

On the Charters and other Archives
of Cleeve Abbey.

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I AM painfully sensible that the subject on which I have to solicit your attention is of necessity so deeply covered with the dust of ages as to be disregarded by many, and repulsive to more. The examination of ancient Records is a branch of archæology which none but professed antiquaries are accustomed to cultivate as its importance demands or as its interest deserves. Many causes, doubtless, concur to bring about this result. Our ancient Records are presented to us in characters strange and obsolete—are not only unintelligible, but altogether illegible, by any save an initiated eye, and, whether in Latin or in English, have little in common with the classical aspect of the former language, or the prevailing dialect of our own age. And yet I need not say, in the presence of such an auditory as I have now the honour of addressing, that on the knowledge with which ancient Records furnish us,

depends, in no inconsiderable degree, our ability of pursuing with success any other branch of archæological science. A pilgrimage to some picturesque ruin is of itself delightful: but the gratification is increased a hundred-fold when we are in possession of its previous history, the affecting mutations which it has witnessed, the strange sights on which the old walls have looked down, and the wondrous words which they have heard. Who, for instance, can look at an Abbey intelligently, and as ruins of holy places ought to be looked at, unless he know something of its pious founder, its saintly benefactors, and the part which it has played in our country's annals. For this species of information we must go to those sources to which I have alluded—our manuscript collections of record lore. Or we must be miserably content, as are only too many readers, and alas! writers also, of archæological productions, to write or to read what has been written and published over and over again, to take our information at second, third, or tenth hand, and oftentimes to lose the truth, bewildered in the labyrinth which copyists and retailers are unhappily certain to create.

And yet, perhaps, apology is due from me for confining myself so closely, as I shall be found to do, to a department confessed to be to general students so repulsive and uninteresting. My excuse must be found in the fact that such a proceeding is obligatory on me. A few weeks ago my reverend friend, Mr. Warre, kindly invited me to furnish a paper for the present meeting, a proposal which, after the honour done to me by the Society last year, I could not bring myself to decline. I therefore mentioned Cleeve Abbey as a subject for my address to you, but was sorry to find that it was already in other hands. It was

suggested to me, however, by more than one, that the department to which I proposed to devote special attention, that of the Archives, was still open to me, and that I should undertake an investigation which my residence in the metropolis, as well as other advantages, by opening to me the rich stores of our national depositories, afforded me peculiar facilities for pursuing to a successful issue. On this desire I have acted. But see to what it has reduced me! I cannot now lead you by some green path in the glade, with the honeysuckle hedges in full perfume alongside of us, and discourse with you as we pause every here and there, where the solemn arches are rising above the covert, or where the ivy all but conceals the sculptured foliage or the benignant lineaments of some angel or angelic man. I cannot take you through some fair portal, or bid you mark the wondrous adaptation of some architectural arrangement, or point out to your delighted eyes the rich curves of some superb moulding, the delicate crotchets of some ornamented niche, or the graceful tracery of some exquisite window. I cannot speak of the lights and shadows, the deep silence, the hallowed repose of a spot, *dilecta tabernacula Domini*, which, from times of old, religion has chosen for her home. Neither can I present you with a retrospect for your imagination to revel in, the imposing ceremonial of some early age, the prayers which irradiated the House where they were offered, or the music which carried the soul to Heaven. All this I must leave to my more fortunate coadjutor. I have, however, to say a few words about, and to put into a literal English dress, those dozen or two documents, which, be it remembered, alone enable us to know for certain that these walls are the veritable remains of a House dedicated to God, and used for His service ; which,

quaint, obsolete, jejune as they may be considered, will make us, nevertheless, far more able to enjoy our personal examination than we could have been, had the information afforded by them been through their absence lost beyond recal.

I shall arrange the documents to be brought under your notice in three divisions:—

1. Charters already printed, of which I shall give entire translations.

2. Charters not hitherto printed, which shall be accurately given in their original forms, as valuable and interesting additions to our English Monasticon; and translated or abstracted, as most desirable.

3. Other documents illustrative of the subject, distinguishing those now for the first time printed, the originals of which shall of course be presented. And I am happy to add that these also are of considerable interest.

Cleeve Abbey was founded in the year 1188, for monks of the Cistercian Order, by William de Romare, youngest son or nephew of William de Romare, Earl of Lincoln. "This William, youngest son of the foreseid William de Romare, and of the seid Luce hys wyff, found the Abbey and Monastery of our seid blissed Lady of the Cliff, in the foreseid countie of Somerset, in the nyneth yere of the reigne of King Richard the First, late King of England; and that by the hondes and oversight of oone Hugh, then Abbat of the foreseyd Monastery and Abbey of Rewesby, the which stalled and made then first Abbot of the foresyd Monastery of Cliff aforeseid, oone Raff, as hit apperith by old wretyngs in the seide Abbey of Cliff." *

* MS. Cott. Tib. E. 8, f. 208.

The earliest which has come down to us is happily the charter of foundation, and furnishes us with the founder's name, and the original possessions of the Abbey.

It is printed in *Dugdale*,* with several others from a Registrum formerly in the possession of Sir Hugh Windham, one of the Judges of the Common Pleas in the year 1677, but which appears now to be lost. It is not in the British Museum, or at the Tower, or in any other Depository which I have examined; nor is it known what became of it after *Dugdale* most fortunately transcribed and printed its contents, and thereby perpetuated the information which it contained. And let me remark in passing, that the present is an excellent example of the advantages derivable from gentlemen submitting their MSS., which they are often unable themselves to read, to the hands of others by whom that work may be performed. Many a valuable MS. has perished by the conjoint influences of accident, carelessness, and time, unknown and untranscribed, the information contained in which would be of the greatest possible value to all who are interested in the history and habits of their forefathers. It has often happened that the copy has been preserved, whilst the original has been suffered to remain in its insecure situation till damp or violence completed what time had unhappily begun. Societies like the one which I am addressing cannot exert a more beneficial influence than by inducing gentlemen who possess archæological treasures, of whatever kind, to make their stores known, and consequently used, understood, and appreciated as they deserve.

* *Monasticon Anglicanum*, Ed. 1825, Vol. V., pp. 732, 733.

The following is a literal translation of the charter of foundation just now alluded to:—

(I.) “To Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Monks, and Canons, Earls, Barons, Soldiers, Clerks, and Laymen, and to all the sons of Holy Mother Church, as well present as future, William de Romara wisheth health. Know ye that I have given, and granted, and by this charter have confirmed all my land of Clyve, with all its appurtenances and liberties, and the customs which are due from the same land, the service of my soldiers of the same land alone excepted, to found an abbey, by the hand of Hugh, abbot of S. Laurence of Revesby, for the health of my soul and of that of my father, and of my mother, and of all my ancestors. These all I have given and granted and confirmed, to found the said abbey, with all its appurtenances, free and discharged from me and my heirs, and quit of all land service, and customs, and secular exaction, and pleas, and causes, and quests, for a perpetual and pure alms. Also I will and appoint that the said abbey do have and hold all these fully and entirely, in good-will and in peace, in the vill and out of the vill, with the tofts and crofts, and churches and chapels, arable land and marshes, and thickets, and meadows, and pastures, and woods, and flats, and alder groves, and moors, and roads, and paths, and waters, and rivers, and marshes, and mills, and liberties, and common rights, and all things pertaining to the same tenure, with other things and customs. These are witnesses: Reinald Bishop of Bath, Roger de Benigeworth, Radbot the butler, David de Thochington, Robert de Engain, Roger clerk.”

This was written in or previously to A.D. 1188. It was followed by a second charter in the reign of Richard I., who succeeded in 1189, reciting still more minutely the

particulars of the gift. Literally translated it is as follows :—

(II.) “To Richard, by the grace of God illustrious King of England, Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Barons, and to all free men of the realm, and to all sons of Holy Mother Church, William de Romara wisheth health. Know ye that I have granted, and given, and by this present charter have confirmed to God, and S. Mary, and the monks of S. Laurence of Revesby, in the hand of Hugh Abbot of the same place, to found an abbey of the order Cistercian, for the health and for the soul of my liege Richard, King of England, and for the soul of K. Henry his father, my lord, who brought me up, and of all my ancestors and heirs, and for my own soul, and of Philippa my wife, and for the souls of all our ancestors and of our heirs, and of our successors, for a pure and perpetual alms, all my land of Clyve, in the vill and out of the vill, with all its appurtenances; to wit, the whole demesne, with all my rustics residing in the same vill, and with the lands which they hold plenary in woods and flats, and meadows and pastures, and waters and mills, and roads and paths, and all the liberties and free customs pertaining to the aforesaid vill; but my free men of the same vill, and their service, I have retained in my own hand. All the other things aforesaid I have granted, and given to the aforesaid monks, for a pure and perpetual alms, free and quit of all customs, and pleas, and causes, and quests, from myself and my heirs and my successors, and released from all land service, and secular exaction, for ever; to be held so well in peace and honorably, as any alms can be freely, quietly, and honorably, by any one given or held. And I and my heirs and successors will engage to maintain all these things to the aforesaid monks against all men. These are witnesses :

Lord Hugh bishop of Lincoln, Lord E. abbot of Rivaulx, Lord R. abbot of Kirkestede, Joscelin prior of Spalding, Master Hugh de Stikeswald, Gregory clerk of Beningword, Roger chaplain, Roger clerk, Wido de Veer, Gilbert de Beningword seneschal, Ralph de Braibo, William his son, Joscelin de Autebarga, Nicholas de Henne, William le Ostriter, William son of Richard de Haltune, William de Kales, Philip de Kales, John son of Gerard, Alan de Stikeney, Alan son of Reingot, Reuer clerk of Haltune, Hugh de Warewich, William Bachun, John Carbunel, Ralph Carbunel, Thomas de Horreby, Gilbert son of Richard de Wadingword, Hugh de Gurney."

The famous Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent and Chancellor of England, the father-in-law, it will be recollected, of the founder of the Abbey, was himself a benefactor. Accordingly, the next document is a confirmation by K. John of the donations both of the founder and of his noble relative. It is here offered in a literal translation:—

(III.) "John, by the grace of God King of England, lord of Ireland, duke of Normandy and Aquitain, count of Angers, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Earls, Barons, Justices, Viscounts, and all his Bailiffs and faithful servants health. Know ye that we have granted, and by the present charter have confirmed to God and S. Mary, and the monks of Clyve, of the Cistercian Order, serving God there, the gift which William de Romare made to them, of the site of their Abbey of Clyve, and of all the land of Clyve, with all its appurtenances. Also the gift which Hubert de Burgh our chamberlain made to them of a freehold in Clyve, with its appurtenances; and of the church of Kammel, with its appurtenances. Also of the service and tenement of Ada de Wachedford, with its appurtenances; and all other gifts made to them, as the

charters of the donors respectively attest. Wherefore we will, etc. Dated by the hand of H. Archbishop of Canterbury, our chancellor, at Loch, on the twenty-eighth day of January, in the third year of our reign."

The instrument just read was accordingly written in the year 1201-1202.

The Abbey had powerful friends; for the next charter is one of Richard E. of Cornwall, brother of K. Henry III., granting to the monks various lands in Cornwall of considerable value, together with sundry important privileges. The series of exemptions furnishes a curious picture of the multitudinous rights and services incident upon feudal tenure. In English it reads thus :—

(IV.) "To all to whom the present writing shall arrive, Richard Count of Poictiers and Cornwall wisheth health. Know all of you that I have granted, and by this my present charter have confirmed for me and my heirs, to the Abbot of Clyve and to the monks serving God there, by consideration of charity, and for the health of my soul, and of all my ancestors and successors, for a free, pure, and perpetual alms, all the lands which they possessed in Cornwall, on the day of the nativity of S. John the Baptist, in the nineteenth year of the reign of my brother King Henry; that is to say, Pochewill and Treglastan, with the appurtenances which they possessed before of the gift of Lord Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent; and the land which they possessed before at Pundestoke, of the gift of William de Pundestoke, to be had and holden by the same abbot and monks freely and peacefully, with infangendethes and utfangendethes. Also I have granted to the same, that the lands aforesaid should be quit of hidages, and shires, and hundreds, levies, assizes, and summonses for collecting treasure, and the citements of the sheriff and his servants, of the sheriff's turn,

and of all other citements, and of the county amercia-
ment, passage, pontage, and of works of castles, bridges,
stews, walls, parks, and of all enclosures, and of tithing
peny. And that the aforesaid lands be quit of clearings,
waste, and viewing of forest, and of toll, of pleas of forest,
of knights' service, and of all liabilities, customs, and secular
exactions affecting me or my heirs. Wherefore I will, etc.
These are witnesses: my venerable father, Jocelin, by the
grace of God Bishop of Bath, Lord William de Raleigh,
. . . Richard de Curry, John the son of John,
Guido of S. Amandus, Henry Theutonicus, John Bretach,
and Nicholas de Anna clerk, Robert de Esthall clerk, and
others."

The next is another charter of Hubert de Burgh the
chamberlain. It is interesting, and, translated, reads
thus:—

(V.) "Know all men present and future, that I, Hubert
de Burgh, chamberlain of our Lord the King, have given,
granted, and by this my present charter have confirmed, to
God and S. Mary, and the monks of Clyve there serving
God, now and hereafter, for the health of my soul, and of my
father and mother, and of all my ancestors and parents, and
of my heirs, for a perpetual alms, all the demesne which I
possessed in Rugeham, and the homages and services of all
freemen and their heirs, and the rustics with their lands
which I possessed in Rugeham; and whatsoever pertained
to me and to my heirs of all the tenement which I possessed
of the gift of my Lord Hugh de Fogingtone in Rugeham,
in good-will and in peace, freely and quietly, plenary and
entirely, and honourably, in wood and in flat, in pastures
and thickets, in waters and mills, in marshes and stews, in
roads and footpaths, and with all their appurtenances, and
with all the liberties and free customs pertaining to the

same vill. All these aforesaid homages, and services, and tenements, with all their appurtenances, I have given to the aforesaid monks free and quit of me and my heirs, and released from all land service and secular demand; saving, nevertheless, the service of my Lord the King appertaining to the same land. Both I and my heirs will warrant all these tenements aforesaid to the aforesaid monks against all men and women. These are witnesses: Henry Biset, Walter de Evermue, Robert Aguilun, Richard his brother, Roger la Veile, Richard his brother, Alan de Wichtone, Alexander de Rugham, John de Yngeworth, Richard Russel, William Crakef . . . , and many others."

The next in order is the following, from Reginald de Mohun :—

(VI.) "To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present writing shall come, Reginald de Mohun wisheth health. Know ye that I have given, and granted, and by my present charter have confirmed to God and blessed Mary, and to the monks of Flowery Vale, which is commonly called Clyve, there serving God, and that shall hereafter serve, for the health of my soul, and of Avis my wife, and of my heirs, and all my predecessors, and my successors, for a pure and perpetual alms, all my land of Slaworth, which belonged to Richard de Slaworth and Roger son of the same; to be held and possessed of me and of my heirs for ever, with all their appurtenances; in roads and footpaths, in wood and flat, in waters and turbaries, and in pastures and downs, and all other things, by themselves and all their animals and other cattle, with free ingress and egress, freely, quietly, peacefully and honorably, and quit and released of all service and secular demand; saving the King's service, to wit as much as belongeth to the eighth part of the fee of one soldier in the fee of Dunster. But if any other

service be due, or shall be due from thence to any man, I and my heirs will discharge it out of our tenement of Dunster. We will warrant all the aforesaid land of Slaworth to the aforesaid monks, with all its appurtenances, against all men and women, as any alms can and ought freely to be discharged and warranted, saving the King's service as is aforesaid. And that this my gift and grant may remain for ever firm and unshaken, I have thought fit that my seal should be appended to the present writing. These are witnesses : etc."

William de Mohun, brother of the aforesaid Reginald, was also a benefactor of the Abbey ; and the following instrument is the confirmation by Reginald of his brother's gift. In the interim it will be perceived that he had lost his wife; as the lady named in the charter just read as Avis my wife, is here mentioned as Avis de Mohun of blessed memory :—

(VII.) "To all men to whom the present writing shall arrive, Reginald de Mohun wisheth health in the Lord. Know all of you, that I, for the health of my soul, of my father and mother, and of Avis de Mohun of blessed memory, and of all my ancestors and successors, have granted and confirmed all the gift of William de Mohun, my brother, which he gave to the monks of Clyve, of the land of Stortmanforde, with all its appurtenances, which the same William held and possessed of my gift, as the charter of the same to the same monks on that occasion made attests. And I and my heirs will warrant for ever the aforesaid land to the said monks, as our free, pure, and perpetual alms, with all its appurtenances. Which that it may continue for ever firm and stable, I have strengthened the present writing by the impression of my seal. These are witnesses : etc."

The Abbey had also royal benefactors, for the next is a charter of K. Henry III., containing a very important concession, and was doubtless received and kept with all possible observance :—

(VIII.) “Henry, by the grace of God K. of England, lord of Ireland, etc., to the Archbishops, etc., health. Know ye that we, in regard of God, and for the health of our soul, and of the souls of our ancestors and our heirs, have granted, and by this present charter have confirmed, to our beloved in Christ the abbot and convent of Clyve, in the county of Somerset, our manor of Branton in the county of Devon, with the hundred outward, and other its appurtenances, to be had and holden of us and of our heirs, by paying every year to our treasury, by their own hand, twenty and two pounds, at two terms ; that is to say, at the feast of S. Michael eleven pounds, and at Easter eleven pounds ; saving to the men of the same manor, and to other men who are not of the same manor, their own common pasturage, which they have possessed in the same manor, prior to this our grant. Wherefore we will, etc. Given by the hand of the venerable father R. bishop of Chichester, our chancellor, at Gloucester, the twenty-fifth day of June, in the thirteenth year of our reign.”

This, therefore, was in the year 1228. Two years previous to this, however, K. Henry had granted the Abbey a charter referring to grants already noticed. In English it stands thus :—

(IX.) “Henry, King, etc., health. Know ye that we, in regard of God, etc., have granted, and by this our charter have confirmed to God and blessed Mary and the monks of Clyve, the lands and tenements underwritten, that is to say of the gift of Hubert de Burgh, at the time that he

was Chamberlain of our Lord K. John, our father, all the land which belonged to Walter, son of Matthew de Beningeworth, in Clyve, with all its appurtenances. Of the gift of the same Hubert, then Chamberlain of the same our father, all homages and services of all their free men of Clyve, and of their heirs, with all appurtenances, the service of Ralph, son of William, and his heirs excepted. Also of the gift of the same Hubert, afterwards Earl of Kent, all his land of Treglastan and of Pothwell, with all its appurtenances. Wherefore I will, etc. These are witnesses: A. Bishop of Coventry, Th. Bishop of Norwich, R. Earl of Chester and Lincoln, William Marshall Earl of Pembroke, J. constable of Chester, Osbert Giffard, Ralph son of Nicholas, Hugh Despenser, Geoffrey Despenser, and others. Given by the hand of the venerable father, R. Bishop of Chichester, our Chancellor, at Windsor, the third day of September, in the year, etc., eleven.”*

That was in 1226. The next is also a confirmation by the same King of a previous grant:—

(X.) “The King has granted, and by his charter has confirmed, to the abbot and convent of Clive, in the county of Somerset, the manor of Bramton, with the hundred without, in the county of Devon, with other its appurtenances. To be holden of the King and his heirs for ever, at a rent of twenty two pounds per annum. And it is ordered to the Sheriff of Gloucester that he make them to have a full seizin of the manor of Bramton, etc. Witness, the King, at Gloucester, the twenty-fifth day of June.”†

At this point my first division, that of the charters hitherto printed, ends. The documents form an interesting

* Cart. 11., Hen. III., pat. 2, m. 3. *Dugdale*, Monast. Angl., Vol. V., p. 734.

† Rot. Fin. 23 Hen. III., m. 7. *Dugdale*, Vol. V., p. 734.

series; and I hope that the English dress, in which they now for the first time appear, will avail to make them more generally intelligible.

My second division, however, may be allowed to be of still greater interest, as it consists of documents not hitherto printed, and which, I presume, are consequently new to the majority at least of the Society's members.

The first is a transcript of the original charter of K. Henry III., which was abstracted rather than copied in the *Registrum* before mentioned as belonging to Sir Hugh Windham, and thence printed by Dugdale, No. VIII. I believe the one now given to be the oldest of the Cleeve Charters which have come down to us in their original form, and have accordingly printed it, as supplying the means to those who possess the *Monasticon* of making a very interesting comparison. It is sufficiently similar to No. VIII., above given, as to need no translation.*

* In printing these documents, I have thought proper to give them as nearly as possible in their actual form; but as the Society's fount is unable to supply the numerous marks of MS. contraction, I have signified the presence of these by the apostrophe comma ('). By persons who are conversant with MS. literature, not the slightest difficulty will be found in supplying the particular marks thus indicated, and the letters whose absence they serve to denote.

My researches have furnished so large a quantity of materials, that I am precluded from even expressing a desire that the Society should publish the whole. I have, therefore, selected for the press such of the Charters, etc., as I deem most interesting. I would direct the attention, however, of any future historian of Cleeve Abbey to the following list of documents, which appear to me of the next degree of interest, and which I have taken from a long and varied catalogue:—

Fin. 13 Hen. III., m. 7.—Pat. 20 Edw. I., m. 26.—Pat. 9 Edw. I., m. 16.—Rec. in Scacc. 24 Edw. I., Rot. Trin.—Cart. 12 Ed. II., n. 37.—Pat. 14 Edw. II., p. 2, m. 13.—Pat. 20 Edw. III., p. 1, m. 19.—Pat. 27 Edw. III., p. 1, m. 26.—Pat. 30 Edw. III., p. 3, m. 10.—Pat. 2 Hen. IV., p. 1, m. 36.—Rec. in Scacc. 4 Hen. V., Pasch. rot. 9.—Pat. 24 Hen. VI., p. 1, m. 6.—Pat. 8 Edw. IV., p. 2, m. 20.

(1.) "P' Abb'e de Clyva. H. Rex Angl' &c., salt'. Nov'itis nos, intuitu Dei, & p' salute aie n're, & aiar' an'cess' & he'du' n'ror', co'cessisse, & hac carta n'ra cof', dilc'is nob' i' X'po Abb'ti & Co'ventui de Clyva, i' Com' Sum'set, man'iu' n'r'm de Bramton', i' Com' Devon', cu' hu'dredo forinseco, & aliis p'tin' suis, h'ndu' & tenend' de nob' & h'edib' n'ris, sⁱ & eor' succ' i'p'petuu' ad feodi f^rma' ; reddendo inde nob' & h'edib' n'ris sing'lis annis ad sec^am n'r'm, p' manu' sua' xxii. li. ad duos t'ios, videl' ad festu' S'ci Mich'is . xi. li., & ad Pasch' . xi. li. salva ho'ib' ejusd' man'ij, et aliis ho'ib' qui no' sunt de man'io illo, com'i past'a sua qua' habu'nt i' eode' man'io ante ha'c co'cess' n'ram. Q^are volum' &c. q'd p'dc'i abbas, & co'vent', & eor' succ', h'ant & teneant de nob' & h'edib' n'ris p'dc'm man'ium, cu' p'tin' suis i'p'petuu', ad feodi f^rma', bu', & i' pace, libe', quiete, & intege, cu' o'ib' lib'tatib' & lib'is co'suetud' ad p'dc'm man'iu' p'tin'. Reddendo inde nob' & h'edib' n'ris, singulis annis, ad sec^am n'r'm, p' manu' sua', xxii. li. p'dc'as ad t'ios p'dc'os. Salva ho'ib' ejusd' man'ij, & aliis ho'ib' qui no' su't de man'io illo, com'i past'a sua, qua' h'unt i' eod' man'io an' ha'c co'cess' n'ram, sic' p'dc'm est. Hiis T'. H. de Burgo, &c. Joh'e de Munem', Henr' de Aldithel, Will'o de Cantilup', Ric'o de G^ay, Gileb'to Basset, Thom' Basset, Joh'e fil' Phil', Galf^ro Dispens', Rad'o de Raleg', & aliis. Dat' p' manu', ut s^a, [ven'ab' p'ris R. Cicestr' Ep'i, Canc' n'ri] ap' Glouc', xxv die Jun', anno &c. xiii^o."*

The next is from the Close Rolls, and is addressed by the same King to the tenants of Brampton, calling upon them to do suit and service to the Abbot and Convent, in agreement with the terms of the last-named grant :—

* Cart. 13 Henry III., p. 1, m. 3.

(2.) “P’ Abb’e & Monachis de Cliva de man’io de Bramton’.

“Rex militib’, lib’is ho’ib’, tene’tib’ de man’io de Bra’p-ton’, salt’. Sciatis qd commisim’ Abb’i & Monachis de Cliva man’iu’ de Bra’pton cu’ p’tin’, tenendu’ de nob’ & h’edib’ n’ris i’p’petuu’, ad feodi firma’, reddendo inde nob’ & heredib’ n’ris sing’lis annis xxij libras, sic’ pleni’ continet’ in carta n’ra q^am inde h’nt. Et id’o vob’ mandam’ q’d eisd’ Abb’i & Monachis de consuetudinib’ et s’viciis q’ nob’ fac’e consuevistis & fac’e debuistis, q^amdiu man’iu’ predc’m exstitit i’ manu n’ra, inte’de’tes decet’o sitis & respo’de’tes. T’. R’. ap’ Lond’, xxvj die Sept’. Et ma’d’ est Vic’ Devon’, q’d si ip’i inde eisd’ Abb’i & Monach’ intendere nolu’int, & respo’dere, ad id faciend’ ip’os dist’ngat. T. ut s^a [T’. R’. ap’ Derteford’, xx die Sept’.]”*

The next is a Charter of Inspeximus from the same King, recounting the provisions of one of his own former grants, and particularizing the various exemptions which the Abbey enjoyed. It is in many respects similar to No. IV., but the exemptions are stated with greater minuteness :—

(3.) “Pro Abb’e & Monach’ de Clyve. R. Archiep’is &c. sal’t’m. Inspexim’ cartam n’ram q^am dudum fieri fecimus Abbati de Cliva & Monachis ibidem Deo s’vientib’, in hec v’ba : Henr’, Dei Gra’ Rex Angl’, Dn’s Hibern’, Dux Norm’, Aquit’, Com’ Ang’, Archiep’is, Ep’is, Abbatib’, P’orib’, Comitib’, Baronib’, Justic’, Vic’, P’positis, ministris, & om’ib’ Ball’is, & fidel’ suis, sal’t’m. Sciatis nos, intuitu Dei, & p’ salute anime n’re, & animar’ antecessor’ & her’ n’ror’, concessisse, & hac carta n’ra, confirmasse, Abbati de Cliva & Monachis ibidem Deo s’viantib’ & eor’ successorib’,

* Claus. 13 Hen. III., m. 4.

in lib'am pura' et p'petua' elemos', Abbacia' sua' de Cliva, & q'd h'eant & tenea't om'es terras & ten' sua, que eis ronab'r data su't, & infut'um ronabil'r & justis modis adquirere pot'u't ; cu' soca, & scota, & thol, & theam, infangenethes, utfangenethes ; & q'd suit quieti de geldis, & danegeldis, & de murdr', & de pecunia que ad murdr' p'tinet, sine ad latrocinu', & de hydagiis, & schiris, & hundr', & exercitib', & assisis, sum'onico'ib', & de tesauo ducendo, & auxilio Vic' & s'vientu' suor', & de turno Vic', & de om'ib' auxiliis aliis, & de misc'dia Comitatus, passagio, pontagio, & de op'aco'ib' castellar', ponciu', & vivarior', muror', vallor', parcor', & de om'ib' clausuris, & de warpeni, & hav'peni, & de lestagio, & stallagio, & de hengwite, & flemenewyte, & de bladewite, & fictwyte, & de thethingpeni ; & ut om's terra & tenem'ta que habent sint quieta de essartis, vasto, et regardo foreste, & de om'ib' occ'onib' & co'suetudinib', & ab o'i exacc'one s'culari ; & h'eant wreccu' p' om'es terras suas. Et ne quis ponat eos qui de eadem Abbacia su't in placitu' de aliquo tenem'to quod tenea't, nisi cora' nob' v'l capitali Justic' n'ro ; ut ip'i de eadem Abbacia sint quieti de theoloneo, & de placitis foreste, & de scutagiis. Quare volum' & firmit'r p'cipim', q'd p'dc'i Abbas & Monachi & eor' successores h'eant & teneant imp'petuu' p'dc'as terras et ten' p'dc'a, bn', & in pace, libe', & quiete, & integre, cum om'ib' libertatib' & quietanciis p'dc'is, sicut p'dc'm est. Hiis testib', Hugone de Burgo, Com' Kanc', Justic' Angl', Will'o Marescallo Com' Penbr', Walt'o de Clifford, Steph'o de Segave, Joh'e de Monem', Will'o Warini fil', Ph'o de Albinaco, Rad'o fil' Nich'i, Rad'o de Raleg', Ric'o fil' Hug', & aliis. Dat' p' manu' ven'abil' p'ris Rad'i Cicestr' Ep'i, Cancellar' n'ri, apud Hereford', vicesimo die Aug' anno r. n. duodecimo. Et quia imp'essio sigilli n'ri quo

tunc utebam' casual'r confrica est, nos, intuitu caritatis, & ad instanciam Abb'tis & Monachor' loci p'de'i, tenore' carte p'de'e sub p'senti sigillo n'ro quo nunc utim' duxim' innovandum. Hiis testib', Rob'to Waleraund, Rob'to Aguylim, Nich'o de Leukenore, Will'o de Aete, Joh'e de la Lynde, Petro de Nevill', Rad'o de Bakepu', Will'o Belet, Barth'o Bigod, Steph'o de Eddeworth', & aliis. Dat' p' manu' n'ram, apud Westm', duodecimo die Januar'."* †

Next follows another Charter of Inspeximus, from Edward I. to the Abbot and monks, recounting the provisions of a Charter of Hubert de Burgh, which is referred to in that of K. John, translated above, No. III. :—

(4.) "P' Monachis de Clyva. R. om'ib' ad quos &c. sal'm. Inspexim' cartam quam Hub'tus de Burgo fecit Deo, & B'e Marie, & Monachis de Clyve, in hec verba : Om'ib' filiis S'ce M'ris Eccl'ie Hub'tus de Burgo, Cam'ari' d'ni Regis, sal'm. Sciatis me dedisse, co'cessisse, & hac p'senti carta mea confirmasse, Deo, & S'ce Marie, & Monachis meis de Clyva ibidem Deo s'vientib', p' salute ai'e mee, & o'um antecessor', & her' meor', eccl'iam de Camel, cu' om'ib' p'tin' suis, in p'petuam & pura' el'am, habenda' & possidendam in p'prios usus, scil't ad vestitu' p'dc'or' Monachor' & frum'. Hiis testib', Luca Capp'llano, Will'o de Cancell', Rob'to Aguillim, Rog'o la Velye, Henr' de Birlingh^am, Rinaldo de Clyft, Thoma cl'ico, Alano de Wiht', Milone Olivero de Vaus. Nos autem p'dc'as dona-

* Cart. 51 Hen. III., m. 10.

† A translation of, and commentary on, this charter were desirable; but my very limited space, and anxiety to include as many original documents as possible, must plead for their absence. My English readers will find, nevertheless, that they have not been forgotten, as, besides the translations already given, several others will be presented to them before the conclusion of my paper.

co'em & co'essione' ratas h'entes & gratas, eas p' nob' & her' n'ris, q'antu' in nob' est, concedim' & confirmam', sicut carta p'dc'a r'onabilit' testatur. In cuj', &c. T. ut s^a [T. R. apud Westm', vj. die Jun'.]” *

The next is an instrument permitting by special favour Gilbert de Wolavinton to assign a carucate of land, with its appurtenances, in Fernacre, Crandon, and Stanbrok, to the Abbot and Convent, the statute of mortmain notwithstanding, and the Abbot and Convent to accept the same with certain restrictions :—

(5.) “P' Abbate de Clyve. R'. om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Licet de co'i consilio regni n'ri statu'im' q'd no' liceat viris religiosis seu aliis ingredi feodum alicujus, ita q'd ad manu' mortuam deveniat, sine licencia n'ra & capital' d'ni de quo res illa immediate tenet^r; volentes tamen dile'o nob' Gilb'to de Wolavinton' gra'm fac'e sp'alem, dedimus ei licenciam, q'antum in nob' est, q'd ip'e unam carucatam t're cum p'tin' in Fernacre, Crandon, & Stanbrok', que de dile'is nob' in X'po Abbate & Conventu de Clyve tenent^r, immediate dare possit & assignare eisdem Abbati & Conventui, tenendam et h'endam sibi & successorib' suis imp'petuu'; et eisdem Abbati & Conventui q'd t'ram illam ab eodem Gilb'to recip'e possint, tenore p'senciu' similit' licenciam dedim' sp'alem. Nolentes q'd idem Gilb'tus vel heredes sui, aut p'dc'i Abbas & Conventus aut eor' successores, racione statuti p'dc'i, p' nos vel heredes n'ros inde occ'onentur in aliquo, seu g'vent^r. Salvis tamen capitalib' d'nis feodi illius s'viciis inde debitis & co'suetis. In cujus, &c. T. R. apud Wy, xvij. die Junii.

“P' ip'm Regem, quia finem fecit coram Thes' & Baronib' de Sc'acio, sicut idem Thes' mandavit.” †

* Pat. 9 Edw. 1, m. 16.

† Pat. 27 Edw. I, m. 22.

The Charter Roll, 14 Edward II., contains a Charter of Inspeximus, the greater portion of which is occupied by the instrument already given (No. 3.) It concludes thus:—

(6.) “Nos autem concessione & confirmaco'em p'dc'as ratas h'entes & g'atas, eas p' nob' & heredib' n'ris, quantum in nob' est, dile'is nob' in X'po Abbati & Monachis loci p'dc'i & eor' successorib' concedim' & confirmam', sicut carta p'dc'a r'onabilit' testat', & p'ut ip'i & p'decessores sui lib'tatib' p'dc'is hactenus r'onabilit' usi sunt & gavisi. Hiis testib', ven'abilib' p'rib' W. Cantuar' Archiep'o tocius Angl' primate, J. Norwicen' Ep'o Cancellar' n'ro, W. Exon' Ep'o Thes' n'ro, Adomaro de Valencia Comite Pembr', Humfr'o de Boum Comite Hereford' & Essex', Hugone le Despens' seniore, Barth'o de Baddelesm'e senescallo Hospicij n'ri, & aliis. Data p' manu' n'ram apud Westm', xxvij die Octobr'. P' fine' quinq' marcar'. dupp'.”*

The Charter which follows, confirms the gift by one Osmer de Tregu of a moiety of his mills at Great Hurdyn and Treglastan, and of the waste of Foymore, in the county of Cornwall:—

(7.) “P' Abb'e & Conventu B'e Marie de Clyve. R' om'ib' ad quos &c. sal't'm. Donaco'em, remissione', relaxaco'em, & quietam clamanciam quas Henricus Osmer de Tregu p' scriptum suu' fecit, Deo, & Beate Marie de Clyve, & Monachis ibidem Deo s'vientib', de tota medietate duor' molendinor', videlicet de magno Hurdyn & de Treglast', & eciam de medietate tocius vasti de Foymore, ratas h'entes & gratas, eas p' nob' & he'dib' n'ris, q'antum in nob' est, dile'is nob' in X'po Abb'i & Conventui loci p'dc'i concedim' & confirmam', sicut scriptum p'dc'm r'onabilit' testat'.

* Cart. 14 Edw. II., n. 30.

Nolentes q'd p'de'i Abbas, vel Conventus, aut successores sui, r'one statuti de t'ris & ten' ad manu' mortuam non ponend' editi, p' nos vel he'des n'ros, Justic', Escaetores, Vicecomites, ant alios balli'os, seu ministros n'ros quoscumq', inde occ'onent^r, molestent^r in aliquo, seu g^avent^r. In cujus, &c. T'. R'. apud Nova' Sar', xxiiiij. die Octobr'. P' finem sexaginta solidor'. Cornub'." *

The Patent Rolls of the following year supply us with the next, which is in answer to a petition from the Abbot and Convent, in reference to lands at Brampton in the county of Devon, a locality whose name so often finds a place among the records of this House :—

(8.) "P' Abb'e & Conv' de Clyve, de t'r &c. adquirend' &c. R'. om'ib' ad quos &c. sal't'm. Sciatis q'd cum dn's E. nup' Rex Angl', pat^r n'r, p' l'ras suas patentes concessisset & licenciam dedisset p' se & he'dib' suis, q^{an}tum in ip'o fuit, dilc'is nob' in X'po Abb'i & Conventui de Clyve, q'd ip'i t'ras ten' & redditus usq' ad valorem decem librar' p'annu' juxta verum valorem eor'dem tam de feodo suo p'pio q'm alieno, exceptis t'ris ten' & redditib' que de ip'o p're n'ro tenebant^r in capite, acquirere possent, h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis imp'petuu', statuto de t'ris & ten' ad manu' mortuam non ponend' edito non obstante, p'ut in l'ris ip'ius p'ris n'ri p'de'is plenius continet^r; ac iidem Abbas & Conventus nob' supplicaverint, ut ip'i unu' mesuagiu' duas solidatas reddit', & medietatem unius ferlingi t're cum p'tin' in Brampton' de Henr' Billyng', & duo mesuagia cum p'tin' in eadem villa de Thoma fil' Rob'ti Curtays Aleyn virtute concessionis p'de'e adquisivissent, & ea ingressi fuissent, priusq^{am} inquisico'es inde in Cancellar' ip'ius p'ris n'ri seu n'ra retornate fuissent, velim'

* Pat. 2 Edw. III., p. 2, m. 19.

concedere eisdem Abb'i & Conventui, q'd ip'i p'dc'a mesu-
 agia, t'ram, & redditum cum p'tin' retin'e possint, sibi &
 successorib' suis imp'petuu', in p'tem satisfacco'is decem
 libratar' t'rar' ten' & reddituu' p'dc'ar' ; Nos, eor' suppli-
 caco'i in hac p'te annuentes, & concessionem ip'ius p'ris
 n'ri p'dc'am volentes effectui mancipari, p'donavim' p'fatis
 Abb'i & Conventui t'nsgressiones fc'as in hac p'te, & con-
 cessim' p' nob' & he'dib' n'ris, quantu' in nob' est, q'd ip'i
 mesuagia t'ram et redditum p'dc'a cum p'tin' que de p'fatis
 Abb'e & Conventu tenent', sicut p' inquisico'em p' dile'm
 & fidelem n'rm Simonem de Bereford', Escaetorem n'rm
 cit^a Trentam, de mandato n'ro captam, & in Canc' n'ra
 retornatam est comp'tum, h'eant & teneant sibi & success-
 orib' suis imp'petuu', in valorem decem solidor' p' annu' in
 p'tem satisfacco'is decem libratar' t'rar' ten' & reddituu'
 p'dc'ar', sine occ'one vel impedimento n'ri vel he'dum n'ror',
 Justic', Esc', Vic', aut alior' ball'or', seu ministror' n'ror'
 quor'cu'q', statuto p'dc'o non obstante : salvis tamen capi-
 talib' d'nis feodor' illor' s'viciis inde debitis & consuetis.
 In cuj', &c. T'. J. de Eltham, &c. apud Cantuar', quarto
 die Jun'." *

In the Chapterhouse at Westminster is preserved a very interesting record which relates to the manor of Abbotes-
 hendra in Cornwall. Unfortunately it is too long for the
 space allotted to me; but one or two extracts will be neces-
 sary for the sake of exhibiting important information not
 elsewhere, so far as I know, to be found. The record itself
 may be referred to without difficulty, by attending to the
 reference.

Abbot Leonard, at the time in question, governed the
 Monastery :—

* Pat. 3 Edw. III., p. 1, m. 13.

(9.) "Et ad p'dc'am xv^{am} Pasche, p'dc'i Leonardus Abbas B'e Marie de Clyva & manucaptors sui p'dc'i ven' p' p'dc'um Will'm Gascoigne," etc.

Further on, a former instrument is quoted, in which occur the words,

"Tenuit die p'mulgaco'is utlagar' p'dc'e sibi & heredib' suis man'iu' de Abboteshendra, cu' p'tin' in Com' p'dc'o, ex dono & concessione Joh'is Mason', nup' Abb'is de Clyva, & eiusdem loci Conventus," etc.

And still further,

"Et q'd p'dc'us Joh'es Mason', & Joh'es Plympton', nup' Abbas de Clyva, et Leonardus nunc Abbas de Clyva, receperunt," etc. *

These extracts furnish us, in John Mason or John Plympton, with the name of at least one additional Abbot to the list given in *Dugdale*. *Dugdale*, who, however, possessed sources of information which are now lost, gives none between Abbot Robert de Clire 1321, and William Seylake 1419, except "John, 1407," and "Leonard, 1416." The last mentioned is no doubt the Leonardus of the present Charter, which refers to the year 1416: for the "John" which precedes him we can now insert John Plympton and John Mason.

The document next in order is one of peculiar interest in the history of the Abbey. It appears that a chapel anciently erected to the honour of the Blessed Virgin had been wholly destroyed by a flood: and the Charter now to be offered is a licence to hold a weekly market and two fairs yearly towards the liquidation of the expenses connected with its re-erection. I presume it was to this building that the commission to consecrate referred, the

* Memorand. 4 Hen. V., Pasch Rec. m. 9, dors.

issue of which is recorded in *Dugdale* (Vol. v., p. 731, note e), from the *Harleian MS.* 6966, p. 82. The commission is said to be issued (I give it in translation) “for the dedication of a chapel near the Monastery of Clyve, which David the Abbot of the same Monastery has lately caused to be built and erected from the foundation handsomely and sumptuously to the honour of the B. V. Mary, and of a certain small portion of land adjacent and contiguous to the said chapel, to be limited at the judgment of the said Bishop, for the formation of a cemetery, and itself to be consecrated; it being provided that nothing be yielded to the prejudice of the parish church.”

The Charter itself now follows, with a literal English translation:—

(10.) “P’ Abb’e & Conventu de Cliva. R’. Archiep’is, Ep’is, Abb’ib’, Priorib’, Comitib’, Baronib’, Justic’, Vicecomitib’, Prepositis, ministris, & om’ib’ Ballivis, & fidelib’ suis ad quos, &c. salt’m. Supplicarunt nob’ dile’i nob’ in Xp’o David Abbas & Conventus Monast’ij B’e Marie de Cliva, vt cum nup’ sup’ quandam Capellam, ab olim sup’ ripam maris in man’io ip’or’ Abb’is & Conventus de Cliva, ad laudem & honorem b’e & glo’sse Dei genitricis Marie, p’ p’decessores p’dc’or’ Abb’is & Conventus fundatam & fabricatam, vbi vnigenitus Dei & ip’ius gl’iose virginis Filius multiplicia miraculor’ insignia & infinita salutis remedia, p’ m’ita sue gl’iose genitricis, misericordit’ op’ari dignatus est, Clivus magnus ibidem ex continua pluviar’ habundancia & vehementi aquar’ decursu horribilit’ ceciderit, & cadendo eandem capellam, cum vniv’ sis edificiis adjacentib’, sola dc’e gl’iose virginis imagine & altari ejusdem capelle illesis & intactis, p’ Dei virtutem vt credit’ mirabilit’ reservatis, ad t’ram funditus prostraverat, oppresserat, & quassaverat; eaque de causa ijdem Abbas &

Conventus multipliciter depaup'ant' : Ipsi tamen quandam aliam Capellam, de novo, in quodam alio loco, infra p'cinctum man'ij sui p'dc'i, edificare & constru'e inceperunt, vt memoria dc'e b'e & gl'iose virginis ibidem a devotis Xp'i fidelib' in laude & ven'aco'e celebrit' h'eatur, antiquus vt solebat ; ad hoc laborib' et expensis suis in aliquo non parcantes : Set quia ad tam sumptuosi op'is compleco'em & consum'aco'em, ac ad alia on'a eidem Monast'io ab antiquo incumbencia supportand', facultates sue non suppetunt, absq' gr'a nr'a sp'ali h'ita in hac parte, velim', pietatis intuitu, cum eisdem n'ros sp'ales gr'am & favorem benignissime imp'tiri : Nos, p'missa intime considerantes, hac, ob reu'enciam dc'e genitricis Dei Marie, in quam totam spem n'ram post Deum semp' p'fixim', de gr'a n'ra sp'ali concessim', & licenciam dedim' p' nob' & heredib' n'ris, quantum in nob' est, p'fatis Abb'i & Conventui, q'd ip'i & successores sui imp'p'm h'eant vnu' m'catum infra p'cinctum man'ij sui p'dc'i singulis septimanis, die mercurij, tenend', & duas ferias ibidem singulis annis, videl't in festo Sc'i Jacobi Ap'li, aceciam in festo Exaltaco'is S'ce Crucis, & p' tres dies inmediate sequentes duratur' tenend', cum om'ib' lib'tatib', jurib', & consuetudinib', ad hujusmodi m'catum & ferias p'tinentib' sive spectantib' ; nisi mercatum illud & ferie ille sint ad nocumentum vicinor' mercator' & vicinar' feriar'. Quare volum' & firmit' p'cipim' p' nob' & heredib' n'ris, quantum in nob' est, q'd p'dc'i Abbas & Conventus & successores sui h'eant imp'p'm vnu' m'catum ibidem singulis septimanis, die mercurij, & duas ferias ibidem singulis annis, videl't, vnam in festo Sc'i Jacobi Ap'li, & alt'am in festo Exaltaco'is S'ce Crucis, & p' tres dies inmediate festa p'dc'a sequentes duratur' tenend', cum om'ib' lib'tatib', jurib', & lib'is consuetudinib' ad hujusmodi m'catum & ferias p'tinentib' sive spectantib' ; nisi m'catum

illud & ferie ille sint ad nocumentum vicinor' m'cator' & vicinar' feriar', sicut p'dic'm est : aliquo iure nob' competente ; aut nob', heredib', aut successorib' n'ris compet', seu quovis statuto, actu, ordinaco'e, siue restrictu antea fact' ; aut eo q'd exp'ssa mencio de aliquib' aliis donis siue concessionib' eisdem Abb'i & Conventui aut p'decessorib' suis, p' nos aut aliquem p'genitor' n'ror' quondam Regum Angl' ante hec tempora fact', in p'sentib' non existit ; non obstant'. In cujus, &c. T'. R'. apud Westm', xxij die Octobr'. P' l're de privato sigillo, & de dat' &c." *

Or thus in English :—

“ For the Abbot and Convent of Clive. The King to the Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Priors, Earls, Barons, Justices, Sheriffs, Provosts, servants, and all his Bailiffs and liegemen, to whom, etc. health. Our beloved in Christ David the Abbot and the Convent of the Monastery of Blessed Mary of Clyve have petitioned us, that,—whereas lately upon a certain chapel, from ancient times founded and erected on the seashore in the manor of the same Abbot and Convent of Clive, by the predecessors of the aforesaid Abbot and Convent, to the praise and honour of Mary the blessed and glorious Mother of God, where the only-begotten Son of God and of the same glorious Virgin has vouchsafed of His mercy, through the merits of His own glorious Mother, to work divers kinds of notable miracles, and innumerable restorations of health, a large cliff in the same place, by reason of an incessant abundance of rain and mighty down-flood of waters, horribly fell, and in falling had entirely prostrated, cast down, and shaken to the ground the same chapel, with all the adjacent buildings, (the image alone of the said glorious Virgin and the altar

* Pat. 6 Edw. IV., p. 1, m. 2.

of the same chapel remaining uninjured and untouched, being miraculously preserved, as it is believed, by the assisting help of God,) and for that reason the same Abbot and Convent are in manifold ways impoverished : They have nevertheless begun to erect and build anew a certain other chapel in a certain other place within the precinct of their aforesaid manor, that the memory of the said blessed and glorious Virgin may in the same place by the devoted and faithful servants of Christ be honourably held in praise and veneration, as it used to be of old ; not in any wise sparing their labours and charges thereunto : But because their own means are not sufficient for the completion and full finishing of so expensive a work, and for sustaining the other burdens from old time lying on the same Monastery, apart from our special grace employed in this behalf;—we would be pleased, by consideration of piety, most liberally to communicate with the same our special grace and favour : We, taking the premises into our deepest consideration, out of the reverence for the said Mary mother of God, in whom after God we have ever placed our entire hope, of our special favour we have by this granted and given licence for us and our heirs, as far as in us is, to the aforesaid Abbot and Convent, that they and their successors for ever may have one market within the precinct of their aforesaid manor, to be held on Wednesday in every week, and two fairs to be held at the same place in every year, to wit, on the feast of S. James the Apostle, and also on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and to last for the three days next following, with all the liberties, rights, and customs, appertaining to or respecting a market and fairs of this kind ; unless that market and those fairs be to the injury of the neighbouring markets and the neighbouring fairs,

Wherefore we will and straitly charge, for us and our heirs, as much as in us is, that the aforesaid Abbot and Convent and their successors do have for ever one market to be held in the same place on Wednesday in every week, and two fairs in the same place in every year, to wit, one on the feast of S. James the Apostle, and the other on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, and to last for three days next following the aforesaid feasts, with all the liberties, rights, and free customs appertaining to or respecting a market and fairs of this kind ; unless that market and those fairs be to the injury of the neighbouring markets and the neighbouring fairs, as is aforesaid : any right contrariwise suing to us ; or contrariwise suing to us, our heirs, or our successors, either any statute, act, rule, or restriction before made ; or because that express mention regarding any other gifts or grants to the same Abbot and Convent, or to their predecessors, by us or any one of our progenitors, formerly Kings of England, hitherto made, is not at present extant ; notwithstanding. In testimony whereof, etc. Witness, the King, at Westminster, the twenty-second day of October."

For the seven documents which now follow, (No. 11 to No. 17 incl.) and which not unpleasantly contrast with the royal and noble Charters already given, I am indebted to the kind courtesy of the President, Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., to whom I desire to offer my best acknowledgments. They long found a home among the family papers at Nettlecombe, but, with a rare liberality which cannot be too highly appreciated, have lately been presented to the British Museum, where they will be placed among what are technically called the "Additional Charters." They have not yet been furnished with numbers of reference ; but in the copies which follow I have taken very great care to put

the Society in possession of minutely accurate transcripts, whereby a long or troublesome search for the originals among the multitudinous treasures of our vast Repository is rendered less necessary for any future investigator.

I give them in what I believe to be their chronological order, though only four of them are dated. In this and similar cases a conjecture must be taken from the style of the writing, which varied much at different periods, and generally presents sufficient indications for enabling us to arrive at considerable accuracy in the determination of the age of any document submitted to us.

The first appears, from such internal evidence, to have been written in the reign of Edward I. It is as follows:—

(11.) “Radulf’ fil’ Will’ de piscar’ cu’ p’t’ ap’d La’gacre desce’d’nt’ de riuulo de Clyue.

“Om’ib’ filiis S’ce Matris Eccl’ie Radulfus fil’ Will’mi de Wydecume salt’. Sciatis me concessisse, & dedisse, & p’senti carta confirmasse, p’ sal’te anime mee, & Yolente sponse mee, & o’ium an’cessor’ & heredu’ n’ror’, Deo & S’ce Marie & Monachis de Cliue, in pura’ & p’petua’ elemosina’, illam piscaria’ cu’ p’tine’tiis suis, que p’ximior est p^ato meo de La’gacre, & p’xima riuulo qⁱ descendit de Cliue. Hanc au’ piscaria’ dedi eis h’ndam & tenenda’, sicut aliq^a elemosina qⁱeti’ & lib’ius teneri potest. Et quicqⁱ seruicii debet Regi ut ulli alii p’ p’dicta piscaria, ego & heredes mei faciem’ & aqⁱetabim’. Et ip’am piscaria’ p’dictis monach’ warantizabim’ in p’petuu’, cont^a om’s ho’ies. Hiis testib’, Ric’do de Cumbe, Will’o fil’ Heuerardi, Will’o de Sandhelle, Ada de Wacheford, Alexandro de la Bie, Ada de Fernacre, Joh’e fil’ Ric’di, Rob’to de Sandhelle, Gilleb’to Gymel, & multis aliis.”

Which in English is as follows:—

“To all the sons of Holy Mother Church Ralph the son

of William de Wydecume wisheth health. Know ye that I have granted, and given, and by the present charter have confirmed, for the health of my soul, and of Yolente my wife, and of all our ancestors and our heirs, to God and S. Mary and the monks of Clyve, for a pure and perpetual alms, that fishery with its appurtenances, which is nearer to my meadow of Langacre, and nearest to the little stream that descendeth from Clive. This fishery I have given to them to be had and holden, as any alms may be quietly and freely held. And what service soever is due to the King as to any one else in respect of the aforesaid fishery, I and my heirs will do and discharge it. And the same fishery we will warrant to the aforesaid monks for ever against all men. These are witnesses : Richard de Cumbe, William son of Everard, William de Sandhelle, Ada de Wacheford, Alexander de la Bie, Ada de Fernacre, John son of Richard, Robert de Sandhelle, Gilbert Gymel, and many others."

A triangular seal of green wax remains pendant, in tolerable condition. The impression, a lion passant to the right; under him what seems to be a rude representation of water. For legend, ✠ SIGILLVM RA * * * VCEL FILII WILL."

The next is a bond of Henry Billing to the Abbot and Convent of Clyve in two shillings a-year, to be paid at Brampton. The instrument bears date the sixteenth year of Edw. II., Nov. 3, 1322. No seal remains :—

(12.) "Obligac'o H. Bylly'g de duob' sol' ann' redd' domui de Clyue deb'.

"Om'ib' Xp'i fidelib' ad quos presens scriptu' p'uen'it Henric' Billing salute' in D'no. Nou'itis me teneri, & per presens scriptu' obligatu' esse, Abbati & Conuentui de Clyue & eor' successorib' inp'petuu', in duob' solidis

annui redditus, solue'dis eisdē uel eor' p'po'ito vel Balli'o de Brampton', ap'd Brampton, ad quatuor anni t'minos principales, eq's porc'onib'. Ad qua' quide' soluc'onem bene & fideliter facienda' obligo me & om'es t'ras & tene-me'ta mea de Brampton', in quoru'cumq' man' deuen'int districc'oni p'dcor' Abbatis & Co'uent' & eor' successoru'. In cui' rei testimoniu' sigillu' meu' apposui. Hiis testib', Joh'ne Fayrman, Will'o Sturel, Will'o Fabro, Ricardo Lovering, Joh'ne Thurgod, & aliis. Dat' ap'd Brampton', die mercurij p'xima post festu' Omniu' Scor'. Anno regni Reg' Edwardi filij Reg' Edwardi sextodeci'o."

John de Berewyk, bailiff of Lord William de Hastyn- ges, in the county of Somerset, acknowledges the receipt of forty shillings from Ralph Fitz Urse and his tenants. The Lord de Hastynge was, I presume, the King's steward of that name :—

(13.) "Pateat uniu'sis p' p'sentes, q'd ego Joh's de Berewyk', ball's d'ni Will'i de Hastynge, in Com' Somers', fateor me recepisse de Rad'o filio Vrsi & tene'tib' suis de Wilitone, p' dimid' feod' milit', quadragi'ta solid', quos leuare feci p' bre' d'ni Regis ad opus d'ni Joh's de Hastin- ges, de scutagio sibi co'cesso de ten'tib' suis p' duab' guerriis d'ni Regis in Skoc', videl' anno r. R. E. xxviiij^{mo}, & anno E. xxxi^{mo}; de quib' quid'm quadraginta solid' de'm Rad'm & tenentes suos u'sus p'de'um d'nm Joh'm aquie- tabo p' p'sentes, & indempnu' co's'uabo. In cuius rei tes- timon' huic acquietanc' sigillu' meu' apposui. Dat' apud Berewyk', die mercurij, in festo Sc'i Laure'c' Martiris, anno regni Regis Edwardi tricesimo quarto."

This, though itself ancient, is evidently a copy of an older document. It is on paper, and the seal of the worthy bailiff is of course wanting.

The following is a grant by the Abbot of Clyve to John

Bruer the younger and Lucy his wife, of lands and tenements in Zistecote, Lynegerscote, and Nonemanslond, in consideration of a yearly payment of sixteen shillings and nine pence :—

(14.) “No' de com'un' pastur' i' Len'scote.

“Om'ib' Xp'i fidelib' ad quos p'sens sc'ptu' p'uen'it, Jacobus Dei Gra' Abbas Mon' de Clyua & eiusd'm loci Conuent', salutem in D'no sempit'nam. Nou'itis nos t'didisse, concessisse, et hoc p'senti sc'pto n'ro confirmasse, p' nob' & successorib' n'ris, Joh'ni Bruero juniori & Lucie ux' sue, om'es t'ras & ten' cu' co'i pastur^a ap'd Zistecote eisd'm t'r' & ten' p'tinenti, que qued^{am} t'r' & ten' cu' co'i pastur' Robert' Peu'el quond^{am} h'uit & tenuit in Lynegerscote, inf^a man'iu' n'rm de Clyue. Dedim', t', & concessim' eisd'm Joh'i & Lucie ux' sue sex acras t'r' de dominio n'ro ap'd Nonemanslond, p'x' iacentes iux^a Lesforchis ibid'm, v'sus austru' & orient'. H'end' & tenend' om'ia p'dc'a t'r' & ten', cu' co'i pastur' p'dc'a, vna cu' p'dc'is sex acr' t'r' p'dc'is, Joh'i & Lucie ux'i sue ad t'm vite eor', aut vni' eor' diucius viuent', de nob' & successor' n'ris, lib'e, quiete, bene, & in pace. Reddendo inde annuat' nob' & successor' n'ris p'dc'i Joh'ns & Lucia ux' sua, ad t'm vite eor', aut vni' eor' diucius viuentis, sexdecim solidos & noue' denar' sterlingor', ad q^{atuor} anni t'i'os p'ncipal', equis porcio'ib', & D'no de Wachetford annuat' tres solidos & tres denar', in f'o Sc'i Mich'is, p' s'uiciis, h'ietis, releuiis, exaccio'ib', & quibuscu'q' aliis seclar' demandis, exceptis duab' sectis ad cur' n'ram de Clyve p' annu', & hoc p' rationabilem som'onicio'em. Et nos v^o p'dc'i Abb' & Conuent' & successor's n'ri om'ia p'dc'a t'r' & ten' cu' com'un' pastur' p'dc'a sim'l cu' p'dc'is sex acr' t'r' p'dc'is Joh'i & Lucie ux'i sue, ad t'm vite eor', aut vni' eor' diucius viuent', cont^a om'es mortal' warantizabim', acquietabim', & in form^a p'dc'a defendem'. In cui' rei testi-

moniu' huic p'senti sc'pto indentato sigill' n'ra alt'nati' apposum'. Hiis testib', Will'mo Hamelyn, Roberto Martyn, Joh'ne Sandhull, Andr' Drakewill', Rob'to Damarle, et aliis. Dat' ap'd Clyue, die d'nica p'x' post f'm Sc'i Benedicti Abb'is, anno Regni' Regis Edward' t'cij post Conquest' q^adragesimo p'mo."

Most unfortunately the seals are wanting. The document, however, is of special interest to the historian of this House, as it furnishes the name of another Abbot previously unknown. To the list already published we have therefore the satisfaction of adding our second contribution in James, Abbot of Clyve, 1367-8.

On this account a translation may probably be interesting, and is now presented :—

"To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present writing shall arrive, James, by the grace of God Abbot of the Monastery of Clyve, and of the Convent of the same place, health eternal in the Lord. Know ye, that we have delivered, granted, and by this our present writing have confirmed, for ourselves and our successors, to John Bruer the younger and Lucy his wife, all the lands and tenements at Zistecote, with the common pasture appertaining to the same lands and tenements ; which certain lands and tenements with common pasture Robert Peverel formerly possessed and held in Lynegerscote, within our manor of Clyve. We have also given and granted to the same John and Lucy his wife, six acres of land of our demesne at Nonemanslond, next adjacent to Les forchis in the same place, towards the south and east. All the lands and tenements aforesaid to be had and holden, with common pasture aforesaid, together with the aforesaid six acres of land aforesaid, by John and Lucy his wife, to the end of their life, or of the one of them surviving, of us and our

successors, freely, quietly, well, and in peace. The said John and Lucy his wife to pay from thence year by year to us and our successors, to the end of their life, or of the one of them surviving, sixteen shillings and ninepence of sterling money, at the four principal terms of the year, by equal portions; and to the Lord of Wachusetford, year by year, three shillings and three pence, on the feast of S. Michael, for services, heriots, reliefs, exactions, and all other secular demands whatsoever; saving two suits at our court of Clyve yearly, and this by the auditor's summons. And we the aforesaid Abbot and Convent and our successors will warrant, and discharge, and in form aforesaid will defend, against all men, all the aforesaid lands and tenements, with common pasture aforesaid, together with the aforesaid six acres of land, to the aforesaid John and Lucy his wife, to the end of their life, or of the one of them surviving. In witness whereof we have one after the other affixed our seals to this present indenture. These are witnesses: William Hamelyn, Robert Martyn, John Sandhull, Andrew Drake-will, Robert Damarle, and others. Given at Clyve, on Sunday next after the feast of S. Benedict, Abbot, in the year of the reign of King Edward III. after the Conquest forty-first."

We have next a grant by Nicholas Orchard to Laurence de Lomene, Vicar of the Church of Clyve, and to Ralph Knap of Milverton, of all his lands with their various appurtenances at Combe in the parish of Stogumber, and in Milverton and Taunton. It concludes with the usual warranty, assurance of quiet possession, &c. A seal of brown wax remains, having the impress of a shield of arms, but the bearings and legend are undecypherable:—

(15.) "Sciant p'sentes & fut'i, q'd ego, Nich'us Orchard',

dedi, concessi, & hac p'senti carta mea confirmaui, Laurencio de Lomene, Vicario Eccel'ie de Clyue, et Rad'o Knap de Milu'ton', om'ia terras & ten', redditus & s'uicia, & reu'siones, cu' colu'bar', molend', fullon' & moleratic', cu' eor' sect' & curs' aq', & cu' bosc', & o'ib' aliis p'tin' suis que habui atte Combe in p'ochia de Stokegomm', & in Milu'ton', & in Taunton'. Hend' & tenend' o'ia p'de'a terras & ten', reddit' & s'uic', & reu'siones, cu' colu'bar', molend', boscis, & p'tin' suis p'fatis Laurencio & Rad'o, h'edib' & assign' suis, libere, quiete, b'n', & in pace, iure h'editar' imp'petuu', de capit' d'nis feodor' illor' p' reddit' & s'uicia inde debita & de iure consueta. Et ego p'fatus Nich'us & h'edes mei om'ia p'de'a terras & ten', reddit', & s'uicia, & rev'siones, cu' colu'bar', molend', bosc', & p'tin' suis p'fatis Laurencio & Rad'o h'edib' & assign' suis cont^a om'es gentes warrantizabim', acquietabim', & defendem' imp'p'm. In cui' rei testimon' huic p'senti carte mee sigillum meu' apposui. Hiis testib', Joh'ne Carre, Ric'o Haretrowe, Ric'o Tribel, Rad'o de Poulishele, & aliis. Dat' ap'd Combe, die Lune p'x' post festu' S'ci Jacobi Ap'li anno regn' Reg' Edwardi t'eii a Conquestu q^adragesimo p'mo."

The next in order, without a seal and undated, but apparently written early in the reign of King Edward the Third, is precisely similar to that printed in *Dugdale*, No. VI. The original, however, furnishes us with the names of the attesting witnesses, to some of whom we have been already introduced :—

(16.) "Hiis testib', D'no Joh'e de Reyni, Will'o filio Euerardi, Ada de Fernacre, Will'o de Treb'ge, Rad' Le Tort, Walt'o Fillel, & multis aliis."

The last of the Nettlecombe Charters is one of considerable interest, as well for the minute detail of the boun-

daries of the land given, as for the stipulations which are annexed to the gift. The latter, however, are not uncommon in ancient instruments. To facilitate its due comprehension, the original is now accompanied by a literal translation. Its age I consider to be about that of Richard II. or Henry IV. :—

(17.) “ Abbas de Cleve cu’ aqua de Heyn’.

“ Sciant p’ntes & futuri, q’ ego, Rob’t’, filius Hugonis de Wude, dedi, & conc’, & hac p’nti carta mea confirmavi, Deo & S’ce Marie & Mo’achis de Clyua, pro salute anime mee, & o’im an’cessor’, & parentu’, & hered’ meor’, in puram & p’petuam elemosinam, q’ndam p’tem t’re mee; scilicet p’ has diuisas :—quar’ prima incipit ad diuisam de Chidesle subt’ Le Corde, & tendit vsq’ in spinam que diuidit t’ram illam, & t’ram qua’ ip’i mo’chi h’ent de feodo meo, de dono Geroldi filii Baldwyny; & inde v’sus occidentem, vsq’ in vrlam bosci de Macherith; & inde v’sus aquilonem, p’ fossatu’ q’ p’dicti monachi fod’nt int’ terram illam & t’ram Geroldy; & inde p’ id’m fossatu’ v’sus orientem, vsq’ in diuisas t’re de Weletuna; & inde v’sus austru’, p’ id’m fossatum, vsq’ in diuisas t’r’ de Chidesle; & inde v’sus occidentem vsq’ in p’dicta’ spinam. Et q’cquid h’ui int’ p’dc’as diuisas, cu’ p’dictis fossatis, dedi p’fatis mo’chis, cu’ o’ib’ p’tin’ suis. Et p’t’ea dedi eis co’munione’ pastur’ in o’i t’ra mea de Wude, excepto blado & p’to a Kl’ Ap’lis vsq’ du’ falcetur, & colligatur, ad trecentas oues, & ad sexaginta a’ialia, & ad sexaginta porcos, cu’ lib’is introitib’, & exitib’, & cu’ om’ib’ lib’tatib’, & lib’is consuetudinib’, & aesiametis, in o’ib’ reb’ & locis eid’m ville p’tinentib’. Hec o’ia p’fata tenementa & pasturam dedi p’fatis mo’chis, cu’ o’ib’ p’tinenciis suis, lib’a, & quieta a me & h’edib’ meis, & soluta ab om’i t’reno s’uic’o & sec’lari exaccione in p’petuu’. Et q’cquid debetur inde regi vel ulli alii ho’i, ego

& h'edes mei adq'etabimus & warantisabim' p' n'rm aliud tenementu' p'fatis mo^achis, contra om's ho'ies & om's feminas. Et sciendu', q' p'fati mo^achi in obitu meo facient seruiciu' pro me sicut p' uno mo^acho; & si m' placu'it, corpus meu' recipie't ad sepulturam. Hiis t', Rob'to filio Ursy, Joh'e filio ejus, & aliis."

"Know men present and future, that I, Robert, son of Hugh de Wude, have given, and granted, and by this my present charter have confirmed, to God and S. Mary, and the Monks of Clyve, for the health of my soul, and of all my ancestors, and parents, and heirs, for a pure and perpetual alms, a certain part of my land; to wit, by these bounds: whereof the first beginneth at the bound of Chidesle under Le Corde, and extendeth as far as the thorn which boundeth that land, and the land which the same monks have of my fee, of the gift of Gerald the son of Baldwyn; and from thence towards the west, as far as the edge of the wood of Macherith; and from thence towards the north, by the ditch which the aforesaid monks have dug between that land and the land of Gerald; and from thence by the same ditch towards the east, as far as the bounds of the land of Weletun; and from thence towards the south, by the same ditch, as far as the bounds of the land of Chidesle; and from thence towards the west, as far as the thorn aforesaid. And whatsoever I had within the aforesaid bounds, with the ditches aforesaid, I have given to the aforesaid monks, with all its appurtenances. And I have given to them in addition the right of common pasture in all my land of Wude, saving the corn and meadow land from the calends of April to the time that it is reaped and stacked, for three hundred sheep, and for sixty beasts, and for sixty swine, with free entrances and exits, and with all the liberties, and free cus-

toms, and easements, in all things and places pertaining to the same vill. All these aforesaid tenements and pasture I have given to the aforesaid monks, with all their appurtenances, free and quit of me and my heirs, and released from all land service and secular exaction for ever. And whatsoever is due from thence to the King or to any other man, I and my heirs will discharge and warrant it by our other tenement to the aforesaid monks against all men and all women. And be it known that the aforesaid monks at my decease shall do service for me as for a monk, and, if it shall please me, shall receive my corpse for burial. These are witnesses : Robert Fitz-Urse, John his son, and others.”

With the following concludes my second division. It was written only two years previous to the Dissolution, and while the House was under the government of its last Abbot. For permission to copy it I am indebted, and offer my sincere thanks to, Thomas Warden, Esq., of Bardon, in whose office it has been, as he informs me, for upwards of sixty years. In addition to its intrinsic interest, it possesses a most valuable appendage, in an impression, which I believe to be unique, of the Common Seal of the Abbey. I shall revert to this presently with greater detail. The document follows in the meanwhile ; and I have added a translation of the Latin portion :—

(18.) “Nou'int vniu'si p' p'sentes, nos, Will'm Dovell, Abb'tem Domus siue Monasterij B'te Marie de Cliua, in Com' Som's, & eiusdem loci Conventus, teneri & firmiter obligari Joh'i Sydenh'm de Netilcombe in Com' p'dc'o, Gen'os, in quadringent' libris sterlingor', soluend' eidem Joh'i Sydenh'm, Executoribus, vel assign' suis ; ad quam quid'm solucio'em bene & fidelit' faciend' obligamus nos & Successores n'ros firmit' p' p'sent'. In cuius Rei testio'm,

huic p'sent scripto n'ro Sigillu' n'rm Cov' loci n'ri p'dci apposum'. Dat' apud Cliuam p'dict, in Domo n'ra Capi- tular', vicesimo die Maij, anno Regni Regis Henrici octavi vicesimo septimo.

“ The condicion of this obligacion is suche, that yf the abouebounden Abbot and Covent and ther Successors of ther p'te well and trewlie obs'ue, p'frme, and kepe all and singler Couen'nttes*, graunttes, and agrementes of ther p'te, to be obs'uyd, p'frmyd, and kepte as be comprised in a paire of Indenturs made bytween the abouebonden Abbot & Covent of the one p'te, and the abouenamyde John Sydenh'm of the other p'te, beryng the date of this p'sent obligac'on, conc'nyng a lesse for t'me of yere of the ferme or grange called Legh, and other thynges in the p'ysse of Olde Clyve in the saide Countie of Somr', as by the same Indenters more as large it may appere, that than this obligacon to be voyde, or elles to stond in his full strenght and vertue.”

The former portion reads in English as follows :—

“ Know all by the present writings, that we, William Dovell, Abbot of the House or Monastery of Blessed Mary of Clive, in the county of Somerset, and of the Convent of the same place, are held and firmly bound to John Sydenham of Nettlecombe, in the county aforesaid, Gentleman, in four hundred pounds of sterling money, to be paid to the same John Sydenham, his executors or assigns ; to the good and faithful execution of which pay- ment we oblige ourselves and our successors firmly by

* The old English termination “es” is expressed in the MS. by a mark of contraction. I have thought it best to add the required letters to the words to which such mark is appended, in order to remove the ambiguity which might otherwise have arisen. The letters thus added are, however, given in italic ; and in all other respects the orthography of the original is scrupulously followed.



J. Egerton del. et sculp.

Common Seal, hitherto unpublished, of Clive, Cliffe,
Cleve, or Cleeve Abbey, in the County of Somerset,
from an impression, believed to be unique, ap-
pended to an Agreement, dated May 20, 27 Hen.
VIII. in the possession of Thomas Warden, Esq:
Engraved for the Rev. Thomas Hugo's "Charters and
other Archives of Cleeve Abbey," Aug. 21, 1855.

the present instrument. In witness whereof we have to this our present writing set our seal of our Conventual place aforesaid. Given at Clive aforesaid, in our Chapter House, the twentieth day of May, in the year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth twenty-seventh."

Down to the period of the Society's present meeting, no seal either of the Abbey or of any one of the Abbots has been published. I am in consequence extremely gratified in being able to present the archæological world with engravings of two very beautiful specimens of these hitherto inedited and most interesting memorials. The first is no less an acquisition than the Common Seal of the Abbey, an impression of which, believed to be unique, is appended to the instrument last recited.* It is of red wax, and, as will be perceived from the engraving, all but perfect. It represents, within a vesica, the Virgin and Holy Child under a canopy, with a diapered background; and below, under an arch, an Abbot on his knees. The whole is surrounded by the legend SIGILLVM COMMVNE [A]BBATHIE DE CLYVE. If I might hazard a conjecture respecting its age, I should say that it was executed from about the end of the thirteenth to the termination of the first half of the fourteenth century,—between 1290 and 1350. The second seal is that of Abbot David Juyner. He occurs

* I have scarcely need to congratulate the Society on this most interesting result of the Dunster Meeting. The fact itself speaks volumes for the excellence and advantage of such gatherings. All antiquaries are hereby put in possession of a treasure not hitherto known to exist, regarded on the spot with an interest unequal to its rightful claims, and at any time liable to be lost for ever. Had the Society done nothing else but furnish the opportunity of making such a discovery, its existence would not have been in vain. I must not forget to add that the representations which I am enabled to give of both the seals are of the first excellence for scrupulous fidelity, and that, as usual, the work of my friend Mr. Cleghorn leaves nothing to be desired.

from 1435 to 1466; and is the same ecclesiastic, it will be remembered, that re-erected the chapel destroyed by the fall of the cliff, and that obtained the licence for the market and fairs in aid of the cost incurred thereby. This impression also is believed to be unique, and was appended to a document of the period once in the possession of Sir W. C. Trevelyan, Bart., but which is now mislaid and unable to be found. Happily a few casts were taken from it some years ago, one of which became the property of Mr. Laing, of Edinburgh. From this some others were taken, whereof that in my possession is the one which has furnished the artist with his model. Like its companion, it is in excellent condition, and, though smaller, has many points of general resemblance, as will be seen by comparison. The Virgin and Holy Child are here also under a canopy, and a kneeling Abbot below, on either side of whom is a shield, that on the right bearing the arms traditionally given to William de Romara the founder of the Abbey. The legend is

S: dauid Huynr abbatis de cleyua.

Our series of Charters (some of them, I ought to add, popularly but not quite technically, so called) has brought us down to the year 1535. For our third division of documents, comprising those which although not Charters are illustrative of our subject, it will of course be necessary to retrace our steps.

Much information respecting the Abbey will be found in the volumes published at various times under the direction of the Record Commissioners, to which I need only refer my reader. Notices of lands, etc., for example, may be seen in Rot. Hundred. vol. i. p. 69; vol. ii. pp. 121, 134. Plac. de quo War. pp. 108, 167; Abbrev. Plac. p. 194; Calend.



Seal, hitherto unpublished, of David Jugner, Abbot
of Cleeve or Cleeve, 1435-1460, from a cast taken
from an impression, believed to be unique, ap-
pended to a Document of the period, formerly in
the possession of Sir W. G. Trevelyan, Bart.
Engraved for the Rev. Thomas Hugo's "Charters
and other Archives of Cleeve Abbey," Aug. 21, 1855.

Inquis. post mort. vol. ii., pp. 43, 132 ; vol. iii., p. 240 ; etc., etc. The amount of revenue about the year 1291, making a total temporality of £32 5s. 8d., is afforded by the Taxatio of Pope Nicholas IV., pp. 152b, 153b, 205b. The enumeration and value of the lands, etc., on the eve of the Dissolution, the latter amounting to £155 9s. 5d., may be found in the Valor Ecclesiasticus, temp. Hen. VIII., vol. i., pp. 217, 218 ; and subsequently in the Comput. Ministr. Dom. Reg. from the Roll, 28 Hen. VIII., in the Augmentation Office, printed in *Dugdale*, Append. no. xv., p. 734. Various summonses of the Abbots to Parliament, loans, etc., both of which, though considered at the time a grievance, are a criterion of the rank which the Abbey enjoyed, are to be found in Parliamentary Writs, vol. i. p. 293, no. 20 ; p. 335, no. 19. Vol. ii. part ii., p. 88, no. 51 ; p. 379, no. 37 ; p. 384, no. 10 ; part iii., p. 690, etc. I do not think it necessary to reprint these and similar notices here, needing as they do very little or no translation, because they are already given to the world in volumes, which, though ponderous and necessarily expensive, are generally accessible in public libraries of any extent or pretension. A similar feeling has prevented my making these pages a mere transcript of the accounts of Leland, Dugdale, Tanner, Willis, Archer, Collinson, and other writers. It were an easy expedient, and one too often resorted to, to reprint unnecessarily, and for lack of original matter, what is without difficulty and far better acquired from the authorities themselves, so needlessly, not to say reprehensibly, transcribed. But this is a practice which I would most earnestly discountenance, both by precept and example. And my aim, therefore, all along has been solely to furnish either matter entirely new, or translations of

important published documents, which, without such an accompaniment, would be useless to many of the Society's members.

The *Harleian MS.* 433, among many other choice and precious papers, includes contemporary transcripts of several letters addressed by K. Richard III. to the Houses of the Cistercian Order in England and Wales; with regard among other matters to the foundation of Barnard's, or S. Bernard's, College, Oxford. Three of them furnish conclusive evidence of the rank of the Abbey, and of its being considered one of the chief Houses of the Cistercians in this country; for the king expressly mentions the Abbot of Clyff as one of those specially entrusted with the visitation of the Houses and the conservation of the rules of the Order. These hitherto unpublished documents, I may add, are equally interesting to the Oxford as to the Somersetshire Archæologist. I have carefully copied them from the MS., and scrupulously preserved their orthography. And I scarcely need draw my reader's attention to their importance and value, not only for the reasons stated above, but for the noble aspect which they exhibit of our language during the interesting period of the fifteenth century.

The matter of S. Bernard's College is thus introduced:—

(A.) “Thabbot of Stretford.

“Richard, &c. To oʀ trusty and welbeloued in God, Thabbotes* of oʀ Monast'yes of Bukfast, Beaulieu, Hayles, Rewlegh, and to all other of y^t religion w^tin this oʀ Roy^{me}, Whome vnto thise oʀ l'res shalbe shewed, greting. Forsemoeche as We vnderstande that oʀ right trusty & welbe-

* See note, page 56.

loued in God, Thabbot of o^r Monast'y of Stratford, hath ye Rule & guyding of yo^r ordre wthin this our said Roy^{me}, and specially of a Collage named Barnardes Colledge, besides o^r Vniu'site of Oxford, which, as We vnd'stodde at o^r last being ther, proceeded right wele in buylding, We y[']fore woll & strettly charge you, all & eu'y of you, y^t for no singuler loue or affeccion of any p'sone, of what condicion or degre soeu' he be, ye deliu'e or do to be deliu'ed your contribuc'ons or benyuolence g^runted amongst you, but onely to ye said Abbot, or to dompn' Rob't Hall, or dompn' Thomas Wynston, his assignes. And ou' y^t considered his goode & meritorious entent, that ye geue vnto him and ye same his assignes yo^r assistence and fauo^rs, in noo wise int'rupting nor troubling them or any of them, by meane of any surmyse or sinistre enfo^rmacion, by any p'sone maliciously made, touching Thabbot of Cisteux, hedhous of yo^r said Religion; acertanyng you y^t for there declaracion by ye said Abbot, nor any other in his name, was neu' sute made nor mater shewed vnto vs y^t in any wise shuld be p'iudiciall to ye said hedehouse of any of you. And y^t none of you p'sume or take vpon him to enfringe, adnulle, or disobeie suche power and auctorite conc'nyng ye wele & good Ruelles of yo^r said Religion, as is comitted to ye said Abbot of Stratford, and to Thabbotes of Founteyns, Woborn, & of Clyff; but y^t in eu'y thing ye be obeieing ye same as to yo^r duetes app'teigneth, as ye desire to stande in ye fauo^r of o^r grace. Youen, &c. the ij^{de} day of Decembre, a^o p'mo." *

Then there is a general commission, confirming a grant of almost absolute power :—

(B.) "Thabbotes of ye ordure of Cisteux.

* Harl. MS. 433, f. 125 b.

“Richard, &c. To all Thabbottes and their offic’s of thordre of Cisteux w’in this o’r Roy^{me}, and to all Maires, Shireffes, Escheato’rs, Baillieffes, Constables, and all other our offic’s, true liegemen & subgiettes, hering or seing thise o’r l’res, greting. Forasmoche as o’r trusty & welbeloued in God, Hugh Abbot of Stratford, and Rob’t Abbot of o’r Monast’y of Woburne, & Thabbot of o’r Monast’y of Clyff, Refo’mato’rs and Visitours of all ye said ordre of Cisteux w’in this o’r Roy^{me}, haue power, by vertue of an Actorite to them yeven by ye holy Fader in God Thabbot of ye hede house of Cisteux, and by ye gen’all Chapur of ye same ordre, to visite, refo’me, punyssh and courecte alman’e of trespassoures, malefacto’rs, apostates, rebelles, & Rennegates out of their ordure, vndre profession of ye same, and all othere of ye same ordre suyng & keping any cure, or being in any suice w’t any other p’sone w’in this o’r Roy^{me}, w’tout licence of ye said Abbottes their refo’mato’rs. And y^t the same refo’mato’rs may also refo’me, correct, & adresse, aswele all misp’sons, vsurpacions, accrochementes, defaultes, & wronges, as any other vnlefull grauntes & charges by any Abbott or Abbottes of ye said ordre to any other p’sone* sp’uell’ or temp’ell’ before this tyme g^runted, made, done, or suffred to be done, in noyaunce, p’iudice, and derogacion of ye said religion & ordre, contrary to ye statutes & ordyn^ances by all ye said religion for ye good rule y’of made & ordeyned. We y’fore straitly charge you, all & eu’y of you, y^t vnto ye said Abbotes of Stratford, Woburne, & Clyff, and eu’y of them, in execucion of their said auctorites in eu’y behalve, as is afore rehersed, ye be assisting, abeing, aiding, & supporting at all tymes, if ye by them or eu’y of them be required on our behalve

* “Or p’sones” is added, but a line is drawn across the words.

so to doo. And y^t ye neither resiste, no int'rupte them in y^t p'tie; as ye woll aduouide o^r greuoux displeasur, and ye p'ill which of ye contrarie may ensue. Youen, &c., at London, the ij^{de} day of Decembre, A^o p'mo." *

The next, besides its other points of interest connected with our subject, is a remarkable example of the inveterate and ever-growing dislike to the removal from England of money for the maintenance of foreign Houses:—

(C.) "To Thabbottes of Fountayns, Stratford, and Woburn, Reformato^rs of that Religion wⁱⁿ this oure Roy^{me}, & to eu'y of yem.

"Right trusty and welbeloued in God, We grete you wele. Albeit now in late daies past, not oonely by yo^r assentes & oy' Faders of yo^r Religion wⁱⁿ this oure Roy^{me}, but also at ye desire & pleasur of ye famous prince of blissed memorie, our brother, † whome God assoill, it was condescended & agreed y^t all suche annuell contribucions as h'tofore hath ben by you & yem g^runted to ye hede house of Cisteux, which by a statut unto ye contrarie y'of made be vtt'ly forboden, shuld be besett & bestowed, by thou'sight of oure right trusty & welbeloued in God, Thabbot of oure Monast'y of Stratford, towardses & aboutes ye buylding of ye Collage called Bernardes College, besides oure Vniu'site of Oxonford, founded for Scolers of yo^r said Religion, thing full expedient & necessarie: Yet, nathelesse, it is shewed vnto vs, and to ye lordes of oure Counsell, y^t c'tain Faders of yo^r said Religion, not Remembring ye good entent and meritorious Werk, nor feering ye pynalte of ye said statut, as it semeth, priuatly & by colour, meoue and exhorte, asmoche as in yem is, as

* Harl. MS. 433, f. 126b.

† "brother" is a correction for "fader," which appears beneath.

it is said, that ye said money shuld be leueed and paied to ye vse of ye said hedehouse; Which, ye p'misses considered, ne shalbe suffred. And therefore* We woll & charge you, that, if ye shall knowe and p'ceyue any so disposed amongst you, ye do him or them to be refo' med & corrected. And y^t ye[†] fail so to do, as ye woll aduoide ye p'ill & paynalte of ye said statut, & our greuous displeasur. Youen &c. y^e xxv^{te} day of May." ‡

To the same purpose is the missive which follows:—

(D.) "Richard, &c. § To our trusty & right welbeloued in God, Thabbottes of the Monast'ies of Bukfast, Bieulieu, Clyve, Qvarr, Tourehill, Dunkeswell, Bukland, Wau'ley, Netley, Byndon', Newh'am', Tynterne, Kyngeswoode, Stanley, Flaxley, Tame, Sipton', Foord, Coxhale, Tilthey, and oy', to whome these p'sentes shalbe shewed, greting. Forsomoche as it is shewed vnto vs || that oure right trusty & welbeloued in God, Thabbot of oure Monast'y of Stratford, hath by yo^r hoole & all assentes, and of oy' like Faders of yo^r Religeon in this oure Roy^{me}, at yo^r gen'all Chapitur, thoursight of the buyldinges of Bernard College, besides oure Vniu'site of Oxonford, co'mitted vnto him, and vnderstande y^t w^t all effectuell diligence he entendeth in his p'sone to emplie & endeuoir ¶ him selff to

* The following then occurs in the original, but is cancelled: "by thaduice of oure derrest vnclē the Duc of Gloucestre, Protector & Defendor of this oure Roy^{me} during or yong age,"

† "ne," I presume, is to be here supplied. ‡ Harl. MS. 433, f. 230.

§ "Edward &c." appears beneath, but is cancelled.

|| Then follows, though cancelled, "& our derrest Onclē the Duc of Gloucestre, protector of this oure Roy^{me} during oure yong age."

¶ I request my philological reader to observe the transitive use of this word, as in the Ordinal, the Order of Confirmation, and the Collect for the second Sunday after Easter. Another very interesting instance is furnished by a letter from Edmund Whalley, Abbot of S. Mary's at York, 1521-1530, to Cardinal Wolsey. Cott. MS. Cleop. E. iv. f. 46.

ye finall & p'fite conclusion of y^e same : We, considering his laudable purpose in y^t behalve, and y^t the said Werke is right expedient & meritorious, desire y^rfore & exorte you & eu'y of you to shewe youre selff benyuolent & aiding to ye same entent, as to yo^r honeur & duete app'teyneth; and y^t aboute ye yerely contribucion of eu'y of you & oy' Faders abouesaid g^ranted to ye said buydynges, ye woll shewe your selff of suche towardnesse & benyuolence as may be thought condigne w^t youre worship & promotion; and to graunt the rather at oure instaunce suche a resonable sum'e of redy money, as may encourage oy' like Faders forto shewe yem selff of ye same. And suche of you as haue of yo^r good disposicion & lib'te graunted c'tain money, as it appereth vnder yo^r seales, Wee desire you to see the hasty contentacion y'of: and other of you y^t as yet ne haue confo^rmed nor shewed you of y^t towardnesse & disposicion, We desire you also and eu'y of you w^t all h'tynes to applie you y'unto, as ye tendre theeffect of ye p'misses, and to do vs singuler pleasur. And y^t by o^r welbeloued in God, Damp' Rob't Halle yis berer, or any oy' by o^r said Abbot appoynted, We may by youre writings be c'tified of y^e c'tain sum'e y^t ye so shall geue or graunt, whome We haue com'aunded to shewe vnto you oure pleasur in y^e said case. Wherin ye will geue vnto him credence, and applie yo^r vtt'ly for yo^r parties in y^t behalve, as it apperet. Ou' y^t charging all man' oure offic's, liegemen, & subiettes, forto geue from tyme to tyme vnto ye said Damp' Rob't, or other as aboute is said, their aides, fauo^rs, & assistences, in all thinges conc'nyng ye p'misses, as they desire to do vs singuller pleasur, and eschewe the contrarie. Youen &c. y^e xxiiijth day of May, A^o primo." *

* Harl. MS., 433, f. 230b.

And the last of the series, although only a portion of the letter, has evident respect to the foundation already referred to :—

(E.) “ Edward,* &c. To o^r trusty & welbeloued in God, Thabbotes of the Monast'ies of Hayles, Rewley, Thame, Bittillesden, Brewern, Bordesley, Pipwell, Miruall, Combe, Wardone, Woborn, Sawere, Kirkestede, Riviſby, Louth, P'ke, Fountayns, Mewx, Cristall, Fournes, Calder, Whallaye, Salley, Roche, Holmes, Newmynstre, Jaruais, Biland, Ryevax, Cumbermer, Vawdi, Dieuleucres, Hilton, Garadon, Rufford, Crokesten, Dore, Variatt, Stondeley, and all oy', aswele in Walyes as in Englnd, greting. For asmoche as it is shewed vnto vs, vt antea,— And do vs singuler pleasur. Geving ou' this playne credence vnto ye said Abbot of Stratford in y^t he shall shewe you oure desire for ye vtter p'fo'myng of ye same: So y^t by y^r writinges and by him we may be c'tified of yo^r singuler abilites & h'tynesse in y^t behalue. Youen &c. y^e xxiiij^{te} day of May, A^o primo.” †

It may not be amiss to add that S. Bernard's College was founded for student monks of the Cistercian Order in 1436; and that, after falling into the King's hands at the Dissolution, and being given to the Dean and Chapter of Christchurch, it was purchased by the great and good Sir Thomas White, Alderman of London, in 1555, and re-built and endowed by him two years afterwards, under the name, which it still bears, of the College of S. John Baptist.

* In these letters, which were originally written during the eleven weeks of the reign of Edward V., the name of his successor, by whom they were issued, is substituted. This alteration has been unintentionally forgotten by the scribe in the present instance; but I think it better to adhere to the MS. as it stands, and to explain the discrepancy in this note. I have given the letters in the order of their sequence in the volume, but in strict chronological arrangement they would probably stand thus:—D, E, C, B, A.

† Harl. MS. 433, f. 230b.

Thus in piety and honour Cleeve Abbey continued to flourish for several hundred years, and to fulfil the great purposes for which it was founded. Its walls, still lovely in decay, re-echoed almost hourly with the prayers and praises of Christian men, and typified in their beauty and repose the majesty and perfection as well as the holiness and peace of Heaven. It was one of those great humanizers which alone for centuries availed to rescue European society from the savage influences which otherwise would have ruled supreme. It was Church, college, guesthouse, school, refuge, infirmary, hospital and inn, combined and in kindly union—a nucleus of civilization—a centre of security, sociability, and noble hospitality—all graced and glorified by a sacred light which cast its bright beams over surrounding regions, sunk but for it in a long and dark night of ferocity, tyranny and crime. Hence went the influence forth, which curbed the strong, raised the degraded, vindicated the oppressed, and coerced the lawless. Here the doors were ever open, in agreement with the inscription on its stately gatehouse, and all ranks, from the sovereign to the beggar, found a welcome within their pale. Here, and in similar Houses, dwelt the best, the holiest, and the wisest of the day—the most profound of scholars, the most skilful of builders, the most expert of artificers, the most generous of landlords, the most princely of patrons, the most hospitable of hosts. And their presence and beautiful home, in places and during ages in which there was no middle class, and naught else but themselves between the lord of the soil and his subject vassal, was the point at which all met upon common ground—at which the great man thought not of his greatness, nor the humble man of his humility, but recognized a bond, closer and more

sacred than aught beside, in religious communion and Christian brotherhood.

Time went on. The aspect of society changed; and the hour and power of darkness at length arrived. It does not fall, I am aware, within the bounds of my province to detail the successive steps of that aggression whereby a period was at length put to an Institution, wondrously adapted to the necessities of the ages in which it did its work, and meriting, even for the sake of ancient service, to say nothing of its sacred origin, very different treatment from that which it received. The peculiarities of the times, however, were inimical to it. The basest passions which can tyrannize over our nature were then in their full career of cruelty and crime; and the accompanying presence of religious obligation only served to make the cruelty more heartless, and the crime more nauseous and abominable. It must not be supposed for a single moment that religion and morality had anything whatever to do with the suppression of Cleeve Abbey. The brutal tyrant who sanctioned, the greedy courtiers who encouraged, and the base tools who perpetrated that atrocious work, preclude any such a fancy. Not piety, but pelf, was the motive; and the master principle was not the glory of God, but the gratification of the most loathsome lusts which can degrade mankind. Commissioners came down, having prejudged the cause which they pretended to try,—the willing agents of unscrupulous villany. Returns were made, wherein we know not which to detest the most, the fawning adulation, the hypocritical affection of regret, or the real and true spirit of wrong and robbery, which all the studied duplicity of the actors did not avail to conceal. Differ from the religious opinions

of the sufferers as we may, and to these no reference has been intended in the previous remarks, one thing is certain. It was not their religious opinions which brought upon them the frown of disfavour, and at length the storm of persecution and destruction. It was their possessions and not their precepts, their rents and not their religion, their money and not their morality, which caused their fall.

The tyrant, like another of earlier date, first killed, and then took possession. We find, however, that soon afterwards a courtier was quite ready to appropriate the spoil, in the person of Robert Earl of Sussex. He was previously known as Robert Ratcliffe, baron and viscount Fitz-Walter; was created Earl of Sussex on the 28th December, 21st Hen. VIII., and in the 33rd of the same reign was made Lord High Chamberlain for life. He was one of the peers who presented the articles against Cardinal Wolsey, and subscribed the letter to the Pope, representing the certain loss of his supremacy unless he decided against Queen Katharine. Besides the Abbey of Cleeve, he obtained the College and Chantry of Attleburgh, in Norfolk, and died the following year, 1542.*

The original grant is abstracted in *Dugdale*, p. 731, note b, from the *Originalia*, 29 Hen. VIII., of which abstract the following is a translation:—

(F.) “The King on the 30th day of January granted to Robert Earl of Sussex, the reversion of the house and site of the late Abbey of Clyve, and all the messuages etc. in the parishes of Old Cliffe, London, Bylbroke, Wassheford, Hungerford, Golsyngcote, Roodwater, Leigh and

* See Banks's “Dormant and Extinct Baronage,” 4to. Lond. 1809., vol. iii. p. 696.

Bynham, in the county of Somerset, the rectory of Old Clyve excepted, to be held by him and the heirs male of his own body." *

Four years afterwards, the grant was repeated. It also is unpublished, but similar in many respects to that previously made, and is a long and painfully interesting document. It sets forth that the King has granted the various estates

(G.) "in consideratio'e boni, veri, fidelis, & acceptabilis s'uicij, quod Charissimus consanguineus n'r Rob'tus Comes Sussex iamdudum cont^a rebelles in partib' borialib' nob' impendebat." †

"In consideration," that is, "of the good, true, faithful, and acceptable service which our dearest cousin Robert Earl of Sussex a long time since expended in our behalf against the rebels in the northern parts."

Reference is here made to the insurrection in the North of England, commonly called the "Pilgrimage of Grace," which commenced in the autumn of 1536, and was not suppressed till the spring of the following year. It was created by the discontent which naturally prevailed among the people at the suppression of so many religious establishments, and was joined, among others, by the Archbishop of York, and the Lords Lumley, Nevil, Darcy, and Latimer. Most of the leaders and hundreds of their followers were executed. On a charge that the monks had assisted the agitators, a commission to investigate their conduct was appointed under the presidency of this Earl of Sussex; and history has not on record a more contemptible specimen of hypocrisy, tyranny, and outrage. It

* Orig. 29 Hen. VIII., Somers. rot. 28vo.

† Orig. 33 Hen. VIII., Somers. rot. 22do.

resulted, as was intended, in the murder of many of the ecclesiastics, and in the suppression of the greater Monasteries, which alone remained to enrich the spoiler. This was "the good, true, faithful, and" no doubt most "acceptable service," for which Cleeve Abbey—the "Flowery Valley" of peace—was the payment.

The lands are enumerated as situate

" . . in parochia seu hamelettio de Vet'i Clyff, London, Bylbroke, Wassheford, Hungreford, Golsingcote, Roode-water, Leygh, & Bynham', in d'co Com' n'ro Som's."

There is in this also a distinct and emphatic reservation of the Rectory :—

"Except' tamen semper ac nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris omnino reservat' tota R'toria de Olde Clyve."

These documents stand in mournful contrast to those which have previously been submitted. Sacrilege and tyranny have done their work. And silence and ruin have taken up their abode, where hitherto and for long resided the beauty of holiness and the voice of melody.

From this time the place has no history save that of a private estate. The narrative of the fortunes of its subsequent host of owners may possess a melancholy interest, and suggest very fearful subjects of thought. But the peculiar fascination and charm is gone; and my task, already, perhaps, too protracted, necessarily hastens to its completion.

It is indeed time, I feel, to draw to a conclusion. Yet have we pursued our way, not wearisomely, I trust, or without some little interest, over many a roll of time-hallowed parchment, and along many a line of strange and sometimes faded characters, and of obsolete phraseology, now presented in familiar type, distinctly punctuated, invested in the customary garb of our mother-tongue, and

thus reduced to language intelligible to all. I deeply regret that the limited space at my command has necessitated the absence of such a commentary, as that whose presence is so greatly to be desired. Much indeed might be said in elucidation of many of the documents. The lands which they convey, the terms with which they abound, the various rights, exemptions, and customs which they particularize, the principals who gave and received them, and the witnesses by whom they were attested, suggest matter to which a score of volumes would fail to do justice. Still, in spite of all, we have had a glimpse of ages second to none in our national history for interest and importance. We have seen with our mind's eye the kingly, venerable, and saintly forms whose names have been brought before us in connexion with these curious records of the past, these interesting memorials of a state of society of which modern England has no example, and but a meagre and for the most part a very inaccurate knowledge. The "Dominus Rex," the pious William de Romara, the princely Hubert de Burgh, "our venerable Father R. Bishop of Chichester, our Chancellor," "Lord E. Abbot of Rivaux," "Jocelyn prior of Spauding," "Reginald de Mohun, and Avis my wife," Ralph de Wydecume, "the Abbotes of Stratford, Founteyns, Woborn, & of Clyff," and William Marshall, E. of Pembroke, the benefactor of Tynterne, have been all but visible, together with the Nicholases, the Hughs, the Gilberts, the Ralphs, the Walters, and the Rogers, who have here been figuring before us. But now, however unwillingly, we must leave them, and allow them to retire once more into the gloom.

I trust it will not be necessary for me to defend myself against blame for too great a scrupulosity in presenting, as nearly as possible in their actual form, the documents now

for the first time committed to the press. But if so, I would shelter myself under the authority of Dr. Samuel Clarke, who, in his admirable preface to the Iliad, has triumphantly vindicated such reverent care: "Levia quidem hæc," he says, "et parvi forte, si per se spectentur, momenti. Sed ex elementis constant, ex principiis oriuntur, omnia. Et ex judicii consuetudine in rebus *minutis* adhibita, pendet sæpissime, etiam in *maximis*, vera atque accurata scientia." Should I, however, have wearied any one of my readers, I would suggest to him the vital interest of my subject, most dear as it is to the real antiquary, how distasteful soever to the general student. If, on the other hand, any gentleman should derive half the pleasure from my labour that I have done in searching for the materials of this and similar contributions, I am abundantly contented, and feel sure that he will neither disregard what is now offered to his acceptance, nor quarrel with me for the length of time that I have presumed to detain him. For both of us, with the old dramatist,

"Do loue these auncient Ruynes :
 We neuer tread vpon them, but we set
 Oure foote vpon some reuerend History.
 And questionles, here in this open Court,
 (Which now lies naked to the iniuries
 Of stormy weather) some men lye Interr'd,
 Lou'd the Church so well, and gaue so largely to't,
 They thought it should haue canopide their Bones
 Till Doombes-day : But all things haue their end :
 Churches and Citties, (which haue diseases like to men)
 Must haue like death that we haue."*

* Webster. "The Dutchesse of Malfy." Act v., scene iii. 4to. Lond. 1623.