertained.

MY right worshipfull lorde and noble lorde, I recommend me unto youre goode lordeshipp, with my trewe hert and service. And please yow to understande, that I have received your worshipfull letters, by the bringer herof. By the which letters ye wol me to be with yow, at Parham, the xxii day of Cristenmasse, for a certaine matter touching Sir John Salvayn, as in youre said letters is more plainly expressed. Touching the which youre desire, like it youre Lordeshipp to wite, that my lorde of Bedford, Regent of the Reaume of Fraunce, hath late yeven in commandement by his letters to his counssail in this lande, and soo to me amongs other of his servants here, that we shulde mete to gederes atte London, upon ffridaye nexte after the date of this letter, for certaines chargeable matiers conserving [concerning?] his high and noble astate. Atte which tyme I muste of verraye necessitee be ther present with other of my saide lorde is [his] counssaile, after his commandement. And also hit standeth soo that Fulthrop, withouten whom the saide matiers might not procede to an effectual conclusion, is not here present, soo that I may not fulfill youre entencion, as to be with yow at the saide xxij day, like as my desire were in that and in all other to obbey youre commandement. Wherefore I beseche youre goode lordeshippe to

* Hall, p. 163.

have me excused as of my commyng to Parham at this tyme, considering the forsaid causes. And that it like you, my lorde, for the greet truste that the said Sir John Salvayn hathe in youre goode lordeshipp, that ye wol appointe suche of your counssail as yow liketh to be here atte the begynnyng of this terme, with soufficeant powaire and instruccion, for to conclude the saide matiere, with Godd's grace. Atte which tyme I suppos Fulthrop wolbe here, and I truste to God that we shall soo demene us in that mater, as youre lordeshipp shalbe plesed, as ferre as longeth to the partie of Sir John Salvayne, etc.

R. B.

 XXI.

 A LETTER FROM J. B. TO THE OFFICER HOLDING THE SUBSIDY
 OF THE WOOLS (PROBABLY) AT CALAIS.

I judge this letter to have been written by John Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, and during the early part of the reign of Henry VI. I have no means of more accurately determining its date.

TRUSTY and welbiloved, We greet you often tymes well. And for as much as Richard Bokeland, tresorer of Caleys, ys assigned to receive by youre handes, [out] of the remenn; [remainder] of the subside of the wolles c^u., for money which he lent to the Kinge: We wolle and praye yow, that ye see he be paid, and content of the seid some, in the haste that ye may goodly—receiving of hym a toale [*tale*?] thereof, for youre discharge. And Gode have youe in his keping. Writen, etc.

J. B.

XXII.

A ROYAL LETTER TO THE MAYOR AND ALDERMEN OF LONDON,
RECOMMENDING A CLERK FOR THE NEXT AVOIDANCE OF
THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PETER IN CORNHILL.

THE Church of St. Peter Cornhill was one of the most ancient in the city of London, perhaps in England. It was burnt in the Great Fire in 1666, but was rebuilt. The manor of Leaden-Hall, with the appurtenances, and the advowson of St. Peter's Cornhill, was in 1411 confirmed by Richard Whittington and others, citizens of London, to the Corporation of London, and they have been patrons of the Church ever since. I have not found any incumbent during the reign of Henry VI. whose initials were T. B., nor have I any means of determining the date of this letter.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, We grete you wel. And for as moech as we be enfourmed that the Paroish church of Saint Petre in Cornehull is like, withinneshorte tyme, to voide, wherof ye be patrons, as it is said. We therefore, havynge consideracion unto the vertues and konnyng which be reported unto us to be and rest in the personne of o^r welbeloved Thomas B., whom the paroisshiens of the said paroish have in greate tendrenesse, for the good conversacion that he long tyme hath beknown amongst theym to be of, pray you affectuously that, at reverence and contemplacion of us, ye wol have hym unto the said benefice, at such tyme as hit shal nexte voide, before all other especiall recommended. Wherinne ye shall do unto us, etc.

To the Mair and Aldermen of London.

XXIII.

A LETTER TO THE ABBOT OF ABINGDON.

THE vicarage of St. Aldate's Oxford was formerly in the alternate presentation of the Abbots of Abingdon and St. Frideswide's Abbey, now Christ Church.

It afterwards came to the Crown, and was bestowed by Charles I. on Pembroke College, by which college it has been lately sold to Mr. Simeon's trustees. There does not appear to be any record of the presentation of Robert Markham either at Christ Church or at Lincoln, in which diocese Oxford formerly was.

BY THE KINGE.

TRUSTY and welbelovyd in God, we greet yow wel, and late yow wite, that we be enformed how the chirch of Saint Aldes, withinne oure Universite of Oxon, being of yo^r patronage, is voide or like hastily to void, by the decesse of thincumbent of the same. Wherfore we, considering the vertueux cunningg and goode zeal and disposicion, that, as we be enformed, resten in the personne of oure welbeloved Maister Robert Markham, desire and hertely praye you that, at the reverence of us, ye wol have him unto the saide chirche if it be voide, or at suche tyme as hit shall nexte void, especially recommended. Wherinne ye shall doo unto us good pleasure. Yeven, &c. the XXVI day of Feverer.

Thabbot of Abyndon.

XXIV.

A LETTER FROM ONE OF DUCAL RANK, RESPECTING JEWELS OF HIS IN PAWN TO MERCHANTS AT BRUGES.

I can only conjecture that the writer of this letter, who was of ducal rank, and who had lately lost his wife, may have been the Duke of Bedford, whose first wife Anne, sister to the Duke of Burgundy, died at Paris the 13th or 14th November, 1432. He married again 20th April, 1433. The Duke was at this time Captain of Calais, and perhaps the letter was addressed to Richard Boke-land, who was still Treasurer of Calais. The pawning of jewels by persons of high rank was very common in the 15th century. I can discover nothing respecting the Flemish merchants, Charles Giles and Johan Martyn. If I am right in my conjecture as to the writer of this letter, it would have been written between November 1432 and April 1433.

RIGHT trusty and welbelovyd, We grete yow well; and for as moche as it hathe liked oure blessed Createure [Creator], now late to take oute of this worlde unto his pardurable blisse, as we truste, oure wif the Duchesse that was, whoos soule God assoille; wherethorough we have greet nede to recovere oure Joialux, and hire beyng yet in Bruges, with and in the handes of Carles Giles and Johan Martyn, Marchaunts of lignes (?) and dwelling in Bruges for the some of 11^m ix^ciiij. etc. of Flandres, or the value of thayme, as thei be worth in London. We pray yow hertly that, fore the quityng oute of oure said Joialux, ye wol, in all goodely haste, doo all youre goode devoir and possible diligence, taking all oure said Joialux hooly into youre handes and warde, and keping theyme stille unto the tyme that ye be fully paied and content by us ayein of all youre goode, that ye shall paye for the said cause. Withoute that ye wol not faille herof in any wise, as oure truste is unto youe, and as ye desire oure goode lordshippe; witting that ye may do us therin bothe worshipp and greet hertsease; and God, etc. Yeven under oure Signett, atte etc. the daye, etc.

XXV.

A LETTER FROM CARDINAL BEAUFORT TO E. L. B.

Of the four following letters I believe the first and the last (which seems to be only a fragment) to have been written by Henry Bishop of Winchester, commonly called Cardinal Beaufort, Cardinal of Winchester and Cardinal of England. His Roman title was Cardinal of St. Eusebius. The first letter was addressed to E. L. B.; who wrote the second to the Cardinal, in reply to the first; and the third, addressed by E. L. B. to the Duke of Bedford, was sent to the Cardinal to be delivered to the Duke, and was probably inclosed in the second. Who E. L. B. was I have no means of ascertaining; but the tone of the Cardinal's letter to him and of his reply shews him, I think, to have been a personage of very high rank. The reader will note the curious present, the "ampulle" or phial, which E. L. B. sends to the Duke. The fragment which is all that remains of the fourth letter from the Cardinal to the Duke is an

instance, as far as it goes, of that singular commixture of business and piety, which the churchmen of the fifteenth century knew so well how to exhibit.

The letters were certainly written soon after the 23rd June, 1433, when Richard Chichester, named in the first letter, was presented to his living,^a and before the 14th September, 1435, when the Duke of Bedford died. I strongly suspect that they were written in July, 1435, just before Cardinal Beaufort left England to attend the Congress of Arras. The last siege of Mont St. Michel by the English, where the Cardinal's ship "cleped 'The Mary of the Toure'" was taken by the Bretons, occurred in 1423. In the Ashmolean MSS. No. 789, p. 164, is a fragment of a Latin letter, said in the Catalogue to be from Henry VI. to a certain prelate (*ad prælatum quendam*) dated 18th February, 1437-8, promising the restoration of a ship of his taken at Mont St. Michel off the coast of Brittany. The prelate was perhaps the Bishop of Winchester. I have been unable to discover anything about the Moot Hall (*eo nomine*) at Calais, and the shops underneath it. I find, however, in certain Calais accounts of the year 1439, still extant at the Record Office, mention made of "*octo shopas in fine occidentali magne aule in foro Cales.*"^b Perhaps Thomas Christopher's shops, which the Cardinal promises to "see unto," were amongst these.

HIGH and mighte, and my full noble Lorde, I recommend me unto yower good lordeship, in as humble wise as I can, or may, in any wise; desiring (as I am full moche beholden) to wite of the welfare and prosperities of youre high and noble estate, the whiche I besече our Lorde alwaies governe and preserve, after his pleasaunt wolle, and your owen noble desires. Signiffiing unto your said lordeshippe, that I have received your worshipfull letters, by the which ye comaunde me, that I shulde see unto certaines shoppes that youre Squier Thomas Xtofer hathe within the toune of Caleys; and to lete theym to ferme to his moste proffit, etc.—touching the whiche your comaundement, as well in that mater as in all othir, that is possible to me to execute, I shall, with Godd's grace, doo such diligence, as youre seid lordeshippe shalbe pleased, I hoope;

^a Bishop Lacy's Register, vol. ii. fo. 79. I have to thank Mr. John Carew of Exeter for his kindness in examining the Bishop's Register, which has enabled me to determine the date of these letters. See also Pole's *Devon*, pp. 384 and 524.

^b Accounts of Ro. Whityngham, Treasurer of Calais (17 H. VI).

and, if ther be any thing, there or elles where, that ye wott of, yo^r lordeshippe comaunde me, youre servant, and [I] always shall be redy to obey youre noble comaundements, to my powaire. Upon Friday nexte, I am purposed, with Godd's grace, to departe out of this toun towards Caleis, and, soone after my comyng thither, other [either] to ride my self, or to send, unto my Lorde the Regent of France, to pursue for restitution of my shippe, that was late taken in the Kinges service; beseeching youre good and gracious lordeshippe, that yow like to write unto my forseid Lorde youre letters of recommendation, for the better expedicion of my pursuite in that partie. Ferthermore, my Lorde, ther is a good frende of myne, oon Richard Chichestre, a clerke with my lorde the Bishop of Excestre, late present to a chirche called Litiltory,^a within the dioces of Excestre; and the seid clerke is institute and induct in corporal possession. The which chirche is within the taxe, as my maister Clerc of the Rolles certified you, by a bill under his seall. Like it unto youre seid lordeshippe, I beseche yow, my lorde, to graunt to the forseid Richard a ratification of the forseid chirche, for the fortification of his tittle, and possession in the same. High and myghte, and my full noble Lorde, I beseche the Blessed Trinitee have yow ever in his holy keping, and grante yow right goode lyf and longe.

H. Wre.

XXVI.

A LETTER FROM E. L. B. TO CARDINAL BEAUFORT.

RIGHT dere and welbelovd Cousin, We grete yow well; Doyng youe to wite, that we have sent yow a letter, to be take unto my Lorde of Bedford; whiche we praye yow to take hym, other elles [or else]

^a The name of the parish to the church of which Richard Chichester was presented is Little Torrington (Torrington Parva) Little Torrinton or Little Toryton. See Bishop Lacy's Reg. vol. ii. fo. 79; Pole's Devon, pp. 384, 524.

that ye ordaine that it be take to hym, after youre discrecion. Also we have sent yow an ampulle, which we praye yow to approve, in presence of my lorde forsaide, and take him, in oure name. No more; but Allmightie gode save yowe, and encrese yow unto his worship.

E. L. B.

XXVII.

A LETTER FROM E. L. B. TO JOHN DUKE OF BEDFORD.

UNTO the Right High, Worthie, Right Mightie, and noble Prince, my right douted Lorde the Duc of Bedford, Regent of France.

Right trustie and welbeloved, We grete you well ofte tymes. And for as muche as oure welbelovyd Squier, Thomas Christopher, hath, within the toune of Caleys, certaines shoppes, undernethe the Mootehall, whiche were wonte to yelde hym x marcs of rent by yere; and it is now soo, that this three [years] passed, and moo, he had not therof but vii. nobles, as he saith; we praye yow hertely that, considered that the said Christopher may not goodly be oute of our service, at this tyme, ne entend [attend] to the better governance of his said rent; ye wol, at reverence of us, and throw contemplacion of these our prayers, ordeine soo for lettyng of the said shoppes, as oure greet truste is unto yow, that they may be of as great avayle unto hym, yf it be possible—as we trust hit shall wele, thorowe youre good pollicie and governance—as they have be here to fore. And soo, in all wise, pourveying therfore, to his prouffite, as ye wolde doo and they were youre owen. And, moreover, that ye woll receive of oon Thomas Hende, a servant of the staple, viii^{li}., which is due unto oure seid Squier, by an obligacion (as he saith) by the seid Hende; whiche obligacion is in the keping of Jankyn Loundey of Caleys, or of his wyf. And for as muche as the same

Loundey hath had the governance of the seide shoppes all these iii. yere and more, yelding no more unto oure seid Squier bote, etc. hit were his entent that ye shulde take accomptes of the same Loundey, and receive of hym that ye fynde due; and answeere oure seid Squier thereof. In which thing ye shall doo us right greet pleasure; and God have youe in his keping, etc. Writen, etc.

XXVIII.

A LETTER FROM CARDINAL BEAUFORT TO JOHN DUKE OF BEDFORD.

HIGH and mightie Prince, my full noble and full gracious Lorde, I recommend me unto your good and gracious lordship, in the most lowly wise that I can or may, yn any wise. Desiryng full entirely, as a trew servant oweth of duetee til his lorde, to wite of the welfare and prosperite of youre noble astate, the which I beseche hertely Almighty god preserve and encres, in the best wise that other can be wished or desired. And, for as muche as it is knowen unto your lordship, as I suppose, that, by auctoritee and commandement of yow, my gracious lorde, a shippe of myne cleped The Mary of the Toure, was arested to doo the King service and yow, atte the siege of Mont Saint Michel, and there abode truly in the Kyngs service, and was taken by certaines enemys, Bretons, unto right greet losse and harmyng of me youre poure man

XXIX.

A LETTER TO THE ABBOT OF WESTMINSTER.

THE patronage of St. Magnus, at the foot of London Bridge, was formerly and down to the dissolution of religious houses in Henry the Eighth's time, in the

Abbot and Convent of Westminster and the Abbot and Convent of Bermondsey, who presented alternately. Queen Mary, in 1554, gave it to Bonner Bishop of London, and to his successors, with whom it still remains. This letter was written by the King, between 1434 and 1444, and does not appear to have been successful. The name of Thomas Gascoigne is not to be found in the list of Rectors, tempore Hen. VI. published by Newcourt. Thomas Gascoigne was four times Chancellor of Oxford,^a but on not one of those occasions was there a vacancy at St. Magnus, at which the Abbot of Westminster could have presented. The King had been misinformed. Newcourt remarks, on the authority of Wood, of this Thomas Gascoigne, that, although he was a man of great eminence and worth, he was never offered any church preferment of any kind.^b This seems, from this letter, not to have been literally true.

TRUSTY and welbeloved in God, We grete, etc. And for asmoche as the paroiSSH chirch of St. Magnes (Magnus) in London is now voide by the decesse of the last incumbent of the same, and beying to youre disposicion, as hit is said, We, considerynge the vertues [and] greet conyng of our trusty and welbeloved chapeleyn, M. T. Gascoigne, Doctor in Theologie, and Chauncellor of our Universite of Oxon, desire and praye you hertly that, at reverence of us, and namely for contemplacion of his merites, ye woll have hym especially recommended unto the said benefice, before all other; wherinne ye shall worshipfully dispose the said chirch unto the pleasir of God, as we trust, and, over [beyond] that, do unto us right good pleasir. Yeven, etc.

To Thabbot of Westminster.

^a In 1434, 1442, 1443, and 1444, *Antiq. Oxon.* (Gutch) iv. pp. 45, 48, 49, and 50.

^b *Newc. Rep.* vol. i. p. 525, note *d.* Thomas Gascoigne is said to have been some time a commoner of Oriel. He presented books to this and other colleges at Oxford, but chiefly to Lincoln College. At Lincoln College is Gascoigne's *Theological Dictionary*, still remaining in manuscript, a work continually quoted, and which appears to be replete with information respecting the English Church of the 15th century. A volume of the Harl. MSS. (No. 6949) is full of extracts from this work.

XXX.

A MANDATE FROM THE KING TO THE LORD PRIVY SEAL, COMMANDING HIM TO DIRECT LETTERS TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR OF ENGLAND, THAT HE ISSUE A CONGÉ D'ÉLIRE TO THE PRIOR AND CONVENT OF THE MONASTERY OF READING, ON THE DEATH OF THOMAS HENLEY, THE LAST ABBOT THEREOF.

THOMAS HENLEY was abbot of Reading from 1430 to 11th November, 1445. The congé d'elire is dated the 13th November, 24 Hen. VI. (1445). The election of John Thorne took place 7th January, 1446. The Lord Chancellor was John Stafford, Archbishop of Canterbury. The Bishop of Salisbury, who confirmed John Thorn in his post of Abbot, was William Ascough, afterwards murdered. All Berkshire was at this time within the diocese of Salisbury.

PER REGEM.

SINCERE DILECTE,—Cum monasterium nostrum Radinge per mortem fratris Thome Henley ultimi Abbatis ibidem sit pastoris solacio destitutus, supplicaveruntque perinde nobis humiliter et devote Prior et Conventus ejusdem loci, ut eis alium in ipsorum et dicti monasterii abbatem licenciam elegendi concedere dignaremur, sicuti per literas suas patentes sigillatas, quas vobis presentibus mittimus interclusas, plenius poterit apparere: Nos igitur, eorum supplicationi in ea parte favorabiliter inclinati, licenciam ipsam duximus concedendam. Et ideo vobis mandamus quod sub privato sigillo nostro

WELLBELOVED,—Whereas our monastery of Reading by the death of Brother Thomas Henley, the last Abbot thereof, is deprived of the comfort of a pastor, and the Prior and Convent of the same place have prayed us humbly and devoutly that we will deign to grant them leave to elect another Abbot of their said monastery, as by their letters patent sealed, which we send inclosed within these presents, may more fully appear: We, therefore, being favourably inclined to their supplication in that behalf, have thought fit to grant them the said licence. Therefore we command you that ye cause to be made letters

litteras super hoc nostras Cancellario nostro Anglie dirigendas in forma debita fieri faciatis. Et presentes litere nostre vobis erunt sufficientes in warrantum. Dat. sub signeto nostro in palacio nostro Westm. xiii. die Novembris anno, etc. xxiii^{to}.

XXXI.

A MANDATE FROM THE KING TO THE LORD PRIVY SEAL, SIGNIFYING THE ROYAL ASSENT TO THE ELECTION OF JOHN THORN AS ABBOT OF READING.

PER REGEM.

SINCERE DILECTE,—Vacante nuper Monasterio Radinge per mortem fratris Thome de Henlee ultimi Abbatis ibidem: Prior et Conventus dicti monasterii, petita de nobis in ea parte, ut est moris, licencia pariter et obtenta, fratrem Johannem Thorn Sacre Theologie Bacallareum in eorum dicti monasterii abbatem per viam Spiritus Sancti concorditer et unanimiter elegerunt, prout per litteras eorundem Prioris et Conventus, quas vobis transmittimus presentibus interclusas, plenius poterit apparere. Nos igitur, dictam eleccionem merito ac-

under our privy seal in this matter, the same to be directed to our Chancellor of England in due form. And these our present letters shall be your sufficient warrant. Given under our signet, in our Palace at Westminster, 13th day of November, in the 24th year of our reign.

WELLBELOVED,—Whereas our monastery of Radinge being lately vacant by the death of Brother Thomas de Henlee, the last Abbot there, the Prior and Convent of the said monastery, having besought us in that behalf, as is usual, to grant our licence (which they obtained), have, with the assistance of the Holy Ghost, unanimously elected Brother John Thorn, S.T.B., to be abbot of their said monastery, as by the letters of the same Prior and Convent, which we send you inclosed within these presents, may more fully appear.

ceptantes, dicte electioni et electo regium nostrum assensum adhibemus cum favore. Et ideo vobis mandamus quod literas super hoc nostras Cancellario nostro Anglie dirigendas sub privato sigillo nostro in forma debita et consueta fieri faciatis; et hec litere nostre vobis erunt sufficientes in warrantum. Datum sub signeto nostro apud etc.

XXXII.

CONFIRMATION OF JOHN THORN AS ABBOT OF READING.

PER REGEM.

SINCERE DILECTE,—Sciatis quod Reverendus in Christo pater Wilhelmus Sarum Episcopus, per suas patentes literas, quas vobis transmittimus presentibus interclusas, nobis nuper intimavit qualiter ipse electionem fratris J. Thorn monachi in Abbatem monasterii nostri Radinge, per mortem fratris Thomæ Henlee ultimi Abbatis ibidem defuncti vacantis, electi, adhibita juris solemnitate confirmari, ac eidem manibus benedictionis impendi fecit, justitia id suadente. Supplicavitque perinde nobis idem Reverendus Pater ut prefatum fratrem

Wherefore we, worthily accepting the said election, do willingly give our royal consent to the said election and elected [clerk]. And therefore we command you, that ye cause to be made our letters in that matter to our Chancellor of England to be directed, under our privy seal, in usual and accustomed form; and these our letters shall be unto you sufficient warrant. Given under our signet at, &c.

WELLBELOVED,—Know ye that the Reverend Father in Christ William Bishop of Sarum, by his letters patent, which we transmit to you inclosed within these presents, hath lately informed us how he hath caused to be confirmed the election of Brother J. Thorn, a monk, as Abbot of our Monastery of Radinge, vacant by the death of brother Thomas Henlee, the last abbot there, deceased, with all lawful solemnity thereunto appertaining, and hath blessed him by the imposition of hands, as was right and just. The same reverend father hath besought us that we will deign to accept the aforesaid Brother J. chosen,

J. electum confirmatum et benedictum acceptare, sibi que regium favorem nostrum impendere, ac cetera jura temporalia ad predictum monasterium nostrum spectancia, juxta morem et consuetudinem Regni Anglie, concedere dignemur. Nos igitur dictam eleccionem confirmatam et benediccionem ac fidelitatem eidem duximus.

Et ideo vobis mandamus, et cet.

XXXIII.

A LETTER FROM HENRY VI. TO THOMAS BECKINGTON, BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS.

THOMAS BECKINGTON was consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells 13th October, 1443.^a John Forrest, Dean of Wells, died the 25th March, 1446, and appears to have been succeeded for a short time by John Delabere, the King's Great Almoner,^b the person named in the King's letter to Beckington. Some obscurity hangs over the election of Delabere to the deanery. He seems to have been opposed by Nicholas Carent, who had a majority of the Canons in his favour, and who was confirmed by Beckington. Nevertheless the claim of Delabere to the vacant dignity, which was supported by the royal letter, and also by a papal bull,^c appears to have prevailed; but he was never installed, and, on the 15th September, 1447, Delabere became Bishop of St. David's.^d Subsequently he resigned his see.^e Gascoigne says Delabere was a very indifferent character. Nicholas Carent succeeded Delabere as Dean of Wells. I conceive this letter to have been written 29th March, 1446.

BY THE KINGE.

REVEREND fader in God, &c. We grete yow often tymes wel. We suppose that ye have wel in remembrance how that at divers

confirmed and blessed (consecrated?) and that We would think fit to bestow on him our royal favour, and to grant all other temporal rights relating unto our said monastery, according to the usage and custom of the realm of England. We therefore, &c.

^a Fasti Eccl. Ang. i. 141. Life of Beckington (Nicolas), lvi.

^b Fasti, i. 152.

^c Phelps's Somerset, ii. 144.

^d Fasti, i. 298.

^e Ibid.

tymes herbefore we desired and prayed yow hertly to be goode and favorable lorde unto oure trusty and welbelovyd clerk Maister J. Delabere, oure greet Aumsner [Almoner], whensoever the Deanry of Welles shulde voide; at which tymes ye were well willed and made ful promesse unto us to doo youre peyne and diligence to the performing of oure desire, yf the cas shulde happen; wherof we cun yow right good thanke. And, for as moche as the seid Deanry is now void, by the decesse of M. J. Forest, last incumbent of the same, We therefore write unto yowe at this tyme, and pray yow, as hertely as we can, that, in performing of yo^r said promesse, ye wolbe goode and special lorde, in this matier, unto oure saide clerke, and do all yo^r possible diligence to sollicite yo^r brethren Chanons of Welles, to have hym specially recommended to the seid Deanry, in their next elleccion; so tenderly and effectuely acquiting yow herin, that we may verayly understand that, by oure good mediation, the saide mater may the rather come to a good conclusion, after thentente of this oure special desire, as oure greet truste is in yow; and, over this, we wol that ye yeve credence unto the bringer herof, in that he shall secretly open unto yow by oure commandement, in this behalve. Yeven at Westm^r the xxix day, &c.

To the Bishop of Bath.

XXXIV.

A LETTER TO THE LORD SUDELEY, LORD HIGH TREASURER.

SIR RALPH BOTELEK, Lord Sudeley, was Lord Treasurer from 1444 to 1447.^a James (not John) Grysacre ceased to be Escheator for the counties of Herts and Essex in 1445 (24 Hen. VI.).^b This letter was probably written in that year. The successor of Grysacre was Thomas Scargill;^c John Bourgh therefore, who was a Yeoman of the Crown,^d was unsuccessful.

^a Parl. Hist. vol. i.

^c Ibid.

^b Esch. Acc. Essex and Herts (Hen. VI.).

^d Acts P. C. v. 224.

R. TRUSTY, etc. We grete, etc. And for as moch as John Crisacre, late Eschetour of the Countees of Essex and Hertford, is now passed to God; We, considering that o^r welbeloved squier and menial servant John Bourgh is inherited in both the shires, and can and may do unto us good service in the said occupacion, as hit is said, wol and praye you hertly that ye wol do your parte, asmoche, as in you is, that our said squier may be deputed to be, at this time, our Eschetour in the said countees before all other, shewing herinne your binevolence unto hym, as we may have cause to thank you for his sake. Yeven, etc.

To the Lorde Seudeley, Tresorer of England.

XXXV.

A MANDATE TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR, RESPECTING THE ELECTION OF WILLIAM BABYNGTON, D.D., AS ABBOT OF THE MONASTERY OF ST. EDMUNDSBURY, ON THE DEATH OF WILLIAM CURTEYS.

WILLIAM CURTEYS was abbot of St. Edmundsbury from 1429 to his death in 1446, when he was succeeded by William Babyngton. During the abbacy of William Curteys King Henry VI. paid a long visit to the monastery.* The Lord Chancellor was John Stafford, Archbishop of Canterbury.

PER REGEM.

REVERENDISSIME in Christo pater, nobis confise et sincere dilecte,—Vacante nuper monasterio nostro Sancti Edmundi de Bury ordinis Sancti Benedicti, Norwicensis dioc., per mortem fratris Willi

BY THE KING.

Most Reverend Father in Christ, our trusty and wellbeloved,—Our monastery of St. Edmundsbury, of the order of St. Benedict, in the diocese of Norwich, being lately vacant by the death of brother William Curteys, the last Abbot

* Dugd. Mon. iii. 113, 114, 115.

Curteys ultimi Abbatis ibidem, Prior et Capitulus dicti loci, petita de nobis in ea parte ut est moris licencia pariter et obtenta, venerabilem et religiosum virum fratrem Wifm Babyngton decretorum Doctorem in ipsorum et dicti monasterii nostri Abbatem, unanimi voluntate et consensu, uno spiritu et una voce, concorditer elegerunt, prout per literas eorundem Prioris et Conventus, quas vobis transmittimus presentibus interclusas, plenius poterit apparere. Nos igitur dictam eleccionem merito acceptantes, dicte eleccioni et electo Regium nostrum assensum pariter et consensum adhibemus omni favore. Et ideo mandamus quod literas super hoc nostras sub magno sigillo nostro, in custodia vestra existente, in forma debita et consuetudine fieri faciatis. Et hec litere nostre, etc.

XXXVI.

TWO MANDATES TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER, FOR A CONGE D'ELIRE TO ISSUE TO THE PRIOR AND CONVENT OF WALDEN, ON THE DEATH OF JOHN HORKESLEY, THE LAST ABBOT THEREOF; AND FOR THE CONFIRMATION OF THE NEW ABBOT, RICHARD WILESEY.

THE Benedictine Abbey of Walden in Essex, dedicated to St. Mary and St. James, was founded A.D. 1136 by Geoffrey de Mandeville first Earl of Essex

there, the Prior and Chapter of the said place, having petitioned us in that behalf, as is customary, for leave (which they have obtained), likewise have unanimously, and with one consent, mind, and voice, elected that venerable and religious man, brother William Babington, doctor of decrees, as their Abbot and of our said monastery, as by the letters of the same Prior and Convent, which we transmit you inclosed within these presents, will more fully appear; We, therefore, accepting with all good will the said election, do give to the same, and to the elected [abbot], our royal assent and consent. And therefore we command you that you cause to be made our letters in this behalf under our great seal remaining in your custody in the usual and customary form. And these our letters, etc.

of that family.^a Geoffrey endowed it with many possessions, amongst others with the Hermitage of Hadley (*heremitagium de Hadeleya*), in the county of Middlesex, with appurtenances and common of pasture for cattle in his park, where that hermitage stood (*in parco meo in quo heremitagium illud situm est*).^b Walden formed part of the inheritance of the Bohuns; and, on the partition between Henry the Fifth and Anne Plantagenet, Lady Bouchier, which took place in 1421, Walden fell to the King, and was incorporated with the Duchy of Lancaster.^c Hence it is that this mandate is addressed to the Chancellor of the Duchy.

On the resignation of Thomas Bennington, 17th Abbot of Walden, on the 13th December, 1438, John Horkesley was instituted by Robert Gilbert, Bishop of London.^d The date of the death of Abbot Horkesley appears not to be known; but, as the mandate next following that event for the institution of Richard Wilesey, his successor, is addressed to Robert Bishop of London, who died in 1448,^e the death of Horkesley must have occurred either previously to or in that year. The Chancellor of the Duchy, to whom both mandates were addressed, was either Walter Sherington or William Tresham.^f Audley End is built upon the site of Walden Abbey. The second mandate is said to be "given under our signet of the eagle." This is the only occasion on which I have met with any reference to "the eagle" amongst these letters.^g

PER REGEM.

SINCERE DILECTE,—Cum monasterium de Walden, ordinis Sancti Benedicti, London. dioc., per mortem fratris Johannis Horkesley ultimi Abbatis ejusdem, sit pastoris solacio destitutum, supplica-

BY THE KING.

WELL BELOVED,—Inasmuch as the Monastery of Walden, of the order of St. Benedict, within the diocese of London, by the death of brother John Horkesley, the last Abbot thereof, hath been deprived of the comfort of a pastor, and the Prior and Convent of the same place have petitioned us by their letters patent, inclosed within these presents, that we might be pleased to

^a Morant, vol. ii. p. 548. ^b Dugd. Mon. iv. 133, 149. ^c Morant, vol. ii. p. 547.

^d Stevens's Hist. of Abbeys, vol. i. p. 299. Dugd. Mon. iv. 135. Newcourt, vol. ii. 623.

^e Fasti Eccl. Angl. vol. ii. p. 296.

^f Baines's Lancashire, vol. i. p. 183.

^g As to the "seal of the eagle," see a note of Sir H. Nicolas in the Index to "Beckington's Journal of an Embassy to the Count of Armagnac," pp. 113 and 129, and the authorities there referred to.

verunt nobis Prior et Conventus ejusdem loci, per literas suas patentes, presentibus interclusas, quatenus alium ipsorum, [et] dicti monasterii, Abbatem licenciam elegendi eis concedere dignaremur; Nos, eorum supplicationi favorabiliter inclinati, dictam licenciam duximus concedendam; et ideo vobis mandamus quod hanc super hoc, sub sigillo nostro ducatus nostri Lancastrie, in forma debita, fieri faciatis. Et presentes litere nostre vobis erunt sufficientes in warrantum. Dat. etc.

PER REGEM.

SINCERE DILECTE,—Cum, nuper vacante monasterio Sancti Jacobi de Walden, London. dioc., per mortem fratris Johannis Horkysley, ultimi Abbatis ejusdem, petitaque a nobis per eos prout decuit licencia eis et eidem monasterio alium elegendi in Abbatem et per nos concessa, religiosum virum fratrem Ricardum Wilesey priorem monasterii sui predicti in suum et dicti monasterii sui Abbatem concorditer elegerunt et pastorem, ac eundem fratrem Ricardum suum, ut premititur, electum nobis per Willimum Barnwell suum confratrem et comonachum procuratorem suum sufficienter et libere per eos in

grant them licence to elect another as their Abbot of the same monastery; We, being favourably inclined to their supplication, held that the said licence ought to be granted; and therefore we command you that hereupon ye cause the same to be made out under the seal of our Duchy of Lancaster in due form. And for this, these our present letters shall be your sufficient warrant. Given, &c.

BY THE KING.

WELL BELOVED,—The Monastery of St. James of Walden, in the diocese of London, being lately vacant by the death of brother John Horkysley, the last Abbot thereof, and they (*i.e.* the monastery) having duly besought us to grant unto them our licence to elect another Abbot for the same monastery, and it having been conceded by us, they have with one accord elected the religious man brother Richard Wilesey, the prior of the same monastery, to be the Abbot and pastor of the said monastery, and they have presented to us the same brother Richard, elected as aforesaid, by William Barn-

parte constitutum presentaverunt; prout per has suas patentes, quas vobis mittimus hiis interclusas, plenius poterit apparere; Nos, personam dicti electi recommendatam habentes, et predictæ electioni sue nostrum consensum regium liberaliter impendentes, vobis mandamus quod, sub sigillo nostro Ducatus nostri Lancastrie in vestra custodia existente, literas nostras pro confirmacione ejusdem Reverendo in Christo patri Roberto Dei gratia London. Episcopo eorum ordinario in debita forma fieri faciatis. Et presentes literæ nostre vobis erunt sufficientes in warrantum. Dat. sub nostro agle signeto.

Cancellario nostro Ducat. nostri Lancast.

XXXVII.

A LETTER FROM THE KING TO JAMES LORD BERKELEY.

THIS letter is addressed to James Lord Berkeley, nephew and heir to Thomas 12th Baron Berkeley,* who died in 1416, leaving an only daughter and heir Elizabeth, who married Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick. As next heir male to the last Baron, James Lord Berkeley claimed Berkeley Castle, but was dispossessed by the Earl of Warwick and his wife, who, although Lord James was found to be the rightful inheritor, still kept possession of the castle against him, nor did they give it up until commanded to do so by King Henry the Fifth.* After the death of the King, Lord Warwick again laid siege to Berkeley Castle, and, although, by the interposition of the Bishop of Worcester and sundry gentlemen of the county, he raised the siege, many lives were

well, his brother and fellow monk, his proxy sufficiently and freely constituted in that behalf, as by these their letters patent, which we send you inclosed, may more fully appear; We, having the person of the said elected person recommended unto us, and freely giving our royal consent to his said election, command you that, under our seal of our Duchy of Lancaster remaining in your custody, ye cause to be made our letters for the confirmation of the same to the Reverend Father in Christ Robert by the grace of God Bishop of London, their ordinary, in due form. And these our present letters shall be unto you sufficient warrant. Given under our signet of the eagle.

To our Chancellor of our Duchy of Lancaster.

* Twelfth Baron by tenure, fifth Baron by writ. (Nicolas.)

lost. Through the intervention of Humphrey Duke of Gloucester matters were arranged, and James Baron Berkeley was summoned to Parliament, and continued to be summoned until 1 Edw. IV. 1461. His life appears to have been very far from a quiet one, and he was involved in continual suits, contentions, and quarrels with the three daughters of the Earl of Warwick. Of these Margaret, the eldest, wife of John Talbot, the great Earl of Shrewsbury, was the most violent. She surprised Berkeley Castle, carried off Lord James and his four sons to Bristol, where she kept them in prison for eleven weeks until they bound themselves to pay 12,280*l.* Notwithstanding these and other exactions, Lord James was not righted. His wife was imprisoned by Lord Shrewsbury at Gloucester until her death in 1452, and two of his sons were forcibly sent abroad, where one (James) died in battle, and the other (Thomas) was taken prisoner. Lady Shrewsbury was able to keep Lord James for two years out of Berkeley Castle "and out of the lands and lordships thereto belonging, in the meantime making great spoil and waste upon them." The whole story is detailed in Dugdale's *Baronage* (vol. i. pp. 361-363), and I have abridged it, in order to give the reader an idea of the state of society in England in the 15th century. Lord Warwick died in 1439, Lord Shrewsbury in 1453. I cannot affix a date to the letter; but, powerful as both these noblemen were at the court of Henry VI. it is not too much to suppose that it may have been obtained by one of them as a further means of inflicting injury on Lord Berkeley. This nobleman, who, though much sinned against, was not wholly sinless,^b died in November 1463, and is buried under a tomb of alabaster in a chapel on the south side of the high altar in the parish church at Berkeley, which chapel he built. (Dugd. Bar. i. 364.)

BY THE KINGE.

RIGHT trusty and welbelovyd,—We late yow wite that, unto oure greet displesir, we have late understande of the greet attemptats that certain yo^r servants, and suche other as be drawingyng unto yow, have late made, and cesse not yet to make, as hit is saide; which, if they be

^a See Acts of Privy Council, vol. ii. p. 236.

^b On being served with a subpoena to appear in Chancery, he not only beat one David Woodburne, the process-server, 'but will he nill he inforced the said David to eat the subpoena, wax and parchment.'—*Smythe's Lives of the Berkeleys*, in Fosbroke's *Berkeley MSS.* p. 152. It would have been more tolerable perhaps if this nobleman had acted as another contemnor of the Court of Chancery, one Henry Parramore, did, about 150 years later. It is recorded of him that he compelled one Pyers Thomas to eat the label of a writ, and 'then sent for drinke for him, which he caused him to drinke, with cromes of bread in the same.' See *Aberforthe v. Hall*, 25 May, 1598. Reg. Lib. B. 1597. fo. 829.

not hastily seen unto and remedied, been likely to turne to greet inconvenients and manslaughter, that God defende; wherfore we, consideringe the premisses, charge yow straitly upon your liegeance that ye commande youre servants, and suche other as be drawyng unto yow, to cesse, and that ye see also that no thing be attempted, which might turne to the breche of oure paix, as ye wol answeere unto us, at yo^r peril. And furthermore we charge yow that, immediate after the receyving of these oure letters, ye comme unto oure presence, as ye wol eschewe our displeisr. Yeven at Westm^r, the laste day of Fever^r. etc.

To the Lorde Berkeley.^a

^a The following letter was written by Lady Berkeley to her husband, while absent from him in London:—

“To my right worshipful and reverend Lord and Husband be these delivered.

“RIGHT WORSHIPFUL AND REVEREND LORD AND HUSBAND,

“I recommend me to you, with all my whole hart, desiring alwayes to hear of your good welfare, the which God mayntayne and encrease ever to your worship; and it please you to hear how I fare, Sir, squall and squall. Thomas, Roger, and Jacket have asked surety of peace of mee, for their intent was to bringe me into the Towre; but, I trust in God, to-morrowe they shall go in bayle unto the next term, and soe to goe home, and then to come agayne; and, Sur, I trust to God and you will not treat with them, but keep your own in the most manlyest wyse; yee shall have the land for ones, and was ware of Venables, of Alderly, of Thomas Mull, and all your false counsaill. Keep well your place. The Earl of Shroesbury lyeth right nigh by you, and shapeth all the wyles that he can to distresse you and yours, for he will not meddle with you openly no maner wise, but to be with great falsdome, that he can bringe about to beguile you, or else he causeth that yee have to fewe peopull about you; then will he set on you; for he sayeth I will never come to the King agayne till he have done you an ill turne. Sur, your matter speedeth, and right well, save my costeth great good. For the reverence of God, send money, or else I must lay my horse to pledge, and come home on my fete. Keep well all about you till I come home, and trete not without mee, and then all things shall be well, with the grace of Almighty God, who have you in his keeping. Written at London, the Wednesday next afore Whitsunday.

“Your Wife the Lady of Berkeley.”

(Fosbroke, Berkeley Manuscripts, p. 153.)

XXXVIII.

A LETTER FROM KING HENRY VI. TO HIS AGENT AT ROME,
RESPECTING WILLIAM WESTKARRE, DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY.

WILLIAM WESTKARRE, D.D. and Canon regular of St. Mary's Oxford, was commissary or deputy of the Chancellor in 1442, 1443, 1444, and 1445. In the last year he was senior resident Theologus and Cancellarius Natus,^a and in that capacity exercised all the jurisdiction of the Chancellor of the University during a vacancy of that office.^b If, as is most likely, the King's letters to the Pope, and to his agent at Rome, were written at this period, the Pope would be Eugenius the Fourth, who was Pope from 1431 to 1447, and the agent either Vincent Clement, the friend of Bishop Beckington, and also of Bishop Pecocke,^c or Richard Chester, one of the King's Chaplains, both of whom were dispatched to Rome about this time. The term "in Court." (in Curiâ) meant, in the language of the day, "in Curiâ Romanâ," or simply "at Rome."

BY THE KING.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, we grete you well; lating you wite, that we write our lettres unto our holy fader, at this tyme, for our trusty, etc. Maister William Westkerr [Westkarre] Doctour of Theologie, as by the copy of the same oure lettres, which we sende unto you here enclosed, ye may understande the mater more at large. Wherefore we wol and praye you, in as moch as we greetly tendre the same mater, that ye, taking with you such of oure subgietts, being in Court, as shalbe thought unto you behovefull, in that partie, presente the same our lettres unto his Holinesse, and doying firther yor good diligence and labour, unto theeffectuell conclusion of our desire, comprised in the same. As our singler trust is in you. Yeven, etc.

^a Antiq. Oxon. (Gutch) iv. App. (Fasti) 48, 49, 50; and Fasti Eccles. Anglic. vol. iii. p. 471.

^b Antiq. Oxon. (Gutch) iv. App. 3.

^c Lewis's Life of Pecocke, p. 14.

^d Bishop Beckington's Letters, MS. in Bibl. Lamb. folios 49, 52, 58, 78, 82, and 97.

XXXIX.

A LETTER FROM THE KING TO THE LADY STRANGE.

I CONCEIVE that the lady, to whom this letter was addressed, may have been Elizabeth, relict of Richard Baron le Strange or Strange of Knockyn or Cnokyn, in Shropshire. Baron le Strange married, as his second wife, Elizabeth daughter of Reginald Lord Cobham of Sterborough, and died 9th August, 1449 (27 Hen. VI.), leaving his widow and an infant son.* Supposing this to have been the lady, I have no means of ascertaining the circumstances under which the letter was written.

BY THE KINGE.

RIGHT dere and welbeloved, we grete you well. And late you wytt that we have understand by the repute of our welbeloved servant Stevyn, Knight of our Chamber, whom we late sende unto you with oure lettres, how ye have not fully executed our desyre conteyned in the same lettres; wherof we marvail gretly, considering our said wrytyng, and that we have often written unto you, in semblable caas, fore this tyme. For which cause, and that ye shulde closely understande, that our said wrytyng was of our singler desyre; we write eftsones unto you, desyryng and hertely prayyng you that, withoute firther delay, ye put our said desyre in effectuell execution; latyng you witte that, for the hasty expedicion therof, the brynger of thies shall delyver unto you letters of protection, in suche cas accustomed to be made; and, in thaccomplisseing of this our entent, ye shall deserve of us right good thank, and have us the rather enclined to shew unto yow the favor of o^r good grace, in tyme to come. Yeven, etc.

To the Lady Strange.

* Dugd. Bar. i. 666.

XL.

A LETTER FROM THE KING TO THE EARL OF NORTHUMBER-
LAND.

THIS not wholly impartial letter was addressed to Henry Percy, second Earl of Northumberland, grandson and heir to Henry the first Earl, who was killed at Bramham Moor, "2nd of the Calends of March," 8 Hen. IV. (1406-7), and son of Henry Percy, the famous Hotspur, who was slain at Shrewsbury, in July 1403. In 1455 he was killed at the first battle of St. Alban's fighting on the Lancastrian side, and was buried in the abbey.*

BY THE KINGE.

RIGHT trusty and welbelovyd Cousyn, we greet yow well; and late yow wite, that it is doon us to understand, how that all matier of variance hanging betwix oure welbelovyd Thomas Ilderton, Squier, on the oon partie, and William Bertram, Squier, on the other partie, be compromised unto youre arbitrement, by the full wille and assent of them bothe. And, for asmoche as we desire, for thease and welfare especially of the said Thomas, that the saide matier shulde not passe yor handes undetermined; we pray yow hertely, that ye duely examine and understand the trowth in that partie, and therupon, after god and goode conscience, sette a final ende in the same; shewing therein, at reverence of us and contemplacion of this oure writing, unto the saide T. al thease and favor that ye goodly maye, as fer as right and goode conscience wol; wherinne ye shall doo unto us right good pleasir.

To therl of Northumberland.

XLI.

A LETTER TO THE LORD ZOUCHE.

WILLIAM, fourth Lord Zouche of Haringworth, in the county of Northampton, died 3rd November, 1415 (3 Hen. V.), leaving a son, William fifth Lord

* Dugd. Bar. i. 281a.

Zouche, his son and heir, aged thirteen years. He died 8th January, 1469 (8 Edw. IV), possessed of many manors in different parts of England, of which eight were in the county of Northampton.^a

BY THE KYNGE.

RIGHT trusty, etc. Lattyng you wytt that we be enfourmed that oon of yo^r servants called Nicholas B., with other his servants and adherents, hath, in riotouse wyse, assaulted our liegeman and tenant T. W. of the Countee of Northtⁿ, and grevously hurt hym, and maymed oon of his servants called N., and maymeth theym daily, ayenst our lawes and paix in our said Countee. And, for asmoch as ye be o^r Justice of our paix in o^r said Countie, to whom hit perteyneth to refourme all such mys-governance and riotts, and especially in such personnes as be to you wards; We therefore write unto you, at this tyme, praying you, and also charging you, that, attending to youre deute in this behalf, ye see and ordeyne that the said B. and his servants kepe surely oure paix ayenst the said T. and his servants, from hensforth, and, for their moe surete, ye do the said B. and his servants to be bounden to us, under suertie conveyable, to kepe oure paix, ayenst oure people, and specially ayenst the said T. And that ye fail nott herof, as we trust yow. Yeven, etc.

To the lorde Zouch.

XLII.

A LETTER FROM THE KING TO ———.

SIR WILLIAM OLDHALL was a valiant soldier, who had distinguished himself in France, and he was a partisan of the House of York. I think it very probable that he was Chamberlain to the Duke of York. If this was so, the letter would be addressed to Richard Duke of York while he was Regent of France, and would be dated somewhere about 18 Hen. VI. 1440.^b

^a Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 692. Inq. p. mortem 7 Edw. IV. n. 53.

^b Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 159; and see Memoir of Sir W. Oldhall, *Archæol.* xxxvii. p. 335.

BY THE KING.

RIGHT trusty and Right entierly welbeloved Cousyn, we grete you hertly well. And, for as moch as we, by oure letters, have especially desired our trusty and welbeloved knyght Sir William Oldhalle, your Chamberlayn, to comme in hasty wise unto oure presence, to thentent that, in the treete that is now at hand to be made betwix us and o^r uncle of France, he, being here with us, may advyse us and oure Counseill, in such things as shalbe occurrent and touche our Reaume of France, and Duchie of Normandie; as he that of reason shulde have moost perfite knowlege in the same, considering his longe abode with you there, and of yo^r Counseil; We pray you that, for o^r wele, ye spare his service for a tyme, sending hym unto us in all haste that ye goodly may. And that ye fail not herinne, as ye wol do us pleasir. Yeven under o^r Signet, etc. at W. the xxx. etc.

LETTERS OF BISHOP BECKINGTON.

THE writer of the following letters and fragments of letters, seventeen in number, was unquestionably Thomas Beckington, one of the most famous English churchmen of the 15th century, at this time Secretary to King Henry the Sixth, and subsequently Bishop of Bath and Wells. They were written, for the most part, in the summer of 1442, when Beckington was on the eve of embarking for Bordeaux, with Sir Robert Roos, on a mission to John the Fourth, Count of Armagnac, to negotiate a marriage between the King and a daughter of the Count. A very interesting Journal of this embassy, by one of Beckington's suite, has been published by Sir Harris Nicolas, from a Latin manuscript in the Ashmolean Museum.^a The journal enables me to correct the dates of some of the letters, and the letters are an addition to, and amplification of, the earlier part of the journal. They throw light, moreover, on the state of mind in which Beckington proceeded on his embassy, and show how little expectation he had of a favourable issue. They are curious also, as giving a glimpse of the mental characteristics of the writer.

Letters 1 and 3, and perhaps 8, and the skeleton letter 17, were addressed to William de la Pole at that time Earl (subsequently Duke) of Suffolk. The Duke of Suffolk was accused by the Commons in 1450 (*inter alia*) of having given private information to the King of France of this very embassy to Guienne, thus preventing a match to which he is said to have been opposed. His banishment and murder at sea are well known to all readers of English history.^b

^a Ashm. MSS. No. 789. This is a very curious volume, the whole of which was written in the 15th century. It formerly belonged to Charles Boothe, who was bishop of Hereford from 1516 to 1535. He placed it in the office of his registrar, there to remain "absque alienatione ejusdem;" but how he became possessed of it, or how from him it came to the hands of Elias Ashmole, who bequeathed it with many other MSS. to Oxford, does not appear. Beckington's Registrum Privatum begins at fo. 147, and ends at fo. 359. It is chiefly taken up with the journal of the embassy to Guienne, but it also contains letters to and from divers personages of rank, intermingled with common business forms. It has, in truth, much the appearance of a precedent or common-place book. Most of the letters, but not all of them, are in Latin. I am informed by my friend M. Francisque Michel that the part of the journal relating to Bordeaux was translated into French by M. Gustave Brunet, and published among the Actes de l'Académie Royale of that town.

^b There is a somewhat long but interesting account of William de la Pole Duke of Suffolk, and of his family, which was originally from Kingston-on-Hull, in Dugdale's

Letter 1 seems to have been written from Sutton Courtenay, a village in Berkshire, not far from Abingdon, on the south bank of the Thames, of which place Beckington was rector.^a It was written, the 9th June, 1442, which was the day Beckington left Sutton for Great Bedwin.^b Illesley (probably East Ilsley) lies south of Sutton, towards Donnington in Berkshire. Donnington and Ewelme (the latter in Oxfordshire) both belonged to Lord Suffolk, in right of his wife. Langley is a hamlet of the parish of Hampstead Norris, Berkshire, not far from East Ilsley, on the direct road from Donnington to Ewelme. J. B. seems to have been, either a friend of, or an attendant on, Lord Suffolk, with whom Beckington met on the 9th of June, as he was riding in the direction of Donnington.^c The language of this letter is profoundly humble, and the *piety*, with which it closes, would be more edifying, if there were not strong indications, in the correspondence, of the writer having an assortment of pious phrases, to be used, with variations, as occasion might require. Letter 2 was written to John Noreys, from Great Bedwin, in Wilts, the 12th June, 1442,^d on which day Beckington left Bedwin for Devizes.^e John Noreys held the posts of esquire of the body to the King, first usher of the Chamber, master of the Wardrobe, and sheriff of the counties of Oxford and Berks in 36 Hen. VI. (1458). He resided at Yattenden in Berkshire, where, in 1447, he built the manor-house. He is also said to have built that very picturesque old manor-house, now a farm-house, called Ockwells or Ockholt, near Bray. He died at Yattenden 1st September, 1466 (6 Edw. IV.), and was buried in the aisle of Bray Church.^f Letter 3 is addressed to Lord Suffolk, and was written from

Baronage, vol. ii. p. 180 to 189. See a note to Letter ix. of the Paston Letters, vol. i. p. 33. See also Index to Journal, p. 127. He married Alice, daughter and heir of Thomas Chaucer (son of the poet), who had been first married to Sir John Phelip, knight, and secondly to Thomas de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, who was killed at Orleans in November, 1428. She survived all her husbands, and died 9 June, 1475 (15 Edw. IV.), and is buried at Ewelme. These letters throw no light on the question whether Suffolk really gave information to Charles VII. respecting this embassy. See Journal, xlvi. xlvii. xlviii. They show, however, that the ambassador was in intimate communication with the earl, up to the time of his own departure for Guienne.

^a Harl. MSS. No. 6952, fo. 135. The old rectory-house, then a private residence, was standing in 1813. Some of the old windows still remained. (Lysons' Berks, p. 213.)

^b The MS. says the 20th day of June; but I believe this to be a mistake of the copyist. (Journal, p. 1.)

^c Letter 1.

^d The MS. says "xviii. June;" but this is clearly a mistake.

^e Journal, p. 2.

^f There was another John Norreys, of whom William of Worcester records that he was attainted of treason and hanged at Tyburn, 7 Edw. IV., 1467. (Lib. Nig. Scacc. vol. ii. p. 516, Hearne's edition.)

Bedwin, on the 12th of June. The contents of this and of the preceding letter, and also of Letter 4 to James Fenys, are the same. All three were written the same day, from the same instructions, by the same scribe. Letter 3, however, contains a very early mention of Eton College, which was founded in 1441, a year before the date of the letter.

Letter 4 was addressed to James Fenys or Fiennes, at this time esquire of the body to King Henry the Sixth and a knight. He had valiantly served in France under Henry the Fifth, and had been sheriff of Kent in 1437 (15 Hen. VI.), and of Surrey and Sussex in 1439 (17 Hen. VI.). On the 3rd March 1446-7 (25 Hen. VI.), five years from the date of this letter, he was summoned to Parliament. Three days later, by assent of the Peers, he was advanced to the dignity of a baron, by the title of Lord Say and Sele, being descended through his mother from the Lords Say. Lord Say and Sele was suspected of being concerned in the murder of Humphrey Duke of Gloucester in 1447. In that year he was made Constable of Dover, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and Constable of the Tower; and, on the 30th October 1449 (28 Hen. VI.), he was constituted Lord Treasurer. He was murdered by Jack Cade in Cheapside in 1450.^a Letter 5 is addressed to Sir Edmund Hungerford, the surviving son of Lord Hungerford, and was written from Debise or Devises (which is about sixteen miles from Great Bedwin) on the same Tuesday, the 12th of June 1442. The journal records the meeting of Beckington with Lord Hungerford on that day.^b The letter requests Sir Edmund Hungerford's good offices with the King; and, the King being that day at Bedwin,^c it is probable that Sir Edmund was also at Bedwin. He does not appear to have been at home the day before.^d This letter was probably sent by Mr. Ralph Legh and John Water.^e The jocular allusion in the letter to an inroad made, the day before, by Lord Hungerford and his companions "my Lord of Salisbury and my Lord Moleyns," on Sir Edmund's cellar, is curiously balanced by the very next entry in the journal, which is as follows, "xiii. (June) Wednesday, dined at Beckington, whither the Lord de Hungerford sent two flagons of wine in bottles."^f Some account has been already given of Walter Lord Hungerford.^g He left two sons, Sir Robert, who succeeded his father,

^a Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 245; Banks, Dorm. and Ext. Bar. vol. ii. p. 471.

^b Journal, p. 2.

^c Ibid.

^d Sir Edmund Hungerford resided at Down Ampney, an estate on the borders of Wilts and Gloucester, not far from Cricklade, settled on him by his father. Of his mansion here there is still remaining a handsome gateway flanked with turrets. Sir Edmund Hungerford died in 1484 (Hungerfordiana, pp. 14, 102, 103; Wiltshire Collections, 4to, 1862, p. 411.)

^e Journal, p. 2.

^f Journal, p. 2.

^g *Supra*, p. 35, note g.

and Sir Edmund, to whom this letter was addressed. Sir Edmund married Margaret daughter of Edward Burnell, of an ancient family in Shropshire.^a This, it is presumed, is the lady mentioned in the letter. Lord Moleyns was son and heir to Sir Robert, second Lord Hungerford, and grandson to Walter the first Lord. He married (1441) Eleanor, daughter and heir to Lord Moleyns, and was summoned to Parliament, in 1445, as Lord Moleyns.^b "My Lord of Salisbury" was, probably, William Ascough, who was Bishop of Salisbury from 1438 to 29th June, 1450, when he was murdered at Edyngdon, Wilts.^c From Devizes the ambassador, on the 13th of June, proceeded to Beckington, and slept at Wells, where, on the 14th, he was installed "in the choir for his prebend."^d The same night he slept at Glastonbury, supping, it appears, with Nicholas Frome, the then abbot of that famous monastery (who lent him a horse),^e and, on the 15th, he arrived at Taunton.^f Letter 6, written to the King, the next day, the 16th June, either from Sir Edward Hull's house, at Enmore, a village in Somersetshire a few miles from Taunton, or from Taunton itself, informs us, that, "ynne the wey towards Taunton," Beckington heard of Hull being at Enmore, and that he sent a servant (whom the journal mentions to have been Thomas Chamberlain) to him with a message, "be nyght tyme."^g On the same 16th June, Beckington (as appears from the journal^h and the letter) dined with Edward Hull, at Enmore, where (the letter says) he was entertained with "right greet and notable chere," and where he had a conference with his host, on the state of Guienne. The upshot of this conference was that Beckington wrote to the King (as already stated), and that Hull

^a Hungerfordiana, pp. 8, 14.

^b *Ibid.* 10. The summons to Parliament, in 1445, was three years later than the letter. But, as, in the letter, Lord Hungerford's grandson is called Lord Moleyns, it would seem that he bore that title from the time of his marriage. Robert second Lord Hungerford adhered faithfully to the House of Lancaster. He died in 1458, and was buried in Salisbury cathedral. His widow Margaret, daughter and heir to William Lord Botreaux, survived until 1477: this lady founded Hungerford Chapel in Salisbury cathedral, which has vanished. She, too, was buried there. The third Lord Hungerford (Lord Moleyns) deemed it prudent to side with the House of York, but afterwards endeavouring, in 1463, to restore Henry VI., he was tried and executed. He was buried "with his fathers." His wife, who survived him, and married Sir Oliver Manningham, knight, was buried at Stoke Poges in Bucks. From them are descended, through a daughter, the Earl of Huntingdon and the Marquis of Hastings. (*Hung.* pp. 10, 38.)

^c *Fasti Ecc. Ang.* vol. ii. p. 603; *Wiltshire Collections*, 4to. 1862, p. 351.

^d *Journal*, p. 2.

^e *Ibid.*

^f *Ibid.*

^g *Ibid.*

^h *Ibid.*

proceeded to Windsor, where he was on the 23rd June.^a The letter from the King, entered in the journal,^b appears to be in answer to Letter 6. For information as to Sir Edward Hull, see a memoir of him by Sir H. Nicolas (Journal, lxxii.) Letter 7 to John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells and Lord Chancellor, was written on the same day (from Taunton apparently) as the Letter 6 to the King, and it contains much the same information; but, in addition, Beckington, for the first time, confesses an apprehension, that his embassy may be "nowt or litel *fructueux*," an apprehension fully justified by the result, as detailed in the journal. On Sunday (17th June) Beckington remained, the greater part of the day, at Taunton, but slept at Tiverton.^c On the 18th he arrived at Exeter, where he remained until the 25th of June.^d Letter 8 was written from Exeter, the 21st of June, and seems to have been intended as a form of a letter to Lord Suffolk, and also to some other personage or personages, who are not named. The private directions to the scribe are curious. Beckington received much hospitality while at Exeter, but on the 21st June he appears to have dined alone at the inn.^e I fear the *cuisine* may not have been first rate, which would account for the desponding tone, in which, in this and in Letter 10, he speaks of Exeter being "in the lande of wilderness wher as ben ferne and fiefes I now (enow), and good ale non or litell." It is therefore satisfactory to learn, from the journal, under the date of 21st June, that "to-day a buck was sent from Tiverton to his Lordship."^f

Letter 9 is addressed to William Ascough, Bishop of Salisbury, and was written (it may be presumed) from Exeter. It contains the news that the King had had a letter from "Maister Vincent," informing him that Pope Eugenius the Fourth had endowed the King's College Royal of Eton with "large and greet licences and indulgences," and that the King had sent him (Beckington) a copy of the letter, by John Felton. "Maister Vincent" was Vincent Clement, an ecclesiastic, at this time at Rome as agent for the King.^g It is doubtful whether he was an Englishman, or an Italian.^h The object of his

^a Journal, p. 5.

^b Ibid. pp. 4 and 5.

^c Ibid. p. 3.

^d Ibid. p. 3.

^e Ibid.

^f Ibid.

^g He was sent as ambassador to France, and also to the Pope, by Henry the Sixth. (Harl. MSS. No. 6963, fo. 91.) Vincentius or Vincent Clement is repeatedly mentioned in the Collection of Beckington's Letters, which is in the Archbishop's library at Lambeth. He is also frequently mentioned in Beckington's *Registrum Privatum*, at the Bodleian.

^h Pope Eugenius IV., in a letter of 28 May, 1442, calls Vincent Clement "*subdiaconus noster*." (Reg. Priv. fo. 167.) The King adopts this title (Lamb. MS. fo. 82), but calls him his "*nuncius*" (ibid. fo. 52, *tergo*), and his "*faithful and beloved orator*" (ibid. fo. 82). He also says that he was brought up and educated at Oxford (ibid. fo. 80). Gas-

mission to Rome was to obtain certain indulgences for the King's new College of Eton, and in this he was successful,^a though not without difficulty.^b Vincent Clement was a favourite with the King, and, after his return to England, but not, so far as appears, immediately, had much church preferment heaped upon him.^c He did not, however, attain to the Bench. He died in 1474. Letter 10 was written to Sir John on the 21st of June. It contains nothing important, but in it Beckington repeats his lament as to the bareness and desolation of Exeter. Letter 11 is addressed to "Maister J. Somerseth"^d from Exeter, and was dated previously to the 24th of June, for it adverts to Sir Robert Roos (who arrived on the 24th) not having yet joined him. The six remaining documents are merely (what may be called) skeleton letters, addressed to the King, the Duke of Gloucester, Cardinal Beaufort, the Cardinal of York (Kempe), the Lord Chancellor, and the Earl of Suffolk. They are curious only as showing how many pious and devout expressions the writer could muster, especially when addressing a Cardinal.

coigne says he was called "the *unwonted* doctor" (*doctorem insolentem*) because his degree of D.D. was conferred, when he was only in deacon's or subdeacon's orders, by royal mandate. (*Dict. Theol.* and see *Life of Pecock*, p. 14.) Archbishop Parker certainly thought he was an Italian. He calls him "*quidam Romanus*." (*Parkeri Antiq.* p. 434.)

^a The Bull is to be found in Huggett's MS. *Hist. of Eton*, vol. ii. p. 171. (*Sloane MSS.* No. 4840.)

^b He appears to have met with impediments, for there exists a letter addressed to him (by Beckington, as I conceive) exhorting him to prosecute his mission "with manly courage" (*virili animo*), and plying him with arguments, which appear to be drawn from Ovid's *Tristia*. (*Lamb. MS.* fo. 52 *tergo*.)

^c His preferments were as follows: Rector of St. Martin's Vintry from 1439 to 1444 (*Newc. Rep.* vol. i. p. 422), Prebendary of Hereford in 1451 (*Fasti E. A.* vol. i. p. 526), Prebendary of Lincoln 1452 (*F.E.A.* vol. ii. pp. 214, 234), Archdeacon of Wilts 1457-8 (*Ibid.* vol. ii. p. 630), Prebendary, Chancellor, and Treasurer of Lichfield (*Ibid.* vol. i. pp. 582, 584, 630), Archdeacon of Huntingdon (*Ibid.* vol. ii. p. 51), and Archdeacon of Winchester (*Ibid.* vol. iii. p. 26).

^d I have tried in vain to identify this John Somerset. I have examined all the authorities cited by Sir Harris Nicolas (*Journal*, p. 126), and many not cited by him, and am utterly unable to decide, whether he was a layman or an ecclesiastic. Thomas Baker, in his letters to Hearne, (*Appendix to Elmham's Life of Henry the Fifth*, p. 350) certainly supposed John Somerset, the King's physician, and Chancellor of the Exchequer, to have been a layman. Beckington's friend was a married man (*Journal*, p. 95). Nevertheless John Somerset is described seven several times in the fifth volume of the *Rolls of Parliament* as a "clerk." The evidence is so contradictory that I am driven to suppose that there were two persons of the same name, living at the same time, and both employed about public affairs.

XLIII. (1).

A LETTER TO THE EARL OF SUFFOLK.

MY right noble and most singler gracious good lorde, I recommend me unto youre noble and trusty lordeship in the moste humble wise that I can or may. And, how be it that I sent, as yesterday, unto Illesley, and beyonde, a servant of myne, for to have knowlaige of youre departinge or abiding at Donyngton, to th'entent that I might have come and take my leve of youre saide goode lordeship, and my right good and gracious lady youre wif; which my servant, enquering therupon, was enformed (and reported unto me) that ye shuld have abiden at the said Donyngton unto this day, and this day first removed; wherupon I pourveyd me redy this day to ride, and, as I was comminge unto yow warde, I met with J. B., which certified me that he brought youe yeseday [yesterday] unto Langley to mete, and my said lady in youre felaship. After whos enformation, I was as sory, and am, as I may welbe, considering the art [*i.e.* narrow] space and straitnesse of tyme, which wol no suffre me now to retourne towards Ewelm, ther to take my saide leve; for, as this day, my maister Roos wol redely [readily] be at Salisbury, and so daily passe [onwards] til he come to the see side; whom I purpose, by Godd's mercy, to overtake in the waye, as sone as I goodly may. Wherfore I beseeche youre noble lordeship to holde me excused, at this tyme. For, certainly, if I comme unto yow there as ye be now, I cowde not mete with hym at oure tyme assigned. And, furthermore, I lowly beseech yow, that I may be, in the moste lowly wise, recommended unto my said ladies good grace, for whom I, as her chappellayn, daily shall prairie, during my lif, as I am high bounden so to do. And that ye, of youre more habundant grace, wol be my good and gracious lorde, in myn absence, as hit hath liked yo^{re} saide good lordeship to be ever before this. My right noble and most singler gracious good lorde, I beseeche owre holy Saviour to have youe ever in his gracious keepinge

and send yow thaccomplishments of all youre desire, with prosperite and lif longe enduryng, Writen at S[utton] the ix day of *etc.* [June].

To my lorde of Suff.

XLIV. (2).

THOMAS BECKINGTON TO JOHN NOREYS.

RIGHT trusty and my right entierly welbelovyd, I recomende me unto (yow) with all my hert ; And, for as moche as I trust to God that ye wol be right plesed to here of my spede, namely in this matier that I go fore, I write unto yow at this tyme, and so purpose to write, from tyme to tyme, as ofte as messagiers may be hadde. Latting yow wite [that] this day I take my jorney, from this my pore place of Bedswynde, towards the see, and, by Godd's mercy, I shall holde my jorney so forth dayly, unto the tyme that I comme unto the see side, fro whens I purpose to write unto yow suche matiers as shall fall in the mene tyme. And, firthermore, I pray yowe, that ye wol, in the most tendir wise, recomende me unto the King's most high and noble grace; and that ye wol, in myn absence, continue yo^r good love, which I have ever before this tyme founde stedfast, stable and redy, to my wele and worship. And I shall treuly preye for yow, as yo^r chappellayn, as I am greetly bounde to do, whil I live. Writen at Bedswynde the xii day of Juyn.

To John Noreys.

XLV. (3).

THOMAS BECKINGTON TO THE EARL OF SUFFOLK.

MY right noble and most singler gracious good lorde, I recommend me unto yo^r ful noble and good lordeship, yn the most humble

wise that I can or may. And for as moche as I trust to God that ye wilbe right well plesed to here of my spede, namely in the mater that I go fore, I write unto yow at this tyme, and so purpose to write, fro tyme to tyme, as oft as messagers may be hadde, latting yow wite, that this day I take my jorney, fro this my pore place of B., towards the see side, fro whens I purpose to write unto yow suche matiers as shall fall in the mene tyme. And firthermore I pray yow that ye wol, in the most tendre and lowly wise, recommede me unto the King's moost high and noble good grace, and also unto the provost and^a of the holy and devout King's college of oure Ladye of Eton, beseching [them] to prey for me, and that ye wol now, in myn absence, continue yo^r good and trusty lorde-ship, which I have before this ever founde stedfast, stable, and redy, to my wele and worship. I shall treuly prey for youe as youre owne Chappelleyne, and as I am gretely bounde to do, whil I lyve.

To my Lorde of Suff.

XLVI. (4).

THOMAS BECKINGTON TO JAMES FENYS.

MY right worshipfull and best beloved fader, after due recommedacion, and yo^r faderly blessinge; Please hit yow to here of my spede in this matier that I go fore. I write unto youre good faderhod, at this tyme, and soo purpose to write, fro tyme to tyme, as ofte as messagiers may be had. Lating yow wite that this day I take my jorney, fro my pore place of B., towards the see, and, by Godd's mercy, I shall hold dayly forth my jorney, unto the tyme that I comme unto the see side, fro whens I purpose to write unto yowe suche matiers as shall fall in the mene tyme. And firthermore *et cet. ut supra*; and that ye wol now, in myn absence, be my good fader,

^a My endeavours to decypher the word here omitted, and those of the experts to whom I have submitted it, have wholly failed.

and have especially in continuance yo^r kindnesse of love, which I have founde unto this day stedfast and redy, to my wele and worship. And I, youre humble sone, shall preye for yow, whil I lyve, as I have greet cause so to do, *etc.*

To James Fenys.

XLVII. (5).

THOMAS BECKINGTON TO SIR EDMUND HUNGERFORD.

MY right trusty and right entierly welbelovyd maister, I recommend me unto yow, and late yow wite, that, this day, I overtoke my lorde youre fader at Debise, which is in good hele (blessid be oure Saviour!) and sendeth yow his blessinge. And, firthermore, my saide lorde told me, that, on moneday last passed, my lorde of Salisbury and he and my lorde Moleyns visited my lady youre wif at whom [home] at youre place, which is in good hele, and they soo tasted yo^r wynes at that tyme, that, I truste to God, yf ye have meny suche visitacions, youre wynes shall nother soure, nor stande base, for defaulte of drynkers. Other tithings I have non to write unto yow at this tyme; but I besech yow that, in the most lowly wise, ye wol have me recommended unto the high and good grace of oure souvereigne lorde the Kinge, *et cet.*

Yo^r prest and Chapellyn, T. B.

To Sir E[dmund] Hungerford.

XLVIII. (6).

THOMAS BECKINGTON TO KING HENRY VI.

MOST gracious and most christian prince, oure moost doubted souvereigne lorde, after moost humble recommendacion made unto

youre Roial Mageste, please hit to youre high and noble grace to wite, that, in my jorney towards the see side, in this youre ambassade that hit hath liked youre highnesse to send me, ynne the wey towards Taunton, I herde tidings of the comyng of my Maister Hull from the countre [of Guienne]. After which tidings, I immediately, be nyght tyme, send a servaunt of myn unto hym, praying hym to tarye so litell tyme, on the morowe, that I myght comme unto hym, and, by comunicacion, understande the disposicion of the contrey that he commeth fro. And, so is it, souvereigne lorde, that, for the wele of yow and of yo^r ambassade, he abode, unto this day, unto tyme that I comme fro the seid Taunton unto his hows; where, at the reverence of yo^r highnesse, he hath do me right greet and notable chere, for the which I, as yo^r most lowly servant, besече youre high and noble grace to thank him. And, for as moche as I fele, by his reporte, that the countrey to the which we shulde passe, by yo^r high commandement, is not in such disposicion as yo^r highnesse hadd supposed that hit had be, in the tyme of my departing, I, yo^r trew chapelleyne and servant, besече yo^r high and noble grace, that hit may please yo^r said high and noble grace, that I may have full knowlege of yo^r entent, what I shall firther doo, in as brief tyme as hit may b'esey [be easy] unto youre saide noble grace to be doon; for, as for my personne, soo it be to the wele of yow, souvereigne lorde, (the which I knowe verraly is, and moost be, the wele of us alle youre trew subgetts,) I dar sette as fer in jepardy as eny of youre pore clerks, trustyng, in al wise, to have good spede by youre good merits. Albe hit that I, a sinfull creature, have no cause to truste upon my owen. Most high and moost christian Prince, oure most doubted and souvereigne lorde, I besече oure Saviour ever to have yow in his gracious keping, and send yow as good lif and as longe as ever hadd Christian prince in erthe. Writen at, &c.

Yo^r mooste humble creature and pore Chappelleyn,

T. B.

To the moost mighte and most Christian Prince, oure most doubted and souvereigne lord the Kinge.

XLIX. (7).

THOMAS BECKINGTON TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

REVERENDE Fader in God, and my most singler and gracious good Lorde,—I recommend me unto you, in as lowly wise as I can or may. And, please it yo^r good lordeship to wite, that, in ridynge towards T., I hard of the late arriving and commynge of my Maister E. Hull. Wherupon I, desiryng to have knowlege of the disposition of the countrey that he commeth fro, sent unto hym a servant of myne, by nyght tyme, praying hym not to departe from his hows, unto tyme that I might have communicacion with hym. And so it is that, this day, right timely, I rode from Tawnton unto his place, and have hadd there communicacion with him at large, by the which, as fer as I fele, this ambassade, in which my M. (Master) Roos and I be sent, at this tyme, shulde be nowt or litel fructueux; and natheles the jepart of owre persounes, which as for myself peradventure is of litell charge, shuld be right dangereous, on lese thanne other provisions and meenes be hadd, before the tyme of oure passage; as I doubte not ye shall understand more at large, by the reporte of the said E[dward] H[ull]. Wherfore I besече youre good and gracious lordeship, in the which I have right singler and special affiance, that I may have sone and hastely knowlege what I shall doo, and whether, by th'advise of the King oure souvereigne lorde, and yow, and other my lords of his Counseil, I shall holde forth journey, or returne. So that by me the Kinge may be as litel charged as may be possible. To the which, I take God to record, I shall, with all myn herte, entende. And I pray almighte God ever to have youre good and gracious lordeship in his holy and blessed saufgard, and send yow youre noble hert's desire, with lif longe enduring. Writen,
etc. ut sup.

T. B.

To the Chaunceller of England.

L. (8).

A FORM OF LETTER FROM THOMAS BECKINGTON TO THE
EARL OF SUFFOLK AND TO OTHERS.

RIGHT noble and my most singler and faithfull trusty Lorde,—I recommend me, *etc.* And please it yow to wite, that I, youre true servant and clerk, have be this two days here in the lande of welder-nesse, wher as ben *ferne and fiefes I now and good ale non or litell*,^a abiding continuelly the commyng of my Maister Roos. And now I purpose to take my journey towards the see side, and abyde hym there. Of the cummyng of E. H. and of suche tidings as he bringeth, which semeth me no thing comfortable, I suppose ye have good and perfite [knowledge] by this tyme—God of his mercye sende us grace to have good hasty spede of oure message that we be sent! And send yow, my most singler lord, right good lif and longe, and all the blessed and noble desires of yo^r hert. Writen, *etc.* at E[xeter] the xxi. day of Juyn.

I beseche yow as tenderly as I can or may, of youre good and gracious continuance of oure most trusted lordeship, now namely yn myn absence [*Dno Suff. usq. ibm.* “perfitte knowlege by this tyme,” *in predicto stilo tuo sit,*] and therefore I surcesse to write therinne. My right gracious lord, yf there be eny thing that I can or may do in the parties to the which I am now disposed to passe, I preye youre seid lordeship to late me have writing, for hit shalbe to my greet glad-

^a The ambassador seems to have thought this a very merry conceit, for he has repeated it in a subsequent letter. I understand from my friend, Mr. Carew of Exeter, that, within living memory, fern abounded much more in the neighbourhood of Exeter than it now does. I am told that the reputation of Exeter for ale has never stood and does not now (although much improved) stand high. As to the word “fiefes,” I have tried in vain to ascertain its meaning; and I am compelled to desist from the attempt. I must content myself with remarking, that the word is correctly copied from the manuscript; and that the whole sentence wears somewhat the appearance of a proverb.

nesse to fulfille yo^r commandement. Beseching firther as tenderly as I can or may, *etc.* And God of his mercy, *etc.*

Yo^r trew clerk and perpetuell bedman,

T. B.

LI.

THOMAS BECKINGTON TO THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

RIGHT reverend Fader in God, and my most singler and faithfull good Lord,—I recommend me unto yo^r trew and trusty good lordeship, as lowly and as hertely as I can and may, and I thank yow right entierly of youre good lettres, writen unto me, for yo^r wel-belovyd J. P.; in which matier I shall so do my parte, that, I trust to God, ye shall wel mowe understande, that I am in full will to execute and do al suche as may be to youre plesance, as I am high bounden so to do. Furthermore, please hit youre good lordeship to wite, that oure holy fader Eugeny hath granted unto the King, for his college roiall of oure Lady of Eton, his bulles of large and greet licences and indulgences, as by a letter send from Maister Vincent, wherof the King, of his high and noble grace, sent me a copye by John Felton, unto this straunge and uttermast parties of England, wherof I send yow within these a copie, hit may appere, more openly, unto yo^r good lordship. My right gracious lorde, yf there be enything that I can or may do, in the parties to which I am now disposed to passe, I pray yor seid lordship to let me have witing, for hit shalbe myn greet gladnesse to do and performe all suche things that maye be to yo^r pleasure. And I besече yow, as tenderly as I can or may, to have yo^r good contynuance of yo^r goode lordeship nowe, namely in myn absence, *etc.* Yo^r treue clerk and chappleyn,

T. B.

To the Bisshop of Sar.

LII. (10).

THOMAS BECKINGTON TO SIR JOHN ———.

RIGHT entierly welbelovyd and my right trusty Maister,—After due and hertely recommendacion, please it yo^r good maistership to wite, that I have ben this ij. dayes here in the lande of wilderness, wheras be ferne and fiefes Inowe, and good ale non or litell, abidyng contynuelly the commyng of my maister Roos. And nowe I purpose to take my jorney towards the see side, and abide hym there. My right trusty Maister, if ther be eny thing that I can or may do, in the parties to the whiche I am nowe disposed to passe, I praye youre seid good maistership to late me have witing, for hit shalbe to me greet gladnes to fulfill yo^r commandement. Beseching yow firther, as tenderly as I can or maye, of yo^r goode contynuance of yo^r right trusted maistership nowē, namely in myn absence, *etc.*

Yo^r. T. B.To Sir John, *etc.*

LIII. (11).

THOMAS BECKINGTON TO MASTER JOHN SOMERSET.

MY right welbelovyd and entierly trusted Maister,—After due commendacion, beyng nowe in the uttermost parties of this world, and abidyng my M. Roos, which, as I suppose, is taried for the dawngrous tydyngs that my M. Hull hath reported unto the Kinge, which as I suppose ben not unknowyn unto yow, touching the greet jepar in passyng unto the countrey that we be sent unto, beseching youe, consideryng the matier that we be sent forth fore, which shulde be not or litell fructueux, as in my conceyt, withoute hasty

remedy be hadde in that behaf, ye wol sture [stir] and call upon my lords of the King's Counsaill, to pourvey such remedye in this partie, in all goodely hast, as yt maye be to the King's pleasure, and the wele of us all; and that ye wol, in the most humble wise, recomende me unto the King's moost high and noble grace, *etc.*

Yor chappelleyn, T. B.

To Maister J. Somerseth.

LIV. (12).

A SKELETON LETTER FROM THOMAS BECKINGTON TO THE KING.

MOOST christen and most graciuous Prince, oure most doubted souvereigne Lorde,—After oure most humble recommendacion, please hit yo^r high and noble grace as for tidings from this youre contrey of Guienne to wite that, *etc.* [*Conclusio*, “moost christen and moost graciuous, *etc.*” *ut sup. et in al.*]

Litera missa Regi per Dños Roos et Secret. a Burdegolia. [Burdigala—Bordeaux.]

LV. (13).

LITERA MISSA PER D'NUM D. SECRET. DUCI GLOUC.

RIGHT high and mighte Prince, and my right doubted and graciuous Lorde,—After right lowly recommendacion, please hit yo^r highnes, as for tidings from this contrey, which wold God were better than I may with trouthe at this tyme to write, to wite that, *etc.* [*Conclusio*, “Right High,” *etc. ut supra.* Almyghte God send yow contynuell welthe and worship in erthe, and, after, everlastyng joye and blysse in hevене. Writen at B., *etc.*

LVI. (14).

LITERA MISSA CARDINALI ANGLIÆ.

MOOST Reverend Fader in God, and my right gracious and singler Lórd,—After devout and humble recommendacion, in my moost lowly wise, please hit yo^r gracious lordship, as for tidings from this contrey to wite that, *etc.*

[*Conclusio*, “Moost Reverend, etc.” *ut supra*.] The High Fader of all mercye, and of all comfort, send yow longe goode helth and strengthe, boothe goostely and bodely to his honnor and plesaunce, and yo^r perpetuell joye. Writen, &c.

LVII. (15).

LITERA MISSA CARDINALI EBORACENSI.

MOST worshipfull Fader in God, and my right singler Lord,—After due and devout recommendacion, in the most tender wise, that I can or may, please it yo^r moost reverend fadership, as for tidings from this contrey, to know that, *etc.* [*Conclusio*, “Most, etc. *ut supra*, the high Fader of Hevene longe contynue yo^r worship and welfare after the most blessed desire of youre noble herte.”] Writen, *etc.*

LVIII. (16).

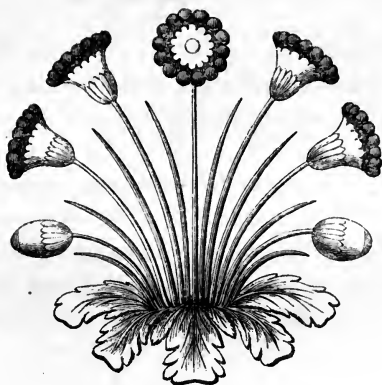
LITERA MISSA CANCELLARIO ANGL.

RIGHT Reverende Fader in God, and my moost special and gracious lorde,—I recommede me unto yo^r trewe and trusty lordeship. And as for tidings of this cuntrey, please hit yow to wite that after, [*ut in aliis*].

LIX. (17).

LITERA MISSA COMITI SUFF.

MY right noble and moost singler good Lord,—After humble and due recommendacion, please hit yo^r good lordeship to wite that, *etc.* [*Conclusio ut in aliis*].



Of either sex, who doth not now delight
To wear the daisy for Queen Marguerite ?

DRAYTON.

LETTERS OF MARGARET OF ANJOU.

LX.

A LETTER BY THE QUEEN TO R. KENT.

I HAVE been unable to discover anything relating to Thomas Shelford, or "oon Hall of Larkfeld," but, as Larkfield is in Kent, I presume that the family of Hall was of that county. There are indeed, in Hasted's History of Kent, traces of the name. From "our cousin of Suffolk" being mentioned, I conclude that the letter may have been written between 1445 and 1450, when the Duke of Suffolk was chief minister. Of Robert Kent all I can find is, that a person of that name is mentioned in the Paston Letters in 1459 as having been a spiritual lawyer.*

BY THE QUEENE.

WELBELOVED, we grete, &c., and late yow wite that our welbeloved servant Thomas Shelford, whom, for his vertues, and the agreable service that he hath don unto us herbefore, and in especial now late in the company of our cousin of Suffolk, we have taken into oure

* Paston Letters, vol. iii. p. 353.

Chambre, there to serve us abowte our personne, hath reported unto us that, for the good and vertuous demening that he hath herd of a gentil woman beyng in your governance, which was doghter to oon Hall of Larkfeld, he desireth full hertly to do hir worship by wey of mariage, as he seith; wherfor we desire and praye you hertly that, setting apart all instances or labours, that have or shalbe made unto yow for eny other personne what so ever he be, ye wol by all honest and leafull menes be welwilled unto the said mariage, entreting the said gentilwoman unto the same, trustyng to Godd's mercye that it shalbe both for hir worship and availle in tyme to come. And if ye wol doo yo^r tendre diligence to perfourme this oure desire, ye shal therin deserve of us right good and especial thanke, and cause us to shewe unto you therefore the more especial favor of oure good grace in tyme to come. Yeven, etc.

To R. Kent.

LXI.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE PARKER OF WARE.

THE Earl of Salisbury named in this letter was Richard Neville son of Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmerland. He married Alice sole daughter and heir of Thomas de Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, who was killed at the siege of Orleans in November 1428, and in her right became Earl of Salisbury. This Richard Neville was father of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, popularly called the King-maker, who was killed at Barnet, in 1471. Richard Neville the elder was the husband of Alice de Montacute before her father's death in 1428, and assumed the title of Earl of Salisbury immediately after that event, but the patent of his creation is dated the 4th May, 1442.^a Up to 1455 (33 Hen. VI.) this Earl remained faithful to the House of Lancaster; but in this year he sided with the Duke of York, and was present with the Yorkists at the battle of St. Alban's, the battle of Northampton, and the battle of Wakefield. At the last battle he was taken prisoner, and immediately beheaded. This letter was written between 1445 and 1455.

^a Dugd. Bar. i. 302.

BY THE QUENE.

WELBELOVED, for as moch as we knowe verreily that our cousin therl of Salesbury wolbe right well content and pleased that, at our resorting unto o^r castell of Hertford, we take o^r disporte and recreation in his parke of Ware; we, embolding us therof, desire and pray you that the game there be spared, kepte, and cherished for the same entent, without suffering eny other personne there to hunte or have shet [shot or shooting], cource, or other disporte, in distroing or amentissment [diminution] of the game abovesaid, until [such] tyme [as] ye have other commandement from our said cousin in that bihalf. As we trust you, etc.

To the Parker of Ware.

LXII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE ABBESS OF SHAFTESBURY
RESPECTING THE PROMOTION OF HER CHAPLAIN, MICHAEL
TREGORY.

MICHEL or Michael Tregury, Tregory, Tregoire, or Tregore, was a native of St. Wenn in Cornwall, a Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, a Principal of several Halls successively that stood near that college, and, in 1434, a Proctor of the University.^a The letter was probably written in March 1447,^b and addressed to Edith Bonham, who was Abbess of Shaftesbury from 1441 to her death in 1460.^c Before the Reformation the patronage of the rectory of Corfe Castle belonged to the Abbess of Shaftesbury; but, when the abbey was

^a Hist. and Antiq. Oxon. (Gutch) iv. (Fasti) p. 45.

^b The English marriage of the Queen took place in 1445, and Edmund Beaufort, Marquis of Dorset, was created Duke of Somerset in 1448. The only vacancy of the bishopric of Lisieux (see the letter) between these dates was occasioned by the death of Pasquierus de Vaux in July 1447. This prelate had been secretary and chaplain to the Regent Duke of Bedford. Tregory may have been recommended, but Thomas Basin succeeded to the vacant see. (Gallia Christiana, tom. xi. p. 795.)

^c Dugd. Mon. ii. 474.

vacant, the right of presentation was in the Crown. The house of Beaufort, however, when lords of the manor of Corfe Castle, twice contested the right, but without effect.^a It is to this the Queen alludes when she informs the abbess of her title being "like to be laboured by our cousin the Marquis of Dorset." The subject-matter of the letter is somewhat obscure. The name of Michael Tregory is not to be found in the list of the rectors of Corfe Castle,^b nor does it occur in the catalogue of the bishops of Lisieux.^c It is said, however, that King Henry the Sixth entertained a special respect for him; and he is designated by Anthony Wood as having been "the ornament of the university."^d Another author states him to have been "a man of great wisdom and learning."^e Michael Tregory was one of the earliest of the rectors of the University of Caen, founded by Henry the Sixth in 1431.^f He was chaplain to Queen Margaret;^g Archdeacon of Barnstaple, in the diocese of Exeter, in 1445;^h and, finally, in 1449-50, Archbishop of Dublin. He died at his manor of Tallaght, in December 1471, and was buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral.ⁱ

BY THE QUEENE.

DERE and welbeloved in God, we grete you well; and albe it that, at oure reverence and prayer, ye presented not long agoo our right welbeloved clerk and chapellein Maist. Michel Tregoire unto the parsonage of Corfe Castell, wherof we thanke you; yet nevertheles, for

^a Hutchins's Dorset, i. 296.

^b Hutchins, i. 297.

^c Gallia Christiana, tom. xi. p. 795. ^d Hist. and Antiq. Oxon. (Gutch) iv. (Fasti) 45.

^e Cotton's Fasti Eccles. Hib. ii. 16.

^f See an article entitled "Le Collège des Droits de l'ancienne Université de Caen," by Jules Cauvet, member of the Antiquarian Society of Normandy, vol. xxii. (Series 3, vol. ii. p. 484.) Chroniques Neustriennes (Dumesnil), p. 332; and Gallia Christ. tom. xi. 427.

^g Harl. MS. 6963, fo. 84. This is extracted from Gascoigne's Dict. Theolog.

^h Fasti Eccles. Anglic. i. 406.

ⁱ Fasti Eccles. Hib. ii. 17. For a memoir of Michael Tregory, which, however, is inaccurate in ascribing to Henry V. the founding the University of Caen, see Davies Gilbert's History of Cornwall, vol. iv. p. 133; and Gent. Mag. vol. ci. p. 197, *et seq.* In both these works a plate is given, representing the tomb of the archbishop, round which was the following inscription:—

Jesus est Salvator meus.

Præsul Metropolis Michael hic Dubliniensis

Marmore tumbatus, pro me Christum flagitetis.

The cover of the tomb was found, under rubbish, in St. Stephen's chapel in St. Patrick's Cathedral, and preserved and set up by Dean Swift, A.D. 1730.

many reasonable causes, yo^r presenting is not put in execution; for sone [there] upon oure saide chapelein was by my lord's writing recommended unto the Bisshoprick of Leseux [Lisieux]; and so oure said chappellein eschewing principally the hurte of yo^r title, that was like be gretly laboured by oure cousin the Marquis of Dorset, and also his owne grete costs and expenses in defens therof, hath laboured the parsonne of Corf, for more ease, to resign frely the said chิร์ch, so that it is come to lapse; wherfore we praye yowe hertly that ye wilbe unto o^r said chappellein binevolent and good lady as to souffre hym to come in by the bisshop by wey of lapse, sith it is unto yo^r title no hurt nor prejudice at this tyme and at nexte avoidance, which, we trust shalbe in hast, by the promocion of o^r said chappellein ye may dispose it thanne in observing and keping yo^r right; wherinne we shall the rather for our said chappellein sake have you in tendre remembrance of o^r good grace. In which thing, etc. At Plesse the 11 day of Marche, etc.

To thabbesse and Convent of Shaftesbury.

LXIII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THOMAS FOREST, EXECUTOR OF JOHN FOREST, LATE DEAN OF WELLS.

THOMAS FOREST is mentioned in the second codicil to the will of Cardinal Beaufort, as Master or Keeper of the Hospital of the Holy Cross near Winchester. John Forest, Dean of Wells, "broken down by age," died 25th March, 1446.* Nicholas Carent, LL.D. the Queen's secretary, was elected Dean by a majority of the Canons, 22nd August, 1446, and confirmed by Thomas Beckington, Bishop of the diocese, before Delabere, the King's great almoner, presented his bulls and the King's letter. The episcopal registers at Wells do

* *Senectute fractus*. (Anglia Sacra, 583.) This John Forest built the library of Lincoln College, Oxford, an. 1436. Antiq. Oxon. (Gutch) iv. 247.

not recognize Delabere as having been Dean,^a and therefore, perhaps, it is that the Queen speaks of John Forest as "the last incumbent." Delabere became Bishop of St. David's in 1447, and then Nicholas Carent was advanced to the Deanery. The Queen's letter was probably written in 1447.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, we suppose verely that it is wele knowen unto youre wisdom that oure right welbelovyd clerck and Secretary Maister N[icolas] C[arent], Dean of Wellys, ought of law, right, and good conscience to be recompensed for the reparacion of the deanry with the goods of the last incumbent there, to whome ye be executor, as it is said. We, havynge consideracion unto the good service that oure said secretary doth unto us dayly, and unto the ryght and dewte longyng unto hym in this mater, desire and praye yow hertely, that, at reverence of us, and the rather by contemplacion of this oure prayer, ye wil have oure said secretary towards yow, in contenting him of his said reparacion, especyally commended, shewing him suche binevolence and favor that he may finde yow so frendly disposed and tretable that, by yo^r good diligence, oure seid secretary may have no cause in yo^r defaulte to pourvey him of other remedie, as we trust yow. In which thinge ye shal not mowe ownly desserve of us right especial thanke, but do us also right good and singler pleasir, and cause us to have you therfor in right tendre remembrance of oure good grace in tyme comyng. Yeven, etc. at etc.

To Maister Thomas Forest, executor of John Forest.

^a But the Bull of Pope Nicolas V. raising Delabere to the see of St. David's describes him as Dean of Wells. (*Anglia Sacra*, 589.) This may, however, have been a convenient untruth (of which there are other instances) to cover the fact of the last Pope (Eugenius IV.) having been foiled in his attempt to force Delabere on an unwilling chapter.

LXIV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE MASTER OF ST. GILES IN
THE FIELDS BESIDE THE CITY OF LONDON.

THE Hospital of St. Giles was founded in 1117 by Matilda or Maud, daughter of Malcolm King of Scotland, Queen of Henry the First of England. It was built for the reception of forty lepers; and she gave sixty shillings a year for each leper. The hospital was dedicated to a Greek saint (St. Egidius) called St. Giles of the Lepers; and it continued, in flourishing circumstances, until the dissolution under Henry the Eighth. The site of the hospital was a little to the west of the present church, and St. Giles's pound was somewhat west of, but opposite to, the spot where Meux's brewhouse is now built.^a

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY, etc. and for asmoche as we be enfourmed that oon Robert Uphome, of the age of xvii. yere, late querester [chorister] unto the moost reverende fader in God our beal uncle the cardinal, (whom God assoile,) atte his college at Winchestre, is now by Godd's visitacion become lepour; we desire therfore and praye you, sith he he hath noon other socour ne lyvelode to lyve upon, but oonly of aulmesse of cristen people, as it is saide, that, at reverence of our blessed Creatour, and in contemplacion of this o^r prayer, ye will accepte and receive hym into yo^r hospital of Seint Giles, unto such findinge and lyvelode as other personnes ther in suche cas be accustomed to have, as we trust you. In which thinge ye shul not only do a right meritorie dede to Godd's pleasir, but deserve also of us right especial thanke, etc.

To the Maister of Seint Giles in the feld besid the Cite of London.

^a Dobie's Hist. of St. Giles, &c. pp. 6, 7, 8, 9.

LXV.

A LETTER FROM QUEEN MARGARET TO DAME JANE CAREW.

THIS curious letter was written between 1447 and 1450, and was addressed to Jane the widow of Sir Nicholas Carew, lord of Carew.^a Jane Courtenay, daughter of Sir Hugh Courtenay, and Philippa his second wife, who was a daughter of Sir Warine Arcedekne, became, by the death of a sister under age, sole heiress to the families of Courtenay of Haccombe and Arcedekne, and was, before she was fourteen years of age, married to Sir Nicholas Carew.^b She had the disposal of seventeen manors, and this circumstance was probably not overlooked by Thomas Burneby, "sewer for our mouth," when he induced his royal mistress to write this letter on his behalf. The Queen was herself barely twenty at the time, whereas Lady Carew was at least thirty-six. The widow was not of a temper to succumb to a royal mandate of this kind,^c nor did she, for she subsequently married Sir Robert Vere, brother to John twelfth Earl of Oxford.^d She bore five sons to Sir Nicholas Carew, and to Sir Robert Vere one son, which son was subsequently 15th Earl of Oxford. Lady Vere survived both her husbands.^e Of Thomas Burneby all I can discover is that he was a legatee

^a Sir Nicholas Carew died 3 May, 1447 (25 Hen. VI.) De la Pole's Devon, p. 130.

^b The marriage took place in 1424 or 1425. See Inquisition taken at death of Sir Hugh Courtenay (3 Hen. VI.) Calendar of Inq. P. Mortem, at the College of Arms, 3 Hen. VI. MS. vol. i. p. 335.

^c She quarrelled with her eldest son by Sir Nicholas, and disinherited him, dividing her lands between her other children. (Harl. MSS. No. 1196, fol. 152, 153; and Carew's Survey of Cornwall.)

^d The licence of Lacy, Bishop of Exeter, for the second marriage, bears date 5th Oct., 1450. (Bishop Lacy's Register, vol. iii. p. 350.)

^e I have to thank Mr. W. H. Pole-Carew of Antony, and especially Mr. John Carew of Exeter, both descendants of "Dame Jane Carew," for particulars, very kindly furnished me at my request, relating to their ancestress. She founded five distinct families, three of which remain to the present day. I have received from Mr. John Carew the following curious document, the original of which is in the muniment room of Haccombe, from which it appears that the lady was a widow for the second time in 4 Edw. IV. (1464):—

"This Indenture, made the xxth day of June, the iiiiith year of Kyng Edward the IIIIth. betweene Nicholas Gosse, William Godde clerkys, and Harry Drewe, on the one partie, and Jane y^t was the wyf of Robert Veer, knyght, of the other partie, Witnessith y^t the said Nicholas, William, and Harry grauntith by this present indenture to the said. Jane

under the will of Cardinal Beaufort;^a that he was, with a great many other officers of the Household, exempted from the operation of an act of resumption passed in 1450;^b and that he steadily adhered to the House of Lancaster, and accompanied the Queen to Scotland in 1461.^c He was probably a native of Devon, for I find that there is a place called "Burneby" in that county, which gave name to a family still existing at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

BY THE QUEENE.

RIGHT dere and welbeloved,—We grete you well; and, for as moch as oure trusty and welbeloved Squier Thomas Burneby, sewer of our mouth, aswel for the greet zele, love, and affeccion that he hath unto yo^r personne, as for the womanly and vertuouse governance that ye be renowned of, desireth with all his hert to do yow worship by wey of marriage, bifore all creatures lyvyng, as he saith; We, desiryng th'encres, furtherance, and preferring of oure said squire, for his manyfold merits and deserts, as for the good service that he hath don unto my lord and us, and yet therin dayly continueth, praye you right affectuously, that, at reverence of us,

that hit shall be lawfull to hir duryng her lyif to entre into the manor of Haccombe, and in the housyng there to herbre and loigge atte all such sesons as shall please hir, and also to entre in the deere parke there, there to enchase, hunt, kylle, and bear away the deere wythyn the said parke at all such tymes as shall plesse hir duryng hyr lyif; and also to take yerely duryng hir lyif frute growyng upon this said maⁿer resonably att hir plesure for hir expenses and hir houshold, withoute makyng of any syder therof. Furthermore, the said Nicholas, William, and Harry grauntith by this present wrytyng to the said Jane the advowson of the churche of Haccombe aforesaid, in the counte of Devonshire; to have and to hold the said advowson to the said Jane duryng hir lyif. In witness of the which the said parties to this present wrytyng indentyd chaungeably have putte to their selys the day and year abovesaid."

To this deed three seals of red wax are attached. Nicholas Gosse, at this time (1464) a Prebendary of York (*Fasti E. A.* vol. iii. p. 197), was afterwards, in 1469 and 1484, Chancellor of Exeter. (*Ibid.* vol. i. p. 419.) Why Lady Vere was not to make cider does not appear; and it might not be thought respectful to her memory to inquire into the matter too curiously!

^a In the second codicil to the cardinal's will, which bears date the 9th April, 1447, occurs the following bequest:—"I bequeath to Thomas Burneby, page to my lady the queen, xx.^{li} and a cup of silver-gilt." (*Testamenta Vetusta*, vol. i. p. 255.) ^b Rot. Parl. v. 193a.

^c Paston Letters, vol. i. p. 247.

^d De la Pole's Devon, p. 347.

ye will have oure said squire towards his said mariage especially recommended, inclynnyng you to his honest desire at this tyme; the rather by contemplacion of this oure praier, wherin we trust verreily ye shul mowe pourvey right well for yo^r self, to yo^r greet worship and hertsease, and cause us to have yow both in suche tendernesse and faver of our good grace, that by reason ye shul holde you right well content and pleased; and how ye thinke to be disposed to our pleisir in this partie, ye will ascertain us by the bringer of these. As our singler trust is in yow. Yeven, *etc.* at Eltham, the, *etc.* -

To Dame Jane Carew.

LXVI.

A LETTER FROM THE KING TO THE QUEEN.

BY THE KYNG.

RIGHT dere and right entirely bestbeloved wyf, we grete you hertly. And, for as moche as We, of oure grace especiall, have granted unto John Barham x oks for tymbre, to be taken in yo^r outwods of Kenelworth, of our yefte, We therefore desire and praye you that ye wol see that the said John may have delyverance of the said oks, after th'entent of oure saide grante. And thise oure lettres shalbe unto you sufficient warrant, and full discharge of eny pechement of waste, in this partie. Yeven, *etc.* the yere of oure reign xxvii [1449].

To our right dere, *etc.* wyf the Quene.

LXVII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE CORPORATION OF LONDON, TOUCHING INJURIES DONE TO HER TENANTS OF ENFIELD.

THE manor of Enfield formed part of the dower lands of Queen Margaret

granted to her by Parliament.* I have not found that the City had any claim to exercise acts of ownership at Enfield.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, we grete you wele. Lating you wite that, albeit that it hath pleased my lord's highnesse to take oure tenants of Enfeld into his proteccion of any maner taking [*sic*], as it appereth by his grant therof under his signet; yet, nevertheles, summe of yo^r officers, havynge no rewarde [*regarde*] therto, unadvisely toke fro day to day the horses of our said tenants, into [unto] greet contempte of my lord's proteccion, and to oure displeasir. Wherefore, we pray you that at reverence of us ye will geve in comandement unto all yo^r officers t'obeie my said lord's proteccion, suffring our said tenants to leve in quiet and rest in that bihalf. So that we have no cause to pourvei other remedie in yo^r defaulte, as we trust you. In which thinge ye shul mowe deserve of us right especial thanke therefore in tyme comyng. Yeven, *etc.* at Windesore, the, *etc.*

To the Mair and Aldermen of the Cite of London.

To the Shirefs of the Cite of London, and to either of them.

LXVIII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF
CANTERBURY.

THE archbishop to whom this letter was written was probably either John Stafford, who was Archbishop from 1443 to 1452, or John Kempe, who held the same post from 1452 to 1454. Both these prelates were Lords Chancellors. I find recorded in a parchment book at the Duchy of Lancaster Office that John Reignold "*Yoman Ussher de nostre Sale dans nostre hostel*" was 3rd October, 13 Hen. VI. (1435), made porter of the Castle of Monmouth. Most likely he was the same person with John Reignold named in this letter.

* Rot. Parl. v. 118a.

BY THE QUEENE.

RIGHT Reverend Fader, etc. And for as moche as we understand by a supplicacion presented unto us by John Reignold, yoman of my lord's hall and oures, how that oon John Audeley, a squier of youres, hath wrongfully put hym out of certein lyvelode apperteyning unto o' said servant of right, with many other dyvers vexacions and troubles, as in the said supplicacion closed within this ye may see more plainly. We desire therefore, and pray you hertly, that, the said supplicacion by you diligently seen and deuly examined of the trouth, ye will, at reverence of us, after god trouth and good conscience, sett a good quiet and rest betwix theym in that behalf, havynge our said servant after his honest desire in the seid supplicacion especially recommended. Shewing him therin th'ease, favor, and tendernesse that ye goodly may, so that he may fynde yo' good lordship the better disposed to a good and final conclusion in this mater by contemplacion of this our praier. As our singler trust is in yow. In which thing ye shul, *etc.*

To the Archebisshop of Canterbury.

LXIX.

FROM THE QUEEN TO THE KEEPER OF APCHILD PARK.

ABFIELD or Abchild is an estate in the parish of Great Waltham, Essex, and it is probable, therefore, that it was part of the Queen's dower lands, as parcel of that manor. It is only a few miles from Pleshy. The letter is dated 28th August, 1449.

BY THE QUEENE.

WELBELOVED, we wol and expressly charge you that, for certein consideracions moving us, our game within our parc of Apechild, wherof ye have the sauf garde and keping, ye do, with all diligence,

to be cheressed, favored, and kept, without suffryng eny personne, of what degre, estat, or condicion that he be, to hunte there, or have course, shet, or other disporte, in amentising oure game above said, to th'entent that, at what tyme it shall please us to resorte thedre, yo^r trew acquital may be founden for the good keping and replenishing therof, to th'accomplissement of o^r entencion in this partie. And that in no wise ye obeie ne serve eny other warrant, but if hit be under our signet, and signed with o^r owne hande. And if eny personne presume t'attempte to the contrarie of the premisses, ye do certiffie us of their names; and that ye faill not herof, as ye will eschew our displeasure, at yo^r perill, and upon forfeiture of the keypyng of o^r said park. Yeven, *etc.* at Plasshe, the xxviii day of Auguste, the yere, *etc.* xxvii.

To the Keper of o^r Parke of Apechild or his Depute there.

LXX.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE EXECUTORS OF CARDINAL BEAUFORT.

CARDINAL BEAUFORT left nine executors to his will, which is dated 20th January, 1446.^a This letter is addressed to only three of them, who were probably the acting executors. Of these Richard Waller is described by the Cardinal as "Master of my household." The Archbishop of York was John Kempe, who was elected Archbishop of York 8th April, 1426, appointed a Cardinal 18th December, 1439, and Archbishop of Canterbury in 1452.^b The "Earl of Dorset," who, in the will, is described as "my nephew the *Marquess* of Dorset," was Edmund Beaufort, third son of John Beaufort, eldest natural (but legitimated) son of John of Gaunt and Katherine Swinford, and elder brother of Cardinal Beaufort. Edmund Beaufort was created Duke of Somerset 31st March, 1448. The Cardinal died 11th April 1447. The letter cannot have been written later than March 1448. The foundation of the Queen's letter to the executors, at the instance of Piers Preston, yeoman of the

^a Testam. Vet. p. 249.

^b Fasti Ecc. Ang. vol. iii. p. 110.

Crown, was the following clause in the Cardinal's will: "I will that the residue of my goods not disposed of be applied to works of charity and pious uses, according to the discretions and consciences of my executors; such as relieving poor religious houses, marrying poor maidens, succouring the poor and needy, and in other similar works of piety, such as they may most deem will tend to the health of my soul."* The expression in the letter "for the merit of our said uncle's soul," seems to refer to the last words of this clause.

BY THE QUENE.

MOOST worshipful Fader in God, oure right wel beloved cousin, right trusty and welbeloved, we grete you well; and, for as moche as my lord's servant and oures, Piers Preston, yomanne of the Crowne, hath leten us wite that oon W. Frutes and Agnes Knoghton, poure creatures and of vertuous conversacion, pourposyng to leve under the lawe of God in th'ordre of wedlok, have made togedre a lawfull contract likly by thaire discrecions to be of sad [serious] and commendable reule, if they were put forth and releved by some aulmes at this tyme. Wheruppon my said lord's servant and oures right humbly hath besoght us that it wolde please us to have theym towards you, in seyng unto theym of aulmes of the goods of our beal uncle the cardinal, on whose soule God have mercye, especially recommended. We, atte instance and humble supplicacion of oure said servant, and in especial the meritorie in relevement of the said pore creatures of so vertues pourpos and laudable entencion, as it is reherced, desire and hertly praye you that ye wil, atte reverence of us, and for the merit of oure said uncle's soule, have theym in such tendernesse and faver, in departing with them of the said aulmesse, that they may perceive thise oure lettres unto theym vailable. And that thei fare the better by contemplacion of this oure praier, as our full trust is yn yow. In which thing, *etc.* At W. the xviii. day of M.

To th'archbishop of York, Cardinal, Th'erle of Dorset, and Ric. Waller, Executoures of our Oncle late Cardinal of England.

* Testam. Vet. 251, 252; and Cassan's Lives of Bishops of Winchester, vol. i. p. 258.

LXXI.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE ABBESS OF BARKING,
IN ESSEX.

CATHERINE DE LA POLE, niece to William Earl, Marquis, and Duke of Suffolk, was Abbess of Barking or Berking, an ancient and well endowed nunnery of the Benedictine order in Essex, from A. D. 1433 to A. D. 1473.^a There can be no doubt that it was to her this letter was addressed. This lady had at one time under her care Edmund and Jasper Tudor, sons of the Queen dowager Katharine of Valois by her second husband Owen Tudor.^b Robert Osberne was a squire in attendance on King Henry the Sixth, in 1454,^c and, as appears from this letter, his secretary; but I have not found any trace of his ever having lived in the county of Essex.

BY THE QUEENE.

DERE Cousine and right welbeloved in God, We grete yow wele; and, for as moche as oure welbeloved Robert Osbern, squier, and my lorde's servant in th'office of his secretary, is inhabited nygh unto yow, and is yo^r tenant, as he seith; desiryng to do yowe service and pleasure, and therto hath and soo purposeth to be disposed with all his hert, we praye youe Cousyn, affectuously, that, considerynge his will [and] sette purpose, ye wol, as wel therefore, as at the reverence of us and this oure instance, be unto hym good and favorable ladye, in his honest desires and resonable offers, and shew unto hym and unto his wif the tendre binevolence of yo^r good ladyship, in suche wise as they may fynde this oure writing unto thayme vailable, for oure sake, and at oure contemplacion, as we therfore may have cause especially to thank yow. Yeven at, etc.

To th'abbesse Berking.

^a Dugd. Mon. i. 436, 437.

^b Rymer, x. 828.

^c Proc. of Pri. Co. vi. 224.

LXXII.

LETTER OF THE QUEEN, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SIR JOHN
MONTGOMERY, KNIGHT, HOLDS LAND OF HER IN ENFIELD,
AS TENANT IN CAPITE.

IF the Sir John Montgomery mentioned in this document is the same person who is referred to in the introduction to the next letter, the Queen's signet must have been put to it on the 22nd day of November, 1448,^a but a short time before his death. The post mortem inquisition of Sir John Montgomery does not mention any lands at Enfield,^b nor have I been able to find that any part of the parish of Enfield is called "Goldyngesfeld," unless "Gongsfeld" be a corruption of that name.^c

MARGARETA, Dei gratia Regina Angliæ et Franciæ, et Domina Hiberniæ, omnibus ad quos presentes literæ pervenerint, salutem. Sciatis, Nos vicesimo primo die Octobris ultimo præterito, apud Waltham Crosse, recepisse, de prædilecto milite nostro Johanne Montgomery, fidelitatem, pro quadam parcella terræ vocata Goldyngesfeld, infra dominium nostrum de Enfeld, quam de nobis tenet in capite, per servitutem supradictam. In cujus rei testimonium presentibus signetum nostrum fecimus apponere. Datum apud Eltham, mensis Novembris die vicesimo secundo, anno regni metuendissimi Domini mei regis Henrici Sexti vicesimo septimo.

MARGARET, by the grace of God Queen of England and France, and lady of Ireland, to all to whom these present letters shall come, health. Know ye that we, on the 21st day of October last past, at Waltham Cross, received the [oath of] fealty of our dearly beloved knight John Montgomery for a certain parcel of land called "Goldyngesfeld," within our lordship of Enfeld, which he holds of us in chief by the service aforesaid. In testimony whereof we have caused our signet to be put to these presents. Given at Eltham the 22nd day of November, in the year of the reign of my most dread lord King Henry the Sixth the twenty-seventh (1448).

^a The 27 Hen. VI. began 1 Sept. 1448, and ended the 31st August, 1449 (Nicolas).

^b Inq. P. M. 27 Hen. VI. No. 36.

^c Robinson's Enfield, i. 75.

LXXIII.

FROM THE QUEEN TO THE KEEPER OF FALKEBORNE PARK,
OR HIS DEPUTY THERE.

ELIZABETH daughter to William Lord Say, and heir to her brother John Lord Say, (who died under age in 1382-3, 6 Rich. II.), was born in 1366. She married, first, Sir John Fallesley, or de Falvesle, a knight of Northamptonshire; secondly, Sir William Heron; and died 8th July, 1399 (23 Rich. II). Both her husbands were summoned to Parliament as Lord Say, in her right; and Sir William Heron, who survived her, continued to be summoned by the same title up to his own death, in November, 1404. - Previously to his death Sir William Heron married, as his second wife, Elizabeth, sister of Ralph Lord Sudeley, and widow of Sir Henry Norbury. This lady, on her second marriage, was called Lady Say, and was "Dame Elizabeth the Lady Say," mentioned in this letter. After the death of Sir William Heron, she married, thirdly, Sir John Montgomery. Sir John Montgomery, who was the owner of Falkeborne, amongst other estates in Essex, was at one period Privy Councillor to John Duke of Bedford, and is the first-named on a list of the gentry of Essex returned by certain commissioners in 1433-4 (12 Hen. VI.)^a His marriage with Lady Say must have taken place not later than 1431, as their second son, Sir Thomas Montgomery, was born in 1433. Sir John Montgomery died in 1448-9. His wife, by what an English historian calls "a far-fetched courtesy,"^b was allowed to retain the title of Lady Say, until her death in 1464. In her will, which is in the British Museum,^c she speaks of "her place at Falkeburne," and desires to be buried in the Priory of Erdbury in the county of Warwick, where, she says, "the bones of her ancestors rest." This refers to that priory, which was of the Augustinian order, having been founded by a Ralph de Sudeley in the reign of Henry the Second.^d The Queen's letter is dated at Pleshy, (which is not more than nine miles west of Falkeburne,) and was probably written very shortly after Sir John Montgomery's death. Lady Say was mother to a Sir Thomas Montgomery, who, a very distinguished man, was of so pliant a mind, that he managed to be in favour with Henry VI., Edward IV., Richard III., and Henry VII. He died

^a Fuller's Worthies, p. 337.^b Morant, ii. 116.^c Lansd. MSS. No. 860 B. fo. 107, and Coll. Topog. iii. 106.^d Dugd. Bar. i. 428; Monast. ii. 565; Antiq. Warw. 1074, 1075.

11th January, 1494. A daughter of Lady Say, Alice Montgomery (she had two daughters of the same name), married John Fortescue, a great-nephew of Sir John Fortescue, Lord Chief Justice, and author of the *De laudibus legum Angliæ*.^a

BY THE QUEENE.

WELBELOVED,—For as moch as oure dere and welbeloved dame Elizabeth the Lady Say hath granted us to have our disporte in hir park of Falborne, at what tyme it shall please us to resorte thedre, and in to this cuntrey; We wol and charge you, that the game there be faveured, cherished, and kepte, without suffryng any personne, of what degre, estat, or condicion that he be of, to hunte there, or have cours, shet, or other disporte, in amentising the game above-said, without an especial commandement of us or of the said Lady Say; and that ye faille not herof in no wyse. Yeven, *etc.* at Plasshe the xxx. day of August, the yere, *etc.* xxvii.

To the Keper of Falborne Park, or to his depute there.

LXXIV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE DUKE OF EXETER.

ASPEDEN or Aspenden Manor, on the Rib, between Westmill and Buntingford, Herts, came, early in the 15th century, to William Berkeley, whose only daughter and heir, Elizabeth, married Ralph Jocelyn, esq. Alderman of London, and third son of Geoffrey Jocelyn of Sawbridgeworth in the same county of Herts. Ralph Jocelyn held this manor in right of his wife, and resided there in 1434 (12 Hen. VI.), when he was returned as being able to dispend 10*l.* per annum, "which was a fair estate in those days." He appears to have been afterwards (1458) sheriff, and (1464) Lord Mayor of London.^b Whether

^a Morant, ii. 116. The Fortescues sold Falkeburne in the 17th century to the Bullocks, the present owners. Neither at Falkeburne Hall, which is a strikingly fine old mansion, nor at the church, unless possibly in an ancient window near the pulpit on the north side, is there any trace of the Montgomery family.

^b Chauncy's Herts, vol. i. pp. 32 and 243.

“Ralph Josselyn, draper of London,” who was disseised, was the alderman, seems doubtful. The letter was certainly written after 1445. I incline to think that the nobleman to whom it was addressed was John Holland, created third Duke of Exeter in 1443, and who died (according to Sir H. Nicolas) in 1446,^a or (according to Dugdale), 1447.^b The letter may, however, have been written to Henry his son, the fourth duke. I find no connection between Aspeden Manor and any Duke of Exeter. Henry the fourth duke was dangerously wounded at Barnet, fighting on the Lancastrian side, and lay untended on the field from 7 A.M. to 4 P.M.; he recovered, however, and fled beyond sea, where he lived in great poverty. De Comines relates that he saw him in such great distress that he ran barelegged after the Duke of Burgundy, begging his bread, for God’s sake. He was at length, in 1473, found dead in the sea between Dover and Calais, though it was not known how he got there.^c Thomas Sharnborne, the Queen’s squire, was of a very ancient family in Norfolk, of which Spelman has written the history in Latin. Thomas Sharnburne married Jomona Cherneys, a lady in attendance on Queen Margaret.^d Sharnburne, which appears to have belonged to the family, is a village near Sandringham, in the north-western part of Norfolk, not far from the sea. I suspect that it was this “Thomas Sharnburne” who is mentioned, under the name of “Sharinborn,” as bearing a message from the Queen to Elizabeth Clere;^e and perhaps also he was the sheriff of Suffolk against whose conduct at a county election the Duke of Norfolk petitioned the Council in 1454.^f

BY THE QUEENE.

RIGHT trusty and right entierly beloved Cousyn,—We grete, etc. And for as moch as our trusty and welbeloved squier Thomas Sharnborne hath do us to be enformed, how, albeit that his cousin Rauf Josselyn, draper, of London, was wrongfully disseised of the Manoir of Aspedon in Hertfordshire, and theruppon an enquest late passed with hym, affermyng his trewe title and right, as, of verrey trowth and law, they ought to do, as it is said; yet, nevertheles, th’adversaries of the said Rauf, seing that they may not, by right ne lawe, opteine thaire entente ne wrongfull purpos in this partie, have enfeffed you in the said manoir, uppon hope and truste to be supported by you in

^a Syn. Peer. vol. i. p. 224.

^c Prince’s Worthies of Devon, p. 503.

^e Paston Letters, vol. i. p. 69.

^b Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. pp. 80, 81.

^d Spelman’s English Works, p. 198.

^f Acts of P. C. vi. 183.

thaire injurious entencion in that behalfe; We, knowyng verreily yo^r good and naturale disposicion towards the faver and tendernesse of trowth and justice, desire and praye you, the rather sith o^r said squier is by negh possibilite heritier to the same manoir, ye will, at reverence of us, be so good lord unto the said Josselyn, that he may be suffred t'enioie and possede his said right without eny interrupcion or meddlyng, by yo^r supporte to the contrarie; soo that he may fynde in effect thise our lettres unto hym vailable, as our full and singler trust, etc. Which thing, etc. Yeven, etc.

To the Duc of Excestre.

LXXV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE BAILIFFS, ETC. OF HER MANOR OF GREAT WALTHAM.

THE manor of Great Waltham (Chelmsford hundred), Essex, was part of the estates of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Essex, and Northampton, which came to Henry the Fifth by partition. From him it descended to his son, and it is included in the duchy of Lancaster. Morant calls it a "noble manor." Great Waltham is about three miles S.E. of Pleshy.

A CLOSE LETTER.

MARGARETE, by the grace of God, Quene of England and of France, and Ladye of Ireland. To our baillives, fermors, or other occupiers of our manoir of Greet Waltham, in the countie of Essex, that now is, or for the tyme shalbe, greting. For as much as we of our especial grace, the ix day of October, the xxvii yere of my lord's reigne, have granted, by oure letters patentes, unto our trusty and wellbeloved squier Thomas Sharnborne xxⁱⁱ of sterlings, to be taken of our manoir of Greet Waltham, in the countie of Essex, every yere at the festes of Ester and Michelmasse, by evyn porcions, by th'andes of oure baillives, fermors, and other ministres or occupiours of our

said manoir, as in the said letters patents it appereth more plainly; We wol and charge you that, the said letters patents by you seen, ye do, thereupon, after the cotinue [contents, *contenu*] and purport of the same letters, paie unto our said squier the said xxⁱⁱ yerely, at the times above prefixed; receivng of oure said squier letters of acquittances, witnessing the payment which ye doo to hym; by the which letters and these presents we wol that ye have due allowance in your accompts. Yeven, *etc.* at our castell of Plasshe, the xxth day of August, the yere of, *etc.* xxvii. [1449.]

To our baillives, fermors, or other occupiours of our Manoir of Greet Waltham in the countie of Essex, that now be, or for the tyme shalbe.

LXXVI.

FROM THE QUEEN TO THE EARL OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

THOMAS Lord Camoys of Broadwater (Sussex) K.G. died 28th March, 1421 (9 Hen. V.) His eldest son Richard had died before him, leaving an infant son, Hugh, and two daughters. The infant son died early in the reign of Henry VI., and the barony of Camoys remained in abeyance between the two daughters, and was not revived until 1839, in the present Lord Camoys. But Thomas Lord Camoys left also a second son, Sir Roger Camoys, who, in the 22 Hen. VI. (1443-4), was taken prisoner in France, and, it is said, was there detained in great misery.* It appears that Sir Matthew Gough,^b a brave Welsh knight, who was "a man of great wit, and much experience in feats of

* Dugd. Bar. vol. i. p. 768 b, and Segar's Baronage, MS. (at the College of Arms) fo. 208. The name of Sir Roger Camoys does not occur in the Camoys Peerage Claim. I conceive that Sir Roger Camoys, who would have been the next male heir, had the peerage not been in abeyance, was called *Lord* Camoys, by courtesy.

^b This valiant leader, who was, at one time, governor of Lisieux, in Normandy, figures in the French chronicles, sometimes as "Mathago" (Hist. de France par Henri Martin, vol. vii. p. 331); and sometimes simply as "Go" (Basin, vol. i. p. 227). He was an ancestor of Richard Gough the antiquary.

chivalry, the which, in continual wars, had valiantly served Kings Henry the Fifth and Sixth, in the parts beyond the sea,"^a negotiated Lord Camoys's ransom, and to that end pledged himself that a large sum of money^b should be paid on a certain day. As a further and, as it probably was deemed, a better security, the Earl of Northumberland gave his "obligation" or bond for the same purpose. The Earl failing to pay at the day, Sir Matthew Gough, and perhaps Lord Camoys also, were in peril; hence the Queen's letter. After giving so many proofs of valour abroad, Sir Matthew Gough perished ignobly in 1450 in what is called the Battle of London Bridge, against Jack Cade. This letter was written between 1445 and 1450.

BY THE QUENE.

RIGHT trusty and right welbeloved Cousyn,—We grete you well, lattyng you witte that, upon truste and seurte of yo^r obligacion, wherinne ye were bounden, as we be enformed, unto our welbeloved squier Mathew Gogh, in two thousand salut^z, for the finance of the lord Camoys, we were the rather inclined and benevolent to desyre o^r said squyer, by o^r lettres, to do all his peyne and diligence for delyverance of the said lord. At whos instance and request o^r said squier toke upon hym to ley his selee [sele?] in this mater. And it is now soo, that he hath acerteened us that the day prefixte of yo^r payment is past and ronne; so that the charge lyth now upon hym, and must neds be droven by justice t'answear that to hymself, and likly, in yo^r defaulte, to be dishonoured and rebuked for ever; the which we suppose ye will take right nigh to hert, in especiall sith he was brought in thereto by yor mene. Wherefore we desire and exhorte you, upon yo^r worship, that, in all goodly haste, ye do content yor said summe, in savyng o^r said squier harmeles, so that we be no more called upon, in lake of yo^r devoir, and trew acquittall, in this partie. Yeven, etc. at Windsor, the viii. day of March.

To th'erl of North.

^a Hall's Chronicle, p. 222.

^b 2000 saluts. The salut was a gold coin of the value of 25 shillings. (Paston Letters, vol. iii. p. 261.) See also Leblanc, *Traité Historique des Monnoyes de France*, pp. 288, 294, and 298.

LXXVII.

FROM THE QUEEN TO THE MAYOR AND SHERIFFS OF LONDON.

At the time at which this letter was written the Cordwainers had only lately been incorporated. Maitland says this took place in 1410,^a Seymour in 1439.^b This letter must have borne date after 1445, as that was the year of the Queen's marriage.

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY, etc. We grete you well; lettyng you wite that John Lory, oure cordewaner, is so occupied in our service, other while in his craft, and other while in comyng towards us, at such tymes as we shall have nede of his crafte, and send for hym, that he may not appere and attend in enquests, in the cite of London. Wherefore we praye you, that duryng the tyme that he is in such wise oure servant, ye will not suffre hym to be empanelled, but therein sparing hym at reverence of us, so that he be no more vexed, ne empeched, in that behalf. As we truste yowe. In which thing, etc. Yeven, etc. the 11 day of November.

To the Mair and Shirefs of London.

LXXVIII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO JOHN SOMERTON, ONE OF
THE CUSTUMERS OF SOUTHAMPTON.

MARMADUKE LUMLEY, Bishop of Carlisle, was Lord Treasurer during the year 1447-8; therefore this and the next letter were written in that year.^c The Queen's dower settled on her at her marriage was valued at

^a Hist. of London, p. 1244.

^b Survey of London, vol. ii. p. 378.

^c Parliamentary Paper X. prefixed to Parl. Hist. vol. i.

3,666*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum, of which 1,000*l.* was charged on the customs of the port of Southampton. It would seem from these letters that the payments from this source were sometimes, in arrear, and perhaps it was for this very reason that, at the end of the year 1447, it was agreed at the Parliament held at St. Edmundsbury to commute the money payments for lands parcel of the duchy of Lancaster.^a Sir John Wenlok, although now Chamberlain to the Queen, and advanced to the rank of a Knight of the Garter by King Henry the Sixth, subsequently sided with the Yorkists, and was attainted by the Parliament held at Coventry 38 Hen. VI. (A.D. 1460). He was present with King Edward IV. at the battle of Towton Heath, and was raised by him to the peerage; but, following the fortunes of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick, he again changed sides, fought at Barnet, and was slain at Tewkesbury.^b

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY, etc. We desire and praye yowe, and also exhorte yow and require yow, that, of suche money as is dewe unto us, at Michelmasse terme last passed, of oure doyer [dower], assigned to be paid of the custumers of Suth [Southampton] by yo^r handes, ye will do yo^r peyne and diligence that we may be contented and paid in al hast. And of the day of yo^r payment ye will acerteine by writyngge oure right welbeloved knight Sir John Wenlok oure chamberlayn, which knoweth in what wise the said money must be employed and bestowed in all possible hast; and that ye faile not herof as we truste, and as ye thinke to stande in continuance of the favor of oure good grace, and t'eschewe oure displeasure. Yeven, etc.

To John Somerton, oon of the custumers of Suth.

LXXIX.

A LETTER BY THE QUEEN TO MARMADUKE LUMLEY, BISHOP
OF CARLISLE.

BY THE QUEENE.

REVEREND fader in God, etc. We grete, etc. desiryng hertly and praying yow that ye doo write yo^r lettres unto J. Somerton, oon

^a Rot. Parl. v. 118b.

^b Dugd. Bar. ii. 264.

of [the customers of] Suthampton, yevynge him stretely in comandement to paye and contente us of oure money dewe unto us at Michelmasse last passed, of oure dower, assigned to be paied of the customs of Suthampton; which we must paye, in all possible hast, for suche causes that lyen us right nigh to hert; havynge th'exploit herof in suche recommendacion and favor, that we may cause to cun yow therfor right especial thanks; as oure full trust, *etc.* At W. *ut supra.*

To the Bishop of Carliel, Tresorier of England.

LXXX.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION
OF SOUTHAMPTON.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved. For asmuch as our welbeloved Robert Bedale, [who] desireth to do you service in th'office of Waterbailif, is serjeant of Southampton; to the which, as we be enformed, he is right hable and sufficient, as wel in his trowth and discrecion as in other cunying; We, at instance and supplication of certein our servants attendinge right negh aboute oure persone, desire and pray you therefore, that, at reverence of us, ye will have the said Robert to the said occupacion especially recommended, and admitte hym thereto, before all other; as we truste you. In which thing, *etc.* At Wynds[ore,] the *etc.*

To the Mair and his brethern of Southamton.

LXXXI.

A LETTER FROM QUEEN MARGARET TO THE WIFE OF A MAN OF HIGH RANK, THANKING HER FOR ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO GEORGE ASSHEBY, CLERK OF HER SIGNET, AND REQUESTING HER FURTHER BENEVOLENCE.

THE reference in this letter to the death of the Duke of Gloucester shews that it was written after 1447, in February of which year the Duke died (or was murdered) at Bury St. Edmund's. It may have been addressed to Alice Duchess of Suffolk, granddaughter of Geoffrey Chaucer, whose husband was at this time chief minister; or to Alianore Duchess of Somerset, whose husband, Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, succeeded to the Duke of Suffolk, on his murder, at sea, in May 1450.^a George Asheby appears to have been in the service of the Duke of Gloucester, and was at this time "clerk of our signet." He was a poet of some note. He wrote, amongst other works, a moral poem for the use of Henry Prince of Wales, intituled "On the Active Policy of a Prince," which is still extant amongst Bishop More's MSS. at Cambridge, No. 492. The author is said to have completed this poem in his eightieth year.^b George Asheby died 20th February, 1474, and is buried at Harefield, Middlesex, where the family was settled as early as 1471.^c The Ashebys resided at an ancient mansion in that parish called Breakspears, still existing.^d The letter was probably written between 1447 and 1454.

BY THE QUENE.

DERE and welbeloved, we grete you well. And it is reported unto us, that atte reverence of us, and for the service that our servant George Asheby, clerck of oure signet, standeth in with us, ye, as mene to yo^r husbände, have hadd [him] in right good faver and tendernesse, towards expedicion of payment of his wages deue unto him by the Duc of Glouc. that last died; wherof we thanke you hertly, praying you right affectuously that ye wil continue so forth yo^r binevolence and good dispoicion to th'exploit of his agrement in this partie. As we, etc. at P. &c.

^a Dugd. Bar. ii. 189a.

^b Ritson, Bibli. Poet. p. 43. Warton's Eng. Poetry, iii. 80.

^c Collect. Top. et Geneal. v. 125, *et seq.* and 210.

^d For a description of this ancient mansion see Gent. Mag. Sept. 1823.

LXXXII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE DUKE OF SOMERSET.

EDMUND BEAUFORT, Marquess of Dorset, was created Duke of Somerset 31st March, 1448 (26 Hen. VI.), and lost his life in the first battle of St. Alban's in 1455. I conceive this letter to have been written to him between the years 1450 and 1454, when he occupied the post of chief minister.

BY THE QUENE.

RIGHT trusty and right entierly beloved Cousyn, we grete you well; desyring and praying you that, in suche things as oure dere and welb. servant, Marguerite Stanlowe, oon of oure gentilwomen, shall have for to do towards you, ye will atte reverence of us have hir towards you especially recommended, helping, furthering, and supporting hir, with all th'ease, faver, and tendernesse that ye goodly may by right and trouth, demening [*i.e.* managing for] hir in such wise, that she may have cause to reporte unto us of yo^r good disposicion towards hir at this tyme, to th'accomplissement of our entencion in this partie. As we truste, etc.

To the Duc of Somerset.

LXXXIII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO HER WARDROBER.

THIS letter being addressed to the Wardrober, and dated the 10th December, 1449, was probably intended for Richard Wellden, who served the Queen in her great wardrobe, under Robert Rolleston, clerk, for eighteen years and more, and who on this account is exempted from the operation of an Act of Resumption of 28 Hen. VI. (1450).^a

^a Rot. Parl. v. 188.

BY THE QUENE.

WARDEROBER. We wol and charge yow, that, unto oure welbelovyd Squier Lewis ap Med, ye do deliver iii yeards of fine russet cloth, and ii yeards ditto of blacke saten fugury (figured ?), to be taken of oure yeft. And this bill, signed with oure hand, the x day of Decembre the yere of my lord's reigne xxvii, shalbe youre warrant.

LXXXIV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF
CANTERBURY.

FROM the contents of this letter it would seem to have been addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury in his capacity of Lord Chancellor; but, as there were three Archbishops of Canterbury (John Stafford, John Kempe, and Thomas Bourchier) succeeding each other as Lords Chancellors between the years 1443 and 1455, it is impossible to say to which of them the supplication of William Dorset was sent. I have found at the Record Office the name of "William Dorset" in a bill addressed to Lord Chancellor Stafford; but there is nothing to shew that he was the "William Dorset" named in this letter.

BY THE QUENE.

RIGHT worshipfull fader in God, etc. And for asmoch, as oon William Dorset hath presented unto us a supplication, complaynyng him of divers injuries and disheritances doon unto hym and his wyf, as in the same supplication closed withinne these ye may see more pleynly; We desire and pray yow, that, the said supplication by yow seen, ye will pourvey therupon such remedie, as fer as in yow is, that the seid William may have al that to him rightfully belong in that mater; havyng him towards yow the more tenderly recommended atte reverence of us and by contemplacion of this oure praier; as oʳ singler trust in yow. In which, etc.

To tharchbisshop of Cant.

LXXXV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE DUCHESS OF SOMERSET.

EDMUND BEAUFORT, Duke of Somerset, grandson of John of Gaunt, was first-cousin of King Henry V., and first-cousin once removed of King Henry VI. His wife was Alianore, one of the daughters and coheirs of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.^a The duke was the last English governor of Normandy, and, in that capacity, surrendered to the French, in 1450, Cherbourg, the last place held by the English in that country. In the same year occurred the murder of William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, to whose power in the ministry and credit with the Queen the Duke of Somerset succeeded.^b He was successful in quelling Jack Cade's insurrection, and retained his post of chief minister until 1454, when Richard Duke of York (who was beginning to aim at the Crown), having, in consequence of the King's illness, been appointed Lieutenant of the kingdom, he was sent to the Tower. Soon, however, on the King's partial restoration to health, he regained his liberty, and his former power. He terminated his career at the first battle of St. Alban's on the 22nd May, 1455.^c He was buried in the abbey.^d This letter was probably written between the years 1450 and 1454, when Somerset was at the head of affairs. That such a letter, requesting the "mediation" of the wife of the minister with her husband, that effect might be given to a royal grant, should have been deemed requisite or fitting, may perhaps be taken as some proof (if any were wanting) of the truth of the remark of one of our chroniclers that the King was "a ruler not ruling."^e I can find nothing further relating to Robert Edmund, nor have I met with the Letters Patent granting to him the three hundred and threescore franks.^f Calculating according to the rule laid down by Mr. Hallam, the grant to Robert Edmund would be worth in our money as much as 230*l*.^s

^a Dugd. Bar. ii. 124.

^c Hume, vol. iii. p. 200.

^e Hall, (26 Hen. VI.)

^b Hume, vol. iii. pp. 177, 188; and see p. 114, *ante*.

^d Weever's, Fun. Mon. p. 573.

^f The frank, a very ancient coin in France, was struck by Henry VI. as King of that country.—Dict. des Origines (France), p. 601. See also Ruding's Annals of the Coinage, vol. ii. p. 399, and vol. iii. supplement, part ii. plate xiii. 15; Leblanc, *Traité Historique des Monnoyes de France*, pp. 257, 298.

^s Middle Ages, chap. ix. part ii.

BY THE QUENE.

RIGHT dere and right entierly welbeloved Cousine, we grete you hertely well. And for asmoche as it hath liked unto my lord's highnesse to graunte unto our wel [beloved] squier, Robert Edmunde, the some of iii^o. iii^{xx}. franks, as in my said lord's lettres patents it apperith more plainly; wherupon my lord writith, at this tyme, unto oure cousyn yo^r husband, for the special recommendacion of oure said squier in this behalf; we desire and hertly pray yow, that, atte reverence of us, ye will, by yo^r good and tendre mediacion, shew herin such diligence to th'accomplissement of my lord's entencion, that oure said squier may rejoisse [enjoy] my said lord's graunt, and the rather by contemplacion of this oure prayer; as oure full trust is in yow. Wherein ye shull mowe desire [deserve] of us right especial thanke, unto oure greet plesauce, at this tyme. Yeven, etc. at Windesore, etc.

To oure Cousine the Duchesse of Somerset.

LXXXVI.

A LETTER TO THE DUKE OF SOMERSET.

EDMUND BEAUFORT Duke of Somerset having been chief minister from 1450 to 1454, it is probable that this letter was written to him between those years. John Viscount Beaumont, the first nobleman who bore the title of Viscount in England,^a and K.G., a firm Lancastrian, was slain at the battle of Northampton, 10 July, 1459 (38 Hen. VI.)^b He was a legatee under the will of Walter Lord Hungerford, dated 1 July, 1449, of "a cup of silver with a cover bordered with gold, and on it a knob of gold; with which cup the most noble Prince John Duke of Lancaster was often served, and in which he did use to drink so long as he lived."^c Lord Hungerford speaks of Lord Beaumont as lineally descended from the *Dukes* of Lancaster. Sir H. Nicolas shews that he was descended from the *Earls* of Lancaster.^d

^a Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. p. 54.

^c Test. Vet. 259.

^b Ibid.

^d Ibid. n. 2.

BY THE QUEENE.

RIGHT trusty and right entirely beloved Cousin, we grete you full hertly and often tymes well. And for asmoch as my lord writeth his especiall lettres unto you, desiryng affectuously, for certein consideracions comprised in the same, our cousyn the Viscont Beaumont, to be recompensed and seen unto after his estate, and after the quantite of lyvelod that he hath lefte in the counte of Manor [Maine?], like as in the said lettres it more pleynly appereth. We therefore havyng respecte both unto my said lord's writyng, and also unto the great chierte that he hath our said cousin in, pray you, as hertly as we can, that, as well at the reverence of my lord as at contemplacion of us and this oure writyng, ye will ordeine and see unto the recompensacion of the same oure cousyn, after my lord's desire and entent, and soo we may have cause to thanke you. Yeven, etc.

To the Duc of Somerset.

LXXXVII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE BISHOP OF NORWICH.

THE Bishop of Norwich, to whom this letter was addressed, was Walter Le Hert, de Hart, Lyghard, or Lyhert or Lyghert, who is said to have been a Cornish man, and confessor to the Queen.^a He presided over the diocese of Norwich from 1446 to 1472.^b Edmond Clere, the Queen's squire, was son of John Clere of Ormesby in the county of Norfolk. He is often mentioned in the Paston Letters, and wrote one of the most interesting letters in that very curious collection.^c

BY THE QUEENE.

REVEREND fader, etc. And for as moche as our squier, Edmond Clere, desireth to have his cousin T. S. sergeant of Norwich, by the grant of the Mair, Aldermen, and Commonaltie of the Cite of Norwich; We, havyng consideracion thei wol be gretly reuled

^a Gasc. Theol. Dict.

^b Fasti Eccl. Angl. ii. 467.

^c Paston Letters, vol. i. p. 81.

and demened by you in this partie, as it is said, pray you right hertly that, in accomplissement of our said squier's entencion, in this mater, ye will have the said T. towards yo^r good lordship especially recommended, and do such dilligence, by all goodly meenes, that the said citizens wol, at yo^r request, in contemplacion of o^r letters at this tyme, admitte the seid T. unto th'occupacion abovesaid. As our singler, etc. Yeven, etc.

To the Bissshop of Norwiche.

LXXXVIII.

FROM THE QUEEN TO MASTER W[ILLIAM] S[CROOP]:

THIS and the following letter are placed together as referring to the same matter; in the MS. they are separated. Gretham or Greatham Hospital is a very ancient foundation still existing in the county of Durham. William Scroop or Le Scroop was Master from 1451 to 1463,^a and also Archdeacon of Durham.^b Robert Neville, fourth son of Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmerland, by Joan of Lancaster, a daughter of John of Gaunt by Katharine Swinford, was Bishop of Durham from 1437 to 1457.^c He was first-cousin once removed to King Henry VI. and is said to have been of a peaceful and benevolent disposition, a lover of religious peace and retirement. The King was his guest, for several days, in 1448; and seems to have had great satisfaction in his visit. I presume the letters to have been written soon after 1451. Of Richard Chester I find nothing connecting him with the diocese of Durham. Richard Chester is described by Bishop Beckington as S.T.P., and the King's "faithful and beloved chaplain." In 1440 (19 Hen. VI.) he seems to have been sent on a mission to Pope Eugenius IV.^d In 1448 he was prebendary of Piona Parva in the diocese of Hereford; and he seems to have exchanged that dignity with Elias Holcote or Holcoat, prebendary of Twyford in the diocese of London.^e I have found nothing further with regard to him. These letters

^a Hutchinson's Durham, vol. iii. p. 96.

^b Fasti Eccl. Angl. vol. iii. p. 304.

^c Surtees, vol. i. lvii.

^d Beckington's Letters, Bibl. Lamb. MS. fo. 49, 78, and 79.

^e Fasti Eccl. Angl. vol. i. p. 522.

seem to imply a claim on the part of the Crown to appoint a Master of the hospital. The list of the Masters published by Surtees and Hutchinson shows that the royal claim failed, but a notion has prevailed that at one time the Crown had the right.*

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY, etc. For as moch as we be enformed that, ayeinst all law, trowth, and good conscience, ye occupie the hospital of Gretham, longyng of right unto my lord's clerc, and our maister R. C.; we wol and exhorte yow that, if it so be, that thanne ye doo make due restitution of the seid hospital, with his goodes, unto o' seid clerc, or elles to certiffie, etc.

To Maister W. S.

LXXXIX.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE BISHOP OF DURHAM.

BY THE QUENE.

WORSHIPFULL FADER, etc. And we suppose verreily that it is clerely in yo' remembrance how that now late we wrote unto yow for the recommendacion of my lord's clerke and oures Maister R. Chestre unto the restitution of thospital of Gretham, and his goods, longyng unto hym there of right, as it is said. Wherin as yet ye have not accomplisshed oure entencion, to our greet merveil. Wherefore we praye yow estesones that ye suffre oure said clerke to rejoyse [re-enjoy] his said hospital, with the seid goods, as right, law and good conscience requiren; or elles to certifie us the cause in writing, whie ye wil not, nor ought not, so to do of right. As ye desire to stande in the favor of oure good grace in tyme commynge. Yeven at W. the etc.

To the Bisshop of Duresme.

* Hutchinson, vol. iii. p. 303.

XC.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE LORD BOURCHIER.

HUMPHREY DE BOHUN, Earl of Hereford, Essex, and Northampton died the 17th of January 1372, leaving as his co-heirs two daughters, Elianor married to Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, sixth son of Edward III. (who was inveigled from Pleshy by Richard II., and murdered at Calais), and Mary married to Henry Earl of Derby, afterwards Duke of Lancaster and King Henry IV. Henry IV. was nephew to the Duke of Gloucester, and thus nephew and uncle were brothers-in-law. Anne Plantagenet, eldest daughter of Elianor Duchess of Gloucester, married first Edmund de Stafford, Earl of Stafford, who died in 1403, and secondly Sir William Bouchier. Being her mother's only child, she inherited an undivided moiety of the Bohun estates. The other moiety was vested in King Henry V. as representing his mother, Mary de Bohun, Countess of Derby. Sir William Bouchier was made Governor of Dieppe, and (10th June 1419) Earl of Eu in Normandy, by King Henry V. He died 1420-1, leaving three sons, of whom the eldest was Henry. This Henry Earl of Eu was employed in France during the reign of Henry VI., and, from 5th July 1435 (13 Hen. VI.) to 13th January 1445 (23 Hen. VI.), (but never afterwards) was summoned by that title to Parliament. From the 14th December 1446 (25 Hen. VI.) to 23rd May 1461 (1 Edw. IV.) he was summoned as Henry Viscount Bourchier.* A partition of the Bohun inheritance took place in 1421 between Henry V. and Anne Plantagenet, then Lady Bouchier, and in this partition Walden fell to the King.^b As Queen Margaret was not married until April 1445, this letter cannot have been written earlier than that year. On the 29 May 1454 (33 Hen. VI.), Lord Bouchier was made Lord Treasurer; but, having married Isabella, sister of Richard Duke of York, aunt to King Edward IV., he afterwards sided with the Yorkist party, and was present, with the Earls of March and Warwick, at the battle of Northampton in July 1460 (28 Hen. VI.). He was created Earl of Essex by King Edward IV. on the 18th March 1461 (1 Edw. IV.), and on the 22 April 1471 (11 Edw. IV.) was again constituted Lord Treasurer. He died 4 April 1483 (23 Edw. IV.).

BY THE QUEENE.

RIGHT trusty and welbeloved Cousyn,—We grete yow well, and, sith it is soo that certain matiers hangyng in debate, travers, and

* Dugd. Bar. ii. 129, and Nicolas.

^b Morant, vol. ii. p. 547.

controversie betwix oure tenants of Walden and oon Nicholas Browne and John Chowne, be put in ordinance, award, and arbitrement of yow and of yo^r counseil; We, desiryng a final conclusion thereof, to reste and quiete of oure said tenants, praye yow hertely that ye will, atte reverence of us, prefixe and set a day to mete with oure counseil, and ther to dispose yow t'abide and attende upon the determinacion of all the grevaunces compromitted in maner above reherced, havyng oure seid tenants towards you in suche favor and tendernesse recommended, for oure sake, that they maye fynde, in effecte, that ye be unto theym goode lorde, to th'accomplissement of oure entencion in this mater; and the rather by contemplacion of this oure prayer, as our full truste is in yow. In which, etc. at W. etc.

To the Lord Bourghier.

XCI.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE OFFICERS OF THE KING'S PORTS, RESPECTING ANTONY HEWET OF ROME.

My endeavours to learn something of Antony Hewet of Rome have been utterly fruitless.

MARGARETE, *etc. ut supra*, and to other the officers of my lord's ports whom apperteyneth, greting,—Know ye that we have yeven in commandement unto Antony Hewet of Rome for to bring unto us certain silver vessels, jewels, rings, and other things of pleasaunce, for yeres yifts, and other disports. Wherefore we praye yow that, sith the said goods bene oures and to oure use, ye will suffre the said Anthony to passe with the said goods, withoute takinge therefore eny custume, and that without eny lating, empechement, or disturbance in eny wise; as we truste yow, and as ye thinke to do us pleasir. Yeven, etc.

XCII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE ABBOT OF ST. OSY.

THE Prior of Chich or St. Osyth's, to whom this letter was addressed, was John Deeping, who had been Prior of St. Botolph's, Colchester, and who was elected Prior of St. Osyth's in Essex the 4th of April 1434. He appears to have held his post until 1480, when he was succeeded by John Newton.^a The monks were of the order of St. Augustine. There are still considerable remains of the conventual buildings.^b What connection Humfrey Hayford had with St. Osyth's does not appear. He was a very distinguished member of the ancient and honorable Company of Goldsmiths; several times warden; sheriff in 1467; and in 1477-8 Lord Mayor.^c

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved in God, we grete you wele. And for asmoche as we be enformed that ye wrongfully vexe, trouble, and disease oure welbeloved servant and goldsmyth, Humfrey Hayford, by feined accions of trespas, ayeinst al right and good conscience, as it is said; We therfor desire and praye yow, and also exhorte and require you, that, serchinge yo^r conscience after God and trouthe, and calling unto yo^r remembrance what dishonor it shulde sowne unto you that bene a member of chirche in doing the contrarye, will, atte reverence of us, demene you in suche wise, that no thing be attempted eyeinst oure said servant otherwise than feith, equite, and good conscience requiren in this behalf, so that he have no cause to compleyne unto us for lacke of right in yo^r defaulte, as we trust yow. Yeven, etc. at Windesor the iii day of Feverer.

To th'abbot of the monastre of Saint Osy.

^a Dugd. Monast. vi. 308.

^b Ibid. 309.

^c Records of the Goldsmiths' Company, *passim*; and Maitland, vol. ii. pp. 1195 and 1203.

XCIII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO NICHOLAS STRAUNGE OF
ISELDON (ISLINGTON), RESPECTING THE MARRIAGE OF HIS
DAUGHTER KATHERINE.

I regret to be unable to find anything relating to Nicholas Straunge, Katherine Straunge, or T. Bugdon. I cannot therefore assign any date to this curious letter.

BY THE QUENE.

W[ELBELOVED],—For asmoche as we have understande, by certein oure servants right negh attending about oure persone, how, albeit that T. Bugdon hath, nowe late, made a lawfull contracte with Katrine yo^r doghter, and hertly desireth to do hir worship by wey of marriage, aswel for his deute and lawful contract as for the great zeal, love, and affeccion that he hath unto hir persone, bifore all creatures levyng, as it is said; yet ye, of wilfulnesse and by sinistre excitacion, not havyng regarde unto the said contract, wol not applie you, ne condescende, unto the said mariage, ne yeve therto yo^r benevolence ne assent, but rather induce yo^r said doghter to the contrarye, ayeinst God, the chirche, and al trouth, (as unto us is reported,) to oure greet merveil. We therefore desire and praye yow, and also on God's behalf exhorte and require you, if it so be, that thanne ye incline you to th'accomplissement of the mariage without seeking eny formal delay or empediement, otherwise thanne right lawe and good conscience asken and requiren in this partie; demenyng herin in such goodly wise that the said T. may, atte reverence of us, be unto you especially recommended, and fare the better, by contemplacion of this oure prayer. As we trust yow, etc. Yeven, etc. at P. the iii. day of May.

To Nich. Straunge of Iseldon.

XCIV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO EDMOND PYRCAN, SQUIRE.

THE manor of Hertingfordbury, in the county of Herts, formed part of the Queen's dower.* I can discover nothing relating to either Edmund Pyrcan or William Southwode, the Queen's bailiff.

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved,—We late yow wite, that we be enformed that ye wrongfully vexed, trouble, and menace to bette and sle William Southwode, oure bailyff of oure lordship of Hertingfordbury; so that he dar not, for drede of dethe, abide in oure saide lordship, and attende upon oure service there, as his dewte is; unto greet hindring and derogacion, as wel of oure said bailiff, as of oure right and dewte there, as it is said. Wherof we merveil gretly. Wherfore we wol, exhorte, and require yow, that ye suffre oure said bailiff to leve at home in rest and peas; without vexing, diseasing, or attempting any thing ayeinst our said bailiff, or the lest [least] of oure tenants there, otherwise thanne right, trowth, and good conscience asken and requiren. And in case ye finde yow agreved ayeinst any of oure seid tenants there, yf ye will compleyne yow unto us, or oure counceil, ye shul be remedied, as the case justly requireth. And that ye fail not herof, in no wise, as ye desire to stande in the favor of oure good grace, and t'eschewe oure displeasir, at yo^r peril. Yeven, etc. at oure manoir of Plessy the first day of Marche.

To Edmond Pyrcan, squier.

XCV.

A LETTER OF REPROOF FROM THE QUEEN TO SIR JOHN FORESTER, KNIGHT.

THE manor of Hertingfordbury, mentioned in the last letter, had devolved to the Crown under Edward the Third, by whom it was conveyed to John of

* Rot. Parl. v. 118.

Gaunt. It has ever since continued in the Duchy of Lancaster (Chauncy, p. 272). I can find no trace of any Sir John Forester as connected with this manor, although the name is by no means unknown in the county of Herts.

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved,—We late now wite, that, this same day, ther have be bifore us a greete multitude, both of men and women, our tenants of oure lordship of Hertingfordbury, compleyning them that ye have, and yet be, dayly, about to destroic and undo them for ever; in so ferth forth that ye have do many of them to be wrongfully endited, nowe late, of felonye, before the crowner, by yo^r owne familier servantes and adherents, not knowyng the trowth of the mater; and many of theym ye do kepe in prisonne, and the remenant of oure tenants dar not abide in their houses for fer of deth and other injuries, that ye dayly do them; and al by colour of a ferme that ye have there of oures, that, as it is said, for yo^r owne singler lucre, ye wrongfully engrose towards you al oure tenants lyvelode there; not ownly unto grete hindering and undowyng of oure said tenants, but also unto grete derogacion and prejudice of us, and of oure said lordship; wherof we mervel greetly; and, in especial, that ye that be jugge [judge] wold take so parceably [peaceably] the wrongfull destruccion of oure said tenants. Wherfore we wol, and expressly exhorte and require yow, that ye leve yo^r said labors and besenese, in especial ayeinst us and oure said tenants, until tyme that ye have communed and declared you in this mater before us; and that, the meene while, ye do suffre oure tenants that be in prisonne to be mainprissed, under sufficient seurtie; and the remenant of oure tenants, giltlesse, that be fled, for fere of yo^r destruccion, may come home unto oure said lordship. And if eny of oure tenants have offended ayeinst the lawe, oure entent is that, the trowth knowen, he shalbe peynfully punysshed, and chastised, as the cas requireth. And howe ye thinke to be disposed therin ye will aserteine us, by the bringer of thise, wherto we shall truste; as ye desire to stande in the tendre and faverable

remembrance of oure grace therfor, in tyme comyng. Yeven, etc. at Wynds. the etc.

To John Forester, Knyght.

XCVI.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE DEPUTY OF THE KEEPER OF THE PRIVY SEAL.

THE Secondary or Clerk of the Pipe or Great Roll of the Exchequer, is the officer whose duty it is to enter all accounts and debts due to the Sovereign delivered and drawn out of the Remembrancer's office on the Great Roll. (Cowell.)

BY THE QUENE.

RIGHT trusty, etc. And for as moch as we be enformed that my most doubted lord hath, nowe late, granted unto W. the office of Secundarye of the Pipis in th'escheger, after the continue and pourport of his lettres, of suffisant warrant, to yowe directed in this partie; we, therfor, desire and pray that, in accomplissement of my said lord's grant in this partie, ye wil, at reverence of us, have the seid W. towards you especially recommended; shewing hym, in the sealing his lettres of privie seal, th'exploit and good expedicion, with al the favor and tendernesse, that ye goodly may, and the rather by contemplacion of this oure prayer. So that the seid W. may fare the better, and perceive in effect thise oure lettres unto hym fructuouses and vailable, as we trust yow. In which ye shul mowe desserve of us right especial thanke, unto our greet plesaunce, in tyme comyng. At o' M. of P. the iii day of M.

To M. T., depute unto the worshipfull, etc. Keper of the Prive Seal.

XCVII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE ABBOT AND CONVENT OF
RAMSEY.

THE patronage of Barton-in-the-Clay in Bedfordshire was formerly in the Benedictine Abbey of Ramsey in Huntingdonshire. The Abbot, to whom this letter was addressed was unquestionably John Stowe, who held his office from 1436 to 1468.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved in God,—We, etc. And for as moche as Maist. Ric. Here, parson of Barton in the cley, in the diocese of Lincoln, is in will to resigne his said benefice, to th'entent that o^r welbeloved Sir David Robert shuld have the said benefice, of your yeste; we desire, therefore, and praye you that, the said resignation so don, ye will, at reverence of us, have the said Sir David to the said chirch especially recommended, and grante hym therof yo^r lettres of protection, under youre covent seall, in deu forme; and the rather by contemplacion of this our prayer, as we trust, etc. In which thyng, etc.

To th'abbot and covent of Ramesey.

XCVIII.

A LETTER FROM (MOST PROBABLY) THE KING TO THE PRIOR
OF SAINT MARY OVERIES.

So far as I have had any means of judging, I should say that none of the royal letters of recommendation were successful. The present letter forms no exception to the rule. Robert Stillington, for whose "great cunning, virtues, and priestly demeaning," the writer of this letter vouches, does not appear on the list

of the rectors of St. Mildred in Bread Street.^a I incline to think that cunning (in the modern sense) was a marked characteristic of this churchman. He was Fellow of All Souls, Chancellor of Wells, Archdeacon of Taunton, Prebendary of York under the Lancastrian government, and Dean of the King's Chapel, Dean of the College of St. Martin's-le-Grand, Archdeacon of Berks, Archdeacon of Colchester, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and finally Lord Chancellor under the Yorkists. He held the latter office from 1468 to 1473.^b He was in high favour with Edward the Fourth, temporized with Richard the Third, but was accused of treason by Henry the Seventh, for lending, as has been supposed, some assistance to Lambert Simnel. Either on this account, or on account of the strong part he had taken against the King before his accession, he withdrew for safety to Oxford. The Chancellor of the University, however, delivered him up, and he was imprisoned at Windsor, where he died, in 1491.^c He was buried in the cloisters at Wells. The patronage of the church of St. Mildred (which was burnt in the great fire, but rebuilt,) was formerly in the convent of St. Mary Overies, Southwark. The name of the prior to whom this letter was addressed was probably Henry Werkworth, who was elected in 1414, and died in 1452.^d

T[RUSTY], &c. we grete yow well,—And for asmoch as we be enformed that the paroch chirch of Saint Mildredes in Breedstrete, within your citee of London, beying of yo^r patronage, is like to voide, withinne shorte tyme, by decesse of hym that is now possessor of the same; we therefore, consideryng the grete cunyng, vertues, and preestly demenyng of o^r welbeloved M. R. Stillyngton, desire and hertly praye you, that, at the reverence of us, and contemplacion of this our especial writyng, ye wol have hym unto the said chirch, whannsoever hit shall nexte voide, before all other especially recommended, yevyng feyth and credence unto our W. N., brynger of these, in suche thing as he shall seye unto you touchyng the same mater. Wherinne ye shall do us right good pleasure, etc.

To the Prior of Saint Mary Ovories.

^a Newc. Rep. vol. i. p. 499.

^b From this period must be deducted the short restoration of Henry VI. (1470-1). Hardy's Catalogue, 52, 53.

^c Fasti E. A. vol. i. p. 141.

^d Dugd. Monast. vi. 169.

XCIX.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO JOHN GODWYN.

I HAVE been unable to discover anything respecting John Godwyn. I find that there was a Hugh Godwyn one of the Yeomen of the Crown in 1450.^a From the contents of the letter, John Godwyn appears to have held much the same office as one John Spryngwell, whose duties were defined, in 1446, by the following curious instrument: "*De providendo equos pro Regina. Rex dilecto sibi Johanni Spryngwell de Attelbrugge (Attleborough) in comitatu Norffolciæ, salutem. Scias quòd constituimus et ordinavimus te ad coursers, palefredos, somerhorses, hakeneys, et alios equos, pro equitatione et alio usu carissimæ consortis nostræ Reginæ Angliæ necessarios et opportunos, ubicunque inveniri poterunt, tam infra libertates quàm extra, (Feodo Ecclesiæ dumtaxat excepto,) pro denariis nostris in hac parte promptè et rationabiliter solvendis capiendum et providendum, juxta formam ordinationum et statutorum in hac parte editorum, etc. In cujus, etc. quamdiù nobis placuerit duraturas. Teste Rege apud Westm. 15 die Martii. Per ipsum Regem.*" (Rymer, xi. 125).

BY THE QUEENE.

WELBELOVED, for as moche as we understand that there is a mare in that (*sic*) cuntrye that [is] right covenable, and according to o^r entent and purpose; wherof our secretary communed with you, in that behalf; We wol and desire you that ye, aggreing with the owner of the said mare, as reason wol, ye do sende or brynge hir, with hir colt, unto us, in all goodly haste; and that ye faile not, etc.

To John Godwyn.

C.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

THE office of Protonotary or Prothonotary of the Court of Chancery was a very ancient office, as indeed this letter attests, and appears to have been for-

^a Rot. Parl. v. 192 b.

merly held by one of the Masters. The duties of the office are enumerated at p. 29 of the Report of the Commissioners for examining into the duties and salaries of the officers of the Court of Chancery, printed by order of the House of Commons, 6th June, 1816. The Commissioners further state, that the then holder of the office "had been appointed in 1792, but that he had never been called upon to execute any of the duties of his post, or any other duties whatever." They then say that he has certain fees and emoluments, to which he is still entitled "on performing the duties to which they are attached." After so damaging a report, it seems strange that the office should not have been abolished until 1833. I am not aware of any records in the Court of Chancery which would enable me to say who "Maister J.C., late clerke and familiar servant of oures," was; and I can only conjecture that the Chancellor may have been either Archbishop Stafford or Archbishop Kempe.

BY THE QUEENE.

RIGHT reverend ffader in God, etc.,—Desiryng and praying you hertly, that, albeit that we suppose, verreilly, that ye be good and special lorde unto o' welbeloved Maister J. C., late clerke and familiar servant of oures, ye will nevertheles, the rather atte reverence of us, and for our sake, have hym towards the faver of yo' good lordship especially recommended; shewing hym th'exploit and expedicion of his pursuit towards you for th'office of protonotarie of the chauncellerie, that my lord hath granted hym, as in my lordes lettres of warrant it appereth more at large; so that he may fynde, in effecte, th'accomplissement of my lord's entencion and oures in this behalf, as we truste yow. In which thyng ye shall mowe do unto us right grete plesaunce. Yeven, etc. atte Wyndesor the xxx day of M.

To the Chaunc. of England.

CI.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO SIR JOHN BOURCHIER, KNIGHT.

SIR JOHN BOURCHIER, K.G., fourth son to the Earl of Ewe, married Margery daughter and heir of Richard Lord Berners, and was summoned to Par-

liament 33 Hen. VI. (1455) by that title. He was at the first battle of St. Alban's in 1455, on the Lancastrian side; but afterwards took part with the Yorkists, and was Constable of Windsor Castle under Edward IV. He died 16th May, 1474, and is buried at Chertsey. This letter was written between 1445 and 1455. I have found nothing relating to Thomas Downe or Thomas Hery, "Groom of our Chamber."

BY THE QUEENE.

RIGHT trusty and welbeloved, we grete you well. Lating you wit, that we wrote, now late, unto oon Thomas Downe, exciting hym to delyver unto o^r welbeloved servant Thomas Hery, grome of our chamber, certein evidences, longyng unto hym of right; which our request he is redy to accomplisse and performe, so that ye will therto assente, as it is said. And it is so, as we be enformed, that, at our instance and prayer, by our lettres now late adressed unto you in this partie, ye be right well disposed and binevolent unto o^r said servant in this mater. Wherof we thanke you right hertly; and sith it is so that th'expedicion herof resteth oonly in yo^r trew acquitail, we desire and hertly praye you, that, on the faver, tendernesse, and frendship thatt ye have be gonne for our sake to shewe to our seid servant, ye will continue forthe to the hasty conclusion therof, in such wise, that, without delaye for eny sinistre suggestion, he may have delyverance of his said evidences, and fele in effecte brief exploit and accomplissement of our request, at reverence of us, and by contemplacion of this our prayer; as our singler trust is in you. In which thinge ye shull not oonly deserve right especial thanke, to our greet pleasure, but also cause us to have you, the rather, in tendre remembrance of our grace, therfor, in tyme comyng, etc.

To our knyght Sir John Bourghier.

CII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE PARK-KEEPER OF PLESHEY.

Pleshey in Essex, "castell de Placeto," formerly, and for centuries, the abode of the Lords High Constables of England, is a village about eight miles N.W. of Chelmsford, now only remarkable for the vestiges of its ancient castle. Many were the vicissitudes undergone by its princely owners; but the most striking event recorded in its annals is the treacherous visit of Richard the Second to his uncle, Thomas of Woodstock, Duke of Gloucester, the sixth son of Edward the Third, which resulted in the Duke's violent death at Calais. This, one of the last and worst acts of King Richard's reign, has been most graphically recorded by Froissart. The arrest and murder took place in 1397; the treacherous King was deposed, and died, in 1399. In the reign of Henry the Fifth, the castle, manor, and park of Pleshey became vested in the Crown, by partition of the estates of Humfrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Essex, and Northampton, between the King and a grand-daughter of the Earl, and has ever since been parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster. (See Gough's History of Pleshey.)

The description given by Shakespeare of Pleshey (Richard II. Act 1, Sc. 3) may have been applicable in his own day, but could not have been so at the time of which he wrote. Pleshey was certainly inhabited for half a century later. Many of Queen Margaret's letters are dated from her manor of Pleshey, and even now the name of "The Queen's Garden" attaches to a space, on which are some fine trees, lying between the rampart, now called "the Mounds," and the church. Pleshey is well worth a visit.

BY THE QUEENE.

WELLBELOVYD, we wol and charge you, that, unto our well belovyd servand Rob^t Penall, or unto the brynger of these in his name, ye do delyver a bucke to be taken withinoure fforest, or grete parke, of Plashe of our gefte; any comandment yeven to yow notwithstanding: and these our lettres shall be unto yow therein sufficient warrant. Yeven und^roure signet, at Chestre, the xvi. day of August, the year of my lordes reign xxxiiij^{to} [1456].

Tooure welbelovyd the keper ofoure parke of Plashe,
or elles to his depute there.

CIII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO MASTER GILBERT KYMER,
CHANCELLOR OF OXFORD AND DEAN OF WYMBORNE MINSTER.

GILBERT KYMER was a person of considerable note in his day. He was educated at Durham (now University) College. He took the degrees of LL.B., A.M. and Ph. Mag. and M.D.^a He served the office of Proctor in 1412 and 1413.^b In 1424 we find him Physician to Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, in 1427 Dean of Wymbourne Minster, and Treasurer of Salisbury. He was a Prebendary of Wells and Gillingham, Rector of Fordyngbrigge, of St. Martin's Vintry, London (in 1434), and, in 1449, Dean of Salisbury.^c When the Chancellorship of Oxford was an annual or biennial office, he was eleven times chosen to fill that post, viz. in 1431, 1432, 1433, and from 1446 to 1453, both years inclusive.^d It was during the period last referred to that he received the Queen's letter. It could not have been earlier, as Margaret was not Queen until 1444-5. Of the names of the clergy of Wimbourne Minster, at this period, too few have been preserved to enable me to say what may have been the effect of this letter.^e Kymer inscribed to Duke Humphrey, in 1424, a curious medical treatise, intituled "Diætarium de Sanitatis Custodia."^f He appears to have died the 16th May, 1463, and was buried in Salisbury Cathedral. In one of the windows of the south aisle, under the figure of a person in a gown was the following inscription: "In imaginem Doctoris Kymer, Medici, quondam Cancellarii Oxon, et postea Decani Sarum.

O Sancti Medici, medico mihi ferte juvamen,
Ut summus medicus mentis mihi det medicamen;
Quo, sine fine, salute poli p̄d̄st perfruar. Amen."^g

^a Hist. and Antiq. Oxon. (Gutch), iv. App. 44. *Diætarium de Sanitatis Custodia*, Bibl. Sloane, 84 f.

^b *Ibid.* (Gutch), iv. App. 40.

^c *Ibid.* 51; and *Newe. Rep.* i. 422.

^d *Ibid.* 54 and 51; and Hutchins's *Dorset*, ii. 535 a.

^e Hutchins, ii. 538 a.

^f Warton's *Hist. of English Poetry*, vol. ii. p. 266 (ed. 1840). Warton says Kymer was physician to the King, but this seems not to be warranted by authority. Hearne, in his *Preface to the Lib. Nig. Scacc.* xxxiii. mentions Kymer; and, at pp. 550 and 551, gives certain excerpts from the *Diætarium*, which are remarkably curious. Hearne quotes from a MS. formerly belonging to Sir Hans Sloane, which is now in the British Museum.

^g Hutchins, ii. 535 a; and *Hist. and Antiq. Oxon* (Gutch) iv. Appendix 51. No trace of this inscription is now to be seen.

BY THE QUEENE.

RIGHT trusty and welbeloved, etc., lating you witt, that we have certein right good and notable clerks, of grete fame and vertueux disposicion, attending in o^r service, as yet by us unpromoted, and destitute of benefices. We, havynge knowelech that there is like, in shorte tyme, to voide a prebende in the minstre [minster] of Wymborne, longynge unto yo^r yefte and collocacion, as patron therof, as it is said, desire, and hertly praye you, that ye wil grante us the nexte prebende that first shall voide there, for to avaunce therwith oon of o^r said clerks. Wherinne trusteth verreyly ye shul not mowe oonly pourvei right well for the wele and worship of yo^r said prebende, to God's pleasance; but also cause us to have you in tendre remembrance of o^r good grace therefore, in tyme comynge. And how ye thinke to please us in this mater, ye will acerteine us by our well[beloved] the bringer of thise, etc.

To Maistr. Gilbert Kymer, chan.

CIV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO ALL SEARCHERS, CUSTUMERS,
AND KEEPERS OF PORTS, &C.

THE Queen's mother mentioned in this letter was Isabella of Lorraine, wife of René d'Anjou, and titular Queen of Sicily. Isabella died 28th February 1453, aged only forty-three.

MARGARETE, by the grace of God, Quene of England and of France, and Lady of Ireland. To all serchers, custumers, keepers of ports, and to all other my lord's officers, sendeth greting. And, for as moche as oure welbeloved servant W. A., chappelleyne unto oure right entierly welbeloved moder the Quene of Sicile, purposing to passe over the see towards oure said moder; We desire and praye yow, that, in his seid passage, ye wilbe frendly, favorable,

and wel willed, with al th'ease and favor that ye goodly maye, without eny empechement or interupcion to the contrary. As we truste yow. Yeven at P. the xx. day of Marche the yere of my lord's reigne xxv.

CV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE KEEPER OF SHENE PARK,
OR HIS DEPUTY THERE.

It is said in Manning's History of Surrey (vol. i. p. 409) that Edward the Third built a palace at Shene (now Richmond). He died there 21st June, 1377. Anne of Bohemia, the first Queen of Richard the Second, also died there, 7th June, 1394, and this event caused the King to take such a disgust to the place that he ordered the palace to be pulled down. It was rebuilt, however, by King Henry the Fifth. Manning says that he had found no trace of Henry the Sixth having been at Shene (ibid. 410). This letter, however, shows that both King Henry and Queen Margaret did resort thither, at any rate for hunting. I have no means of fixing the date of this letter.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, For as moche as we suppose that, in short tyme, we shall come right negh unto my lord's manoir of Shene, we desire and praye you hertly that ye will kepe ayeinst our resortinge thedre, for oure disporte and recreacion, two or iii. of the grettest bukkes in my lord's parc there, saving alweyes my lord's owne commandement there in his presence. As we trust, etc.

To my lord's squier and ours, J. B., keper of Shene Parke, or his depute there.

CVI.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE BISHOP OF EXETER.

THERE can be no doubt that this letter was addressed to Edmund Lacy, Bishop of Exeter, who held the see from 1421 to 1455;* but in what year written, or to whom it refers, I am wholly unable to say.

BY THE QUEEN.

REVEREND fader in God, etc. And for as moch as we desire th'encres, furtherance, and promociion of our welbeloved clerck, Maister N., as well for his vertues, merits, and clerkly governance, as for his famows and clene livyng, with the goodly disposicion that he is renomede of, praye you right hertly that, at reverence of us, ye will have our said clerck to the nexte benefice, accordyng to his degree, that first shall voide in your yeft and disposicion, especially recomendet. Wherinne we truste verreily ye shall mowe purvey right notably for the wele and worship of yo^r said benefice, and Godd's pleasance. And doubt not but of us ye shall mowe deserve, in accomplissement of our entencion in this partie, good and especial thanke, unto o^r right great and singler pleasance. Yeven, etc. at N. the xxviii day of March.

To the Bishop of Exeter.

CVII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE ABBOT AND CONVENT OF PETERBOROUGH, PATRONS OF THE LIVING OF COTTINGHAM.

PETERBOROUGH, *alias* Medeshamsted, was a Benedictine abbey founded A.D. 655. The abbots were admitted to Parliament under Henry the Third, and

* Fasti Ecc. Angl. vol. i. p. 374.

became mitred about A.D. 1400. The monastery was dissolved, and the church made a cathedral, by Henry the Eighth.^a Cottingham in Northamptonshire belonged to the monastery down to the Dissolution, but the name of Stanham does not occur amongst the incumbents during the 15th century.^b It would appear, therefore, that the Queen's candidate did not succeed. The name of the abbot to whom the letter was addressed must have been Richard Ashton, who governed the monastery from 1438 to 1471.^c

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY, etc. And for asmoche as we be enformed that the parissh church of Cotyngham is voide, or like withinne shorte tyme to voide, wherof ye be patrons as it is said; We, therefore, havng consideracion aswell to the vertues, merits, and clerkly governance, as for the famows and clene lyvng that oure welbeloved Sir Henry Stanham is renommed of, desire and hertely praye you that, atte reverence of us, and contemplacion of this oure especiall writyng, ye woll have hym unto the said chirch whensoever it shall nexte voide, before all others especiall recommended. Wherinne we truste verreyly ye shall mowe purvey right notably for the wele and worship of yo^r said benefice, to Godd's plesauce. And doubt not but of us ye shall mowe deserve, in accomplissement of our entencion in this partie, good and especiall thanke.

To th'abbot and covent of Peterborgh.

CVIII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE MAYOR, BAILIFFS, AND COMMONS OF COVENTRY.

COVENTRY was constituted a corporation in 1345 (18 Edward III). The first mayor was elected in 1348 ;^e the first sheriffs, who had previously been called bailiffs, were appointed in 1450.^f I have not seen any list of the recorders,

^a Tanner, Northamptonshire, xxvii.

^b Dugd. Mon. i. 364; Bridges's Northamptonshire, ii. 299.

^c Dugd. Mon. i. 361, 363.

^d Dugd. Warw. vol. i. p. 140.

^e Ibid. 147.

^f Ibid. 142, 148.

nor is the office of recorder mentioned by Dugdale. The Queen's coronation took place in 1445, and, from the bailiffs (not the sheriffs) being mentioned, this letter must have been written between that year and 1450.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, we grete you wel. And for asmoch as we be enformed that the recordership of the cite of Coventre is like within shorte tyme to be voide, unto your disposicion and yefte; We, desiring th'encres, firtherance, and preferring of oure welbeloved T. Bate, aswel for his suffisiant of cunnyng and habilite thereto, as in especial for the humble instance and prayer of certain oure servants right negh attending aboute oure persone, pray yow right hertly that, atte reverence of us, sith it is oure first request of you after our coronacion, ye wil have the seid T. unto the said occupacion of recorder, when it shall nexte voide, bifore al other especially recommended, as our ful trust is in you. In which thinge ye shal not mowe oonly to do us greit pleasir, and deserve of us especial thanke, but also cause us to have you in remembrance of oure good grace therfore, in tyme comyng; and of yo^r good disposicion to our pleasir in this matere ye will acerteine us by the bringer of thise. Yeven at P. the vi. day of Marche.

To the Mair, Baillifs, and good Communes of the City of Coventre.

CIX.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE STEWARD OF HER LORDSHIPS OF HASELEY AND PERITON.

THE manors of Great Haseley and Piryton, Periton, or Pirton, formed part of the lands granted to Queen Margaret on her marriage by way of dower. (Rot. Parl. v. 118a.) They lie between Wallingford and Thame, and are both in Oxfordshire.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, For asmoch as we be enformed that

our manoir of Haseley and Periton neden of reparacion, we desire and praye you that such reparacion as shall be necessarie in that partie ye will do make by the wodesale of our beches in our wode of Kelingrigge and Holmewode, as it apperteinet unto you by vertue of yo^r office of oure steward there; so that, in yo^r defaulte herof, we take no hurt ne prejudice in tyme commyng. As we trust yow, etc.

To D. B., Steward of oure lordship of Haseley and Periton.

CX.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO ROBERT HIBERDON.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, for asmoch as we be enformed that ye have the crafte and cunnyng to make [train?] blode hondes in the best wyse; We desire and praye you that ye will, att reverence of us, take suche diligence and payne upon you as for to make us two blode hondes to oure use, kepyng theym sauffly and semly, under yo^r drawing, reule, and demenyng, until tyme that we do send for theym; and that ye faile not herof as ye desire to do us pleasir, and to stand in the faver of our good grace therfore in tyme comyng. At Windesore, the xvi day of August.

To Robert Hiberdon.

CXI.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE CUSTUMERS OF THE
PORT OF BOSTON.

CUSTUMERS for the town and port of Boston, Lincolnshire, were appointed as early as A.D. 1255;^a but I have found very slight mention made of Boston

^a History of Boston, by Pishey Thompson, 1820, p. 30.

during the reign of Henry the Sixth. The grant to John Wenham, the Queen's servant, and his wife, has not been preserved.

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY, etc. And for asmoche as it hath pleased my lord's highnesse to graunte unto John Wenham x marcs in mariage with his wif, duryng their lyves, to be taken yerely in the port of Boston by thands of the Custumers there for the tyme beyng, as in their lettres patents therof unto theym made it appereth more plainly; We, havynge consideracion unto the good service that our said servant hath don us, and yet daily therin continueth, desire and pray you that, at reverence of us, ye will have hym in his payment of the said annuitie, after the continue of my said lord's grant, especially recommended; and for yo^r tyme to shew hym therin th'ease and faver that ye goodly may, so that he may finde in effect thise, etc. unto hym effectuelx and vailable. As we truste yow. In whiche thinge, etc.

CXII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO JOHN STANLEY, SQUIRE.

THE manor of Edgarslei, Adgarseley, Agardsley, Aggresley, -or Aggersley, on the edge of Needwood Forest, in the honour of Tutbury in Staffordshire, not far from the junction of the Dove with the Trent, formed part of the dower lands of Queen Margaret.^a At this distance of time it would be vain to attempt to ascertain the cause of the Queen's displeasure against William Chatterley, yeoman of the crown;^b nor can I satisfactorily discover who John Stanley, squire, was, but I incline to think that he may have been a John Stanley, eldest son of Sir John Stanley, and who was groom of the bedchamber to the King in 1439.^c From a book to which I have been allowed access at the office of the Duchy of Lancaster, I gather that, somewhat before the middle of the 15th century, a John Stanley was connected with the honour of Tutbury, but in what capacity is very doubtful. I find also a John, otherwise called Jenkyn, Stanley, squire,

^a Rot. Parl. v. 118 b.

^b Rot. Parl. v. 183.

^c Seacombe, pp. 64, 65.

Usher of the chamber, as to whom, in 1451, a petition was presented to the King by the Commons that he, amongst many others, might be removed from the royal presence.^a It would seem, from a notice in the *Archæologia*, that, in 1452, some dire disaster befell William Chatterley, yeoman of the crown, but of what nature does not exactly appear.^b This and the following letter were probably written between 1445 and 1452.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, We late you wit that we write at this tyme unto Chaterley charging hym that he come no more into eny of o^r places and parkes in that countrey, nether to hunte ne serve no warrant in any wise. Wherefore we praye yow that ye delyver him yo^r lettres in this partie, seing, as fer as in yow is, that he com into non of o^r places that ye have governance of under us in that countrey. As we trust, etc.

To John Stanley squier.

CXIII.

A LETTER TO W. CHATERLEY, YEOMAN OF THE CROWN.

BY THE QUENE.

WE merveile gretly that ye durst presume upon you, ayeinst our writing unto you in that mater, for to come into o^r parke of Aggresley, there distroing our game, where we were disposed to have cherisshed you in yo^r disport in our other places; wherefore we expresly charge yow that from hennesforward ye com into noon ofoure places and parkes, nether to hunte ne serve warrant, without yo^r especial commandement in that bihalf, at yo^r peril. For thus it pleasith us to be doon.

To W. Chaterley, Yoman of the Croune.

^a Rot. Parl. v. 216 a.

^b Archæol. xxix. 326.

CXIV.

A LETTER TO SIR JOHN DENHAM, KNIGHT.

THIS letter was written between 1445 and 1458. "Our knight, Sir John Denham," was probably a Sir John Denham of Hartland, in North Devon, who served in the wars in France in the eighth and fourteenth years of Henry VI., and died in the thirty-sixth year (1458) of the same King.^a The family is amongst the most ancient in Devonshire. Sir John left a son, also a Sir John Denham or Dinham, who was 28 years old in 1458, and who, "out of love to the Earl of March," became a decided Yorkist. He was raised to the peerage by King Edward IV. Nevertheless he was in favour with King Henry VII., and was made Lord High Treasurer in the first year of his reign. Prince in his "Worthies of Devon" says: "This noble lord was advanced, further yet, to the high honour of a Knight of the Garter, and from that, we hope, to heaven, in the seventeenth year of King Henry the Seventh, æt. 72."^b I have not found anything relating to John Asshe, to whom Sir John Denham owed fourteen guineas "for diverse vitailles."

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY, &c. And forasmoch as we be enformed that there is by yow dew unto our welbeloved John Assh the some of xiiiiⁱⁱ xiiii^a for diverse vitailles taken unto your use, as it is said; We praye yow, considering the necessite that he is in, ye will, at reverence of us, have him to the payment of his seid dewte [duty=debt] especially recommended, shewyng hym herin th'ease, favours, and tenderness that ye goodly maye, to th'accomplissement of our entencion in this partie, so that he may fele in effecte these oure letters, as we truste yow. In which things, etc. Yeven, etc.

To our knyght Sir John Denham.

^a Dugd. Bar. i. 514. Collinson's Somersset, vol. ii. p. 362.

^b Prince, pp. 298, 299, 300.

CXV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO CERTAIN OFFICERS AND TENANTS OF RICHARD PLANTAGENET, DUKE OF YORK.

IN 1380 Richard the Second granted the bailiwick of the hundred of Rochford or Rachford in Essex to Alberic de Vere, tenth Earl of Oxford, for life, with remainder in fee to Edmund Langley, Duke of York, fifth son of Edward the Third, and the King's uncle. Edmund Langley succeeded in 1400, and, dying in 1402, the estate came to Edward Duke of York, his eldest son. On the death of Edward without issue at Agincourt (1415), where he commanded the van, Philippa his widow, daughter of John Lord Mohun, held the third part in dower. The duchess married secondly Robert Fitzwalter, and at her death (1432) Rochford came to Duke Edward's nephew and heir, viz. Richard Plantagenet, eldest son to Richard Earl of Cambridge, who was second son to Edmund Langley, and who was beheaded at Southampton for treason in 1415. Richard Plantagenet was father to King Edward the Fourth. Thus Rochford, on the accession of that sovereign, was reunited to the Crown.^a The manor of Clements was so called from a family of that name.^b In 1440 Philip Clement enfeoffed in this estate Robert Dacre and John Breton, who granted the reversion after Philip's death to Henry Fylongley and others.^c Amongst the *others*, however, the Close Roll (which I have examined) does not name either John Stoughton or Alice Arnold, nor can I find any trace of these persons. There was a family of Stoughton or Staughton near Guildford in Surrey;^d but I am unable to identify the John Stoughton named in this letter with any member of that family living in the fifteenth century. This letter must have been written after 1445, and probably not later than 1450.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, *etc.*, of the good faver, frendship, and supportacion that ye have shewed unto our wel[beloved] servant and squier John Stoughton, and Alice Arnold, his cousine, touching their possession in the manoir of Clements, with th'appurtenances,

^a Dugd. Bar. vol. ii. pp. 155, 157, 158. Inquis. post mortem, 3 Hen. V. and 10 Hen. VI., and Morant's Hist. of Essex, vol. i. p. 268.

^b Morant, vol. i. p. 290.

^c Rot. Claus. 19 Hen. VI.

^d Harl. MSS. No. 1562, fo. 58 b; Manning's Surrey, vol. i. p. 171.

in Essex, we thanke you right hertly, praying you so forth to continue helping, furthering, and assisting them with all th'ease, favor, and supportacion that ye goodly may by right; so that thei may finde thise oure lettres unto them effectuel and vailable. As we trust you, *etc.*

To Richard Clifton, John Rokeley, John Baker, and to all other officers and tenants of our C[ousin] the Duc of York, in his hundred of Racheford, and to everyche of them.

CXVI.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE LORD FERRERS OF GROBY.

SIR EDWARD GREY, son of Reginald Lord Grey of Ruthyn, married Elizabeth, granddaughter and heir of William Lord Ferrers of Groby, in Leicestershire. By this marriage the estates of that family, including Stebbing in Essex, which had belonged to them ever since the Conquest, came to Sir Edward Grey. Sir Edward thereupon took the title of Lord Ferrers of Groby, and was summoned by the same title to Parliament in 1446, 27 Hen. VI. He died in 1457, leaving a son, Sir John Grey, who was the first husband of Elizabeth Woodville, afterwards queen to Edward the Fourth. Sir John Grey, who had been created Lord Lisle, was killed at St. Alban's in 1460, fighting for Henry the Sixth. The Queen speaks of "our lordship" and of "our tenants," but I have been unable to discover what claim she had to the manor of Stebbing. The letter was written between 1445 and 1457.

BY THE QUENE.

RIGHT trusty and welbeloved,—We grete you well. And forasmoch as we be enformed that yo^r baillif of Stebbyng wrongfully vexeth, troubleth, and oppresseth oure tenants of our lordship of Stebbing, aswel in usurping and breking oure franchise there as in other grevous wise; We therefore desire and praye you, and also exhorte and require you, that ye do yeve in commandement unto

yo^r said bailiff for to cesse of his said vexacions and oppressing, and put him in suche reule that oure said tenants may leve in rest and peas, so that they have no cause to compleine ayeine unto us for lak of remedie in yo^r defaulte; as ye thinke to stande in the faver of oure good grace, and t'eschewe our displeasir at yo^r peril. Yeven *etc.* the *etc.*

To the Lord Ferrers of Groby.

CXVII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN IN AID OF LETTERS PATENT OF SAFE-CONDUIT GRANTED TO GUILLE ALANY, MASTER OF A SHIP OF BRITANNY CLEPT THE JENET.

A SAFE-CONDUIT was a security given by the Prince, under the great seal, for the quiet coming into and passing out of the realm. (Cowell.) By 15 Hen. VI. c. 3, all safe-conducts were to contain the name of the grantee, of the ship, of the master, and the number of the mariners, with the portage. These particular letters patent do not appear to have been preserved, but many of the same kind are to be found in Rymer.

MARGARET, by the grace of God, *etc.* To all maner admiralles, capitains, lieutenants, custumers, serchers, kepers of ports, maiers, shirefs, baillefs, constables, and al other my lord's officers and trewe liege people, gretinge,—And for asmoche as it hath liked my lord's highnesse, of his especial grace, to graunte his lettres patentes of sauff-conduit unto Guille Alany, maister of a shipp of Britaingne of portage of fifty tonne, clept the Jenet, to come into this reume with certeine wyne for oure use; We pray yow hertely that unto the seid Guille, and unto his mariners, after th'effecte and pourport of my said lord's lettres of sauff-conduit, ye wilbe welwilled, frendly, and faverable, without suffring them to be greved, interrupt, or empechet to the contrarie; rather by contemplacion of this oure praier, as we trust yow, and as ye thinke to do us pleasir. Yeven, *etc.* the yere of my lord's reigne xxvii.

CXVIII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THOMAS BROWN, SQUIRE.

THE Parliament which met at St. Edmondsbury, the 10th Feb. 1447, confirmed an exchange which had been made of the Queen's revenue, charged on the Customs, for other lands settled on her for life.^a It is probable that it is to this arrangement that this letter refers; it would therefore bear date some time in 1447 (25 or 26 Hen. VI.) It was on the second day of this Parliament that Humphrey Duke of Gloucester was arrested by Viscount Beaumont, the Lord High Constable. His death, which popular suspicion attributed to the Queen (who was scarcely eighteen at the time), Cardinal Beaufort, and the Duke of Suffolk, occurred a few days later. See, on this head, note lvi. to Lord Brougham's History of England and France under the House of Lancaster. At this time Marmaduke Lumley, Bishop of Carlisle, was Lord High Treasurer.^b Thomas Brown, under-treasurer, was a member of the Inner Temple.^c He appears to have been a native of Warwick, and to have died in 1468.^d

BY THE QUEENE.

RIGHT trusty and wellbeloved, we grete you well,—Lating yow wite that we be credible enformed, what diligence, faithfull labor, and hertly love ye have shewed us in our maters; and, in especial, now late, in our assignement of the custumes of Southampton; for the which we thinke us greetly beholde unto yow; and cun you therfore right good and especial thanke;^e trusting fully that, in suche things as ye shall mowe have [be able] for to do towards us, we shall have you, after your deserts, in tendre remembrance of our grace therfore, in tyme commyng. Yeven, *etc.* at Windesor the xth, *etc.*

To T. Browne, squier, Under Tresourer of Engl.

^a Parl. Hist. vol. i. p. 382.

^b Parl. Paper prefixed to vol. i. of the Parl. Hist.

^c Paston Letters, vol. i. p. 25.

^d Lib. Nig. Seacc. (W. WYRC.) vol. ii. p. 519.

^e "And cun you therfore right good and especial thanke, and give you, *etc.* thanks." This phrase is to be found twice in the Canterbury Tales. See the Knight's Tale, 1810, and 3066. It is equivalent to *Einem Dank wissen*, *Saper grado*, *Savoir gré*; and *ἰδὲναί χάριν* (Herod. iii. c. 21) has the same meaning.

CXIX.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR,
THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

THIS letter must have been written between 1445 and 1454; during which period the Great Seal was held by two archbishops of Canterbury (John Stafford and John Kempe) in succession. I cannot determine to which of them it was addressed. Queen Margaret was probably not very well informed as to what appertained, or did not appertain, to a Court of Conscience; nor, judging from the specimens of early bills in Chancery, published by the Record Commission, was the jurisdiction, during this century, very clearly defined. If the Richard Rede named in this letter was the same Richard Rede who figures as defendant in a suit of *Westowe v. Rede*, mentioned in the Calendar of the Proceedings in Chancery temp. Hen. VI. xxii., and the allegations contained in the Bill in that suit were true, Richard Rede, "my lord's servant and oures," was not a remarkably good character.

BY THE QUENE.

RIGHT reverend, *etc.* And for asmoche as we be enformed that oon John Goldston, as borrowe^a for my lord's servant and oures Ric. Rede, is arested in the c[ity] of London, by an obligacion pretended to be due, where our said servant is redy to declare and prove that the said obligacion is not dewe, ne of right and conscience ne peny ought to be paied, as he saith; We, consideryng that this mater longeth unto the court of conscience, desire and hertly praye you that ye will call this mater bifore yow, and grante unto o^r said servant a *corpus cum causa* in this partie; shewing unto o^r said servant, at reverence of us, the faver, tendernesse, and good lordship that ye goodly may. So that he may perceive, by contemplacion of thes our lettres, that he be defended from all such injuries and wronges purposed ayeinst hym, and he t'atteine, by yor help and supportacion, unto all that to hym rightfully apperteineth, with brief expedicion in this behalf; and in cas that ye may not,

^a *borrowe* is an old word for *pledge, surety, bail*. It is to be met with in Chaucer, and in the Robin Hood Ballads.

with your ease, attende unto the conclusion of this mater, that thanne ye will yeve in commandement unto the Clerk of the Rolles t'accomplisse our entencion abovesaid, without remitting his mater out of yo^r hands, if in eny wise it may goodly be doon, as our singler trust is in yo^r good faderhode. In which thinge, *etc.* At Eltham the, *etc.*

To th'archbishop of Canterbury, Chancellor of England.

CXX.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO SIR EDMOND INGOLDESTHORPE,
KNIGHT, TOUCHING HENRY CHEVELE A SERVANT OF HIS.

I AM unable to fix the date of this letter. It was, however, written before 1456-7 (35 Hen. VI.) as Sir Edmund Ingoldesthorp or Ingoldesthorpe died in that year. He had large possessions in Norfolk, Cambridge, and Essex, and also in London and Middlesex. He married Joan, sister of John Lord Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, who was beheaded by King Henry VI. in 1470.^a Sir Edmund Ingoldesthorpe's will, dated 9 Aug. 1456, is still extant. In it the testator expresses a desire to be buried at Burgh (Burrough Green) in Cambridgeshire. It is worthy of notice that Sir Edmund Ingoldesthorpe's will is witnessed by "*Henr. Chevele*," no doubt the "servant" said to have disseised "Thomas Gale and Isabell his wife."^b Ashdon is in Freshwell Hundred, Essex, not far from Saffron Walden.^c Sir Edmund Ingoldesthorpe left Isabell his sole daughter and heir, who married John Neville, Marquis of Montacute, K.G. John Neville was son of Richard Earl of Salisbury, and brother to the great Earl of Warwick. Both brothers were killed at Barnet in 1471.^d

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, *etc.* And for as moch as we be enformed that oon Henry Chevele, a servant of youres, unjustly and

^a Coll. Topog. viii. 76. Robinson's History of Enfield, ii. 16.

^b Coll. Topog. iii. 104.

^c Ashdon has *ten* other names, for which see Morant's Essex, ii. 538.

^d Blomefield's Norfolk, v. 1283.

ayenst al right lawe and good conscience, holdeth a certain place and lande in the towne of Asshedon, within the counte of Essex, appertenyng of right unto oure welbeloved Thomas Gale and Isabell his wif, by the decesse of Richard Wilwes, late brother unto the said Isabell, unto greet hindring, prejudice, and derogacion of o^r said servant and his wyf, as it is said; We therefore desire and praye you that, if hit so be, ye will thanne, att reverence of us, leying aside all parcialite, withoute eny comfort or supportacion-veyng unto the seid Henry, suffre oure said servant and his wyf peasably t'enjoie and occupie the seid place and land, and to have all that to hym [them] rightfully apperteineth in that behalf. So that he [they] may finde yo^r binevolence and trewe acquital in suche wise disposed, that they may atteine unto their right, and have no cause to compleyne ayeine for lacke of justice. As we truste yow, *etc.* Yeven, *etc.* at Eltham the, *etc.*

To Sir Edmond Ingoldesthrop, knt.

CXXI.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO MASTER PIERS STEWKELY, WARDEN OF THE COLLEGE OF MAIDSTONE.

THERE was a college for secular priests at Maidstone, founded by Archbishop Courtenay, in the early part of the 15th century.^a It succeeded an hospital of a much more ancient date. There are said to be still very considerable remains of this college.^b I have been unable to find any list of the wardens; and I have been equally unsuccessful in discovering any trace of Thomas Mowsherst and his family.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, we grete you well. And of the goode frendship, binevolence, and tendernesse that ye have shewed unto our servant Thomas Mowsherst, and unto his fader and moder, we

^a Tanner's Notitia, Kent, xxxviii.

^b Dugd. Monast. viii. 1394.

thanke you hertly, praying you that in suche things as thei or eny of theym shall have for to do towards you, ye wil, at reverence of us, in continuance of yo^r good disposicion; have him towards you especially recommended, helping, furthering, and supporting theym as fer as ye goodly may, by right, trouth, and good conscience, the rather by contemplacion of this our prayer. So that they may fynde that they fare the better, and finde these oure lettres unto theyme fructuose and vailable, as we trust yow, *etc.* Yeven, *etc.*

To M. Piers Stewkeley, Warden of the College
of Maydeston, and to R. G.

CXXII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO WILLIAM GASTRIK OR
GASKRYK, PROPOSING A MATCH BETWEEN HIS DAUGHTER
AND THOMAS FOUNTAINS, YEOMAN OF THE CROWN.

IN Vincent's MSS., preserved at the Heralds' College, No. 150, p. 220, is a pedigree of — Rigate, who married the daughter and heires of William Fountaynes. Of this marriage there was issue one daughter, Juliana, who married William Gascarick or Gaskryk,^a and had a son, William Gaskryk, who is described as "dominus de Middle Soylls infra villam de Killingholm." This William Gaskryk I believe to have been the person to whom this letter was written, and he had an only daughter Elizabeth, who inherited his property. It appears then that the families of Fountains and Gascarick or Gaskryk were connected. I think, therefore, that it may fairly be concluded, that it is to these two families that the letter has reference. I have been unable to identify Thomas Fountains, Yeoman of the Crown; but, it certainly appears that, notwithstanding the letter "tenderly wreten" by the King, and "affectuously" enforced by the Queen, he was not successful in "his honest desire" to do the lady "worship by wey of mariage." She, who is described in the pedigree as

^a In the Calendar of Inquis. post Mortem, vol. iv. fo. 189, 17 Hen. VI. No. 45, is an inquisition relating evidently to one of the same family, but who is named Edmund *Gastryk*. From the inquisition itself, however, which I have seen, it is plain that the right name is *Gaskryk* and not *Gastryk*.

daughter and heir of William Gasparick, is stated to have married Henry Boothe of the county of Lincoln. Henry Boothe appears, from the pedigree, to have been a son of Thomas Boothe of Barton (probably Barton-on-Humber), and nephew of William Boothe, Archbishop of York, who died in 1464.* This is the only date that occurs in the pedigree; and from it, and from the fact that the Queen was married in 1445, I conclude that the Queen's unsuccessful letter was written a few years later than the last-mentioned date.

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY and welbelovyd. For as much as our wel[belovyd] servant Thomas Fountains, yoman of my lord's crown, as wel for the womanly and vertuous governance that yo^r doghter is renowned of, as for the greet zeal, love, and affeccion that he hathe unto hir personne, before all creature lyving, desireth, with all his hert, to do hir worship by wey of mariage, as he seith; Whereupon my said lord hath tenderly wreten unto you for his recommendacion in this bihalf, whiche we suppose verely that ye have clerely conceived, and well emprinted in yo^r remembrance. We, desiryng also th'encres, wele, and furtherance of my said lord's servant and oures, to th'accomplissement of my said lord's entencion in his honest desire at this tyme, aswel for his many and greet vertues and good condicions, and also for the good and trewe service that he hathe doon unto my said lord and us, and yet therin dayly continueth, pray right affectuously that, at reverence of us, sith yo^r doghter is in youre reule and governance, as reason is, ye will yeve yo^r good assent, binevolence, and frendship t'enduce and t'excite yo^r seid doghter t'accepte my said lord's servant and oures to hir husband, to the good conclusion and tendre exploit of the said mariage, as o^r full trust is in you. In which thing ye shull mowe doo us right greet plesance, and cause us to have you and youre, in suche things ye shul mowe have for to doo towards us in tyme

* William Boothe had been Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. Gascoigne, in his *Theological Dictionary*, calls him "the unworthy Bishop of Coventry," and says, further, that he "was neither a good grammarian, nor knowing, nor reputed virtuous, nor a graduate of either university." Boothe was, at one time, Chancellor to the Queen; p. 156, *post*.

comyng, in such tendre remembrance of oure good grace, that by reason ye shul holde you well content and pleased by Godd's myght; which have you in his blessed keping. At our manoir of P. the *etc.*

To William Gastrick.

CXXIII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THOMAS BAWLDE, SQUIER.

WALDEN, Essex, came to the Crown by partition of the estates of Humphrey de Bohun, tempore Hen. V., and is parcel of the Duchy of Lancaster.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved,—For as moche as we be enformed that, at the citation and stering of certeine personnes not welwilled unto John Browne, oon of our tenants of our lordshp of Walden, ye sue against al trouthe and good conscience our said tenant by an obligation of a greet some not deu, as it is said, putting hym wrongfully to greet trouble, vexation, and losse, likely to be his utter undoing for ever, without summe pourveiance of remedie be the sonner had unto hym in this matter; We, willyng that our said tenant may leve in rest and peax, and in quiet from suche oppression and injurie, and to ministre indifferently to all parties justice as the cas requireth, desire, praye, and exhorte you that ye will, at reverence of us, put th'examination of your said suit to us and to our conseil, where we shall, by good deliberation and advis, see that ye shall have al that rightfully belongeth unto you in that behalf; and, the meene while, that ye will leve and surcesse of your suit, by contemplacion of this our prayer, demenyng you herein in such wise, that we have noon other cause thanne to have you in favor of our good grace therefore, in tyme comyng. And how ye thinke to please us in this mater ye wil acertein us by the brynger of thise, wherto we shall truste. Yeven, *etc.* at P[leshy] the xxiiij day of May, *etc.*

To Thomas Bawlde, squier, *etc.*

CXXIV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE DUKE OF NORFOLK.

THE nobleman to whom this letter was addressed was John Mowbray, third Duke of Norfolk, who was confirmed Duke in 1444, and who died in 1461.^a A remarkable speech of his in Parliament against Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerset, is referred to by the editor of the Paston Letters as having been pronounced in 1450 or 1453.^b Sir Robert Wingfield of Letheringham, Suffolk, is also referred to, and not creditably, in the same correspondence.^c Sir Robert's will has been preserved. It is dated 6th October, 1452, and in it mention is made of his five sons, John, Robert, Thomas, William and Henry.^d He probably died in 1454, as the will was proved in that year. The letter was written between 1445 and 1454.

BY THE QUEENE.

RIGHT trusty and right entierly welbeloved cousyn,—We grete yow wele. And for asmoch as our trusty and welbeloved knight Sir Robert Wyngfield and his sonnes have right humbly besoughte that it wold like us to write unto you, desiryng you that, atte oure instance, ye wold admitte them to come unto yo^r presence, there to here theire declaracion upon certain matiers that ye fynde yow agreved and displeased in as yet; We, havyng consideracion unto the good and acceptable service that oure said knyght and his sonnes have done unto us, aswel beyonde the see to theire greet charges, labores, and costs, as on this side, and yet oure said knight therin dayly continueth, desire and praye you that, atte reverence of us, ye will have theym towards yo^r good lordship, after th'entent of theire humble request, in this partie especially recommended, and shew therin the more tendernesse and faver, by contemplacion of this our prayer, so that they may fynde in effect thise oure lettres unto them vailable, and fare the better, to th'accomplishment of oure enten-

^a Nicolas.^b Paston Letters, vol. iii. p. 109.^c Ibid. vol. i. p. 5 n.^d Test. Vet. 275.

cion in this partie, as we trust you. In which thing, *etc.* Yeven, *etc.* at Eltham the xvi day of Ffr.

To the Duc of Norff.

CXXV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE BISHOP OF CHESTER,
HER CHANCELLOR.

WILLIAM BOOTHE, Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry, the prelate here called Bishop of Chester, was Chancellor to Queen Margaret. The Bishops of Lichfield and Coventry were occasionally styled Bishops of Chester. Chester was not actually created a bishopric previously to 1542.

BY THE QUENE.

WORSHIPFULL Fader in God, *etc.*—For asmoche as my moost doubted lord, of his especial grace, hath granted unto John Barham x oks for tymbre, to be taken in our outwods of Kenelworth, of his yeste; whereuppon my said lord hath desired and prayed us, by his lettres under his signet, that we wolle see that the said oks be delivered unto the said John, after th'entent of his said grante, the which lettres he wolle to be unto us sufficient warrant and full discharge of eny empechement of waste on this partie; We therefore wolle and charge you that, under our great seal, beying in yo^r warde, ye do a warrant directe unto the keeper, charging, *etc.* to deliver, *etc.*^a

To the Bishop of Chestre our Chauncellor.

CXXVI.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE LORD^{*} CHANCELLOR,
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

THIS letter may have been addressed to John Stafford, John Kempe, or

^a See Letter LXVI, 98 *ante*.

Thomas Bouchier, all Lords Chancellors and Archbishops of Canterbury. The last of these prelates was Lord Chancellor from 7th March 1455 to 11th October 1456. John Wygram or Wygryme was of Merton College, a proctor at Oxford in 1428, in 1456-7 a prebendary of Lincoln, and in 1458 a canon of Windsor.^a The reader will note the singular custom adverted to in the letter.

RIGHT Reverend Fader, *etc.*, We grete you well, latyng you witt that we be enformed that our welbeloved clerk M. John Wygram, a prest of my lord's chapell, brought you my lord's offryng on the twelfth day, for the which, as we understand, there is a laudable custume that the brynger of the offryng shall have the first benefice that shall voide withinne th'extent; wherefore we praye you to call it unto yo^r remembrance, and have herin our said clerke for o^r sake the more especially recommended, as we truste you; and our lord, *etc.*

To th'archebisshop of Cant. Chauncellor of England.

CXXVII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO SIR JOHN STEWARD.

THERE was a Sir John Steward, sheriff of London in 1457,^b but, whether he was the person to whom this letter was addressed, or how he was connected with Hardington or Harlington in Middlesex, does not appear. The name of Lovell, however, is intimately connected with that parish. Before 1474 the manor of Harlington, otherwise Lovell's, became vested in the Lovells, from whom it derives one of its names, and it continued in that family until 1558. The letter was probably written between 1445 and 1457.^c

BY THE QUEENE.

RIGHT trusty and well., We, *etc.* desiring and praying you, that

^a Fasti Ecc. Ang. vol. ii. p. 142; vol. iii. pp. 387 and 481; Fasti Ox. (Gutch) 43; and Ashmole's Antiq. Berks, vol. iii. p. 250.

^b Maitland, p. 1202; Fabyan, 631.

^c Lysons's Env. Lond. vi. 126; and Newc. Repert. vol. i. p. 631, 632.

in such things as John Lovell shall have for to doo towards, touching his suit to the manoir of Hardington in Middelsex, wherof he hath just and lawfull title, as it said, ye wil, at reverence of us, have hym towards you especially recommended; considering that the recovre of his said right resteth greetly in yo^r helpe and socour, as it is said, ye wil, by wey of charite and aulmesse, to the pleasance of Almightye Jesus, do such diligence, as fer as ye may after god trouth and good conscience, that he may atteine, by yo^r good faver and supportacion, unto his right and deute in that bihalf. As we trust you. Wherin ye shul mowe not only deserve of God right greet merite, but of us also right especial thanke therefore in time commyng. Yeven, *etc.* at Wind. the, *etc.*

To Sir John Steward.

CXXVIII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO JOHN GEDNEY, CITIZEN AND ALDERMAN OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

FROM the length and urgency of this letter, the Queen, or more likely one of her suite, seems to have had much at heart the appointment of Walter Brigges as under-sheriff. I am unable to say whether or not the Queen was successful. John Gedney had represented the city in 1414, and served the office of mayor twice, viz. in 1427 and 1447. In 1444 he married the widow of Robert Large, who had been mayor in 1439, "which widow (says Stowe) had taken upon her the mantle and ring, and the vow to live chaste during life, for the breach whereof (the marriage done) they were troubled by the Church, and put to penance, both he and she." John Gedney was buried in the church of St. Christopher, which stands (or stood) near Threadneedle Street.*

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY, *etc.* And for asmoche as Waultier Brigges hertly desireth to do you and the citee service, in th'ocupacion of under sherreive in the countie of Midd., wherto he is right able and suffi-

* Newcourt's Repert. vol. i. p. 322.

sant, as wel in his trowth, discrecion, and cunningg, as in other pollice, sadnesse, and good governance, as it is said; We, havyng consideracion unto the premisses, with his merits and deserts, and in especial at instance and supplicacion of certain oure servants attending right negh aboute oure persone, to whom the seid W. is cousine, as we understande, desire and pray you hertly that, at reverence of us, ye will have the said W. unto the seid occupacion, as fer as in you is, right tenderly recommended; and doo therin such diligence; t'excite and sture all such personnes citezeins of the seid cite of London, that by yow and the commonaltie there shulbe elit shireves for this nexte yere commyng, t'accepte and admitte hym, for oure sake, to the seid occupacion of under-shereve in the countie abovesaid; havyng th'expedicion of this matter so tenderly to hert, that we may verreily knowe the continuance of the binevolence and good disposition that ye have be of towards us, and oure request hirbefore, to accomplissement of oure entencion in this mater, wherof we thanke you. And that he may finde thise oure lettres unto hym effectuelx and vailable, as our singler trust is in you. In which thing ye shall not oonly do us right greet pleasure, and deserve of us especial thanke, but cause us also to have you in tendre remembrance of our good grace, therfore, in tyme comyng: Yeven, *etc.*

To John Gedney, citezein and alderman of the cite of London.

CXXIX.

A LETTER BY THE QUEEN TO JOHN JOYSE, SQUIRE, STEWARD OF ASHBOURNE.

THE Ashbourne mentioned in this letter is the fine village of that name in Derbyshire. It is in the Honour of Tutbury, and was included in the Queen's dower lands.

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY, *etc.* We desire and pray you, if eny oure lettres pa-

tents be shewed unto you for th'office of baillif of Asshebourne, grante unto Nich. Cokker, ye will, at reverence of us, have him towards you especially recommended, suffryng [him] t'occupie and enjoie the seid office, after th'effecte and purport of oure lettres patentes to hym granted, in that bihalf. As we truste you, for thus it pleaseth us, *etc.*

To John Joyse, squier, Steward of Asshebourne.

CXXX.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE ARCHBISHOP OF
CANTERBURY.

THIS letter was written to either Archbishop Stafford or Archbishop Kempe; but the date cannot be recovered.

BY THE QUENE.

RIGHT worshipfull fader in God, *etc.* Lating you wite, that, at oure instance and request, my most doubted lord hath now late granted unto a poore widowe, Alice Marwarth, certein pardon, as by a bill therof signed with my said lord's hand, which we send you sealed under oure signet, by a servant of oures, ye may se more pleynly. Wherefore we desire and hertely pray yow that, at reverence of us, ye wil have the seid widowe in expedicion and deliverance of hir lettres patents in youre partie especially recommended, with such tendernesse and faver that she, upon the socour and trust of oure moene [mean] that she putteth in us, may perceive good and brief exploit, to th'accomplissement of my lord's grant in this behalf. As our ful trust is in you. In which, *etc.* Yeven, *etc.* at W. the xxvi of M.

To th'archebisshop of Canterbury, Chauncellor.

CXXXI.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE SHERIFFS OF LONDON.

THIS letter, and the two next following letters, seem to belong to the year 1450. They relate to Alexander Manning, and are addressed,—the first to the sheriffs of the City of London; the second to the sheriffs that next shall be, of the City of London; and the third to the Mayor of the City of London; and, in them all, the Queen strongly recommends Alexander Manning for the office of Keeper of Newgate. That office was then, and is now, in the gift of the sheriffs of London. There is nothing to shew that these letters were successful; but there is incontestable evidence that Alexander Manning, who had been Keeper of Newgate, had greatly misconducted himself in his office; and that he had, in consequence, been deposed by the lord mayor and aldermen, who passed a resolution, that he should not thereafter be readmitted by any future sheriffs of the city to occupy or exercise the office aforesaid, *i.e.* of Keeper of Newgate, in any manner howsoever. It is difficult to say whether this resolution preceded or followed the Queen's letters; but, from her having addressed not only the then existing sheriffs, but the sheriffs "*that shall be,*" there seems some reason to suppose that the resolution was specially directed against this act of royal interference. It is not improbable that Alexander Manning, who was accused of "negligent custody of the prisoners" under his care, "to the great disturbance of the city," was, in some way, connected with the dangerous tumults caused by Jack Cade and his followers, which had, within a few weeks only, been quelled.^a

^a I have, by the kind permission of the Corporation of the City of London, had access to their journals; and in Journal v. folios 48 and 51 I found the two following entries:—

Oct. 7, 29 Hen. VI. 1450. On this day it is considered by the mayor and aldermen abovesaid, that Alexander Mannyng, late Keeper of the gaol of Newgate, by reason of his negligent custody of the prisoners of the aforesaid gaol, &c. to the great disturbance of the city, shall be committed to the prison there, until it be otherwise advised, and shall lose his office aforesaid, &c. (Jour. v, fo. 48.)

Nov. 5, 29 Hen. VI. 1450. On this day it is considered by the mayor and aldermen abovesaid, that Alexander Mannyng, late Keeper of the gaol of Newgate, who, by reason of his negligent custody of the prisoners of the gaol of the Lord the King aforesaid, and other his manifold defaults, was, by the consideration of this court, removed from the office of keeper of the same gaol, &c. shall not hereafter be readmitted, by any future sheriffs of the city, to occupy or exercise the office aforesaid, in any manner howsoever. (Jour. v. fo. 51.)

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, we suppose verreily that it is clerely in yo^r remembrance howe that, now late, for certein consideracions and grete instance, we wrote unto you for the recommendacion of Alexandre Mannyng unto th'office of keper of Newgate, longyng unto yo^r disposicion, as it is said; wherin as yet oure said writing hath take noon effecte ne expedicion, unto oure greet merveil; wherfore we desire and praye eftesones, right affectuously, that, at reverence of us, ye wil accepte and restore the said Mannyng ageine unto the said office, withe suche tendernesse and faver, that he may perceive thise oure lettres unto him avavailable, to th'accomplissement of oure entencion in this partie. In which thinge ye shul, *etc.* Yeven, *etc.* at P., *etc.* the xxiii day, *etc.*

To the Shirefs of the Cite of London.

CXXXII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE SHERIFFS THAT NEXT
SHALL BE OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, we grete you well. And for asmoche as our welbeloved Alisaundre Manyng desireth to do yow service in th'office of keping of Newgate, to the which, as we understand, he is right hable and suffisant, both in his trouth and discrecion and also in his governance, like as, for the tyme that he occupied it herbifore, he was founden of good bering and of sad disposicion, as it is said; We, atte instance and supplicacion of certein oure servants right negh attending about our personne, desire and hertly pray you that, atte reverence of us, ye will have him towards you especially recom-

mended, and, at Michel masse nexte comyng, t'admitte him to the said office; as we truste you. In which thing, *etc.* At W. the, *etc.*

To the Shirefs that nexte shalbe of the Cite of London.

CXXXIII.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF
LONDON.

BY THE QUENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved, we grete, *etc.* And for asmuch as our welbeloved A. Manyng desireth to do service in th'office [*ut supra usque* "recommended,"] exciting and stering the shirefs that shalbe for the nexte yere, to admitte him to the said office at Michelmasse nexte comyng, after th'entencion of oure writyng unto theym in that bihalf; as we truste yow. In whiche thing, *etc.* *Ut supra, etc.*

To the Mair of the Cite of London.

CXXXIV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN, RECOMMENDING DAME MAUD
EVERYNGHAM TO BE PRIORESS OF NUNEATON.

THE reader will not fail to observe the double address of this letter—"To the Sub-prioress of Nuneaton," and "To the Master and Brethren of, *etc.*" At first one might suppose this to be a mistake of the transcriber, but this is not the case. I find that the Priory of Nuneaton in Warwickshire, which was founded by an Earl of Leicester in the reign of Henry the Second, was of the order of Fontevrault (*Fontis Ebraldi*), "wherein, besides the prioress and nuns, there was for some time a prior also, perhaps with men, as usually in the foreign

houses of this order."* I have sought in vain for a list of the prioresses of this house, and am therefore unable to ascertain the date of this letter. I should judge, however, that it was written certainly not earlier than 1445, and, probably, not later than 1455. At the Dissolution, the site of the priory was granted by 32 Hen. VIII. to Sir Marmaduke Constable; and at the present day scarcely a vestige remains of this religious house.

BY THE QUENE.

DERE and welbeloved in God, we grete you well, and we suppose verreily that it is clerely in yo^r remembrance how that we have now late writen unto you for the recommendacion of our right welbeloved Dame Mawde Everyngham to be accepted and elited for yo^r priouresse there, what tyme ye shall nexte be destitute of a priouresse; and it is nowe soo that we understand that yo^r priouresse is passed to Godd's mercye; wherupon my most doubted lord writeth unto yow, at this tyme, right especially for the recommendacion of the said Dame Mawde unto th'eleccion of yo^r priouresse there. Wherefore we desire and praye you estesones that, in accomplissement of my lord's request and oures in this partie, ye will have the same Dame Mawde in yo^r nexte eleccion right tenderly recommended, and chese hir to be yo^r priouresse and governour, by consideracion of hir many vertues, religiouse governance, and good fame, that she is renommed of; and the rather by contemplacion of thisoure prayer; as oure full truste is in yow. In which thing ye shul, *etc.* Yeven, *etc.*

To the Suppriouresse of None Eton.

To the Master and Brethern of, *etc.*

* Tanner's Notitia (ed. 1788), Warwickshire, x.

CXXXV.

A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN TO THE ABBOT AND CONVENT OF
BYLAND.

BYLAND ABBEY was in Yorkshire, in the Archdeaconry of Cleveland, at a short distance n.w. of Rievaulx. The adjoining district is called Bilsdale; but I have not found any spot near at hand called Belderdale, nor have I been able to discover any John Dacres apparently answering to the Queen's squire of that name mentioned in this letter. The list of abbots of this religious house during the fifteenth century, preserved by Dugdale, is extremely scanty.

BY THE QUEENE.

TRUSTY and welbeloved in God, we grete yow well; and, for asmoch as oure trusty and welbeloved squyer John Dacres desireth the ferme of Belderdale, which he hath now of you, to have for x yere after his termes therof expired, we therefore desire and pray that, att reverence of us, ye wil have oure said squyer in accomplissement of his entencion in this partie especially recommendet, shewing hym th'ease, faver, and tendernesse that ye goodly may, and the rather by contemplacion of this o^r praier, so that he may fynde in effect thise oure letters unto hym vailable; as we trust, *etc.* Yeven, *etc.* at Eltham, the, *etc.*

To th'abbot and Covent of Biland.

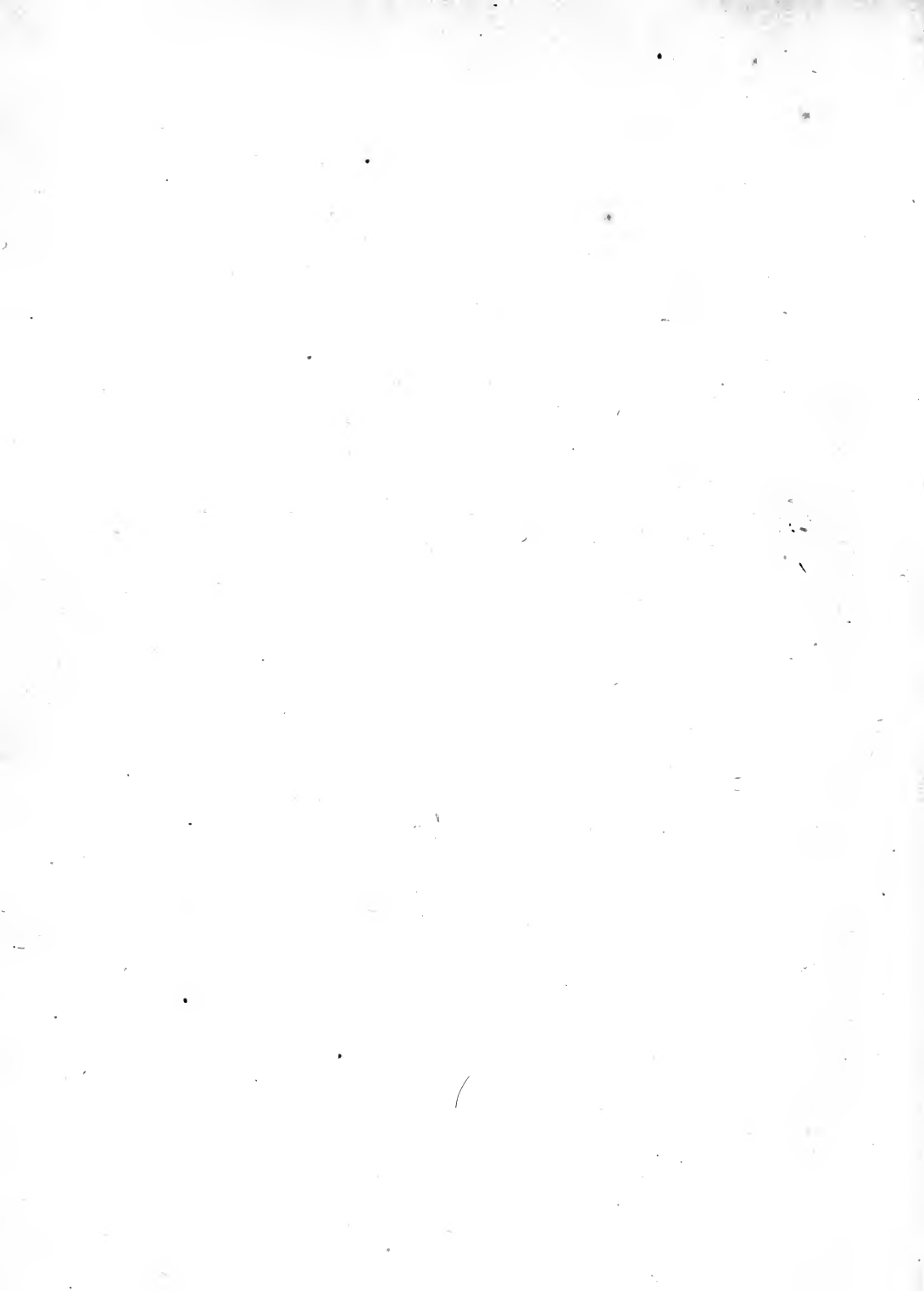
CXXXVI.

A MAHOMETAN MANIFESTO.

FOR want of a better name I have called this document a Mahometan Manifesto. It can scarcely be other than a parody, and not a very extravagant parody, of the style of an Eastern potentate of the mediæval period when addressing a prince of the West. In Monstrelet (vol. v. p. 175, ed. Buchon,) there is a letter, said to be written by the Sultan of Babylon to all Christian princes, very similar in tone to this. The only note which the editor deems it necessary to subjoin is "*Il est aisé de reconnaître la fausseté de cette lettre.*" In a modern History of Cyprus I have met with two letters, under the date of 1456, not wholly unlike the present. See Histoire de l'Ile de Chypre sous les Lusignans, par Louis de Mas Latrie, vol. iii. pp. 73, 74, n. 5. See also Goldsmith's Citizen of the World, Letter CXX. "On the Absurdity of some late English Titles."

I BALTHASAR, by the grace of Mahownd, Kyng of Kyngs, Lord of Lords, Sowdane of Surrey [Syria], Emperour of Babilon, Steward of Hell, Porter of Paradice, Constable of Jerusalem, Flour of all the World, and Cosyn to the grete God. And yf ye luste to witte why that I am Kyng of Kyngs—for I have under my proteccion xxxviii. kyngs crowned; and [why that] I am Lord of Lords, I am Sowdan of Surrey, and Emperour of Babilon—for I wedded the Emperour is doghter, the whiche was eyre to hyre fader. Then, why that I am Porter of Paradice, where that no man can come yn with owte my licence—for I kepe the stremys and the waters that rennyys to Paradice. Why that I am Steward of Hell—for I have dominacion of mawments and wiked spirits, and certeyn clerks with in my remys that may bryng theym downe to me in whate likenes that I will have theym. And why that I am Flour of all the World—for I may well say that I have in my keping that all cristen people beleveth on, for that is to witte the holye crosse that yo^r Lord died on; the whiche may not be gotten with owte my licence. And why that I am Cosyn to the grete God—for I am a cristen man, as ye be

in England. For usyng of lollarye I myght not abide in England, and then I wente to Rome, and from Rome to Rodes, and I [was] perverted to the Sowden in feythe; and, for by cause that I was a personable man, I was putte to the Sowden his howse, and ther I was made ussher of his hall, and steward of his londs; and then dyed the Sowden, and I wedded his wife; and died she, and I wedded the Emperour is doghter of Babilon, and his heyre, and thus became Sowden of Surrey; and then I send gretyng to yo^r kyng of England and of Fraunce, and to Edward Prince of Wales. And, yf he will wed my doghter, I will become cristen man, and all my regions and my reames; and they that will not converte with me shalbe brent. And I will giffe with my doghter viii myllions of gold, and paye within v Sondays. And I shall delyver hym the holye crosse that yo^r Lord died uppon, and the spere that stroke hym to the herte, and mony other relikes that I have in my kepyng; and shall make hym Emperour of xviii. kyngs londs.



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 MARGARET OF ANJOU—

Is desirous of marrying her servant Thomas Sheldford to the daughter of Hall of Larkfield, 89

Prays that the game in Lord Salisbury's park at Ware may be preserved for her recreation, 90

Prays the Abbess of Shaftesbury to be "good lady" to one of her chaplains, 92

Prays the executor of a late Dean of Wells that he will agree with the present dean, her secretary, about dilapidations, 93

Prays a leper, late chorister of Cardinal Beaufort, may be taken into St. Giles' Hospital, 95

Proposes to Lady Carew to take as her second husband Thomas Burneby, her squire, 97

Margaret of Anjou—

Prays the City to suffer her tenants of Enfield to live in quiet and rest, 98

Prays the Archbishop of Canterbury to set a good quiet and rest between John Reignoid Yeoman of the King's Hall and John Audeley, one of his squires, 100

Charges the keeper of Apchild Park strictly to preserve the game there, 100

Prays the executors of Cardinal Beaufort, "for the merit of our said uncle's soul," to relieve with part of his goods W. Frutes and Agnes Knoghton, "poor creatures of virtuous conversation purposing to live under the law of God in the order of wedlock," 102

Prays the Abbess of Barking to be "good and favorable lady" to Robert Osbern, one of her squires, 103

Acknowledges Sir John Montgomery her tenant in capite, 104

Charges the keeper of Falborne Park strictly to preserve the game there for her alone, 106

Prays the Duke of Exeter to be good lord to Ralph Josselyn, cousin to Thomas Sharnborne, one of her squires, 107

Charges the bailiffs, &c., of her manor of Great Waltham to pay £20 yearly to Thomas Sharnborne, 108

Prays the Earl of Northumberland to pay money to her squire, Sir M. Gough, 110

Prays that her cordwainer, John Lory, may be exempted from attending inquests in the city while in her employ, 111

Margaret of Anjou—

Prays John Somerton, a customer of Southampton, to pay money due to her as part of her dower to Sir John Wenlok, her chamberlain, 112

Prays the Lord Treasurer to command Somerton to make the last-mentioned payment, 112

Recommends Rob. Bedale to the office of water-bailiff at Southampton, 113

Thanks a lady of rank for service done to George Assheby, clerk of her signet, and requests her further benevolence, 114

Requests the Duke of Somerset's favour to Marguerite Stanlowe, one of her gentlewomen, 115

Commands her wardrobe to deliver russet cloth and black satin to one of her squires, 116

Prays the Archbishop of Canterbury, as Lord Chancellor, to do justice to W. Dorset, 116

Prays the Duchess of Somerset to aid her squire, Robert Edmund, to get a grant of money given him by patent, 118

Prays the Duke of Somerset to see that Viscount Beaumont be recompensed for lands he has lost, 119

Prays the Bishop of Norwich to use his interest in favour of a relation of Edmond Clere, her squire, with the Corporation of Norwich, 119

Exhorts William Scroop to restore the Hospital of Gretham to Richard Chester, "my Lord's clerk and ours," 121

Prays the Bishop of Durham to the same effect, 121

Margaret of Anjou—

Prays Lord Bourchier that he will procure the determination of matters in dispute between her tenants of Walden and two other persons, 122

Prays the King's officers to let Anthony Hewet of Rome pass without paying duty, as being in her service, 123

Prays the Abbot of St. Osyth to befriend her well-beloved servant and goldsmith Humphrey Hayford, 124

She reproves Nicholas Straunge for not assenting to the marriage of his daughter Katrine with T. Bugdon, and prays him to agree to the same without delay, 125

Requires Edmond Pyrcan squire not to "vex, trouble, menace to beat and slay" Wm. Southwode, bailiff of her lordship of Hertingfordbury, 126

Requires Sir John Forester, knight, not to destroy and undo her tenants of Hertingfordbury, 127

Prays the Deputy of the Keeper of the Privy Seal that he will aid one W. in procuring the office of Secondary of the Pipe in the Exchequer, granted to him by the King, 128

Prays the Abbot of Ramsey to confer a living in Bedfordshire on Sir David Robert, 129

Desires John Godwyn to buy her a mare, 131

Prays the Lord Chancellor to bestow the office of Prothonotary of the Chancery on a "familiar servant" of hers, 132

Prays Sir John Bourchier, knight, to favour

Margaret of Anjou—

her servant Thomas Hery, 133

Charges the keeper of her park at Pleshy to deliver to her servant Robert Penall, a buck from "her forest or great park" there, 134

Prays Dr. Kymer, Chancellor of Oxford, to provide for one of her clerks at Wimbourne Minster, 136

Prays the officers of the King's Ports to show favour to a Chaplain of her mother the Queen of Sicily, 136

Desires the keeper of Shene Park to keep for her "two or three of the greatest bucks in my lord's park there," 137

Prays the Bishop of Exeter to prefer her "well-beloved clerk, Master N.," 138

Prays the Abbot of Peterborough to prefer her "well-beloved Sir Henry Stanham to the living of Cottingham," 139

Prays the Corporation of Coventry to prefer her "well beloved T. Bate" to the recordership of that city, 140

Prays her steward of Haseley and Periton to see to the repairs of her manor there, 140

Prays Robert Hiberdon to make two bloodhounds, 141

Prays the customers of Boston to see to the payment of x. marks to John Wenham "in marriage with his wife," granted by the King, 142

Charges John Stanley squire not to allow William Chaterley, yeoman of the Crown, to hunt in any of

Margaret of Anjou—

her parks, and commands W. C. himself to the same effect, 143

Prays Sir John Denham to pay a debt to John Assh, 144

Prays officers of the Duke of York to aid her "servant and squire, John Stoughton, and Alice Arnold, his cousin," touching their possession of the Manor of Clements, 145

Requires Lord Ferrers of Groby to command his bailiff of Stebbing not to oppress her tenants, 147

Prays the officers of the King's ports to be aiding and assisting Guille Alany, a Breton master mariner, 147

Thanks T. Browne, Under Treasurer of England, for his "diligence, faithful labour, and hearty love," shown in her matters, 148

Prays the Lord Chancellor to show "favour, tenderness, and good lordship" to John Goldston as borrowe for Richard Rede, "my lord's servant and ours," 149

Prays Sir Edmond Ingoldestrop, Knt., that he will support certain persons against a servant of his who has disseised them, 150

Prays the Warden of Maidstone College that he will help, further, and support her "servant Thos. Mowherst," 151

Prays William Gastrick "right affectuously" to bestow his daughter on Thos. Fountains, yeoman of the Crown, 153

Exhorts Thos. Bawlede, squire, to leave to her and her council a dispute be-

Margaret of Anjou—
tween him and Jno. Browne,
one of her tenants of Wal-
den, 154

Prays the Duke of Nor-
folk to admit Sir Rob. Wing-
field and his sons to come
unto his presence, 155

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to allow John Barham to
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