

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND  
NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
1861-2, PART II.

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P A P E R S, E T C.

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Canyngton Priory.

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**A** LITTLE more than three miles from Bridgwater, on the road from that town through Nether Stowey and Williton to Dunster and Porlock, stands the pleasant village of Canyngton. One first gets a glimpse of the tall and stately tower of its parish Church on surmounting the hill at Wembdon, from whence the eye embraces a wide expanse of cultivated valley, backed by the lofty mass of mountain lime-stone known by the name of Canyngton Park, and bounded on the right by the flat banks of the Parret, and on the left by the green glades of Brymore. As he approaches the village, the traveller finds that the description of Leland, who journeyed over the same road three centuries ago, is still applicable in the main to the scene before him. Canyngton is yet "a praty uplandisch" place; and our modern wayfarer as he enters it "passes,"

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as did his predecessor, "over a bygge Brooke that risith not far of by West yn the Hilles, and passinge by Canyngtun renneth into the Haven of Bridgewater, a 2. miles and more by Estimation lower then Bridgewater."\* Although, at present, nothing more than a village, the place has an air of having once been of much greater importance. On approaching the Church the eye is immediately attracted by some venerable enclosures, which surround an area of several acres, and unmistakably suggest the ancient tenure of the spot by some religious community. The Church itself, as it now appears, can hardly be said to merit the praise that Leland bestowed upon it, of being "very fair and welle adornyd."† It is a restored specimen of Somersetshire Perpendicular, despoiled of its most interesting features, and is far surpassed by many of the glorious Churches for which the neighbourhood is widely distinguished.

Adjacent to the north wall of the chancel, which is on that side without windows, was a Priory of Benedictine Nuns. Their Church, according to Leland, was "hard adnexid to the Est of the Paroch Church,"‡ with which, however, so far as can be perceived, it had no connexion. Of the Nuns' abode very little is now to be seen, as the vicissitudes which the spot has witnessed have all but obliterated the evidences of its earlier tenants, and that which is still visible has carefully to be sought for among those manifold alterations by which the successive holders, who cared little or nothing for the ancient possessors of the place, have endeavoured to accommodate it to their several requirements. To the fragments which remain,

\* Itin. ij., 98.

† Itin. ij., 98.

‡ Itin. ij., 98.

consisting of a part of the basement story, and including two or three small internal doorways, and one which gives access to them from the garden, I shall direct attention at a subsequent page.

It is the history of this ancient House that I offer to the reader, so far as it can now be recovered. Both legend and reliable fact will be found to enter into the narrative, but little difficulty will arise in adjusting their relative claims. As the residence of a conventual body, Canyngton Priory was neither large nor wealthy. But its annals are deeply interesting, and the endeavour to rescue them from the practical oblivion in which their position among the mass of surrounding matter has hitherto availed to bury them, will not be destitute either of pleasure or of profit. I may add that so little has been already done in this direction, that almost the whole of my present contribution to the monastic knowledge of my reader will possess, at least, the charm of novelty.

In the beginning of the reign of K. Stephen, or about the year 1138, Robert de Curci, or Curcy, called William, but erroneously, by Collinson, founded the Priory of Canyngton for a community of Benedictine Nuns. The good founder was sewer, or chief butler, to the Empress Maud; and his name, together with those of Milo, Earl of Hereford, Robert de Oilli, and others, may be noticed among the witnesses to a charter of hers, dated at Oxford, in confirmation, to the monks of S. Martin at Paris, of a donation by Baldewin, Earl of Devon, to that monastery, of the chapel of S. James's, Exeter.\* His father, Richard de Curci, held, at the time of the Domesday

\* *Lel. Collect.* j. 78. *Dugd. Bar.* j. 451. *Mon. Angl. Ed.* 1682 j. 545, 645.

Survey, Neuham, Secendene and Foxcote, in the county of Oxford.\* The credit of the foundation has also been given incorrectly to William de Romars, earl of Lincoln. The heads of the family of Curci were, however, as we shall subsequently see, the constant and ordinary patrons. The House was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, but of the circumstances of the foundation or of the extent of the original endowment no record has been preserved, and the opportunity of supplying the omission is now lost for ever.

Within thirty-five years after its first establishment, a personage is traditionally associated with the community, around whom a romantic interest has ever since revolved. I am aware that the connexion of this individual with the place whose history I am now offering to the reader is purely legendary. But, if I mistake not, he will be glad to possess what has never yet been given to him, the various statements of the ancient chroniclers and others brought together and woven into one consecutive narrative. Nor will he be less interested in the story when he hears that the subject of his study is no less celebrated a person than the lady usually called "Fair Rosamund."

Fair Rosamund—*Rosa Mundi*, the rose of the world—was the second daughter of Walter de Clifford, the son of Richard and grandson of Ponz. Richard is mentioned in the Domesday Survey as holding lands in the counties of Oxford, Gloucester, Wilts, Worcester, and Hereford. Walter de Clifford, by his wife Margaret, had four children, Lucy, first married to Hugh de Say, and subsequently to Bartholomew de Mortimer, Rosamund, Walter, and Richard.† Of Rosamund's early life we have few particulars.

\* Domesday, j. 159.

† Dugdale's Baronage, j. 335, 336.

Local tradition affirms that Canyngton was the place of her birth, and that within the walls of its Priory she received such an education as the age afforded. That, as the daughter of a powerful lord, she was entrusted to the care of some religious sisterhood for nurture, both of mind and body, there is no reason to doubt, though the old chroniclers are silent on the subject. The art of embroidery would appear to have been one of her accomplishments, for the venerable Abbey of Buildwas long possessed among its treasures a magnificent cope, which bore witness to the taste and skill of its fair embellisher.\* Of her first acquaintance with King Henry, and the mode and place of her introduction to him, no details have been preserved. Probably she was known to him from her earliest years. Nor have we any reason to suppose that, according to some modern versions of the sad story, a broken vow added its shadow to a life whose record is sufficiently gloomy without this additional element of woe. Not a hint of her having been a Nun do the chroniclers give us; and, had such been the fact, full use would have been made of so great an aggravation of her offence. Her royal lover was the most unscrupulous of mankind, and the sin of "spousebreche" was but one of the many enormities for which he was notorious. His affection for Rosamund, however, such as it was, was constant. In order to protect her from the vengeance of his queen he removed her successively to various places of greater or less security. The paraphrast of Robert of Gloucester tells us:—

Boures hadde the Rosamunde about in Englonde,  
Which this Kyng for her sake made, ich understonde;  
among which were Bishops' Waltham, Wynch, Fremantel,  
and Martelestone. But the most famous of all, and with

\* Hearne's Will. Neubr., ij., 754.

which her name is more than with all others associated, was her retreat at Woodstock. It was here that Henry built her a chamber, which Brompton describes as of wondrous architecture, "*operi Dædalino similem*," resembling the work of Dædalus—in other words a labyrinth or maze. A manuscript of Robert of Gloucester, in the Heralds' Office, says that

Att Wodestoke for hure he made a toure  
That is called Rosemounde's boure,

the special intent of which was to conceal her from her royal rival. The internal decorations of this abode were as much attended to as its means of escaping external notice. The Abbat of Joreval describes a cabinet (and not, surely, as some have thought, the coffin in which the lady was afterwards buried,) of marvellous workmanship, which was one of its ornaments. It was nearly two feet in length, and on it the assault of champions, the action of animals, the flight of birds, and the leaping of fishes were so naturally represented that the figures appeared to move.\*

Rosamund did not long occupy the retreat that royal though guilty love had created for her. She died in 1177, while yet without a rival in the king's affections, and, as it would appear, of some natural disease. In after times the injured queen Eleanor had the credit of discovering her place of concealment by means of a clue of silk, incautiously left behind him by the king, which enabled her to thread the intricacies of the path, and thus of gratifying her revenge by obliging her rival to drink from her hand a cup of poison. That the queen discovered the abode of Rosamund is possible, and it may have been that the shock of the meeting and the unmeasured language which

\* Brompton, in Script. x. col. 1151. Knighton, in Script. x. col. 2395. Polyd. Vergil, Angl. Hist. Lib. xij. fol., Bas. 1670, p. 241



her majesty is said to have employed were too much for the poor victim of her womanly and natural displeasure. It is only fair, however, to say that the queen's part in the entire transaction is not alluded to by the older writers, and is probably a fiction of more modern times. The fruits of the intercourse were two sons, William Longspe, afterwards created Earl of Sarum, the firm adherent of his brother, King John, against the barons; and Geoffrey, successively Bishop of Lincoln and Archbishop of York.

Rosamund was buried in the first instance before the high altar in the Church of Godstow Nunnery, which was probably selected from its neighbourhood to Woodstock, and which henceforward enjoyed a goodly number of benefactions in memory of her and for the health of her soul. The corpse was wrapped in leather and then placed in a coffin of lead. Over the whole Henry built a magnificent tomb, which was covered with a pall of silk, and surrounded by tapers constantly burning. This occurred in the lifetime of her father, for he gave to the nuns of Godstow, in pure and perpetual alms, for the health of the souls of Margaret his wife and of Rosamund his daughter, his mill at Franton with all appurtenances, a meadow adjacent to the same called Lechtun, and a salt-pit in Wiche. Walter his son confirmed the gift. Osbert Fitzhugh added to this the grant of a salt-pit in Wiche, called the Cow, pertaining to his manor of Wichebalt.\* Indeed Walsingham goes so far as to say, though incorrectly, that the Nunnery of Godstow was actually founded by King John for the soul of Rosamund.† It is not unlikely that a chantry was endowed by that King for the

\* Monast. Angl. iv., p. 366. Dugd. Bar. j. 335, 336.

† Wals. Ypodigma Neustrie, fol. Lond. 1574, p. 56, sub an. 1216.

object stated, but the foundation of the House itself was beyond question the work of a much earlier period.

Her remains, however, were not long allowed to occupy their sepulchre in peace. Fourteen years after their solemn commission to this sacred place of interment, S. Hugh, bishop of Lincoln, in a visitation of his Diocese, came to Godstow. After he had entered the Church and performed his devotions, he observed the tomb occupying its conspicuous position before the high altar, adorned as already described, and forthwith asked whose it was. On being informed that it was the grave of Rosamund, whom Henry the late king had so dearly loved, and for whose sake he had greatly enriched this hitherto small and indigent House, and had given land for the sustentation of the tomb and the maintenance of the lights, he imperatively commanded the nuns to take her out of the Church, and to bury her with other common people, as the connexion between her and the King had been base and adulterous; and to the end that the Christian Religion might not be vilified, but that other women might thus be deterred from similar evil ways.\*

In obedience to the Bishop's mandate the tomb was removed from the Church and erected in the chapter-house. It bore the following epitaph, containing the obvious play upon the lady's name and declaratory of the unhappy contrast which death had effected :—

Hic jacet in tumba Rosa mundi, non Rosa munda;  
Non redolet, sed olet, quae redolere solet.

This tomb remained, an object of much interest and respect, until the dissolution of the House. It was then destroyed, and a stone was discovered with it bearing the

\* Higden, Polychron. sub Hen. ij. Reg. Hoveden, fol. 405 b. Brompton, in Script. x. col. 1235. Ieland, Coll. j. 291. Fabyan, sub Hen. ij., &c.

simple inscription "TUMBA ROSAMUNDÆ." The bones were found undecayed, and on the opening of the leaden coffin which contained them, says Leland, "there was a very swete smell came out of it."\* Another eye-witness describes it as having "enterchangeable weavings drawn out and decked with roses red and green, and the picture of the Cup, out of which she drank the poyson given her by the Queen, carved in stone."† A coffin, of the same material, said to be that of Rosamund, was still to be seen at Godstow when Hearne wrote his "Account of some Antiquities in and about Oxford," but was regarded by him as a "Fiction of the Vulgar."

I hardly need add that the history of the unhappy lady, of whom the reader now possesses all that can be gathered from olden sources, and more perhaps than can be accepted as true, was a favourite subject of mediæval romance, and that all kinds of embellishments were imported into the tale in order to impress a salutary caution against any imitation of the heroine. One example must suffice. In "Dives and Pauper," a tract printed by Richard Pynson in 1493, the King is represented as determined to inspect the corpse of his deceased mistress. "Whanne the grave was openned," says the narrator, "there sate on horrible tode upon hir breste \* \* \* and a foule adder begirt hir body aboute in the middle." And the accompaniments were altogether of so disagreeable a kind "that the King ne none other might stande to see that orryble sight. Then the King did shut again the grave, and did write *Hic jacet, &c.*," the epitaph with which the reader is already acquainted. How corrupting soever may have been the evil example of Rosamund during her life, she was thus

\* *Lel. frag.*, in bibl. Cott. Dugd. Mon. iv. 365.

† Mr. Thomas Allen, in Hearne's Will. Neubrige, ij. 739.

made a beacon and a solemn warning for long ages after she had left the world. And yet, with the hopeful and charitable spirit in behalf of those who had repented of error and had been reconciled to good, which was so truly characteristic of mediæval times, though the sin was denounced the sinner was restored to love. Rosamund's example and Rosamund's prayers were equally, though in opposite ways, regarded as imparting a blessing. Down even to the reign of Henry VIII. the traveller, as he passed over Godstow bridge, could read on a cross the inscription that told him that, as others had prayed for Rosamund, Rosamund was ready to pray for him:—

*Qui meat hac oret signum salutis adoret,  
Vtque sibi detur veniam Rosamunda precetur.\**

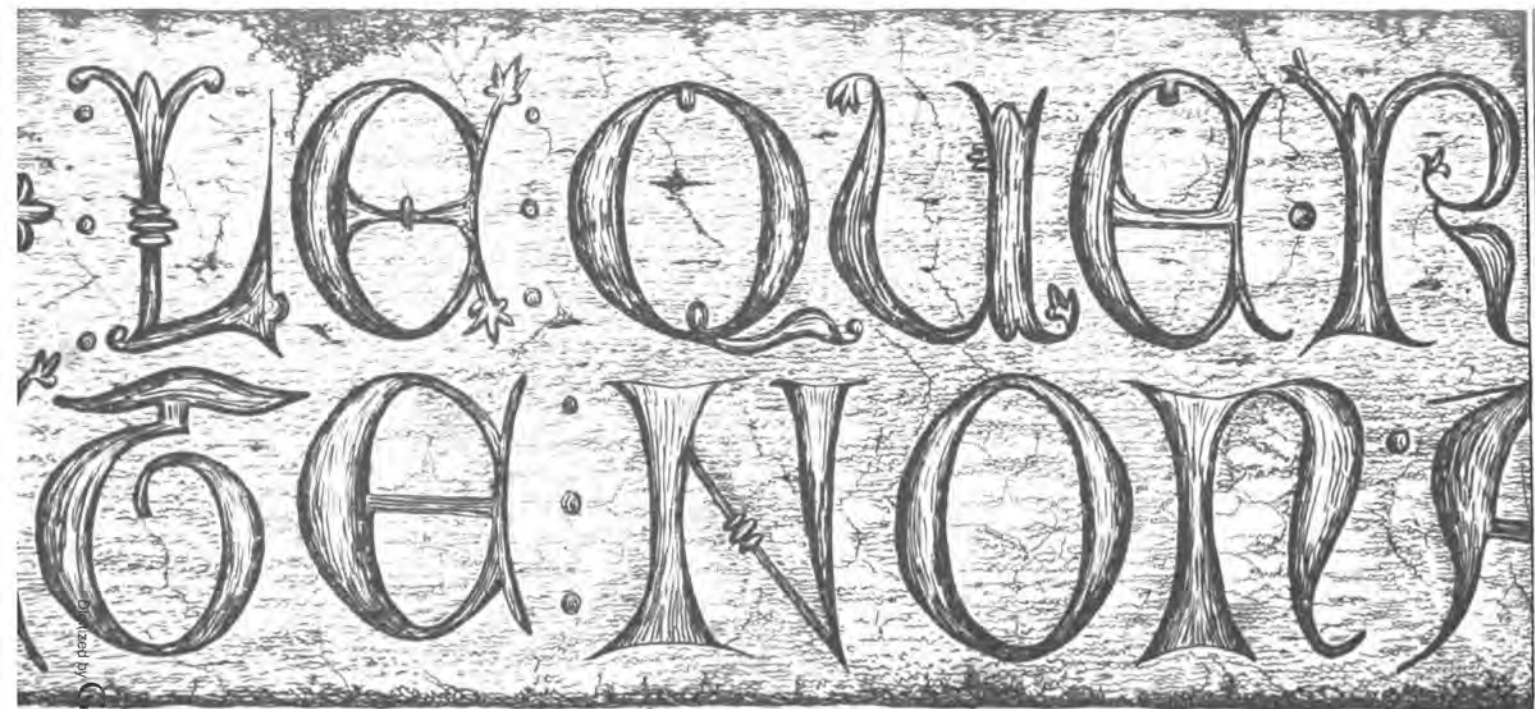
Good traveller who shall pass this way,  
And at this cross shall kneel and pray,  
Thy suitor Rosamund shall be,  
And pardon shall implore for thee.

We now arrive at another fact which exhibits the House in a very interesting light. Hugh Wallis, Archdeacon of Wells, and subsequently Bishop of Lincoln, who was consecrated on the 20th of December, 1209, and died on the 7th of February, 1234-5, by his will, dated the Feast of S. Brice, the 13th of November, in the third year of his pontificate, left five marcs to the House of Caninton.† This may be taken as an evidence of the good will of an observant ruler and zealous disciplinarian, and, as such, of the unsullied name and fame of the community thus distinguished.

One of the Sisters at this early period was a daughter of the knightly family of De Merriet, of Hestercombe. A most interesting memorial of this lady is still to be seen in

\* *Lel. Itin.* ij., p. 137. *Dugd. Mon.* iv., 365.

† *MS. Harl.*, 6068, pp. 19, 20.



From an Inscribed Slab in memory of Maud de Merriete, Nun of Canyngton;  
In the Church of Combe Flory, Somerset.  
*The Hugo del. & lith. 1863.*

the church of Combe Florey. It is an inscribed slab, of early 13th-century work, inserted in the wall of the north aisle, and marks the spot where was deposited the heart of Dame Maud de Merriete, a nun of Cannyntune. The legend runs:—

†: IC: MACH: DAME: MAUD DE: MERRIE  
 ETC: ADPAPPE: DE: CANNYNTUNE:

The Lombardic letters are of first-rate excellence, and I have endeavoured to give the reader some faint idea of their beauty in the accompanying illustration. (*See the Figure.*) The act to which the inscription refers was exemplified only in the case of a few persons of superior rank and consequence; and, although the Sisterhoods of that day included an abundant proportion of such, a similar instance is of the greatest rarity. Nor did the Church ever look kindly upon a practice which necessarily involved a violation of that body which had been the recipient of the Sacraments, and was consigned to the grave in sure and certain hope of a future resurrection. It would appear, however, that the members of the lady's family were more than ordinarily in favour of it, for, singularly enough, I have found in Bishop John de Drokenesford's Register the discharge of a sentence of excommunication passed on Sir John de Meriet for the removal of the heart from the corpse of his deceased wife, when a penance was enjoined for the same, by order of Berengarius, Bishop of Tusculum, the Pope's penitentiary, and it was further directed that the heart should be interred with the body from which it had been taken. The absolution was dated at Woky, the 28th of March, 1314.\*

\* Reg. Drok., f. lxxij. b. Appendix, No. 1.

In the account of Fees holden either immediately from the King, or from others who so held them, called the *Testa de Nevill*, and apparently compiled from inquests taken about the year 1270, the Nuns of Kaninton are returned as holding at that place three acres of arable land, and three acres of meadow, of the annual value of two shillings.\*

The *Taxatio* of Pope Nicholas IV. furnishes us with no valuation of any of the possessions of the House. That record, as my readers will remember, was compiled between the years 1288 and 1292, for the purpose of determining the value of all ecclesiastical property, the tenth of which was granted by the Pope to King Edward I. towards providing the means of a crusade. The Church of Pudelson in Dorsetshire, however, is entered as paying to the Prioress a portion, of the annual value of thirteen shillings and fourpence, whereof the required tenth was one shilling and fourpence.† The omission of their appropriated Church of Canyngton is the more unaccountable, as there is no reason to doubt either that it existed, or that the Sisters were in possession of it when the Taxation was made. It was probably a part of the original endowment of their House.

It would seem that shortly after this date some circumstances of an unpleasant nature, but of which no record is extant, occurred in the cemetery of the Convent. For on the 11th of September, 1311, Bishop John de Drokenesford issued from Grenewyc a commission to John, Bishop of Cork, on account of his necessary absence in parliament and consequent inability of celebrating Orders in his Cathedral Church on the Saturday next after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which in that

\* *Test. de Nev.* p. 173.

† *P. Nich. Tax.* p. 179. *Hutchins's Dorset.* Ed. 2. ij. p. 207.

year was coincident with the 18th of September, empowering him to officiate in his stead, and, among other episcopal acts, to "reconcile the cemetery of the poor Nuns of Kenynton."\* This ceremony of reconciliation was the re-consecration of a sacred place after it had been polluted either by effusion of blood or by heretical possession.

We now arrive at the first of a series of similar examples which the History of Canyngton Priory will be found to afford, illustrative of the regard in which it and its sister establishments were ordinarily held in mediæval times. It was there that security and purity were acknowledged inmates; and, in proof of this, a temporary asylum was constantly found in such Houses for women whose natural protectors were either removed by death or necessarily absent in their country's service. This exhibits a very interesting feature in the social state of these Communities, to which at present I can only thus briefly allude. The Bishop wrote to the Prioress and Sisters, conveying his permission to them to receive Dame Dyonisia Peverel, to live in their House at her own proper cost, and as long as his will and pleasure should allow. The letter was dated at Kyngesbiri, on the 25th of March, 1313.†

Henry is the first vicar of Canyngton of whom we have any account. A commission was issued by Bishop John de Drokenesford to John de Godelegh, Dean of Wells, Antony de Bradeneye, Canon, and William de Edyngton, Rector of Baudrip, to investigate certain charges against him, especially in a cause matrimonial between Sibilla daughter of Petronilla de Assche and Laurence atte

\* Reg. Drok. f. xxvij.

† Reg. Drok. f. cxlix. Appendix, No. II.

Graung. The commission was dated at Waleworth, the 2nd of April, 1313.\*

In the following year the Prioress and Sisters exercised their ordinary right as patrons of the vicarage of Canyngton. They presented William de Trent, chaplain, to that benefice on the 18th of July, 1314.†

Before the end of the year the Sisters received a further accession of visitors. On the 27th of December the Bishop addressed to them from Wollauinton a complimentary letter, informing them that, in compliance with the entreaty of some friends who were spending that holy festival with him, he had given them permission to receive the wife and two sisters of John Ffychet, of whose good and honest conversation he was informed, for sojourn in their House during the absence of the said John in foreign parts, or as much of that interval as should be agreeable to them. The ladies were to live at their own proper cost, and their presence was not to attract other strangers, to the burden of the House or suspicion of scandal.‡

This was shortly afterwards followed by a similar permission in favour of Isabel Barayl, with the same injunctions appended. The lady was doubtless a relative of one of the Sisters, as we shall presently meet with an Agnes Baril among that body. The Bishop's letter was dated at La Place, the 18th of February, 1314-15.||

Pursuant to a writ tested at Clypston, the 5th of March, 1315-16, the ninth year of K. Edward II., the Prioress was certified as holding the township of Canyngton, in the county of Somerset.§

\* Reg. Drok. f. cxxxvijb.

† Reg. Drok. f. lxij. MS. Harl. 6964, p. 19.

‡ Reg. Drok. f. lxxijb. Appendix, No. III.

|| Reg. Drok., f. lxxiiijb.

§ Parl. Writs, p. II., pp. 379, 684.

Early in the following year, 1317, Emma de Bytelescumb (incorrectly named Gytelescumb by Dr. Archer and others), the first Prioress whose name has been preserved, resigned her office. The government of the House would seem to have been a matter of considerable difficulty, and in the election of a successor to the vacant dignity the Bishop was obliged unpleasantly to interfere. The process which ensued was a long one, and the reader will arrive at a correct notion of the caution and particularity which were exercised on these occasions by carefully attending to the following details.

In the first place a commission was issued to Thomas de Dylinton, precentor, and Antony de Bradeney, Canon of Wells, empowering them, as the Bishop himself was hindered by the pressure of important business from being present in person, as he had hoped, on the Tuesday next after the feast of S. Mark, the 26th of April, in the prebendal church of Wyvelescombe, to examine and proceed against certain delinquents and certain misbehaving Sisters in the said Priory, and also to prorogue the matter affecting the same to the next juridical day after the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, in the aforesaid church, before himself or his Commissaries. The commission was dated at Blakeford, the 24th of April, 1317.\*

In obedience to this mandate, on Wednesday, the morrow of the Invention of the Holy Cross, the 4th of May, Agnes de Neumarch (or Newmarket, as she is afterwards called "de novo Mercato,") and Sibilla de Horsy, Sisters of the House, appeared personally before the Lord Bishop, their Ordinary; and the former, on her own part and that of her Sisters, presented Dame Matilda de Morton, also personally

\* Reg. Drok., f. ciiijb.

appearing, as elected to the office of Prioress. On her being questioned whether all things had been done in the said election according to law, it was found that the presentation was without the necessary authority. The act was accordingly pronounced invalid, but at the Sisters' urgent entreaty and the request of Robert Fitzpagan, the patron, also present, another day was graciously assigned. This was the Tuesday next after the feast of S. John before the Latin Gate, or the 10th of May, when it was ordered that the parties should appear before the Bishop or his Commissaries, and the defects of the former election should be supplied. On the aforesaid day Matilda de Morton appeared before the Bishop's Commissaries, together with her Sisters Agnes de Newmarket and Amabilia Trevet, when Agnes exhibited their procuratory from their Sisters and a written declaration, by which it appeared that Agnes and Amabilia were empowered, conjointly and separately, to petition, in their own name and that of the Convent, that the previous election should be confirmed. After the exhibition and reading thereof, they further by Gilbert de Schepton, clerk, verbally declared that the election had taken place subsequently to the usual religious solemnities, and that it was irrevocable; and, in conclusion, exhibited the decree, as it appeared, of the aforesaid election, which had been proceeded with only after the Bishop's acceptance of the resignation of the previous Prioress and the permission of the patron to elect a successor. As, after question, they replied that they had nothing further to propose, this concluded their case. The Commissaries thereupon gave notice to all objectors to declare the reasons of their opposition, and appointed for the hearing of such the Tuesday next after the feast of the Holy Trinity, the 31st of May, in the aforesaid monastery.

Previous to the hearing a new commission was issued by the Bishop to Henry de Schanyngton, Archdeacon of Tanton, Thomas de Dylington, Precentor, Antony de Bradeneye and William de Lanton, Canons of Wells, and Richard de Fford, Doctor of Laws, to examine the election of the aforesaid Matilda, on the day aforesaid, in the Chapter-house of the aforesaid Monastery, to make a scrutiny of the votes secretly and one by one, to hear any who desired to offer objections against the election or the persons of the elect or electors, to send him on the Thursday following a faithful account of their proceedings, under the seals of four, or at least three, of them, and to assign to the elect and the others whom it concerned the Thursday next before the feast of S. Barnabas the Apostle, the 9th of June, for another meeting in the parish Church of Canyngton, then and there to proceed in the matter of the said election before the Bishop or his Commissaries. This was dated at Wyvelescomb, the 28th of May.\* On the 31st of May, Matilda and her Sisters aforesaid being present, after the reading of the commission, the opponents were cited to appear and offer their objections, according to law. Upon this Johanna de Bratton, a Nun of the Priory professed, exhibited in writing a petition against the election and the person of the elect. The Commissaries, having given her the aid of counsel in accordance with her request, proceeded to investigate the several objections, which the record unfortunately does not particularise, and called before them and examined several of the Sisters one by one in proof of their validity. After enquiring whether any further objection remained, and furnishing the opposite side with a copy of them as delivered by the objectors,

\* Reg. Drok. f. cvjb.

the Commissaries summoned both parties, in agreement with the terms of their commission, to meet in the parish Church of Canyngton on the Thursday next before the feast of S. Barnabas, the 9th of June. On that day, both parties being again present, after the reading of the commission and a long disputation, on oath of the objectors that they believed their objections to be true and capable of proof, these brought thereto the following Sisters as witnesses who were forthwith admitted to give evidence; namely, Margery de Wythel, Johanna de Ber, Eugenia Durdent, Alice de Scolond, Alice de Hydon, Johanna de Scolond and Agnes Baril. The Commissaries were further solicited to subpœna a number of other witnesses, Walter de Lof, William de Kingeston, John de Sattesden and others; and copies of the commission and other documents were given to Matilda, at the request of her and her party. The business was again deferred to the Friday next after the feast of SS. Vitus and Modestus, the 17th of June, when both parties were ordered to appear before the Commissaries, personally, or by their proctors, in the parish Church of Langeport. Before that day another commission was issued, bearing date at Kyngesbury, the 16th of June, and continuing to the same Commissaries the powers previously conferred.\* At the meeting on the day following, Johanna appointed John Noreys, as her proctor, and Matilda was represented by Hugh de Whythurst, clerk. With the other Commissaries were present Henry de Schaninton, Archdeacon of Tanton, and Thomas de Dilington, Precentor of Wells, who, it will be remembered, had been named in the two previous commissions, but had hitherto been absent. The commission and previous proceedings having been read, together with a certificate from the

\* Reg. Drok. f. 8b.

Dean of Brugewater, that the witnesses before alluded to had been subpœnaed and were ready to give true evidence, these persons were examined under oath, and their answers written down in full. That day and the Saturday following were occupied in these proceedings. At length, having thus exhausted all possible means of arriving at the truth, and being desirous of providing for the safety of the Sisters, by concluding a vacancy which was naturally productive of so many dangers, the Commissaries proceeded to the final pronouncement of their sentence. It was that, inasmuch as, after a long and careful hearing and examination of the merits of the case, they found the election of the said Matilda, elected through the resignation of Dame Emma de Bytelescumb, the late Prioress, to be uncanonical, and notoriously both in form and matter and in the person of the elect faulty, they, invoking the power of the Holy Ghost, and aided by the counsel of assessors learned in the law, pronounced finally and definitively the election of the said Matilda, who was unfit and unworthy, to be none, frivolous, of no effect, and altogether without force. Further, that the Nuns of the aforesaid Monastery by their choice of an unworthy Superior had lost for that turn their power of election, and that the appointment of the future Prioress had accordingly devolved on the Bishop or his Commissaries. In order, however, that the House might no longer be destitute of the comfort of a Governor, and lest the Nuns in disgrace of their religion should become the victims of the rapacity of the evil one and his servants, and of the natural frailty of their sex, in the name of God and by the authority committed to them, they selected Dame Johanna de Bere, of that Monastery, a Nun professed, of lawful age, born of lawful wedlock, knowing and able to defend its rights and

possessions, of known circumspection both in temporal and spiritual affairs, and in respect of whom no objection could be taken against her elevation to the vacant office, and her competent performance of its duties; and they appointed her to be Prioress, and canonically instituted her as such by those presents with all her rights and appurtenances in the aforesaid Monastery; and ordered her to be inducted into corporal possession of the Office and House aforesaid, and to be defended after such induction.\*

Such was the aspect of the case on the 18th of June, 1317. The reader will hardly be prepared to learn that, after so long and minute an investigation, and so formal and solemn a decision, another commission was issued in the following month, the effect of which was entirely to reverse the previous arrangement. The commission was dated at Blakeford, on the 12th of July, and was addressed to Henry de Schanynton, Archdeacon of Tanton, and William de Lanton, Canon of Wells; and the matter ordered for their examination was an alleged infringement of the Bishop's jurisdiction and contempt of his office, for which offences correction and punishment were demanded.† What answer the Commissaries returned does not appear, but a few weeks afterwards a commission was addressed to John de Godelee, Dean of Wells, and Master Henry de Pencery, to admit, receive, and accept the renunciation of Dame Matilda, a Nun of the House, lately elected Prioress, in respect of all the appeals and judicial processes con-

\* Reg. Drok. ff. 7, 7b, 8, 8b. Abstract in MSS. Harl. 6964, pp. 1, 54. 6985 B. f. 124.

The reader will perceive from the references that the folios in the Register do not retain their original and chronological order. This was the fault of some ancient binder, but is not of material importance, as the date appended to each instrument, enables us to determine the exact sequence.

† Reg. Drok. f. cvj.

nected with the previous election, and the resignation of all rights appertaining to her by virtue thereof, and also the resignation of Dame Johanna de Ber, canonically appointed by the Bishop to the office of Prioress by the right of election which had devolved to him, with that of all rights appertaining to her by virtue of that appointment; together with the plenary submission of the aforesaid resigning Nuns, and of all the other Sisters of the aforesaid House. The Commissaries were further empowered to select according to their discretion some competent Sister of the House for the future Prioress. Their commission was sealed and dated at Rokeburn, on the 18th of the Kalends of September, or the 15th of August, 1317.\* The Commissaries took the most prudent and probably the most just course of procedure, and selected the lady whom their predecessors had rejected. Peace was hereupon re-established, and so little did the contest affect the good feeling of the contending parties, that, on the occurrence of a subsequent vacancy, we shall find one of the foremost opponents of Johanna de Bere arrayed on her side and promoting her election.

One of her main supporters on the present occasion was, as it would appear, connected with several ecclesiastics of the diocese. William de Bratton was Rector of Thorne Fagon, and received a dispensation of absence to study, on the 17th of September, 1311;† and Robert de Bratton obtained licence in behalf of a private oratory, on the 3rd of June, 1317.‡

It not unfrequently happened that during the wars of England with other countries, the incumbents of alien

\* Reg. Drok. f. cilb. Abstract in MSS. Harl. 6964, pp. 1, 54. 6985 B. f. 124.

† Reg. Drok. f. xxxvijb.

‡ Reg. Drok. f. cvb.

benefices, the patronage of which belonged to foreign Monasteries, were deprived of a part or the whole of their revenues. John Ffromund, Vicar of Stokecursy, and Roger Ffromund, Rector of Holeford, were labouring at this time under such an infliction. By a brief, dated at Westminster, the 4th of March, 1324-5, the eighteenth year of Edward II., the King committed to William, Vicar of Canyngton, the custody of the goods ecclesiastical of these two incumbents during the continuation of the war between England and France.\*

The next fact again takes us within the precincts of the House. On the 16th of April, 1326, licence at the Bishop's pleasure was granted to Brother Robert de Tanton, one of the Friars Minors of Bruggwater, to hear the confessions of the Prioress and Nuns of Canyngton, and to impose penances and grant absolutions even in cases reserved to the Bishop himself. The licence was dated at Blakeford, on the day above mentioned.†

This was the last act that, so far as I can find, was performed in the convent's behalf by the good Bishop John de Drokenesford. He died at Dogmersfeld, on the 9th of May, 1329.

His successor, Ralph of Shrewsbury, whose episcopal reign began on the 2nd of September, 1329, wrote in French to the Prioress and Sisters, "*a nos trescheres filles en Dieu Priouresse et Couent de Kanyngton, oue la beneissoun Dieu et la nostre saluz,*" requiring them to admit Alice, daughter of John de Northlode, as a Nun of their House. He claimed to do this by virtue of his late election, and after the custom of his predecessors. The letter was written from London, on

\* Reg. Drok. f. cccxvjb.

† Reg. Drok. f. ccclixb.

the 20th of January, 1329-30.\* A similar missive, dated at Dogmersfeld, on the 1st of the following March, was sent to the Prioress and Nuns of Barwe, who were commanded to receive into their sisterhood Elizabeth, the daughter of Hamon le Fitz Richard, Knt. And it was added that the Bishop acted in both of these requests at the instance of his dearest friend the Prior of Bath.† It would appear, however, that the Sisters did not feel themselves under much obligation to their neighbour at Bath, for after waiting a considerable time the Bishop had to refresh their memories on the subject of his former letter, and to insist upon an immediate conformity with its request, in virtue of their canonical obedience. This mandate was sent from Woky in the beginning of July, as the next entry is dated at the same place on the 9th of that month, 1333.‡

The circumstance to which we have now arrived is one very characteristic of the times in which it occurred. On the 20th of September, 1332, at Westminster, a writ was addressed to Henry le Gilden, the eschaetor, to find whether the King might without damage to himself or others grant licence to Robert Ffutz Payn to give twenty-four acres of land with appurtenances in Canyngton and Radeweye, held by the said Robert of the King in chief, to the Prioress and Nuns of Canyngton and their successors, in aid of the maintenance of a Chaplain, who should celebrate Divine Service every day in the Church of Canyngton for the soul of the said Robert, and those of his ancestors and heirs, and of all the faithful departed. The jury

\* Reg. Rad. f. xij. MS. Harl. 6965. p. 20.

† Reg. Rad. ff. xixb, xx.

‡ Rad. Reg. f. lxxxij (1.).

met at Somerton, on Thursday, the morrow of S. Martin, in the sixth year of Edward III., or the 12th of November, 1332. Most of the jurors' names are illegible, but those of William Chaundos, William Cordulkent, Hugh Brun, and John Stenyngg can yet be deciphered. They returned a verdict that no damage would result from such licence being accorded, and that there was no mesne lord between the King and the aforesaid Robert.\* The licence with the ordinary reservations was granted accordingly, by writ of privy seal, on the payment by the said Robert of a fine of forty shillings, and is dated, witness the King, at York, the 28th of January, 1332-3.†

The government of the House had again become too onerous for the shoulders on which it had been placed. After a conventual reign of nearly seventeen years Matilda de Morton resigned her office, and on the 12th of January, 1333-4, the Bishop granted to the Sub-prioress and convent his licence for the election of of a successor.‡ The choice fell on Willelma de Blachyngdon.

This lady did not long retain possession of her dignity. She died on the 4th of May, 1336. And here the Bishop's Register gives us in detail the particulars of the ensuing appointment, which will doubtless be of considerable interest to the students of monastic chronicles. Indeed it is only by the possession of these series of minute events and the consequent completeness of details that we can at all be said to understand the system of which they formed a part, or can in imagina-

\* Inq. p. m. 6 Edw. iij. 2 nos. n. 24. Appendix, No. iij.

† Pat. 7 Edw. iij. p. 1. m. 28.

‡ Reg. Rad. f. lxxxixb. MS. Harl. 6965. p. 77.

tion enter into the sacred precincts wherein they were transacted, or throw ourselves into the picturesque life of those olden days and estimate them as they deserve. Johanna de Bractone, Sub-prioress, evidently the same Sister (with a slight difference in the orthography of her name, which will be easily understood by those who are conversant with the manuscripts of this period) who had headed the opposition to Matilda de Morton nearly twenty years before, wrote to the Bishop informing him that Willelma de Blachyngdon had died on the day above mentioned, and, after the customary expression of obedience, proceeded to give him the particulars of the election of her successor. After the burial of the deceased Prioress, and the petition for and reception of the licence to elect from Robert Ffitzpayn, the patron, the Sisterhood met in their Chapter-house on the 16th of May, and appointed the day following for the election. On that day they again met, and, "*lecto et exposito capitulo*," appointed Lucy de Raleghe, Sister of the House, as their procurator. All under ecclesiastical suspension or interdict were then ordered by this Sister to depart, and three Sisters were selected, Johanna de Beare, Christina Robe and Alice de Holtham, as scrutators to take the votes, enter them in writing, and afterwards publish them. These retired to a corner of the Chapter-house, took the votes secretly and one by one, and afterwards published them by virtue of their office. Those of Christina Robe, Alice de Holtham, Margaret de Hampton, Avice Reyners, Lucy de Popham, Johanna de Alwynesheye, Matilda de Northelode, Johanna Trimelet, Alice de Northelode, and Agnes de Nywemarch were in favour of Johanna de Beare. Two, Johanna de Bracton, Sub-prioress, and

Johanna de Beare were for Avise Reyners, and Lucy de Raleghe was for Johanna de Bracton. Two thirds of the Chapter and more—for the Sisters then amounted, as is evident, to thirteen in number—were thus found to be in favour of Johanna de Beare (who, as the reader will hardly fail to recollect, had been appointed by the Bishop to the office of Prioress in 1317, but had been afterwards commanded to resign her dignity), who was described as provident, discreet, in life and manners altogether commendable, of lawful age, born in lawful wedlock, and circumspect in temporal and spiritual matters. Upon this, Alice de Holtham, by their command and in their presence, solemnly read the election to the assembled Sisterhood. They then sang *Te Deum*, and bore the elect to the high altar according to custom, and by the same Alice de Holtham, to whom they deputed that duty, announced the election to the clergy and a great number of the laity then and there present. Afterwards, about the sixth hour of the same day, the election of the said elect was presented to her by the said Alice, and she was questioned as to her assent. The said Johanna elect replied that she wished to deliberate, and, having been again questioned and repeatedly urged to comply by the said Alice, in the evening of the same day, being unwilling to resist the Divine will, declared her assent. The writer concluded by soliciting the Bishop's assent to and confirmation of their act. The letter was sealed and dated in their Chapter-house of Kanyngton, the 17th of May, 1336.\*

Appended to this are copies of several documents connected with the election. The first is William de

\* Reg. Rad. ff. cliijb, cliiij.

Ludeford the notary's certificate of the proceedings, dated on the same day as the previous letter, and a repetition for the most part of the narrative which it contained. He adds that Agnes de Neumarch was ill and confined to her bed, but that the deputation of Sisters waited on her and received her vote; and that John de Middeltone, rector of Scheptonebeauchamp, and Stephen Tryppe, rector of Westcamel, were present, the former of whom announced the election.\* Then follow the appointment by Johanna de Bractone, Subprioress, of Lucy de Raleghe to warn all and singular suspended and incompetent persons against taking part in the election;† that of Johanna de Beare, Christina Robe and Alice de Holtham to act as scrutators, and to take the votes and publish the result;‡ the appointment of Alice de Holtham as their procurator to inform the elect of her election, and to solicit her consent;|| and that of William de Trente, vicar of Kanyngton, and John de Wyuelescombe, as their procurators, to ask and obtain a day to present to the Bishop their nomination and election, and to exhibit and present the same on the day appointed.§ The former instruments were dated on the 17th, and the last on the 18th of May. The Bishop confirmed the election, and committed to the elect the administration of the spirituals and temporals of the convent with all the rights appertaining thereunto, at Wyuelescombe, on the 3rd of the following month of June, 1336.¶ At the same place and time he signified his confirmation to

\* Reg. Rad. ff. cliij, cliijb, olv.

† Ib. f. olv. ‡ Ib. || Ib. § H. f. olvb.

¶ Reg. Rad. f. clij. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 105.

Robert le Fitzpain, the patron;\* ordered the Archdeacon of Taunton to install, induct, and to put the Prioress in corporal possession;† and wrote to the Sub-prioress and convent to accept the elect, and to pay her due and canonical obedience.‡

In the October of the same year the Bishop granted permission to the Prioress and Convent to receive two ladies, Johanna Wason and Maud Poer, with two maidservants, to sojourn, by the assent and will of the Sisters, in their Priory of Kanyngton, until the following Easter, provided that such residence should not be detrimental, prejudicial, or depreciatory either to them or their House. The letter was written in French, and addressed to them from Banewelle, on the 14th of October, 1336.||

This was followed on the 4th of November by a similar letter, also addressed to them from Banewell, in favour of Isabella Ffichet, who was permitted to reside together with one maidservant in the Priory until Easter.§

Prioress Johanna de Beare was numbered with her predecessors in 1343. On the 12th of August Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury wrote from Banewelle to Avise de Reigners, who, it will be recollected, was second at the election of the last Prioress, and whom her Sisters had now elected, confirming her in her office, and committing to her the rule and administration of her House.¶ On the same day he forwarded his mandate to the Archdeacon of Tanton, or his official, to install and induct her; and

\* Reg. Rad. f. clijb.

† Reg. Rad. f. clijb.

‡ Reg. Rad. f. clijb.

|| Reg. Rad. f. cxlix. As it may interest many of my readers to have a specimen of the French of this period, I have placed the original in the Appendix, No. iv.

§ Reg. Rad. f. cl.

¶ Reg. Rad. f. cclxxij. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 158.

to the Sub-prioress and Convent, informing them that he had confirmed their election, and enjoining obedience to the elect.\* As the Archdeacon was unable to perform his duty in person, and promptitude was desirable, the Bishop issued his commission from Banewelle, on the 13th of August, to the Rector of Oterhampton, to induct, install, and put her in corporal possession without further and injurious delay, and to certify him that he had so done.†

A dark cloud was now coming over the House, and soon resulted in a storm the particulars of which I would willingly conceal. As, however, in the annals of other Monasteries I have endeavoured to give my reader as faithful a picture as a conscientious and truthful search among their records have enabled me, so it shall be my aim on the present occasion. The suppression of essential truth is, in my judgment, equivalent to an assertion of falsehood, inasmuch as the reader, who depends on the faithfulness of his author, will be equally misled by both. Nor will the inherent excellencies of the Monastic System, as actively doing its work in the ages now under our review, suffer by this publicity any suspicion of their reality in a judicious and reasonable mind. Human nature is a thing of frailty, and the pretence of absolute perfection, which an ignoring of all wrong affects, is of itself sufficient to induce a question of its truth. That picture is necessarily the most to be depended on which exhibits the dark aspect as well as the fair. And mediæval Monasticism can well afford to have those occasional faults displayed, which are common to it and to all other institutions, when so surpassing were its merits, so refining its influence, and so zealous and well-directed its powers to bless.

\* Reg. Rad. f. oclxxxij.

† Reg. Rad. f. oclxxxij.

An intimation was conveyed to the Prioress that the Bishop would officially visit her House on the Friday next after the feast of S. Luke the Evangelist, the 21st of October, 1351. In his mandate he stated that he proposed to visit her in humility and gentleness, and cited her and through her all her Sisters to present themselves before him or his Commissaries in their Chapter-house, on the day aforesaid, there to receive his visitation with humility, and to accept from him or them that which should be lawful and consonant to reason. They were also to furnish him or his Commissaries with a certificate respecting the matters of presentment, together with their names in a paper annexed thereto, distinctly and clearly written, and under their common seal. The letter was dated at Banewell, the 8th of October.\*

On the day appointed for the visitation the inquiry took place before John de Sydenhale and Nicholas Pontefract, the Bishop's Commissaries. In the official report inserted in the Register it is set forth that there were various matters discovered as transacted in and connected with the House which called for correction and amendment. Two of the Nuns, Matilda Pulham and Alice Northlode, the latter of whom has been already mentioned as voting in the election of the Prioress, were known, to the violation of their monastic vow and the shame of their sex, to keep company with, and too frequently to admit, sundry suspected women, and were also much too intimate with the Chaplains, Richard Sompnor and Hugh Willyng, with whom they held by night long and suspicious conversations, and by consequence, as was suspected by many, fell into worse evils. Further, that, not content with these improprieties, the

\* Reg. Rad. ff. cccxxxiiij b, cccxxxiiij. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 241.

said Matilda was in the habit of tempting many of the servitors to incontinence; and that the said Alice had, in many places secret and fit for the evil purpose and at hours convenient, been guilty of incontinence with the said Richard Sompnor. That when charged by the Prioress with that and other irregularities, the said Alice refused even once to say "*mea culpa*." That the said Matilda had unadvisedly and immodestly revealed the secrets of the Chapter to various lay persons in the neighbourhood. That the same "*virago*," in reply to the Prioress and Sisters detesting and inveighing against her for her shameless conduct, had threatened to work them some grievous harm with knives and other weapons. That both of them were sunk in the depths of malice, and made light of the canonical obedience which they owed to the Prioress, and by their sensuality brought disgrace upon their vow and a scandal on their House. On proof of all this it was ordered that Matilda should sit last, and Alice last but one, in choir and refectory during the celebration of the Office and in refectons, that they should keep the cloister for a whole year, and on no account go forth from it, and that all and singular the men suspected of the said Monastery should be dismissed and sent away.

The Commissaries then turned their attention to the case of another Sister. They discovered that a Nun, Johanna Trimelet, whose name also has been already before us, had been frequently guilty of incontinence, and had given birth to a child, to the grave disgrace and confusion of her vow. Although the crime was so foul and scandalous, the Commissaries professed themselves unwilling to cloak or conceal it. They therefore ordained, and in virtue of her obedience enjoined that the said Johanna should remain for a whole year imprisoned in one house

within the precinct of the Monastery ; that, with a view of repressing her youthful ardours, "*suos calores macerans juveniles,*" she should fast on bread and water on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, and that on all other days during the time aforesaid she should have for her maintenance bread, pottage, and ale only. The judges were not men by whom even smaller breaches of discipline were disregarded. They therefore commanded that all and singular the Nuns of the Monastery aforesaid should daily be bound to assemble for refecton in the common refectory, and that the Prioress should by no means absent herself from the repast, unless for some reasonable cause, for the truth of which they charged her conscience before God. This lady herself did not escape judgment. It was discovered in the course of the visitation as a thing notorious, and the Commissaries recorded the fact with grief, that the Prioress had admitted four women as Sisters of the House, for each of whom she had received twenty pounds, thus falling into simoniacal depravity which is the worst of crimes ; that she had also sold a number of corrodies in the House without the Bishop's licence obtained or solicited ; and this, without any advantage to the Sisters, but to the burdening of their House with a debt of more than £18 sterling. That the Sisters were in many ways illtreated by the stubborn and disobedient servants of the Prioress, and could gain no redress, although they earnestly and humbly besought her for it. The Commissaries felt themselves unable to palliate or pass over these matters *sub silentio* ; yet, desirous of tempering the rigour of the law with mercy, they appointed that, until it should be otherwise ordered, two of her Sisters, discreet and circumspect in temporal matters, should be joined



to the Prioress in the administration of the temporalities of the House, apart from whose counsel and assent she should do nothing. Then the conduct of the Sub-prioress was examined, and it was discovered that she had in many ways neglected her duty against delinquent Sisters, that she absented herself without cause from matins and other canonical hours, and had evilly encouraged others to do the like. The Commissaries ordered that she should be rebuked for these faults by the Prioress in the Chapter, openly in the presence of all her Sisters. And they concluded their Ordinance by strictly directing that, for the better regulation of the House in future, no secular person should be permitted to sojourn therein, to the grievance and injury of the Nuns.\*

In explanation of one item in this Ordinance, I may inform the reader who feels surprise at the command that a criminal should be bound to keep the precincts of her House, that very much greater latitude than modern times suppose was accorded to the members of mediæval Sisterhoods. It was not for upwards of two centuries subsequent to the transaction now before us, that Nuns were rigidly confined to the boundaries of their conventual home. Previous to this, they visited their friends in the neighbourhood and elsewhere, and were allowed, with certain provisions for their safety and good name, to keep up a friendly correspondence with the laity of their own sex. It would have been no unusual circumstance in mediæval times to meet a Sister of Canyngton or Buckland in the busy streets of Taunton or Bridgwater, and to hear the devout blessing and kindly greeting that ever, as we may well be sure, accompanied their steps.

\* Reg. Red. ff. ooolxxxviiij, ooolxxxviiij, ooolxxxviiij. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 243, 244.

On the 18th of June in the following year, 1352, at Wyvelescombe, the Bishop admitted Robert de Charenchowe, Priest, to the Vicarage of Canyngton, on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent.\* The Archdeacon of Taunton was ordered to induct him.

Shortly after this the House received one of its most valuable accessions of property. On the 24th of January, 1353-4, John de Chidiok and Robert de Sambourn were empowered by writ of privy seal to give and assign twelve pence of rent with appurtenances in Whytherigg, in the county of Devon, and the advowson of the Church of the same vill, not held of the King in chief, to the Prioress and Convent of Canyngton, to be held by the said Prioress and Convent and their successors for ever. Also similar licence was conveyed to the Prioress and Convent to receive the rent and advowson aforesaid, and to appropriate the Church and rent aforesaid to their own proper use. The writ was dated, witness the King, at the Tower of London, on the day and year above mentioned.† This was confirmed by writs of inspeximus, on the payment of half a marc, by Richard the Second, at Westminster, on the 5th of March, 1379-80;‡ and by Henry the Sixth, also on the payment of half a marc, at Westminster, on the 16th of October, 1426.||

On the 26th of March, 1354, the Bishop granted permission to Isolda, the wife of John Byccomb, to sojourn in the Priory until the Gule of August, an ancient name for the first day of that month.§

\* Reg. Rad. f. cccvij. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 248.

† Pat. 27 Edw. iij. p. 3. m. 1. Appendix, No. v.

‡ Pat. 8 Ric. ij. p. 2. m. 15.

|| Pat. 5 Hen. vj. p. 1. m. 21.

§ Reg. Rad. f. ccccxixjb.

On the 10th of February, 1362-3, Henry de Lutton was presented by the Prioress and Convent to their lately acquired Church of Wytherigge, in the Diocese of Exeter, by exchange with Robert Crosse for the Church of Spaxton, in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The Dean of Molton and the Rector of Eatansty, the Bishop of Exeter's officers entrusted with an investigation of the case, reported, in answer to a commission dated at Chuddeleigh, the 16th of January, 1362-3,\* that the aforesaid Church of Wytherigge was of the patronage of the Nuns of Canyngton, and was of the estimated value of twenty pounds; that the cause of exchange on the part of the said Henry, as publicly reported, was that adjacent to the Church of Spaxton a great lord, James de Audelegh, spent the greater part of his time; that the said Henry had a just action at law against the said James, which he dared not pursue so long as he continued in the neighbourhood, by reason of the deadly hatred which the said James bore against him. The cause of exchange on the part of Robert was that the cure of the said Church of Wytherigge was great and onerous, and that the said Robert could not, according to his conscience, attend to its care and government as he ought, by reason of his manifold duties in attendance on the lord Bishop, and his frequent absence resulting thencefrom. This return was dated at Wytherigge, on the 23rd of January, 1362-3.† On the receipt of this the Bishop of Bath and Wells returned an answer to his brother at Exeter, approving and confirming the same, dated at Wyvelescombe, on the 25th of January.‡

\* Reg. Rad. in Drok. f. cclxxxxviiijb.

† Reg. Rad. in Drok. f. cclxxxix. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, pp. 156, 157.

‡ Reg. Rad. in Drok. f. cclxxxix.

On the same day Robert Crosse was presented to the Church of Spaxton, on the presentation of James de Audelegh, lord of Redcastle and Helegh. His change of residence resulted, as we shall subsequently see, in a considerable addition to the revenues of the House.

One of the grievances which the inmates of Monasteries had to endure as best they could, was in the shape of a corrody. This was a sum of money, or an allowance of meat, drink and clothing, granted by the Superior of a religious House, or exacted by the King, towards the maintenance of some servant or other dependant that required to be provided for. It will be recollected that one of the charges against the Prioress, some few years before, was that she had sold several of such allowances without licence, to the injury and damage of her House. We saw also in the case of the Abbey of Athelney, that that community was obliged to petition the King to grant a remission of the burden, to the support of which it was wholly unequal. Canyngton Priory was similarly favoured by the Sovereign, as the series of facts which I now offer to the reader will only too plainly declare.

In pursuance of a writ addressed to William Cheyne, the King's eschaetor, dated at Westminster, the 12th of July, 1370, an inquest was held at Ilmystre, before that officer, on Tuesday next after the feast of S. Margaret, in the forty-fourth year of Edward the Third, or the 23rd of July, 1370, and a verdict returned by the following jurors :—Adam Swyf, William Hucker, William Moure, Richard Cook, William Walround, William Dounham, William Shelf, Robert Hare, Thomas Deme, Laurence Wyly, Robert Dany and Thomas Dusty. These presented that Roger Montfort, deceased, was an

outlaw, and that he held no lands or tenements on the day of the promulgation of his outlawry, or afterwards to his death, of the King in chief, but only a corrody for life by the concession of the Prioress of Canyngton, at Canyngton. The corrody was of the yearly value of forty shillings. They further presented that the Sheriffs of Somerset for the time being were the receivers of the said corrody for the use of the King ; and that the said Robert died on the feast of Corpus Christi, in the forty-second year of the King's reign, the 8th of June, 1368, and left no heirs.\*

Robert Crosse had been Vicar of Spaxton for between nineteen and twenty years, when he gave his neighbours, the Prioress and Convent, a conspicuous proof of his respect and regard.

A writ was addressed, witness the King, at Westminster, on the 28th of April, 1382, to John Rodeston, the King's eschaetor in Somersetshire, by which he was directed to take the verdict of a jury, whether it would be to the damage or prejudice of the King or others, if licence should be given to Robert Crosse, Parson of the Church of Spaxton, to give and assign six messuages, one hundred and nine acres of arable land, and eight acres of meadow, with appurtenances, in Poulet, to the Prioress and Convent, for her and her successors to find two sufficient and good wax candles, "*duos cereos vocatos Torches*," one at the right and one at the left corner of the High Altar in the Priory Church, to burn through and from the time of the Consecration of the Elements daily and every day at Mass, in honour of the same, to the conclusion of the Service. The inquisition consequent upon this was taken before the

\* Inq. p. m. 44 Edw. iii. n. 45. Appendix, No. vi.

said John Rodeston, at Bryggewater, on the Thursday in Whitsun week, in the fifth year of the aforesaid King, which is coincident with the 29th of May, 1382; and the jurors—Ralph Barwe, John Poterne, Stephen Pyllot, Thomas Bouchre, William Smyth, Robert Pottere, Richard Stenyng, William Portere, John Bonons, John Ffrensebh, William Athelard, and William Parys—returned a favourable verdict. They presented that it would not be to the loss of the King or others if the licence as aforesaid should be given; that there was no other mesne lord between the King and the said Robert Crosse but the Master of S. Mark's Hospital at Bristol, of whom it was held by a service of two shillings a year, payable at Midsommer; that the value in all issues was forty-six shillings and four-pence a year, besides all reprises, and no more, inasmuch as the sea flowed daily over the said land; and that the said Robert had, besides the land aforesaid, a carucate of land, with its appurtenances, in Kyngeston by Taunton, which was of the true yearly value in all issues of sixty shillings, and was held of the Bishop of Winchester by a service of twenty shillings a-year.\* Licence was accordingly granted, on the payment by the Prioress of twenty marcs, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 16th of June, 1382.†

It may be interesting to the local reader to be told that the following places are mentioned as situated in Canyngton, in documents dated on the Wednesday after the feast of S. Laurence, in the 13th year of Richard II., or the 9th of February, 1389-90, and on the Thursday next after the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy

\* Inq. p. m. 5 Ric. ij. n. 81.

† Pat. 5 Ric. ij. p. 2. m. 12. Appendix. No. VII.

Cross, in the 18th year of the same monarch, or the 17th of September, 1394 :—Pachet, Northerferthyng, Southerferthyng, Gotelond, Le Yerd, Crossemore and Pachettesmore.\*

On the 20th of July, 1407, John Hert, Priest, was presented to the Vicarage of Canyngton by the Prioress and Convent.† He did not long retain his Benefice, but exchanged it with William Baron, Vicar of Lyme, in the Diocese of Sarum. The commission to investigate was issued on the 13th of September, 1408, and Baron swore canonical obedience as Vicar of Canyngton on the 20th of the same month.‡

From this point the Episcopal Registers furnish us with the names of a series of ecclesiastics who were admitted to various degrees of Holy Orders on titles granted by the Prioress and Convent. These notices are of the utmost interest, not only in connexion with the Priory, but to writers of Family Histories, and to ecclesiastical students in general. No apology, therefore, can be needful, for presenting them to the reader in particular detail.

At a General Ordination in the Cathedral Church of Wells, by Bishop Nicholas Bubwith, on Holy Saturday, 1409, William Russell was ordained Sub-deacon.|| At that in the Parish Church of Banwell, by the same Bishop, on Saturday in Ember week, the 21st of September, 1409, the same William was ordained Deacon;§ and Priest by the same Bishop, in the Cathedral Church of Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 11th of April, 1411.¶

On the 29th of April, 1411, the Bishop directed letters under his great seal to the Prioress and Convent, contain-

\* Hyll Cartulary, pp. 64,65.

† Reg. Bowet, f. xliiij.

‡ Reg. Bowet, f. liij. Reg. Bubwith, f. xix.

|| Reg. Bubwith, ad fin.

§ Reg. Bubwith, ad fin.

¶ Reg. Bubwith, ad fin.

ing his licence that any Nuns of their House, who should desire to profess, and were of ability so to do, might lawfully be consecrated by any Catholic Bishop, and on any day which should be selected for the solemnity by the said Prioress and Convent.\*

In the year following a circumstance occurred which, although the result was favourable, must have caused no little amount of disquietude to the good Prioress and her Sisters. We saw that in the January of 1332-3, a licence was granted to Robert Ffiutz Payn, to give certain lands in Canyngton and Radeweye to the Prioress and Convent for the maintenance of a Chaplain, who should celebrate Divine Service daily in the Church of Canyngton. It appears that either he or some member of his family, for on the question of identity, both of giver and of gift, the subsequent proceedings essentially turned, gave them a similar benefaction in connexion with the Chapels of Pederdam (for so the record uniformly presents the names) and Combewyche, but that the conditions annexed to this latter gift had not been duly attended to. Hereupon the Prioress found herself involved in a legal process for neglect and violation of contract, during which various particulars hitherto unknown to us were elicited. At an inquest, held at Stokvrcy, on Monday, the morrow of the feast of the Holy Trinity, in the thirteenth year of K. Henry IV., or the 30th of May, 1412, before Robert Veele, the King's eschaetor in the County of Somerset, it was found that the dominus de Couray had at some former time given to the Prioress of Canyngton and her successors certain lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, wood, and the tithes of corn, and the rest of the small tithes in Pederdam by Combewyche and in Combewyche,

\* Reg. Bubw. f. lj.

to find a fit Chaplain who should celebrate Divine Service for ever, and for the same to pray for the souls of the Kings of England and their successors, to wit, in the Chapel of S. Leonard, at Combewyche, on every other Sunday and on every other double festival throughout the year; and also in the Chapel of S. James, at Pederdam, aforesaid, on every other Sunday and on every other double festival throughout the year. That the aforesaid Prioress had ceased to find such a Chaplain in the Chapel of S. James, at Pederdam, for the five years last past before the taking of the Inquisition. That the lands and tithes aforesaid in Pederdam were of the annual value of four marcs, and in Combewyche of ten marcs. And further that Johanna, the Prioress of Canyngton, had received and appropriated the issues and profits accruing from them to the day that the Inquisition was taken. The Prioress was accordingly called to account, and the case was heard in Trinity Term, 1414. The Barons of the Court of Exchequer then agreed that the Prioress should be warned by writ of *scire facias* to show cause why she should not account, answer, and do satisfaction to the King out of the issues and profits of the said lands from the time of the cessation of Divine Service to that of the present hearing. After various legal preliminaries, she replied by Richard Hukelegh her attorney, that—inasmuch as in the aforesaid Inquisition no finding was arrived at as to what name the aforesaid Lord de Cursy bore, nor what lands or tithes were given to the aforesaid predecessor of the Prioress and her successors, nor that the lands and tithes aforesaid were given before or after the passing of the Statute of Mortmain, nor that the then King nor any of his progenitors were the founders of the Church or Priory of Canyngton,

nor that the then King nor any of his progenitors had given the aforesaid lands and tithes or any other to the aforesaid Prioress or any of her predecessors—she sought a cessation of the action and a release in respect of the issues specified. The Judges ruled in her favour, and decided that the Inquisition was not sufficient in law for putting the Prioress on her answer, or for delivery of seisin of the aforesaid lands and tithes into the King's hand, or for burdening the Prioress in respect of their issues. Judgment was accordingly given for the defendant, by reason of the insufficiencies of the Inquisition aforesaid.\*

I presume that in the Prioress Johanna of the year 1412 we have an addition to our series of hitherto known Superiors. For although the name of Johanna was borne by the next in our list, that lady did not die until 1440; and the interval would seem far too long for us to refer both of the events to one and the same person.

In the year 1414, the Vicarage of Canyngton was valued at eight marcs.†

It will not be amiss to record, as illustrative of the neighbourhood, although the fact has no immediate connexion with the Religious House on the history of which we are now employed, that William Poulet de Bere, Esq., built a Chapel at Ichestok, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin, adjoining to the north side of an older Chapel, and that a writ was received by the eschaetor, with the usual enquiries in respect of his founding in the same a Chantry for one fit Chaplain, who should daily celebrate Divine Service in behalf of the founder during his life, and for his soul after his decease, and for those of his ancestors, and his heirs,

\* Memorand. in Scacc. 1 Hen. v. m. xliij. Appendix, No. VIII.

† Reg. Bubw. f. lxxxv.

and all the faithful departed. This writ was dated at Westminster, the 14th of July, 1416. The proposed endowment consisted of three messuages, one hundred acres and half an acre of arable, sixteen and a-half acres of meadow, three acres of pasture, one penny of rent, and five acres of wood, with their appurtenances, in Ediston, Stokecursy, Pederham by Combewych, Seternemed, Ichestoke, and Canyngton. An inquest was held at Bruggewater, on Monday, the feast of S. Calixtus, Pope, in the third year of the reign of Henry V., or the 14th of October, 1414, before Matthew Coker, the eschaetor, and a favourable verdict was returned.\* The Bishop's licence for this foundation was not granted, as it would appear, until the year 1427, when a document of that kind is inserted in the Register, dated at Woky, the 24th of April.† The same Register records the presentation thereto by William Paulet de Bere, the patron, of Thomas Spreth, on the 28th of June, 1427,‡ and of Henry Yurde, on the 18th of October, 1430.||

On the 25th of August, 1417, William Clyve, Priest, was presented by the Prioress and Convent to the Vicarage of Canyngton, void by the death of William Baron.§

On the 20th of the following October, Bishop Bubwith granted his licence to William Kenne, for one year, to have masses celebrated "voce submissa" by a fit and proper Chaplain, in an oratory situated in his Court House, at Canyngton, so far as might be without prejudice to the parish Church of the same.¶

Notwithstanding the benefactions which have been detailed, the Convent was far from affluent. A special

\* Inq. ad q. d. 8 Hen. v. n. 8.

† Reg. Staff. f. xxxij.

§ Reg. Bubw. f. cxxxijb.

† Reg. Stafford, ff. xxixb—xxxij.

|| Reg. Staff. f. lvijj.

¶ Reg. Bubw. f. cxxxliijb.

instance of this now comes before us, and will be followed by several of a similar kind, in its exemption from the payment of the King's disme. In answer to a brief for making this collection, dated at Westminster, the 22nd of December, 1417, the Nuns of Canyngton, Barowe, and Ivelchester, are specially and by name excepted.\*

In answer to a similar commission, dated the 20th of September, 1421, the Priory of Canyngton was again specially exempt, and with it those of Barogh and Staverdale, and the Hospitals of Bristol and Wells.†

Again the Prioress and Sisters granted titles for Holy Orders. At an ordination in the Church of S. Cuthbert, Wells, by Richard, Bishop of Kato, Suffragan, on Saturday in Ember week, the 7th of June, 1421, John Exbrigge, of the diocese of Exeter, was ordained Sub-deacon; and in the same Church, and by the same Bishop, was admitted to the Order of Deacon, on the 7th of March, 1421-2.‡

In the Chapel of the B.V. Mary by the Cloister of the Cathedral Church of Wells, on the 18th of December, 1423, Robert Wyly was ordained Sub-deacon by the same Bishop; and Deacon by the same and in the same place, on the Saturday "*quo cantatur Officium Sicientis*," the 8th of April, 1424.‡

John Hody was presented to the Rectory of Wytheridge by the Prioress and Convent, on the 16th of September, 1425.||

At this period a painfully interesting notice of the state of the place is furnished by the return to an enquiry by K. Henry VI., dated at Westminster, on the 16th October, in the fourth year of his reign, 1425, concerning lands

\* Reg. Bubw. f. cxxxvijb.

† Reg. Bubw. ad fin.

‡ Reg. Bubw. f. clxxxvjb.

|| Ecol. Antiq. Dev. i. 191.

which were injured by war or the incursion of the sea, and were consequently exempt from the payment of the King's tenths. The Church of Canyngton is there said to be appropriated to the Prioress and Convent, and not taxed nor accustomed to pay the tenth; that in this Church there was a Vicarage endowed but not taxed; and that within the parish there was some time back a manor, together with certain tenements in Pedyrham, belonging to the same Prioress and Nuns, but that both the manor and the tenements aforesaid were destroyed by inundations of the sea.\*

At an Ordination in the Church of S. Cuthbert, Wells, by Richard, Bp. of Kato, on the Saturday in Ember Week, the 16th of March, 1425-6, Walter Hogges was ordained Sub-deacon, on the title of the Prioress and Convent.† The same was ordained Deacon by the same Bishop in the Conventual Church of Bruton, on Ember Saturday, the 25th of the following May; ‡ and Priest by the same Bishop in the parish Church of Yevell, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of September.|| He was subsequently presented to the Vicarage of Wytheridge.

In an estimate of the annual value of the non-taxed benefices of the diocese, dated at Wells in the same year, the Vicarage of Canyngton is stated to be worth four pounds, or six marcs.§

Richard Hyndeborgh was admitted by Richard, Bp. of Kato, to the Holy Order of Priest, in the Conventual Church of the Preaching Friars of Yewelcheste, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of December, 1427.||

\* Reg. Bubw. ff. cxxviii, cxxviiib.

† Reg. Staff. f. vj.

‡ Reg. Staff. f. vijb.

|| Reg. Staff. ad fin.

§ Reg. Staff. f. ix

Richard Morlegh was ordained Sub-deacon by the Bp. of Bath and Wells, in his Chapel at Woky, on Holy Saturday, the 19th of April, 1427;\* and Priest by Richard, Bp. of Kato, in the Conventual Church of the Preaching Friars of Yewelchester, on Ember Saturday, the 29th of May, 1428,\* on the title of the Prioress and Convent.

The learned author of the "*Eccllesiastical Antiquities in Devon*" informs us that at this time the Priory came into possession of the Church of Wytheridge. He says that in consequence of Pope Martin V.'s recommendation (2 Id. May, 10th Pont.) Bp. Lacy, on the 5th of July, 1427, agreed to appropriate the Church of Wytheridge, on the demise of Philip, the then Rector, to Canyngton Priory, whose possessions in Somersetshire had suffered greatly "propter ipsius maris fluxus et refluxus et alios diversos casus," but that the Convent was charged to remit 30s. yearly at Easter, to the Dean and Chapter of Exeter, for the advantage of the Cathedral Choristers, and at the same time to distribute 6s. 8d. among the poorest parishioners: that the Convent came into possession on the 5th of June, 1428, but, neglecting to comply with the conditions, Bp. Lacy, on the 31st October, 1454, decreed the sequestration of the Rectory: that the money was soon paid, and that the Prioress was hereupon the invariable patron until the suppression.† The Convent however, was certainly in possession of the Rectory, as we have already seen, at least sixty years before this period.

Later in the year 1428, Canyngton had a new Vicar in

\* Reg. Staff. ad fin.

† Oliver, *Ecol. Antiq. of Devon*, i. 189.

the person of John Grene, Chaplain, who was admitted on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent on the 5th of October.\*

Walter Hogges was presented to the Rectory of Wytheridge, on the resignation of Philip Lovecock, or Polton, on the 16th of March, 1429.†

John Wolmere was ordained Sub-deacon, by Richard, Bp. of Kato, in the parish Church of Yevell, on Ember Saturday, the 24th of February, 1430-1; Deacon by the same Bp. in S. Cuthbert's, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 26th of the following May; and Priest on the following Ember Saturday in the Conventual Church of Bruton.‡ He was afterwards Vicar of Wytheridge.

Walter Hogges did not long remain at Wytheridge. Thomas Bowryng occurs as Vicar in 1431, and on the 3rd of October in that year, exchanged his benefice for the Chantry of Walton Glanville, in the Diocese of Salisbury, with Robert Gaunt.†

By a mandate, dated at Dogmersfeld, the last day of December, 1432, a subsidy of two-pence in the pound was ordered to be levied on all ecclesiastical benefices, for the counsel of Basle. As the Priory is omitted from the list of the exempt, we are led to hope that its affairs were in an improving condition. At the same time the Vicarage was estimated at ten marks, which also is a satisfactory contrast to the six marks of the valuation last before us.||

The improvement, however, if real, was not of long duration, for "the poor Nuns of Canyngton" are again placed among the exempt from payment of the King's disme in the Bishop's certificates, dated at Dogmersfeld, on the 20th

\* Reg. Staff. f. xliij.

† Reg. Staff. ad fin.

‡ Ecol. Antiq. Dev. I. 191.

|| Reg. Staff. ff. lxxxij, lxxxiii.

of April, 1435.\* A similar return was made from his Inn in London, on the 6th of February, 1437;† and from the same place, on the 2nd of May, 1440.‡

Shortly before the last mentioned date, Prioress Johanna de Chedeldon was gathered to her predecessors. Bishop Stafford issued a commission to John Bernard, Succentor, and John Stevenes, his Commissary General, Canons of Wells; and, as licences had been obtained by the Sisters from Robert, dominus de Ponyngges, the patron, to elect a successor to the deceased Prioress, and the Sisters had unanimously chosen Johanna Gofyse to the vacant office, and had pleaded their deep poverty in mitigation of expences connected with the election, empowered them to hear and examine witnesses, and if they should find the said election to be canonical and the elect fit, to install and induct her into corporal possession, all things being done according to the rule and custom of the place. They were, further, to send him a faithful account of their proceedings within the next twenty days after confirmation. The commission was dated at his Inn in London, on the 14th of April, 1440.||

Walter Hayshford, or Ayssheforde, was ordained Sub-deacon on the title of the Prioress and Convent by John, Bishop of Olena, in the Temple Church, Bristol, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of May, 1440;§ and Deacon by the same Bishop in the parish Church of Axbrugge, on Ember Saturday, the 24th of the following September.§ We shall meet with him afterwards as Vicar of Canyngton.

In 1445, a subsidy was demanded of the Clergy in aid of the King against the Saracens and Turks, when the

\* Reg. Staff. ff. cxjb, cxij.

† Reg. Staff. f. cxlj.

‡ Reg. Staff. f. cxlvijb.

|| Reg. Staff. ff. cxlv., cxlvb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6986, p. 54.

§ Reg. Staff. ad fin.

Vicarage of Canyngton was again valued at eight marcs, and the Vicar paid eight pence as his share of the aid.\*

On the death of Robert Gaunt, Vicar of Wytherigge, John Wolmere succeeded him on the 4th of June, 1448.†

In a list of the Priests in the Archdeaconry of Taunton, and Deanery of Bruggewater, dated at Taunton, the 20th of January, 1449-50, Thomas Hidam and Walter Haychessford occur as "capellani annuellarii" of Canyngton.‡

On the 26th of September in the same year, 1450, a certificate, dated at Woky, again declared "the House of the poor Nuns of Canyngton" to be exempt from payment of the King's tenths, "propter exilitatem," on account of the lean state of its finances.||

The Vicarage was shortly afterwards vacant, by the death of John Grene. Prioress Johanna and Convent presented Walter Aysshford, Chaplain, of the Order of S. Benedict, to the benefice, who was admitted at Bagshot, in the diocese of Winchester, on the 18th of February, 1451-2.§

John Wolmere resigned the Vicarage of Wytheridge, and the Prioress and Convent presented William Clyff to the benefice on the 16th of July, 1451.†

Once more there was a certificate of exemption in favour of the Sisters. It was dated from the Palace at Wells, the 1st of October, 1453.¶

On the 23rd of February, 1459-60, at Banwell, Bishop Bekynton granted his licence to Leonard Tylly, Esq., of the parish of Canyngton, and Johanna his wife, to have Divine Service celebrated in his Chapel at Withel, in the said parish, but without prejudice to the parish Church.\*\*

\* Reg. Bekynton, f. xxixb.

† Ecol. Antiq. Devon, i. 191.

‡ Reg. Bek. f. ovb.

|| Reg. Bek. ff. oxviijb, oxviiij.

§ Reg. Bek. f. cxxxviii.

¶ Reg. Bek. f. clxvb.

\*\* Reg. Bek. f. cclij.

Stephen Beyden, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte, on the title of the Prioress and Convent, by John, Bishop of Tino, at S. Cuthbert's, Wells, on the 7th of June, 1460.\*

In the course of the same year, Alianor Hille, of Canyngton, departed this life, and left behind her a very interesting will, dated the 14th of October, 1458, and written on paper by her own hand. The lady was possessed of considerable property, and was evidently on the most intimate terms with the good Sisters of the Priory, whom, as it will be seen, she specially remembers. It breathes in every line of the goodness of the writer's heart, and makes me feel that I shall best consult the pleasure of my reader by giving it to him in full. It is as follows :—

"IN THE NAME OF JHV. I Alianor Hulle beyng by the mercy of God in my good mynde write this p'sent testament with myne owne hande the whiche I desire and wil that it be kept and p'fourmed w'tout a later wil be maad of me. FFIRST AND moost specially I betake my soule to the swete mercy of our Lord Jhu Crist besechyng hym as he made hit by his infinite goodnes and bought hit with the most dere price of his precious blode that he graunt hit a place among the nombr of his chosen people in the blisse of hevyn. Also I bequethe my wrecched body to be beried with in the quere of the Monchyns of Canyngton. Also I bequethe to ye same Monchens J peyr of Chaundelers of silver. A crosse of silver and a censer of syluer And the appayrell of the auter of white damaske. And a chesiple such as they wol desir of iij. Also I wol that my fader Husewyfe haue al my good that I haue at Canyngton that is not specially bequethed in this testament

\* Reg. Bek. ad fin.



to his owne use and to departe ther of to my seruantes at his owne wille. And I desire that asone as it may goodly be done that I may haue a m<sup>i</sup> masses songyn after the departyng of my wreched soule. And also I wil that the pour folkis that haue any wokely comfort of me that they haue hit whiles they lyve payed by the handes of myn Executours. Also I wil that the comune beddyng that longeth to myn household be departed among goddis pour creaturis that is to seye yeman beddes bothe matras blanketis and shetes. Also I bequethe my mantel my cloke al my gounes and fures to pour Religious that haue nede. And that the almes of my lytel pursis be continued as long as is lefte eny good that is to seye vij<sup>d</sup> in worship of seynt Kateryn and vij<sup>d</sup> to pour folkis. Also I bequethe to my fader Husewyf my greet porcons and my litel porcons and my greet sauter. Also I bequethe my fader Husewyf my greet cuppe Edward. Also I bequethe my father Husewyf my blue byble of latyn. And also I bequethe to Sir John Fforsteaku the best gylt cuppe that I haue & to Richard Walshawe a potte of sylver. And for to fulfille my wille I make myn Executours S<sup>r</sup> John Fforsteaku S<sup>r</sup> Roger Husewyf and Richard Walshawe. Wreten the xiiij day of Octobr the yer of the Kyng Harry y<sup>e</sup> vij<sup>th</sup> xxxvij<sup>th</sup>."

On the 2nd of January, 1460-1, Richard Walshawe, gentleman, one of the aforementioned Executors, appeared before Bishop Bekynton in the Chapel of the Palace at Wells, and exhibited the will. On the same day the Bishop from the same place issued a commission to John Saunders, Rector of Enmer, and Walter de Hashford, Vicar of Canyngton, to receive the oath of Roger Huswyf, Chaplain, one of the Executors, of faithful administration. Administration was granted to the said Roger, after oath by him

to Walter Haysshelford, the Bp's Commissary, in the Church of Canyngton, on the 27th of the same month.\*

On the 9th of August, 1461, at Westminster, King Edward IV. in demanding his tenth alleges the great "burdens and charges that resten upon us, and daily must for the common weel," and orders the collectors "that ye certifie noon excepcions saue oonly suche as of verraye necessite and pitee most and oweth to be certified." The urgency of this appeal resulted in the Bp's omission of the Sisters of Canyngton from his certificate of exemption, although he includes "the poor Nuns of Barowe."† The same occurs in a certificate dated in the Palace at Wells, the 11th of January, 1462-3;‡ but the Sisters have their usual exemption in one dated at the same place, on the 9th of January, 1463-4.¶

At an Ordination in the Chapel of the B. V. M. by the cloister of the Cathedral Church of Wells, by John, Bp. of Tino, on Ember Saturday, the 13th of March, 1461-2, John Edyngton, of Glastonbury, was ordained Sub-deacon, on the title of the Priores and Convent.§ The same John was ordained Deacon, by the same Bp. and in the same Chapel, on Ember Saturday, the 3rd of April, 1462;§ and Priest in the same place on Ember Saturday, the 18th of the following September.§

At an Ordination, by John, Bp. of Tino, in the conventual Church of Mochelneye, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of September, 1466, Thomas Aleyn, of Merk, was ordained Priest, on the title of the Prioress and Convent.¶

In the Conventual Church of S. John the Baptist, at

\* Reg. Bek. ff. colxb, colxj.

† Reg. Beb. f. colxxxj.

§ Reg. Bek. ad fin.

† Reg. Bek. ff. colxviijb, colxviijb.

¶ Reg. Bek. f. colxxxxviijb.

¶ Reg. Stillington, ad fin.



Wells, by the same Bishop, on the 14th of March, 1466-7, John Westlegh, of Canyngton, was ordained Sub-deacon, on the title of the same;\* Deacon by the same in the Lady-Chapel by the cloister of the Cathedral Church, on Holy Saturday, the 28th of March, 1466-7; and Priest by the same, in the parish Church of S. Mary Magdalene, Taunton, on the 19th of September, 1467.\*

The Nuns were again exempted from the payment of the King's tenths by a certificate of the Bishop, dated at his Inn, outside Temple Bar, the 10th of November, 1468.† The exemption was repeated by certificates dated at the same place, on the 3rd of August, 1472,‡ and on the 21st of April, 1475.||

In the Lady-Chapel in the cloister, at Wells, by John Bishop of Tino, John Smyth, of Evercriche, and John Lugwardyn, of Taunton, were ordained Sub-deacons, on Ember Saturday, the 23rd of December, 1469.\*

In the same place, and by the same Bishop, on Ember Saturday, the 17th of March, 1469-70, John Smyth and John Lugwardyn were ordained Deacons, and John Nitherton, of Brugwater, Sub-deacon.\* John Nitherton, was ordained by the same Bishop, Deacon, in the Conventual Church of Bruton, on Ember Saturday, the 7th of April, 1470; and Priest, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 21st of the same month.\*

In the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on the vigil of the Holy Trinity, the 16th of June, 1470, by the same Bishop, John Smyth was ordained Priest;\* and John Lugwardyn was admitted to the same Order in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember

\* Reg. Stillington, ad fin.

† Reg. Still. f. lxxxiijb.

‡ Reg. Still. f. xxb.

|| Reg. Still. f. xcviij.

Saturday, the 22nd of September, 1470.\* He was afterwards Vicar of Canyngton and Suocentor of Wells.

In the same Church, and by the same Bishop, John Camsyn, of Stokcursy, was ordained Acolyte, on Ember Saturday, the 9th of March, 1470-1; on the last day but one of the same month he was ordained Sub-deacon in the Chapel of S. Thomas by Bristol Bridge;\* Deacon in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 13th of April, 1471;\* and Priest in the same Church, on the 21st of the following September.\*

Walter Haysaheford, Vicar of Canyngton, died in 1472, and, on the 25th of September in that year, Thomas Braunche, Chaplain, succeeded on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent. The Archdeacon of Taunton was ordered to induct.†

William Clyff, Vicar of Wytheridge, died in 1474, and John Wynd succeeded, on the presentation of the Prioress and Convent, on the 17th of June in that year.‡

At an Ordination, by John, Bp. of Tino, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 17th of December, 1474, William at Water, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.\*

In the same Church, and by the same Bishop, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of September, 1476, John Gerard, of Taunton, was ordained Sub-deacon.\* He was ordained Deacon at the same place, and by the same Bishop, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of the following December.\*

At the same time and place, Thomas Teesdale, of Canyngton, was ordained Sub-deacon;\* Deacon on Ember Saturday, the 1st of March, 1476-7;\* and Priest on Holy Saturday, the 5th of the following month.\*

\* Reg. Willington, ad fin.

† Reg. Still. f. xxvj.

‡ Eocl. Antiq. Devon, i. 191.

John Wynd resigned the Vicarage of Wytheridge, and Richard Facy succeeded on the 15th of March, 1476.\*

In the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 19th of December, 1478, William Ben, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.†

At the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 6th of March, 1478-9, Henry Raya, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.†

On Ember Saturday, the 18th of the following December, in the same Church, Walter Ffonten, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte, by John, Bishop of Ross.(?)†

On Ember Saturday, the 25th of February, 1479-80, in the Chapel of Blessed Mary of Redclyf, by Bristol, William Vphyl, of West Pennard, was ordained Sub-deacon, by the same Bishop;† Deacon by the same, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of March;† and Priest in the same Church, on the Eve of the Holy Trinity, the 27th of May, in the same year.†

William Lewys, of the Diocese of Llandaff, was ordained Sub-deacon, by the same Bishop, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 17th of March, 1480-1;† Deacon, on Holy Saturday, the 21st of April, 1481;† and Priest, on Ember Saturday, the 22nd of the following September.†

In the Lady-Chapel in the Cathedral Church of Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of December, 1484, John Algar, of Canyngton, was ordained Sub-deacon by Thomas Barrett, Bp. of Gusehdun.(?)†

The House during all this time did not improve in affluence, and the Nuns were again specially exempted from

\* Ecol. Antiq. Devon, I. 191.

† Reg. Still. ad fin.

payment of the Kings tenths, by certificates of the Bishop, dated at Wells, the 2nd of June, 1485,\* and the 7th of May, 1487.†

William Eston, of Est Pennarde, and John Holcomb, of Cleve, were ordained Sub-deacons in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of May, 1486;‡ Deacons, at the same place, (together with John Raybon, of Cumb S. Nicholas, who was ordained Sub-deacon) on Ember Saturday, the 23rd of September;† and Priests, on Ember Saturday, the 23rd of December, in the same year.\*

On the same day, Henry Meryk, of Canyngton, was ordained Acolyte.†

Henry Meryk was ordained Sub-deacon, and John Raybon Deacon, at the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 10th of March, 1486-7;‡ and the former was admitted to the Order of Deacon, in the Chapel of Blessed Mary of Radclyf, by Bristol, on Ember Saturday, the 31st of March, 1487, by the same Bishop.†

In the Conventual Church of Taunton Priory, on Saturday, the 22nd of February, 1487-8, Henry Merik and John Raybone, were ordained Priests, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino. On this occasion upwards of one hundred persons were admitted to various Orders.†

In the Conventual Church of Brewton Priory, by the same Bishop, John Birohe was ordained Sub-deacon, on Ember Saturday, the 22nd of March, 1487-8;‡ Deacon, in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 5th of the following April;† and Priest, on the Eve of the Holy Trinity, the 13th of June, 1489, in the parish Church of Axbrige.†

\* Reg. Still. f. oxxvijb.

† Reg. Still. f. oxlb.

‡ Reg. Still. ad fin.



William Perett was ordained Sub-deacon in the Conventual Church of S. John Baptist, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of December, 1488;\* and Priest, in the same Church, on the 4th of April, 1489.\*

Soon after this, at the latest, Elianor was Prioress of Canyngton. We are indebted for our knowledge of the fact to the Register of the appointment of a new vicar. John Lugwardyn resigned in 1499, and on the 8th of November, in that year, John Bekham, L.L.B., was presented by Elianor, the Prioress, and Convent, to the vacant benefice.†

Thomas Pederame, of the diocese of Bath and Wells, was ordained Sub-deacon, and John Barrey, of the diocese of London, by letters dimissory, was ordained Deacon in the Lady Chapel, at Wells, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, on Holy Saturday, the 30th of March, 1499.‡ Thomas Pederham was ordained Deacon, and John Barrey Priest, by the same Bishop, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister, at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 21st of September, in the same year.‡ And the former was admitted to the Order of Priest, by the same Bishop and in the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 4th of April, 1500.‡

John Abbot was ordained Sub-deacon by the same Bishop, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister, at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 6th of March, 1500-1,‡ and Priest, in the parish Church of S. Cuthbert, Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of September in that year.‡

A record of a far different character now claims our notice. Robert Hyll, late of the parish of Canyngton, "tayllour," was charged before the King's Justices, for

\* Reg. Still. ad fin.

† Reg. King, f. liij. MS. Harl. 6968, p. 157.

‡ Reg. King, ad fin.

that he, on the 20th of November, 1496, did "*vi et armis viz. baculo et gladio*," break into and enter the house of John Puryman, at Canyngton, and did take and carry away from thence four shillings in money, three yards of black linen cloth worth 6s. 8d., three yards of linen cloth worth 8s., and one gown of murrey worth 16s. After a lengthy investigation before John Pykman, Archdeacon of Bath, and John Lugwardyn, Succentor of Wells, he was pronounced by a jury not guilty, and was declared to be restored to his former estate and good name. The Bishop's mandate to the Dean of Briggewater, the Curate of Canyngton, and John Bartilmewe, Apparitor, for the proclamation of the purgation of the said Robert, to be made in the parish Church of Canyngton, and in the cathedral Church and the public market-place of Wells, was dated at Dogmersfeld, on the 12th of October, 1501.\*

Elianor was still Prioress of Canyngton in 1502, for she and her Convent presented Thomas Davy, Priest, to the Vicarage, void by the resignation of John Bikkom, on the 23rd of August in that year. The mandate to the Archdeacon of Taunton to induct was dated at Athelney, on the day already mentioned.†

The Vicar died shortly after, for Thomas Tremayne, A.M., was presented to the benefice, void by his decease, on the 9th of February, 1503-4, by Elianor, the Prioress, and Convent.‡ He paid for his institution, through John Bekham, the Bishop's Commissary, the sum of 6s. 8d.¶

At an Ordination in the parish Church of S. Mary Magdalene, Taunton, by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, on Ember

\* Reg. King, ff. lxxijj.—lxxiiijb.

† Reg. King, f. xovj. MS. Harl. 6966, p. 164.

‡ Reg. King, vao. f. iiij. Reg. Warham, Abp. Cant. f. cxvjb.

¶ Reg. Warham, f. ccijb.

Saturday, the 23rd of March, 1503-4, John Hore was admitted to the Order of Sub-deacon.\*

Prioress Elianor must have been numbered with her predecessors early in 1503-4, for Cecilia Verney was confirmed in her office of Prioress on the 30th of March, 1504. Her election was exhibited in the Chapter-house at Canyngton, by Master John Standerwyke, her procurator, and the ceremony of confirmation in her office was performed by Master John Beckham, L.L.B. The Archdeacon of Taunton, or his official, was ordered to induct.† This occurred, as will be seen by the reference, during a vacancy in the See of Bath and Wells. In this lady the House received its last Superior, as we shall presently have to notice in greater detail.

William Pavle was ordained Priest by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, in the Lady Chapel by the Cloister, at Wells, on Holy Saturday, the 6th of April, 1504.‡

Edmund Stybe was ordained Sub-deacon by Thomas, Bp. of Tino, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister, at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 20th of December, 1505;|| Deacon in the same place on the 28th of March, 1506;|| and Priest on Holy Saturday, or Easter Eve, the 11th of the following April.||

In the conventual Church of Bruton, by the same Bishop, John Boldey was ordained Sub-deacon on Ember Saturday, the 19th of September, 1506;|| Deacon, in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister at Wells, on Ember Saturday, the 19th of the following December,|| and Priest, in the same place, on the 27th of February, 1506-7.||

\* Reg. Warham, f. ccjib.

† Reg. Warham, Abp. Cant., f. ccj.

‡ Reg. Warham, f. ccij.

|| Reg. Hadr. ad fin.

John Gade was ordained Sub-deacon, by the same Bishop, on the 19th of December, 1506;\* Deacon, on the 27th of February, 1506-7;\* and Priest in the same place, on Ember Saturday, the 18th of September, 1507.\*

This was the last ecclesiastic (so far as I can find) that was admitted to Holy Orders on the title of the Prioress and Convent. There may, of course, have been a few others so ordained at different times to supply their chaplaincies, but the record of the fact is unknown to me.

Thomas Tremayne was admitted to the Vicarage of Wytherigge on the 15th of February, 1517; and, at his death, George Verney, not improbably a relative of the Prioress, succeeded on the 23rd of September, 1521.†

I can also supply two more Vicars of Canyngton, while the right of presentation was yet in the Convent's hands.

On the 3rd of February, 1522-3, Richard Adams, Priest, was presented to the Vicarage, and the Archdeacon of Taunton ordered to induct.||

And, on the resignation of Adams, Cecilia, the Prioress, and Convent presented John Bonde, Chaplain, on the 19th of December, 1532.§

The reader will perceive that we have now arrived at the evil days when Canyngton Priory and its Sister Institutions were about to give place to another and very different order of things. Before I present him, however, with the facts of the melancholy story, there are a few matters which will more naturally occupy our attention while the picture of the House in the ordinary circumstances of its existence is still before us, though on the very eve of the tempest which changed all to ruin, than when that

\* Reg. Hadr. ad fin. † Ecol. Antiq. Dev., i. 191.

|| Reg. Wolsey, f. xxj., MS. Harl. 6967, p. 31b.

§ Reg. Clerke, f. 49b. MS. Harl. 6967, p. 45b.

tempest had descended, and sacrilegious hands had obliterated what had hitherto been so fair.

My previous pages will have given to the student of Monastic History many and minute details of some of the most interesting episodes of conventual life. The wise and careful oversight exercised by the Ordinary towards these communities, so truthfully exemplified in the earlier Registers of the Bishops of Bath and Wells,\* the formalities consequent on the election of a Superior, both at times when such election was completed without recourse to the extraordinary interference of the diocesan, and also when there was an unhappy necessity for his more special intervention, the rare occurrence of a Visitation for the proof and punishment of delinquencies, and the exercise of the various rights of the Sisters as patrons and landowners, all and each have received abundant illustration from the foregoing narrative. I desire, however, briefly to engage the reader's attention on a subject of considerable interest, about which less is known to the generality of students than the importance of it deserves,—the daily life of these Sisterhoods in the ages of mediæval England.

It will not have escaped his notice that Canyngton Priory was not only the home of the professed Sisters of the House, but that others of at least gentle birth not unfrequently enjoyed a sojourn within its walls. This fact exhibits the present and similar communities, for it was by no means confined to this particular locality, under an aspect very different from that which has ordinarily obtained. A Sisterhood in mediæval ages was not so much

\* As some proof of the unwearied diligence of mediæval episcopal government, I may inform the reader that the Registers of Bps. John de Drokenesford and Ralph de Salopia consist of just fifteen hundred folio pages of small and much abbreviated writing, on diocesan matters of every imaginable kind.

a community rigidly excluded from the world, as one living in and leavening the world that lay around. It was a home of peace, of purity, and of refinement, where Woman could best carry out the instincts of her holier nature, and elevate the general character of her sex. Among the Sisters themselves there were constantly members of the highest and noblest families; and their society, even apart from its religious elevation, was such as to command unfeigned and universal respect. Nor was there in the Cloister that dreary life of forced asceticism with which modern days have ever loved to associate it. The frequent presence of well-born guests, and the kindly intercourse maintained with the neighbourhood, combined with the hearty free-will, and in most cases deliberate choice of the life itself, united not only to endear the existence to those who took its vows upon them, but constantly to attract strangers to its fellowship. In the neighbourhood of such a Sisterhood the Nuns were well and affectionately known. They were the teachers of the female part of the population, and their presence in the houses of their pupils was by no means unusual. We noticed at an earlier page the confinement of a delinquent Nun to the precincts of her House, in punishment of past immorality and for the prevention of further scandal. This shows us the ordinary and usual latitude which conventual rule allowed. Examples of express permission to visit the neighbourhood are frequent. One occurs to me in connexion with an adjoining diocese. Bishop Stapeldon, in January, 1320, sent a pastoral letter to the Prioress and Convent of Polalo, near Exeter, in which are given sundry regulations for the better government of the House. Among others are the following:—That any religious who had leave to visit her friends in a certain place was not to go to any other without express per-

mission : that any Nun who should take refreshment in Exeter, or elsewhere, should return the same day, or the day following at the very furthest, together with her companion, and that the Chaplain, or some esquire of good name and fame, should be appointed by the Prioress as their escort : that, while in Exeter, they were not to wander from house to house, to the dishonour of their estate and religious profession : that, should the family or friends whom the Nun was to visit reside at a greater distance, the duration of absence was to be regulated by the circumstances and the command of the Prioress ; and that, in the event of any disobedience to this rule, the punishment should follow of enclosure for two years within the outer gate of the Priory.\* Bishop Grandisson gave a similar injunction in 1329 to Margaret Aunger, Abbess of Canon's Leigh, that no religious should go from her House to a distance from which she could not return on the same day. I have also an instance from the diocese of Bath and Wells, but that had better be reserved for a future occasion. The monitions contained in these pastoral letters are conclusive of the fact that the rigid enclosure of Nuns was altogether unknown. The Sisters were indeed not of the world, but they were in it, actively and intelligently to do a good work to it,—to elevate, to console, to purify, and to bless.

It is abundantly evident that the Nuns of Canyngton were on excellent terms with the neighbouring families. The small amount of their finances made this a matter of considerable importance, and yet theirs was a state of most honourable poverty, which exalted rather than disgraced the sufferers. They may not have been surrounded with the pomp and magnificence of many of

\* Reg. Stapeldon, f. cxlvb.

their wealthier Sisters, but this detracted nothing from their real usefulness, or from the respect which they inspired. Their life was of a higher character than any which the mere presence or absence of worldly wealth could elevate or degrade.

The costume of the Nuns of Canyngton differed from that of their Sisters at Buckland.\* They wore a black robe, with a scapular of the same, and a white whimple; and under the robe a tunic of undyed wool. When in choir or from home, a large black cowl covered the head and shoulders. (*See the figures.*) The dress was not intended to be elegant or picturesque, but was rather adopted for its opposite peculiarities. It well and accurately harmonised with Crashawe's description of the life and duties of the wearers:—

“A hasty portion of prescribed sleep,  
Obedient slumbers that can wake and weep,  
And sing, and sigh, and work, and sleep again,  
Still rolling a round sphere of still returning pain;  
Hands full of hearty labours, pains that pay,  
And prize themselves; do much that more they may;  
And work for work, not wages.”

\* I am glad to take the present opportunity of making a few additions to my History of that interesting place. Mynchin Buckland rarely figures in the Wells' Registers, and the references which follow, as well as those which I have already given, are well worth preserving. At page 6, note †, the Cotton MS. should have been placed first, and that in the College of Arms second, to which the subsequent remarks respectively apply. At p. 8, note †, Reg. Well. f. 38, should be Reg. Well. r. 38, n. 135. At p. 13, n. †, add, The witnesses to this gift were John de Erl and Ralph de Plure. MS. Harl. 4120, f. 5. At p. 18, in reference to the foundation of the chantry at Newton Plaoye, mention is made of a charter of the year 1290, or thereabout, of Richard de Plesseto. This charter is given in Bishop Bubwith's Register, ff. cxlvij b, cxlvij, cxlvij b, where it is appended to an inquisition touching the foundation of that chantry, held at Bridgwater, on the 2nd of August, 1418. The witnesses to the appended charter are Richard de Bramford, Preceptor of Bocland; Geoffrey de Wrokeshale, Knt.; Lord James de Plesseto, Richard de Nyweton, John de Marysoo, Peter de Hamme, John

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Harl. 1192, f. 7.

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At p. 31, note †,  
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Of the material scene of these good labours very few fragments yet remain. The exterior of the present edifice is of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and is in no respect remarkable. There still exist, however, some portions of the basement, where the subsequent alterations have spared a few fragments of the ancient House. These consist of several walls and doorways of Perpendicular work, both within the building and communicating with the gardens in the rear. The ground plan of the structure cannot be determined from these remains, as what would seem to have been apartments now take the form of passages, from walls having been built through them for increasing their strength as foundations of the upper floors. Of the general architecture of the House and Conventual Church nothing can be said. Some years since, during a series of excavations, fragments were discovered of what appear to have been a reredos. They are of tabernacle work of the Perpendicular era, and still

Manger, and many others. At p. 19, note \*, add MS. Harl. 1192, f. 7. At p. 20, note §, add Reg. Well. III. f. 157. At p. 21, the composition between the Prioress Isabella la Louwe and Geoffrey and William Samuel was made in the Chapter-house at Boelonde, on Monday next after the feast of S. Faith, Virgin, in the 29th (?) year of Edward iij., and the confirmation was dated at Banewell, the 19th of November, 1328. (Reg. Drok. f. ccob.) At page 22, note \*, add Reg. Rad. ff. x, xb. At p. 24, note \*, add Reg. Rad. ff. cxxvj, cxxvj. At p. 31, note †, add Reg. Rad. ff. cccxxxxxvii, cccxxxxix, cccxxijb. At page 34 there is a typographical error of some importance. The Sisters held from ancient times an annual pension of four marcs, payable to them from the Vicarage of North Pederton. In 1447 Robert Noris, the Vicar, refused to pay this money, and, on the 22nd of April in that year, Bishop Bekynton issued from Dogmersfelde a commission to John Stokys and William North, Bachelors of Law, to enquire into the Sisters' claim. (Reg. Bek. f. lixb.) In 1449, two years after this, Robert Cooke is mentioned as "capellanus annuellaris" at Bokeland. (Reg. Bek. f. cvb.) At p. 58, place among the Preceptors, Richard de Bramford, about 1290. At page 88, add The second and third fragments were doubtless portions of one stone, and the word is Scherlond. And at page 89, add The incised slab was in length 6 ft.  $\frac{1}{2}$  inc.; in breadth at head, 8 ft.  $\frac{1}{2}$  inc.; at foot, 2 ft.  $\frac{1}{2}$  inc.

bear traces of the blue and red colour which the taste of that day applied to carvings in wood and stone. The altar-stone of the Nuns' Church, or at least a slab bearing five consecration crosses, is built into the fire-place of an old kitchen; and when contrasted with its former position, its cover of white damask (p. 50), and the sacred services with which it was associated, is a significant emblem of the fate which has befallen the spot and its olden possessors. The choir, as we have already seen, was a place of sepulture; but of that fact no other record remains save the one of which the reader is already in possession.

There is, however, a veritable relic of no little interest in the roof of what is now a dark passage, but which may have formed the side of a large apartment, possibly the refectory itself. On two of the beams are three lines of inscriptions, painted in a hand of the fifteenth century. The letters are black, on a white ground, with the capitals of each sentence, and points between each word, in rubric. They are for the most part imperfect, but are easily intelligible. On the front of one beam is :

† et † dabit † tibi † petra coes † cordis † tui †  
 spulsi † multa † sciut † et † seipcos † nesciunt †

The opposite side of the same beam gives us :

frat † paupertas † per † quam † acquirit  
 honesta † res † leta † paupertas †

On the front of a second beam we have :

nichil † nobis † proderit † paciencia † didicisse † p t  
 † ope †

Such was the sacred lore that the very timbers of Canyngton Priory preached to its inmates. The words might stand as mottoes for the history of the House

itself. Human life and all its trials were thus referred to the good providence of God; and patience and self-knowledge thus glorified poverty, and taught that, combined with honesty and honour, the lowliest lot was not without its joy.

Lord Clifford has most obligingly supplied me with several particulars of the excavations just referred to. An old well in the centre of the court was cleared out, and an encaustic tile and fragments of several "grey-beards" were discovered. The remains of the reredos had been worked into a large fire-place, which had pitched so much in the centre as to require removal, when the stones were found to be sculptured at the back, and, of course, were not re-committed to their previous and most inappropriate place. Behind the fire-place a quantity of old stained glass was also found, but in such minute fragments that it could not be put together. The panel-work in the present dining-room was a portion of the old family pew in the parish Church, and was removed when that edifice was "restored" about twenty years ago. In opening a door-way in one of walls the workmen came upon the remains of a circular staircase, the three steps of which were composed of solid blocks of oak, of similar form to an ordinary turret stair. The newel was converted by the carpenters into stall-posts for cattle. His lordship also informs me that no ancient documents relating to the place exist among his family archives,—indeed nothing earlier than the crown grant of the property, made by K. Charles II. to the Lord Treasurer Clifford.

From the foregoing pages I can furnish the reader with the following list of Prioresses. I must refer him for the details respecting each of them to the narrative itself.

1. Emma de Bytelescumb resigned her office in 1317.
  2. Johanna de Bere, elected and deposed, 1317.
  3. Matilda de Morton, elected 1317, resigned her office 1333.
  4. Willelma de Blachyngdon, elected 1334, died 1336. Johanna de Bere, re-elected 1336, died 1343.
  5. Avice de Reigners, elected 1343.
  6. Johanna occurs 1412.
  7. Johanna de Chedeldon died 1440.
  8. Johanna Gofyse, elected 1440.
  9. Elianor occurs 1499 and 1502, died 1504.
  10. Cecilia Verney, the last Prioress, elected 1504.
- Johanna de Bractone was Sub-prioress in 1336.

It will not be amiss to add to this list those of the Vicars of Canyngton and Wytheridge, again referring the reader to the previous pages for the various details.

VICARS OF CANYNGTON.—Henry, 1313; William de Trent, 1314; Robert de Charenchowes, 1352; John Hert, 1407; William Baron, 1408; William Clyve, 1417; John Grene, 1428; Walter Ayssheford, 1451; Thomas Braunche, 1472; John Lugwardyn, —; John Bekham, 1499; Thomas Davy, 1502; Thomas Tremayne, 1503; Richard Adams, 1522; John Bond, 1532.

VICARS OF WYTHERIDGE.—Robert Cross, 1362; Henry de Lutton, 1363; Edmund Malmeshull, 1377; William Vexford, 1391; John Luffewike or Lovecock, —; John Hody, 1425; Philip Lovecock or Polton, —; Walter Hoggys, 1429; Thomas Bowryng, —; Robert Gaunt, 1431; John Wolmere, 1448; William Clyff, 1451; John Wynd, 1474; Richard Facy, 1476; Thomas Tremayne, 1517; George Verney, 1521.

A feature of mediæval usage which will not have escaped the readers' notice was the selection of various places for

the admission of clerks to Holy Orders, thus prominently bringing before the people the fact and importance of their ministers' commission. Among these were the Cathedral Church of Wells, the Parish Churches of S. Cuthbert in the same city, of Banwell, Yeovil, Axbridge, Taunton S. Mary Magdalene, S. Mary Redcliff and Temple at Bristol, the Chapel of S. Thomas by Bristol Bridge, and the Chapel at Woky, and the Conventual Churches of S. John Baptist at Wells, the Preaching Friars of Ilchester, Taunton, Muchelney, and Bruton. The officiators were usually Suffragan Bishops, with titles from places "*in partibus infidelium*."

I have already given in detail the particulars of the history of Canyngton, so far as it had reference to the Priory, or other ecclesiastical holders. Although not required by my subject, a word may now be added about its lay possessors.

The hundred of Canyngton was held by the family of Fitz Payn in the 14th and 15th centuries.\* At an inquest held at Stokecursy, on the 7th of October, 1323, it was returned that Robert Ffiuz Payn and Ela his wife might without damage and prejudice to the King enfeof Jordan de Byntre and Geoffrey de Godmaneston with lands in Stokecursy, Radeweye, Canyngton, &c.† John Horsy demised a water-mill at Canyngton to John, Margery, and Thomas Cole, and Matthew Palmere, and the heirs of the said John, 44 Edward III.‡ The families of Hyll and Popham, and subsequently that of Ponynges, also possessed lands of considerable value. In a charter, dated at Canyngton, on Thursday, the feast of

\* Inq. p. m. 9 Edw. II., n. 63. Abbrev. Rot. Orig. 17 Edw. II., r. vij. Inq. p. m. 30 Edw. III., n. 14. Inq. p. m. 16 Ric. II., p. 1, n. 12.

† Inq. ad q. d. 17 Edward II., n. 148.

‡ MS. Harl., 4130, p. 192; al. f. 121b.

S. Thomas, Apostle, 1385, it is set forth that John Popham, son and heir of Hugh Popham, gave to William, son of Stephen Dodesham, eleven acres of meadow, lying in Canyngtonmede, called Pophamesshurst, and fourteen pence of annual rent from an acre of meadow then in the tenure, for life, of Richard Deye, with reversion after the decease of the said Richard; witnesses, Matthew Michel, Richard Lyff, Richard Koker, Roger Grey, Roger Haccheford, and others.\* A final concord was entered into between Thomas and John Popham, in Trinity Term of the 10th, and Hilary Term of the 11th Richard II., of the grant of the manor of Postrygg and of twelve acres of land in Canyngton, with an ultimate remainder to Thomas Fitchet, Knt., in fee.† On Thursday next after the feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, 18th of Richard II., which is coincident with the 6th of May, 1395, Robert Popham, son of Hugh Popham, released to Baldwin Mallet, Knt., all his right in the manor of Postrygg, and in various lands in Canyngton, Cherdelynych, Ayscholt, and Gotehurst.‡ At an inquest held at Yenelchestre, on Friday, the morrow of the feast of Corpus Christi, in the first year of Henry VI., or the 4th of June, 1423, the jurors found that Robert Hille had died, seized, among other property, of one messuage, four acres of arable land, and six acres of meadow in Canyngton, which were held of Robert, lord de Ponyngges in soccage, and were of the annual value, beyond reprises, of 10s.; and also, by right of inheritance of Isabella his late wife, of eight acres of meadow, in Canyngton, held of Thomas Muchell in soccage by an annual rent of 4d. in lieu of all services; and, further, that

\* Cartae Misoell., vol. VIII., n. 50.

† Hyll Cartulary, f. lxiiij.

‡ Hyll Cart., f. lxiiij., &c.

Robert Hille died on Sunday, the feast of S. Mark the Evangelist last past, and that John Hille was his heir.\* On the 6th of October, 23rd of Henry VI., 1444, Johanna, widow of James Fitz James, and John, their son and heir, released to William Dodesham, and his heirs and assigns, lands in Otelegh, in the parish of Canyngton, and in Haretrowe, in the parish of Stokegommer; witnesses, Alexander Hody, John Sydenham, Thomas Copleston, Philip Pym, John Loty, and others.† Alianor, Countess of Northumberland, held the manor of Canyngton in the first year of Richard III.‡ And forty-four years later Henry, Earl of Northumberland, Lord of Ponynge, Fitzpayne, and Bryan, granted to Thomas Arrundell, Esq., the office of Receiver of the Castle of Stockursey, and the manors of Stockursey, Radewoy, Canyngton, &c. The instrument is dated the 9th of June, 1527.||

The history of the Priory shall now be resumed.

For an account of the national events of the time, and the ecclesiastical changes to which they led, for the latter were simply brought about in revenge of the opposition of the Monks to the King's matrimonial designs, I must refer the reader to my former histories of various Religious Houses. I am unwilling to occupy his time further with a matter which I have already helped to make familiar to him.§ In many particulars the history of one pillaged Monastery and its persecuted inmates is that of all, how unequally soever endowed, or how widely soever located from each other. The same foul ways were taken to

\* Cart. Miscell., vol. v., n. 236. MS. Harl., 4120, pp. 321, 322.

† Claus. 23 Hen. VI., m. 26. dors.

‡ MS. Harl., 4120, p. 405; al. f. 223.

|| Cart. Antiq., H. 24.

§ See especially the Author's History of Taunton Priory, pp. 82-106.

accelerate the catastrophe, the same base minds conspired, and in many instances the same sacrilegious hands consummated the wrong.

The declaration of the Royal Supremacy was forced upon the Monasteries in 1534. No record, however, of the circumstance, so far as regards Canyngton Priory, has come down to us; though it doubtless fared like its neighbours on all sides, and both received the declaration, and attested its acceptance of the same.

This compulsory admission of the tyrant's claim was by no means intended as a mere victory over the mental opposition of the Religious Orders, but was accurately valued as an engine of future spoliation. Accordingly, the very next year, 1535, saw the compilation of the "Valor," by the aid of which the Religious Houses were to be taxed, in proportion to their several incomes, for the support of the King in his new-fledged honours; and further, that an exact account might thus be had of all ecclesiastical property, which might be turned to good use when the proper season should arrive. The record from its very nature is especially valuable and interesting, as it furnishes us with a complete account of the property of the House wherever situated, together with the various outgoings of every kind. I have given it, as on former occasions, in exact translation, and have clearly arranged the several items with a view of making the whole as intelligible as possible to the modern reader.

#### PRIORY OF CANYNGTON.

Declaration of the Extent and Annual Value of all and singular the Lands and Tenements and other Possessions, with the Tithes, Oblations, and all other Issues of the divers Benefices and Chapels, to the aforesaid Priory belonging and appropriated, as below appeareth, to wit,

in the time of Cecilia Varney, now Prioress at the same place, approved and examined by the Commissioners aforesaid [Sir Andrew Lutterell and Hugh Mallet, Esq., Commissioners ; Hugh Trotter and John Plompton, Auditors].

## LANDS ROUND THE PRIORY.

Value in Issues of the Demesne Lands remaining	}	liij' iiij'
in the hands of the Prioress, and taxed by		
four trustworthy men .. .. .		

## RECTORY WITH THE MANOR OF CANYNGTON.

Value in Issues of the Demesne

Lands .. .. xvj<sup>li</sup>

Assessed Rents as well of the

Free as of the Customary

Tenants there, per annum, xviiij<sup>li</sup>

Out of this,

For two Priests in the same

Priory, and in the Chapel of

Comage appropriated to the

Priory, daily Celebrating for

the Founders, by real com-

position .. .. xij<sup>li</sup>

Paid to the Vicar there by

pension by composition .. vij<sup>li</sup>

In Alms distributed for the

soul of Robert Curcy, the

Founder there, per annum lxxv' jd

Paid to the Bishop of Bath by

procurations, per annum .. v' ciiij'

Paid to the Archdeacon of

Taunton, for Sinodals, per

annum .. .. iiij' iiij'

Quit-rent to the Prioress of

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Bockeland, per annum ..	vij <sup>s</sup>	}
Quit-rent to Thomas Michell, per annum .. ..	ij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
Quit-rent to Roger Blewet, per annum .. ..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	
Fee of Thomas Hatche, Stew- ard there, per annum ..	xxvj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
Fee of Robert Jamys, Receiver there, per annum ..	xxvj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
Fee of Robert Hyll, Auditor there, per annum ..	xx <sup>s</sup>	
Fee of Christofer Cley, Bailiff there, per annum ..	xxvj <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	

And there remains clear

Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties  
there, with Fines of Land .. .. xxx<sup>s</sup>

#### BLAKEDOWN.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear xiiij<sup>s</sup>

#### FEDYNGTON.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear iiij<sup>s</sup>

#### POWLETT.

Assessed Rents there, per annum	lxx <sup>s</sup> ij <sup>d</sup>	}	lxviij <sup>s</sup> ij <sup>d</sup>
Out of this,			
For a Quit-rent to the Master of Gauntts, in Bristoll ..	ij <sup>s</sup>		
And there remains clear			

#### STOWEY.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear xxiij<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup>

#### BRISTOLL.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear v<sup>s</sup>

## COUNTY OF DORSET.

## PEDILWALDERSTON.

Rent of two Tenements there,				
per annum	..	..	xix <sup>s</sup>	
Out of this,				} xvj <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
A Quit-rent to the Prior of				
Criste Church in the afore-				
said County, per annum			ij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
And there remains clear				

## COUNTY OF DEVON.

## WETHERIGE.

Rent of two Tenements there,				
per annum	..	..	[xlij <sup>s</sup> ]	
Out of this,				} xxxviij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
A Quit-rent to the Duchy				
of Lancaster there, per				
annum	..	..	iiij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
And there remains clear				

## GOODELEY.

Rent of divers Tenements there,				
per annum	..	..	cvj <sup>s</sup>	
Out of this,				} iiij <sup>li</sup> x <sup>s</sup>
A Quit-rent to the Cathe-				
dral Church of Exon, per				
annum	..	..	xvj <sup>s</sup>	
And there remains clear				

## SKYLGATE.

Rent of one Tenement there, per annum. Clear xv<sup>s</sup>

## VALUE OF SPIRITUALS AS FOLLOW :

## VICARAGE OF CANYNGTON.

Issues of Wool	..	..	x <sup>s</sup>	
" Lambs	..	..	x <sup>s</sup>	
" Predial Tithes	..	..	cvij <sup>s</sup> ij <sup>d</sup>	} vij <sup>li</sup> xv <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>

Issues of Personal Tithes, with  
other Casualties there, in  
common years .. .. xxvij<sup>s</sup> j<sup>d</sup>  
So clear

## DEVON.

## RECTORY OF WETHERIGE.

Issues of Predial Tithes, with other Casualties  
there, per annum. Clear .. .. vij<sup>ll</sup>

## DORSET.

## FREE CHAPEL OF PEDYLWALDERSTON.

Rent of Demesne Lands, with other Casualties  
there, in common years. Clear .. .. xl<sup>s</sup>

Sum total of the value as well of all  
the Temporals as of the Spirituals

above-mentioned. Clear .. xxxix<sup>ll</sup> xv<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

The Tithe thereof .. .. lxxix<sup>s</sup> vi<sup>d</sup> ob' q'<sup>s</sup>

Even this valuation, small as it is, appears to have been  
considered excessive; for an entry occurs in a document  
still preserved among the records of the Court of Aug-  
mentation, of which the following is a copy:

"The Priory of Cannington in the said County of  
Somerset.

"The seid Pryory and the demaynes thereof lyeth  
within thre myles of Towxwell, howbeit ther is lytele  
proffytt to be don therein for it is heighlye valuatyd."

The Valor supplies us with the following names of  
Incumbents and Valuations:—

John Bonde, Vicar of Canyngton, valued at vij<sup>ll</sup> x<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>;  
Thomas Puffe, Rector of Ffedyngton, valued at vj<sup>ll</sup> x<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup>  
ob; Thomas Shakyll, Chaplain of Ichestoke, valued at  
ciii<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>; and George Verney, Vicar of Witherigge, valued  
at xxij<sup>ll</sup> x<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>.

\* Valor Eccl. j. pp. 209, 210. MS. Harl. 701, fol. 104b.

This return was the groundwork of the persecutions and spoliations which ensued. It revealed the existence of possessions which were too tempting to be allowed to remain long in the hands of their rightful owners, and the Visitation and Dissolution of the Houses followed in as quick succession as the covetous mind could bring to its aid the murderous and thievish hand. No time was lost in the atrocious work.

I have at length, by the aid of a document which will presently be submitted to the reader's notice, recovered the exact date of the Suppression of the Priory. It fell together with those lesser Monasteries which first gratified the tyrant's avarice, and whetted his appetite for the greater and more wealthy. It would seem that the King's Commissioners took the property into their hands as early as the 26th of May, 1536, and allowed, from the revenues, a certain sum for the maintenance of the House and the customary exercise of hospitality. The formal act of Suppression and Dissolution took place on the 23rd of September, 1536.

The small extent and value of the possessions will explain the absence of those various Orders for salaries and other payments granted by the Religious Houses, which were afterwards allowed by the Court of Augmentation, and which must have attracted the notice of the reader of several of my previous histories. The only instance of such a pension, which I have found, is not among the Orders and Decrees referred to, but is the solitary entry connected with the place in Cardinal Pole's Pension Book, compiled in 1556; where, as the only existing representative of the House, and receiving a pension accordingly, is Thomas Hache, the chief steward, already mentioned in the *Valor* (p. 74) whose fee is given as *xxs.*\*

\* Card Pole's Pension Book, f. xxix. Appendix, No. ix.

I very much regret that a long and careful search among the documents of the period has not enabled me to furnish the reader with any list of the Sisters or their pensions at the period of the suppression of their House. I have found, however, the order for a pension to Cecilia Verney, the Prioress, granted at that melancholy time. It authorises an annuity or annual pension of ten marks sterling from the time of the dissolution and suppression of the late Priory to the end of her life, payable by the hands of the Treasurer of the Court of Augmentation, in equal portions, at Lady-Day and Michaelmas, and is stated to proceed from the King's special favour, certain knowledge, and mere motion, by the advice and consent of the Chancellor and Council of the aforesaid Court, for the better maintenance and aid of the said Cecilia. The grant is dated the 20th day of November, in the 28th year of Henry VIII., 1536, just two months after the Surrender.\* It bears no signatures in attestation of authority, and, as the name of Cecilia Verney does not appear in any subsequent list of pensionaries, the probability is that this poor victim of ruthless persecution never received even the miserable pittance thus by her injurers ostensibly accorded to her.

Our last view of the Sisters is thus more unhappily associated even than that of many of the members of similar communities. Out of their quiet Conventual home, so long the abode of security and peace, they were turned out to brave the inclement storms and to struggle against the unexperienced hardships and temptations of a world which they had known only from a safe vantage-ground, destitute, at length, of any friends or protectors, save those whom a recollection of their former estate, respect for their character, or compassion for their sufferings might raise

\* *Miscell. Vols. Augment. Off.*, Vol. 241, n. 110. Appendix, No. x.

up and attract. Who can worthily picture the silent and secret martyrdoms of those evil days!

As soon as the property was in the King's hands, a new Survey was taken. It will be better to give the part which remains in somewhat of its original form.

## MANOR OF CANYNGTON.

Issues of Demesne Lands :

For 38 acres of meadow		} iiij <sup>ld</sup> xij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
thus leased in gross ..	xxxiiij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	
For 59 acres of arable and		
pasture, at xij <sup>d</sup> the acre	lix <sup>s</sup>	

## RECTORY OF CANYNGTON, IN SOMERSET.

Tithes of corn, &c. :

Less by iiij <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup> to the Archdeacon of Taun-	} vij <sup>ld</sup> xv <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
ton, and v <sup>s</sup> to the Bishop of Bath and Wells	

## WETHERIGE, IN DEVON.

Predial Tithes, with other perquisites of the

Rectory .. .. .	.. vij <sup>ld</sup>
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## FREE CHAPEL OF PEDILWALDISTON, IN DORSET.

A portion of Tithes of corn, wool, &c. :

Less by four pounds of wax payable to the	} xl <sup>s</sup>
Prior of Christ Church, in Dorset ..	
The sum total,	.. xxj <sup>ld</sup> vij <sup>s</sup> xj <sup>d</sup>

The declaration bears date the 28th year of K. Henry VIII, and is authenticated by the signature of William Turnor, Auditor.\*

One of the most interesting and valuable returns of the whole series is now to be examined. It is the Ministers' Accounts for the interval between the 4th of February, 1536, and the following Michaelmas, and presents us with a number of particulars as to tenants, &c., at the time of the Dissolution, which the "Valor," though originally

\* Miscell. Voll. Augment. Off. No. 205, p. 28. Appendix, No. xi.

compiled from returns of a similar character, does not supply. I have endeavoured to make the document tell its tale as plainly and intelligently as possible.

### THE PRIORY OF CANYNGTON.

The Accounts of all and singular Bailiffs, Farmers, and other accountable Ministers, of all and singular manors, lands, tenements, rectories, portions, pensions, and other possessions, spiritual and temporal, pertaining to the said late Priory now dissolved and suppressed, &c., &c., to wit, from the 4th day of February, in the 27th year of Henry VIII., to the feast of S. Michael the Archangel next following in the 28th year of the same; that is to say, for half a year, six weeks, and six days, as follow :—

The site of the Priory or Manor of Cannyngham, with the Rectory of the same, the Rectory of Whetherige, and the Free Chapel of Pedilwaldeston.

The Account of Henry Andrewe, Deputy of Edward Rogers, farmer :

Arrears none.

Farm of 28 acres of meadow, 59 acres of arable land and pasture, and 6 acres of underwood ..	iii <sup>j</sup> ld xv <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	} xxxix <sup>ld</sup> xij <sup>s</sup> xj <sup>d</sup>
Farm of Rectory of Cannyngham .. ..	vij <sup>ld</sup> xv <sup>s</sup> iij <sup>d</sup>	
Farm of Vicarage ..	xvj <sup>ld</sup>	
Farm of Rectory of Wetherige, including two Tenements worth xlij <sup>s</sup>	ix <sup>ld</sup> ij <sup>s</sup>	
Farm of tithe of corn, wool, &c., pertaining to the Chapel of Pedilwaldeston .. ..	xl <sup>s</sup>	

SUM TOTAL xxxix<sup>ld</sup> xij<sup>s</sup> xj<sup>d</sup>

OF WHICH HE IS DISBURDENED AS FOLLOWS :—

Farm of all the aforesaid lands, for the first half of this year, in possession of the late Prioress, Cecilia Verney, for her use and the necessary maintenance of her House . . . . xvij<sup>ld</sup> xv<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup> ob.

Pension and commons of the Vicar there ministering, including his pension of xxxvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> for one quarter ending at Michaelmas, at the rate of vij<sup>ld</sup> vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> per annum; and vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>, for commons, from the time of the Dissolution of the Priory, that is, from the 23rd of September, to Michaelmas following that is to say, for the space of four weeks, at the rate of xx<sup>d</sup> a week . . . . xliij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

To the same for stipend and commons of a Priest serving the Chapel at Comage, including xij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> for his stipend for the same quarter, at the rate of liij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> per annum; and iiij<sup>s</sup> for commons, for the said four weeks, at the rate of xij<sup>d</sup> a week . . . . xvij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

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Delivered to Sir Thomas

Arundell, Receiver-Gen-

eral, .. .. viij<sup>ld</sup> xiiij<sup>s</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> ob.

Still owing .. .. x<sup>ld</sup> ij<sup>s</sup>

DEDUCTION ALLOWED from farm of Manor,

for the last half of this year, on account

of money paid to and received by the late

Prioress as before .. .. viij<sup>u</sup>

Remaining clear .. .. xliij<sup>s</sup>

OVER:—

Received by the late Prioress of the rents of

two Tenements in Wetherige, payable at

Midsummer .. .. xliij<sup>s</sup>

CANNYNGTON BAILIWICK, WITH ITS MEMBERS.

The Account of Christopher Cley, Bailiff:

Arrears none.

RENTS OF THE FREE TENANTS in Cannyngton:—

Heirs of Peryman, for one marsh v<sup>s</sup>

Rent of one tenement, from heirs vj<sup>s</sup>

of Thomas Tyllly .. .. xij<sup>d</sup>

RENTS OF THE CUSTOMARY TENANTS in Cannyngton:—

Annual Rent of two cottages in the tenure

of Katherine Rowswyll, payable at the

four terms of the year in equal portions ix<sup>s</sup>

Annual Rent of one tenement, in

the tenure of David Hunt .. iiij<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup>

„ „ „ Walter Grove .. v<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup>

„ „ „ Richard Rowswyll .. v<sup>s</sup> ij<sup>d</sup>

„ „ „ John Hoper .. iiij<sup>s</sup>

„ „ „ Agnes Goodman .. iiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

„ „ „ Robert Grove .. xix

„ „ „ Thomasine Rale .. xxv<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>

„ one cottage	„ Alexander Pileman	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ Robert Gardyn	..	ij <sup>s</sup>	v <sup>d</sup>
„ one tenement	„ Robert Denman	..	vij <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ The Churchwarden	..	ij <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ John Betheze	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ John Pounce	..	ij <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ Thomasine Lewys,			
	widow	..	ij <sup>s</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ Isabella Sumpter	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ Isabella Page	..	ij <sup>s</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ Richard Kympe	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ Robert Heyward	..	v <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ William Pyleman	..	xlvi <sup>s</sup>	vij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ Leonard Tylly	..	xxij <sup>s</sup>	vij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ Edward Lokyar	..	xxxj <sup>s</sup>	
„ one cottage	„ Margery Dodyng	..	v <sup>s</sup>	v <sup>d</sup>
„ one tenement	„ Robert Gover	..	v <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ Christopher Clay	..	xxij <sup>s</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ George Porter	..	xvj <sup>s</sup>	vij <sup>d</sup>
„ one cottage	„ Edythe Dodyng	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ one tenement	„ John Bawne	..	ix <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ John Courte	..	ij <sup>s</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ John Hunte	..	xxxv <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ John Yeomans	..	vij <sup>s</sup>	vij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ William Piers	..	ij <sup>s</sup>	vij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ John Lokyer	..	vij <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ John Colles	..	xiij <sup>s</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ John Fforman	..	vi <sup>s</sup>	vij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ William Browne	..	ix <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ Isabella Bulpan	..	xv <sup>s</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>
„ „	„ John Cooke	..	vij <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ John Bowe	..	vij <sup>s</sup>	
„ „	„ John Cornysse	..	vij <sup>s</sup>	x <sup>d</sup>

xxix<sup>d</sup> xxij<sup>d</sup>

„ one tenement „	Richard Power	..	xj <sup>s</sup>	vj <sup>d</sup>
„ „ „	John Porker	..	vj <sup>s</sup>	
„ „ „	Vincent Jenynges	..	xj <sup>s</sup>	
„ „ „	John Bulgen	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	
„ „ „	Thomas Denegan	..	ix <sup>s</sup>	vj <sup>d</sup>
„ one corn mill „	Richard Burcomb	..	lxxiiij <sup>s</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ one tenement „	The same	..	ij <sup>s</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
„ „ „	John Fforman	..	v <sup>s</sup>	
„ „ „	Matilda White	..	ij <sup>s</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
„ „ „	Richard Sowlyng	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	
„ „ „	Cornelius Hooper	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ „ „	Robert Marlar	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	iiij <sup>d</sup>
„ „ „	John Wynter	..	x <sup>s</sup>	
„ „ „	John Fforman	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	viiij <sup>d</sup>
„ one cottage „	Maurice Dawe	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	
„ one tenement „	John Staunton	..	viiij <sup>s</sup>	
„ one cottage „	John Beram	..		xvj <sup>d</sup>
„ „ „	Simon Bethese	..	ij <sup>s</sup>	

## POWLET.

## Assessed Rents :

Of land called The Overland, in the tenure of John Birge	..	xxvj <sup>s</sup>	vj <sup>d</sup>	} lxxviiij <sup>s</sup>
Of land called The Overland, in the tenure of Roger Ffrye	..	xix <sup>s</sup>	vj <sup>d</sup>	
Of lands in the tenure of Thomas Ffrye	.. ..	xvj <sup>s</sup>		
Of lands in the tenure of John Say- well	.. ..	xv <sup>s</sup>		

## STOWEY.

## Assessed Rents :

Of one meadow, in the tenure of John Morres	.. ..	x <sup>s</sup>	
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Of one tenement, in the tenure of John Cowbuck, payable at Michaelmas and Hockday (the second Tuesday after Easter week) .. .. .	xxij <sup>s</sup>	} xxxiiij <sup>s</sup>
.. .. .	xxij <sup>s</sup>	

## SKYLGATE.

## Assessed Rents :

Of lands in the tenure of John Sacton and others xv<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>

## BURTPORT AND BRADFORD.

## Assessed Rents :

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Weryng .. .. .	xj <sup>s</sup>	} xix <sup>s</sup>
Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of George Redd .. .. .	viiij <sup>s</sup>	

## FFEDYNGTON.

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of William  
Quyck, payable at Midsummer .. .. . iiiij<sup>s</sup>

## BLAKDOWNE.

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John  
Scholand, payable at Midsummer .. .. . vj<sup>s</sup>

## BRISTOWE.

Rent of one tenement, payable at the feast of  
S. James, Apostle .. .. . vj<sup>s</sup>

## GOODLEIGH.

## Rents of Free Tenants :

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Hartknolle, payable at Lady Day and Michaelmas .. .. .	ij <sup>s</sup>	} cvj <sup>s</sup>
Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Elys .. .. .	xiiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	
" " " William Roger .. .. .	x <sup>s</sup> ij <sup>d</sup>	
" " " John Downe .. .. .	xij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	

"	"	"	Joan Sleper	..	xxij <sup>s</sup>	
"	"	"	Henry Shirland	..	x <sup>s</sup>	
"	"	"	Roger Cloutman	..	x <sup>s</sup>	
"	"	"	Roger Knyght	..	xj	
"	one cottage	"	William Clowtman	..	iiij <sup>s</sup>	
"	one tenement	"	Alice Velacott, widow	x <sup>s</sup>	ij <sup>d</sup>	
SUM TOTAL, xliij <sup>l</sup> xiiij vj <sup>d</sup>						

## FEES AND WAGES :

Stipends of accountant, auditor's clerk, &c. xv<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>

## RENTS RESOLUTE, outside the Manor of Cannynghon :

To Thomas Michell, for a chief rent	ij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	} xv <sup>s</sup> j <sup>d</sup>
To the Prioress of Bukland, for a similar rent	vij <sup>s</sup> vj <sup>d</sup>	
To Roger Blewet, for a similar rent	xv <sup>d</sup>	
To the King, for lands in Goodleigh	iiij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>	

SUM OF THE ALLOWANCES aforesaid xxx<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup>

AND HE STILL OWES xliij<sup>l</sup> iiij<sup>s</sup> j<sup>d</sup>

## OF WHICH HE IS DISBURDENED, AS FOLLOWS :—

To Cecilia Verney, the late Prioress, for moneys expended by her, during the first half of the present year in the maintenance of her House, previous to the first arrival of the King's Commissioners, which was on the 26th of May, in the 28th year of Henry VIII. . . xix<sup>l</sup> xvij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> ob.

To the same, for moneys expended from the said 26th of May, to the time of the Dissolution, the 23rd of September, in the same year, a space of seventeen weeks . . . vj<sup>l</sup> x<sup>s</sup> j<sup>d</sup>

To Sir Thomas Arundell, Receiver-General . . . x<sup>l</sup> xvij<sup>s</sup> v<sup>d</sup>

AND HE STILL OWES lxxvij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> ob.\*

\* Appendix, No. xii (2).

ALLOWED by payment to Thomas Hatche,  
General Steward of the Court, of  
his annual stipend of xx<sup>s</sup>, granted  
him for life by letters patent of the

Prioress and Convent	..	..	xx <sup>s</sup>
STILL REMAINING DUE	..	..	lvij <sup>s</sup> ij <sup>d</sup> ob.*

OVER:—

Rents received by Cecilia Verney, the late			
Prioress, payable at Midsummer, from			
the issues of land in Stowey	ij <sup>s</sup>	vj <sup>d</sup>	} lj <sup>s</sup> ij <sup>d</sup> ob.
Poulet		xvj <sup>d</sup>	
Cannyngton	xlviij <sup>s</sup>	v <sup>d</sup> ob.	

Rent of tenement in Bristoll, in arrear for this  
whole year .. .. .vj<sup>s</sup>\*

There are other returns from this time to the 30th year  
of Henry VIII., when the greater part of the property  
left the King's hands for those of the principal grantees;  
but they are of no interest compared with that now intro-  
duced to the reader, from the absence of those minute  
particulars with which it happily abounds, and which make  
it so living and exact a picture of the estates to which it  
refers.

I have now to show how the spoil was distributed.

In the 30th year of his reign, 1538, the King, "of his  
special grace, and in consideration of good, true, and faith-  
ful service," granted to Edward Rogers, whom we have  
already seen in possession as farmer of the property, the  
whole House and site of the late Priory of Cannyngton,  
in the County of Somerset, and all the church, bell-tower  
and cemetery of the said late Priory. Also all messuages,  
houses, buildings, granaries, stables, dove-cots, gardens,

\* Ministers' Accounts; 27-28 Hen. VIII. Off. Augment.

orchards, &c., as well within as without, and adjacent or near to the site, sept, circuit, precinct, &c., of the said late Priory. Also all the manor of Cannynghon, and all the Rectory of Cannynghon, and the nomination and presentation to the Vicarage of Cannynghon whensoever vacant, with all the rights, members and appurtenances belonging to the said late Priory. Also all messuages, lands, tenements, mills, meadows, pastures, woods, pensions, portions, tithes, offerings and emoluments whatsoever, as well spiritual as temporal, situate, lying or being in Cannynghon, Powlett, Stowey and Ffedyngton, in the county of Somerset or elsewhere soever. The property was rated at the clear annual value of forty-five pounds, eight shillings and ten pence; and was to be held by the said Edward Rogers, and heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, in chief, by the service of a tenth part of one Knight's fee, and a yearly rent of sixteen pounds, eight shillings and ten pence. The issues, &c., to commence from Michaelmas last past. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 8th of May, 1538.\*

By a decree of the Court of Augmentation, in Trinity Term, the 4th of July, 31 Henry VIII., 1539, a "pencyon of thre shylynges and thre pence yerly payable for Synodes oute of the p'sonage of Cannynghon belongyng to the late monastery of Cannynghon in the said countie of Som's'" was allowed to "the Archedeacon of Tawnton, and hys successors," together with arrears from the time of the Dissolution and Suppression, to be paid by the hands of the several particular receivers of the revenues and possessions of the dissolved House.†

\* Orig. 80 Hen. VIII., p. 2, r. cccxxj. Add. MSS. B. M., n. 6365, p. 95b. Pat. 30 Hen. VIII., p. 2, m. 9. Leland Itin., II. 68. Appendix, No. XIII.

† Decrees, vol. x, f. ijeliiij, ijcliiijb.

On the 21st of March, 1539-40, the King granted to Sir John Horsey, for the sum of £1242 3s. 9d. of lawful English money, a tenement and all lands, meadows, pastures, &c., lately in the tenure of George Reed, and situated in the parish of Bradford, in the county of Dorset, and lately belonging to the dissolved Priory of Cannyngham, and parcel of its lands and possessions. They were estimated of the annual value of eight shillings. Besides this, was granted at the same time to the said Sir John Horsey, the site of the monastery of Shyrborne, which had been leased to him, by an indenture dated at Westminster, the 4th of January, 1539-40, from the preceding Michaelmas for the term of twenty-one years, at an annual rent of 104s. 8d. Also the manor of Wyke, in the county of Dorset, leased at the same time and for the same term, at an annual rent of £16 10s. 6d. Also land at Creche, in the isle of Purbyk, formerly belonging to the monastery of Byndon. Also messuages or a mansion called Longleyte, in the county of Wiltes, lately belonging to the monastery of Henton, in the county of Somerset. All this property was to be held by the said John in chief, by the service of a tenth part of one Knight's fee, and, among other payments for the other portions, a farm rent for Bradford of tenpence, to be paid yearly at Michaelmas. The grant bears date, witness the King, at Walden, the 21st of March, 1539-40.\*

In the 34th year of his reign the King granted the messuages, lands, tenements, &c., belonging to the Priory, situated in the parish of Goodley and county of Devon, to Humfrey Colles, gentleman, and his heirs and assigns. The grant included the reversion of other property, the particulars of which are recited in its preamble, some account of which will be especially interesting to the local

\* Orig. 81 Hen. VIII., p. 2, r. ccxij. Pat. 81 Hen. VIII., p. 6, mm. 32, 33, 34.

reader. The instrument sets forth that by a certain indenture under the great seal, bearing date at Westminster, the 10th July, in the thirty-third year of his reign, 1541, his Majesty had leased to John Earl of Bath the whole house and site of the late Hospital of S. John of Briggewater, with all the houses, edifices, &c., thereunto pertaining; also a close of pasture called The Hundred Acres, containing by estimation eighty-four acres, and another close of pasture called Smale Crofte, containing by estimation twenty-five acres, commonly called The Demeane Landes of the aforesaid House, for the term of twenty-one years from the feast of S. Michael next following, at a yearly rent of eight pounds, three shillings and sixpence, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas. Also, that by another indenture between the King on the one part and John Ogan on the other, bearing date the 23rd of October, in the thirty-second year of his reign, 1540, he had leased to the aforesaid John Ogan the Grange of Barton, otherwise called Blakedon, with its appurtenances, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton, together with all the houses, edifices, granaries, dove-cots, orchards, &c., thereunto belonging;—to wit, a meadow called Barnehayes, containing by estimation one acre; a meadow called Parkemeade, containing by estimation two acres; a pasture called Oldhayes, or Oldbares, containing by estimation three acres; a pasture called The Orcheyarde, containing by estimation one acre; a pasture called Fflower, containing by estimation ten acres; a pasture called The Twentie Acres Close, containing by estimation twenty acres; a pasture close called Barnehayes, containing by estimation five acres; a pasture close called The Sevenacres Close, containing by estimation seven acres; a pasture close called Woodcrofte, containing by estimation twelve acres; a pasture close called Laushere, adjacent to

Spyding, containing by estimation twelve acres ; a pasture close of Spryng, containing by estimation seven acres ; a pasture called Kinges Lease, containing by estimation thirteen acres ; a pasture adjacent to Laushere, containing by estimation one acre ; a pasture called The Priours Parke ; a pasture in the parish of Lyng, in the tenure of Thomas Blansheflower and William Blansheflower ; all the land, in Pytmyster, in the tenure of Richard Mylbury ; all the lands, in Pytmyster aforesaid, in the tenure of Thomas Spryng,—belonging and appertaining to the said grange. Also, that by the same indenture he had leased to the aforesaid John Ogan all the Rectory and Chapel of Corff and Pytmyster, formerly belonging and appertaining to the said late Priory, and all the tithes of corn, pensions, and all other profits whatsoever, of old time appertaining to the aforesaid Rectory and Chapel. The said John Ogan to have and to hold the lands, &c., aforesaid from Michaelmas last past to the end of the term and through the term of twenty-one years, at a yearly rent of a hundred shillings for Barton, and of eight pounds seven shillings for the tithes, &c., of Pytmyster and Corff, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas, or within a month after. Also, that by another indenture between the King on one part, and James Dyer, gentleman, on the other, bearing date at Westminster, the 29th of December, in the thirty-first year of his reign, 1539, he had leased to the aforesaid James Dyer the Rectory of Trull, with all its rights and appurtenances, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton, with all tithes of corn, wool, lambs, &c., the tithes of Hamewoode and Sernehaye, parcel of the Rectory of Trull, excepted, which were leased to John Smyth ; the said James Dyer to have and to hold the said

tithe from Michaelmas last past for a term of twenty-one years next following, at a yearly rent of eight pounds of lawful English money, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas. Also, that by another indenture between the King on the one part, and John Luttrell, of Dunster, on the other, bearing date at Westminster, the 28th of October, in the thirty-first year of his reign, 1539, he had leased to the aforesaid John the site of the late House or Priory of Dunster, and all the lands, &c., appertaining thereunto, for the term of twenty-one years, at a yearly rent of seventy-three shillings and four-pence, payable at Lady-day and Michaelmas. This is followed by the recital of some leases of lands formerly in the possession of the monasteries of Pilton and the Grey Friars of Exeter. The grant then proceeds to set forth that for the sum of nine hundred and sixty-two pounds, seventeen shillings and four-pence, of lawful English money, paid by his beloved subject, Humfrey Colles, gentleman, he had granted the reversion of all the aforesaid lands, with their woods, &c., together with the lands at Goodley already mentioned, formerly belonging to the Priory of Canynngton; the site of the Priory at Bathe and lands belonging thereto; lands formerly belonging to the Priory of Barliche; to Sion, in the county of Middlesex; to Martok Priory, in Somerset; and to the Priory of S. Bartholomew and other Houses in London. He further grants to the said Humphrey Colles all the woods growing here and there in Priours Parke, containing by estimation twenty acres, in the parishes of Pytmyster, Corff, Trull, and Orcharde, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton; the wood called Ffoxegrove, containing by estimation ten acres, in the parish of Dunster; the wood

called Cathanger Grove, containing by estimation four acres and half, in the parish of Stogursey, and formerly belonging to the late Priory of Barliche ; the grove called The Parke, containing by estimation ten acres, in Bromefelde, in the parish of Estbuckelande, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Pilton ; and the copse called The Lyttlecops, containing by estimation six acres, in the parish of Estbuckeland, and also formerly belonging to the late Priory of Pilton. Also the advowsons, presentations, &c. of Corff, Pytmyster, and Trull, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. The Barliche property was estimated at the clear annual value of forty shillings ; that of Cannyngton at one hundred and six shillings a year ; that of Pilton at four pounds and one halfpenny ; and that of the Greyfreeres at forty shillings. The said Humfrey Colles was to have and hold these lands, advowsons, rights, &c., of the King and his heirs, and successors, in chief, by the service of a fortieth part of one Knight's fee, and an annual rent for the Bridgwater property, of 16s. 4½d. ; for the Cannyngton property, of 10s. 7½d. ; for Barton or Blakedon, Lyng, Pytmyster, &c., of 10s. ; for the Rectory and Chapel of Corff and Pytmyster, of 16s. 8½d. ; for Trull, of 2s. 8d., together with a yearly stipend of £6 13s. 4d. to a Chaplain for performing Divine Service in Trull Church ; for Dunster, of 7s. 4d. ; for Bathe, of 8s. 4d. ; for Cathanger, formerly belonging to Barliche, of 4s. ; for the Pilton property, of 8s. ½d. ; for that of the Grey Friars of Exeter, of 4s. ; for Martok, of 6s. 1½d. ; and for that in London, of 12s. The grant further acquits the said Humfrey Colles of the payment of all corrodies, rents, annuities, &c. except the rents reserved to the Crown, and the stipend of the Chaplain at Trull before mentioned. It concludes by giving him the issues of

the several estates from Michaelmas last past, and is dated at Westminster, the 16th of March, 1543.\*

The Blakedone property was Requested for purchase by Richard Androys in the 35th year of Henry VIII. The Request stated that the rent of one tenement was vij<sup>s</sup>, and of another viij<sup>s</sup>; and that a "parcell of no manor nor any chase, parke, fforeste, or mancion place of the Kinges maiestie is nye adionyng." "The trees growing in hedgis inclosing the the sayd landes and tenementes wylbarely suffyce to repayre and maynteyne the sayd hedgis and fencys therefore not valuid."† The King thereupon granted to the said Richard Andrewes and Nicholas Temple a tenement in the parish of Blakedon, in the county of Somerset, in the tenure of John Hollard, and certain lands, meadows, pastures, &c., in Blakedon, in the tenure of John Chyrby, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannyngham. The property was to be held in chief, by a service of a fortieth part of one Knight's fee, and an annual rent of 22½<sup>d</sup>. The grant, which was to take effect from Michaelmas last past, included other lands in the counties of Worcester, Oxford, Bucks, Gloucester, Wilts, &c., and was dated, witness the King, at Terlyng, the 15th of July, 1543.‡

We have now to notice the fate of the Rectory of Wytherygge. It was first leased to the insatiate Edward Rogers by an indenture, dated at Westminster, the 20th of May, 1536, with all and singular its tithes of corn, hay, lambs, &c., for a term of twenty-one years, at an annual rent of £7. It was subsequently, after a Request to purchase, dated the 12th of March, 35 Henry VIII., granted in

\* Orig. 34 Hen. VIII. p. 3. r. xxxij. Pat. 34 Hen. VIII., p. 11. mm. 14 (19)—11 (22). Appendix, No. xiv.

† Part. for Grants, 35 Hen. VIII., Androys Richard, Nos. 18, 30.

‡ Orig. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 1. r. cxxxij. Pat. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 3. mm. 8 (17)—11 (32).

reversion to George Heydon, gentleman, and Hugh Stucley, Esq., for the sum of £301 7s., together with three cottages at Wytherygge, belonging to the late Priory of Cannyngton; the advowson and presentation of the Vicarage and Church of Wytherygge; sundry lands at Rollesclyff, in the parish of Brodeclyst or Brodeclyff and county of Devon, formerly belonging to the Priory of S. Nicholas, Exeter; at Saltmayde, in the parish of Clyff S. George; and at Lewes in Sussex, belonging to that famous Abbey. The Rectory of Wytherygge, with the cottages, &c. was valued at £9 2s. 4d.; the property at Lewes at 16s. 8d.; and that belonging to the Priory of S. Nicholas at £4 13s. 4d. per annum. All was to be held in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one Knight's fee, and, among other payments for the rest, a farm rent for Wytherygge, with the three cottages, of 18s. 3d., payable at Michaelmas. The grant was to take effect from Michaelmas last past, and bears date, witness the King, at Westminster, the 14th of June, 1544.\*

In his 36th year, after a Request to purchase, dated the 10th of October, in that year, the King granted to David Clayton, or Clutton, of the city of Westminster, gentleman, for the sum of £221 of good and lawful English money, all the messuages, tofts, cottages, &c., situated in Skilgate and Brussheforde, in the county of Somerset, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannyngton. Also a messuage, tenement, mill, and two acres of land, situate in Lucote or Lacote, in the parish of Stokepurowe, in the county of Somerset, in the tenure or occupation of Thomasine Hodges, or her assigns, and formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. Also a messuage in Weshford, in the

\* Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 6. r. xx. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 21. mm. 23 (24) — 26 (26). Appendix, No. xv.

parish of Oldeclyffe, in the county of Somerset, in the tenure or occupation of John Hobbys, and formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. Also the manor or grange of Hydon, in the county of Somerset, and messuages in the hamlet of Wytham Ffrary, Blackdowne, Chedder, and Predi, in the county of Somerset, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Wytham. Also various lands in Bedfordshire, Nottingham, Wilts, and Yorkshire. The value of the Cannington property was 15s. 8d.; of that of Taunton 7s.; and of that of Wytham 66s. 8d. The grant was dated at Westminster, the 29th of November, 1544.\*

The hundred of Canyngton, parcel of the possessions of Henry, late Marquis of Exeter, of high treason attainted, with all its appurtenances, rents, reversions, advowsons of Churches, Chapels, &c., was in the first place leased to the same Edward Rogers, by an indenture, dated at Westminster, the 17th of March, 1541, for the term of twenty-one years from the preceding Michaelmas, at a yearly rent of seven pounds, five shillings, and three-farthings. Its yearly value was estimated at seven pounds, five shillings and one half-penny. The manor of Radway Ffytzpayn, with all its members, &c., parcel of the possessions of the same Henry attainted, valued at the annual sum of twenty-six pounds and elevenpence half-penny, was also leased to the said Edward Rogers, for the term of his life, by an indenture dated at Westminster, the 21st of February, 1541. Further, the free Chapel of Pyddelwaldestone, in the county of Dorset, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannington, and estimated at the clear annual value of forty shillings, was leased to the same Edward Rogers, by an indenture dated at

\*Orig. 86 Hen. VIII., p. 9. r. 1. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 4. mm. 46 (6) —42 (10).



Westminster, the 20th of March, 1537, for twenty-one years from the foregoing Michaelmas, at a yearly rent of forty shillings. The reversion of all these was now granted, from Michaelmas last past, to the aforesaid Edward Rogers, who had by this time acquired the site of the Priory of Mynchin Buckland, and to his heirs male, after a Request to purchase, dated the 16th of June, 1545. The manor of Radway Ffytzpayn and the hundred of Canyngton were to be held in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one Knight's fee; the Chapel of Pyddelwaldestone by fealty only, in free socage and not in chief, with an annual farm rent of four shillings, payable at Michaelmas. The grant was dated, witness the King, at Tychefelde, the 3rd of August, 1545.\*

Lastly, after a Request to purchase, dated the 8th of July, 1545, the King granted to Henry Brayne and John Marsshe, for the sum of £739 15s. 2½d., the tenement or burgage, in the tenure or occupation of — Chester, in the parish of S. Michael and city of Bristol, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Cannington, and all other messuages, &c., situated in the said city, and formerly belonging to the said late Priory. The aforesaid burgage was of the yearly annual value of 6s., and was to be held in free socage by fealty only, and an annual farm rent of sevenpence halfpenny, payable at Michaelmas. Other lands were included in the grant which formerly belonged to the Monasteries of S. Mary Magdalene Bristol, Bathe, Keynsham, Henton, Wytham, Clyve, Mynchynbarowe, Cirencester, S. Mary of Graces, Shene, Laicok, Braden-

\* Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3, r. ix. Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3, mm. 37 (9), 36 (10). Appendix, No. xvi.

stock, Tewkesburie, &c. The instrument was dated at Westminster, the 25th of September, 1545.\*

The reader will remember the gift of certain lands in Poulet, for the maintenance of lights in the Church of Canyngton (p. 37). Ten acres of this or some neighbouring property in the tenure of Walter Stone, devoted to a similar purpose,—“lyghtes foundyd w<sup>in</sup> the paryshe church ther”—of the annual value of viij<sup>s</sup>, but, according to the Certificate of Chantries, dated the 8th of February, 2 Edward VI., 1548-9, subject to a “rente resolute paide yerely, xv<sup>d</sup> ob’,” to the Duke of Somerset, as of the manor of Tuckeswell, and so remaining clear vj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> ob’, were granted to William Morris and Edward Isaack.†

A Mansion House and Lands at Cannyngham, of the annual value of vj<sup>li</sup> xv<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>, belonging to the Free Chapel of Icheok, were granted to Sir John Thynne and Laurence Hide. The plate and ornaments of this Chantry are stated in the Certificate to be “none but a chalice,” the weight of which is carefully given as ten ounces and a half.‡ Thomas Shackeley, the last incumbent, who is returned at the time of the Suppression as “clerke, of thage of 1 yeres,” was still living in 1556, and at that time in receipt of a pension of o<sup>s</sup>.||

Preserved in the Record Office, among the former contents of a bag labelled “Augmentation,” is a Roll of Arrears of Pensions and Tenths of Bailiffs and Collectors

\* Orig. 87 Hen. VIII., p. 1. r. lxxij. Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 5. mm. 38 (10)—84 (14).

† Sales of Chantries, vol. j. ff. 69, 69b. Certificates of Chantries, 43. n. 64.

‡ Sales of Chantries, vol. ij. ff. 245b., 246. Certificates of Chantries, 43. n. 64.

|| Card. Pole's Pension Book, f. xxxv<sup>mo</sup>.

in several of the western counties for the year ending at Michaelmas, 2 and 3 Philip and Mary, 1555-6. There are three defaulters connected with the property whose fate we have been investigating. Edward Rogers, one year in arrear for Cannyngham, owed xvj<sup>li</sup> viij<sup>s</sup> x<sup>d</sup>, and for Puddeltonne, iij<sup>d</sup>; Antony Ackeland, for tenements in Bristol, vij<sup>d</sup> ob.; and William Crowche, for tenements in Blackedon, xxiij<sup>d</sup> ob. In connexion with that of Mynchin Buckland there are Edward Rogers, for Buckland, owing vij<sup>s</sup> vij<sup>d</sup>; John Windham, for the manor of Hele, lxx<sup>s</sup>; Alexander Popeham, for divers places, xiiij<sup>s</sup> iij<sup>d</sup>; the Vicar of Pawlett, a pension of xiiij<sup>s</sup> iij<sup>d</sup>; the Vicar of Northepetherton, a pension of xl<sup>s</sup>; and the Vicar of Talland, a pension of ij<sup>s</sup>. There are also defaulters connected with the estates formerly belonging to the Monasteries of Worspring, Barliche, Cleve, Taunton, Mountague, Brewton, S. John's Wells, S. John's Bridgewater, Athelney, Bathe, Keynsham, Henton, Witham, and Glastonbury. The Receiver-General, John Aylworth, prays to be exonerated from these arrears, because in very many cases no distress can be taken, and in others he needs the aid of the Court of Exchequer for their collection. This document supplies positive proof, if such were needed, that the sums charged on the several estates for pensions, tenths, &c., were ignored soon after their possession by the King's grantees. And appended to it is a notice, singularly indicative of the state of utter confusion to which sacrilege had reduced even the spoil for which the horrible work was undertaken, and which may well be allowed to close this fearful tale of spoliation and wrong:—"Memor'd' that the Collectors of the Chantries in the Countie of Somers' haue not this yeare auneswered nor paid any p'te of their

collecc'ons, nor the Receyvor knowith not who be the Collectors nor where to find them."

The annals of Canyngton are now brought to a conclusion, so far as the main business of the author is concerned, which ends with the alienation of the estates from their lawful owners, and their transfer to the King's grantees. I may add, however, that the property at Canyngton remained in the possession of the family of Rogers until the year 1672. Intestine feuds had bitterly cursed the doomed race, when "the estate tayle of the sayd Edward Rogers determined by the failure of his issue male, on or about the 2nd day of the month of September, 1672."\* The sin had attracted the usual judgment. The lands reverted to the Crown, and were granted on the 15th of July, 1672, to Thomas, Lord Clifford. This eminent man was born on the 1st of August, 1630; and was present at the sea-fight with the Dutch, on the 3rd of June, 1665, and at Bergen, on the 2nd of August, in the same year. He was raised to the peerage as Baron Clifford, on the 20th of April, 1672, and was made Lord High Treasurer in the following November. On the 19th of June, 1673, he resigned his office, retired into the country, and died a few months afterwards. A dispute arose about the fee-farm rent of £16 8s. 10d., which, as we have already seen, was ordered to be paid annually to the King. This was settled by decree in the King's Remembrancer's Office, in Michaelmas Term, 29 Charles II. The property has remained in the hands of the Cliffords from that time to our own, and has been occupied by them for the far greater part of the intervening period. In or about the year 1807, the mansion, which, as I have stated, is,

\* Harl. Cart. 111 H. n. 22.

with the exception of the few and inconspicuous fragments already described, of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, reverted, by a curious coincidence, after the lapse of between two and three hundred years, to its predecessor's original purpose, and was put into the possession of a Sisterhood of about thirteen Benedictine Nuns from Belgium, who continued to reside in it for twenty-six years. A corner of the orchard was their cemetery, and among the long green grass, and shaded by weeping willows, may still be seen the white wooden crosses which mark the last resting place of several of the inmates. I noticed the names of Catherine Macdonald, ob. Nov. 29, 1831, æt. 73; Frances S——, ob. 12 June, 1824, æt. 81; Sr. Lucy Magdalen Whitechurch, ob. Nov. 17, 1829, æt. 29; and Sr. Mary Magdalen Knight, 1825, æt. 36. A large marble alab notes the grave of Peter Collingridge, O.S.F., sometime Bp. of Thespis, who died in 1829. Since the period to which these memorials refer, the Society has removed to Rugeley, in Staffordshire, and the house is at length deserted and tenantless.

Such is the history of Canyngton Priory, from the day that the old noble founded the place for his soul's health, through ages of varying fortune, down to other and far worse times, when, under a hollow pretence of opposing superstition, sacrilegious hands took to themselves this and other Houses of God in possession. The scene, indeed, had little of the glories of Taunton or Muchelney, Montacute or Buckland. The income of the House amounted to little more than one-sixth of that even of the least wealthy of those great Communities. But, humble though it was, it did its work among the humanisers of the time. It was a school of graces, and for many ages a centre of all refined and refining influences.

The memory of its varied excellencies will suggest to honest and teachable minds the duty of looking justly, and therefore kindly and respectfully, on its efforts. Within the circuit of those grey enclosures, on which, when I last beheld them, the expiring rays of the evening sun were fading amid a silence and repose that deepened every moment, was a little world, far in advance of the great one outside, where earnest, truthful, and loving hearts were prompting hands to do their best towards the solace and enlightenment of all around. If an occasional cloud passed over and darkened for a few moments the sky, it only made more conspicuous the brightness which was its ordinary atmosphere. There human life went on, accompanied by much that raised and glorified it almost above humanity. In purity and truth the owners lived, and in faith and patience they laboured. And most happily for us—it is indeed one of the encouraging signs of the age—we are again beginning to appreciate the value of such an influence. We are again beginning to think that Woman is never greater, never nobler, never lovelier, than when employed in the Great Master's work, and aiding her sisters in the way to heaven. Mediæval times had, in this point of view, an immense advantage over ourselves, which it is short-sighted and unworthy of us to overlook or disparage. Woman then found in countless instances that on which she might lavish the fondness of her boundless heart—that which she might love without weakness, shame, or sin—that on which all her ardent nature might pour itself out in the self-sacrificing devotion and unhesitating affection of which God has so blessedly made her capable. The writer is one who is of opinion, and he fears not to avow it, that the importance of this influence on the world at large cannot possibly be

overrated; and that much whereof we most bitterly complain, and which is most disgraceful to us as Christian men, would stand its best, perhaps its only, chance of removal by such gracious instrumentality. A whole world of devoted aid would thus be given to us, from which in our pride and conceit we have too long turned away, and, it may well be added, have obtained our reward in the misery and degradation of multitudes. With the revival of Woman's employment in sacred things we shall turn over a new leaf in our country's history, and our eyes will be gladdened, with a joy that shall be blighted by no after sorrow, as they rest upon a fairer, a happier, and a holier page.

THOMAS HUGO.

## A P P E N D I X .

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### No. I.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. lxviijb.]

Absoluc'o d'ni Joh'is de M'iet.

Me<sup>d</sup> q'd d'ns absoluit d'nm Joh'm de Meriet milit' a sententia ex'cois quam in c'rit occ'one exent'ac'onis vx'is sue defuncte. iniuncta a' penitencia p' mod'o culpe salutari & cor vx' sue cu' corpore assignauit fore tumuland'. p' l'ras Berengarii Ep'i Tusculani d'ni pp<sup>e</sup> penitenciarij apud Woky v. kal'n April' anno d'ni m<sup>o</sup>. ccc<sup>mo</sup>. xiiij<sup>o</sup>. Consecr' n're Quinto.

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### No. II.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. cxlixb.]

Memorand' q'd d'ns scripsit Priorisse & monialib' dom' de Canynton sue dioc' q'd no' obstante inhibic'one eis f'ca gen'alit' recipiant d'nam Dyonis' Peu'el ad p'hendinand' in d'ca domo su'ptib' cu' suis p'p'is & ad voluntatem d'ni. S'b dat' apud Kyngesbiri viij k'ln Apl' anno d'ni m<sup>o</sup> ccc<sup>mo</sup> xij<sup>o</sup>. Cons' v<sup>o</sup> sue q'nto.

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### No. III.

[From Bp. Drokenesford's Register, f. lxxiijb.]

I'ra dir'ta p'orisse & con'tui de Cani'gton p' p'hendinaco'e mulier'.

J. p'm' &c. dil'cis filiab' d'nab' p'orisse & con. de Cani'gton salt'. P'cib' q'rd' amicor' n'ror' nobiscu' i' isto solle'pni f'o existenc' annue'tes vt cu' Joh'es ffychet sit ad p'tes aliq's p'eg'inat'ns vx' sua & due sorores ip'ius Joh'is bone conu'saco'is vt audiui'm' & honeste i' p'oratu v'ro int'im valeant p'hendinare. Hinc est q'd ista vice p'mittim' g'c'ose q'd d'cas vx' & sorores vsq' ad reditu' d'ci Joh'is p' mora vob'cu' facienda suis p'p'riis su'ptib' potestis admitt'e du'tame' vob' placu'it advent' seu mora modica ear'd'. Adv'tentes insup' q'd p' ear' adventu' seu mora' ulla alias v'l alios ad v'rm p'oratu' p' on'e dom' v're seu suspic'one sinist' h'ere volum' accessu' quouismodo. Et si contig'it aliqua' muliere' seculare' p' n'ras l'ras moram fac'e vobiscu', nolum' q'd dom' vest' eas, seu moram ear' i' aliquo on'et' seu religioso q'd absit scandalu' paciat'. Sc'pt' ap'd Wollau'iton. vj. kaln. Januar'.

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No. III.\*

[Inq. p.m. 6 Edw. III. (2 nos.) n. 94.]

Inq'sic'o capta cor' Esc' d'ni Reg' apud Som'ton die Jouis in cr'stino s'ci Martini anno regni Regis Edwardi t'cij post conquestu' sexto s'ed'm tenore' & forma' br'is d'ni Regis huic inquisico'i consuti p' sacr'm Joh'is Polker (?) . . . Ric'i Horseye Will'i Chaundos Will'i Cordulkent Hugo's Brun Joh'is Stenyngg Joh'is le Riuer (?) Ric'i Dudbrok . . . Joh'is . . . & Will'mi Norman Qui dicu't p' sacr'm suu' q'd non e' ad dampnu' u' p'iudiciu' dni Reg' seu alior' . . . Rob'to le fitz Payn q'd ip'e quat'viginti acr' terr' cu' p'tin' in Canynton & Radeweye dare possit & assignare Priorisse . . . Canynton h'ndu' & tenendu' sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' quemda' capellanu' p' a'ia ip'ius Rob'ti & a'iab' antecessor' . . . o'm q' fideliu' defu'ctor' in eccli'a de Cany'gton sing'lis dieb' celeb'turum inp'petuu' . . . Et dic' q'd terra p'd'ca tenet' de Rege in capite p' s'uiciu' militare et q'd valet p' an'u' in om'ib' exitib' iux' veru' valore' xxs Et q'd no' e' aliquis medius int' dn'm Rege' & p'd'cm Rob'tum de terra p'd'ca Et q'd diu's terr' & ten' p'd'co Rob'to . . . in Com' Som'a' & Dors' q'

tenent' de d'no Rege in capite p' s'uiciu' militare q' valent  
 p'annu' in om'ib' exit' . . . . .  
 Jurati huic inq'sico'i sigilla sua apposu'nt.

## No. IV.

[From Bp. Ralph's Register, f. cxlix.]

Rauf p' la seoffraunce de dieux Eueske de Baa & de Welles, a nos che's filles en dieux. . . . P'oresse & Couent de Kanyngton oue la beneson dieu & la n're salutz. Purceo nous auoms graunte. come en nous est. a nos che's en dieu Joh'ne Wason & Maud Poer. quelles oue deus dammoiselles. p' assent & volente de vous puissent demorer & sojourner (!) en vost' maisone de Kanyngton. tanq' la Pask p'cheyn. a vener. issint q' lour demeore & sojourn ne soit a vous ne au dite maisone de rien damagouse p'iudiciele ou deshoneste volomps q' si ensi soit les dites Joh'ne & Maud oue ses deus damoiseles reteniez a demorer & sojourner en v're maisone. en la fourme susdeite. A dieux q' touz iours vous doigne grace de bien faire. Don' a Banelle. le. xiiij. Jour Octobre.

## No. IV.\*

[Abstract of Reg. Ed. coolxxxxviiij, coolxxxxviiij, coolxxxxviiij.  
 MS. Harl. 6965, p. 243, 244.]

Comperta in visitaco'e Priorisse & monialiū' de Kanyngton. Queda' monialis de incontinentia sua increpata p' Priorissam, ut verbis suis utamur, dixit pro tantis excessibus se nolle semel dicere Mea culpa, sed eadem virago effecta contra Priorissam & alias sorores premissa detestantes, quando eam increpant, se velle cu' cultell' & alijs armis seviciam virilem in easde' exercere graviter comminatur. Et alia monialis — concubituī assueta, habens in utero — postmodu' edidit suu' partu'. — Ordinamus q'd d'ca (Johanna Trimelet) p' annu' continuum in una domo honesta infra scitum clausuram mon' v'ri maneat interclusa, secunda tertia & sexta feria jejundet in pane & aqua, suos calores macerans juveniles, & in alijs diebus



quibuscunq' p' d'cum tempus panem potagium & cervisiam pro suo victu tantummodo precipimus ministrari. — Extitit etiam in d'ca visitac'oe detectu' d'cam priorissa' 4 mulieres pro quaru' qualibet pro 20 libr. in sororem d'ce domus recepissee, incidens ma<sup>te</sup> in symoniacam pravitatem ad quam cetera crimina nichil extimantur. — Rigorem juris sub mansuetudine temp'antes, tibi (Priorissa) duas de sororibus tuis discret' & in temp'alibus circumspectas decernimus in administraco'e temp'alium d'ce domus adjungend', sine quaru' consilio & assensu earu' nihil facias, — &c.

## No. V.

[Pat. 27 Edw. III. p. 3. m. 1.]

P' Priorissa & Con-  
uentu de Canyngton'

R' om'ib' ad quos &c' salt'm  
Licet &c de gr'a tamen n'ra sp'ali-  
— concessim' & licenciam

dedim' p'nob' & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nob' est dil'co & fideli n'ro Joh'i de Chidiok' & Rob'to de Sambourn' q'd ip'i duodecim denaratas reddit' cu' p'tin' in Whytherigg' in Com' Deuon' & aduocac'oem eccl'ie eiusdem ville que de nob' non tenent' in capite vt dicit', dare possint & assignare dile'is nob' in X'po Priorisse & Conuentui de Canyngton' h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis imppetuu'. Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e redditu' p'dc'm cum p'tin' & aduocaco'em p'd'cam a p'fatis Joh'e & Rob'to recip'e, & eccl'iam illam appropriare, & eam sic appropriatam in p'prios vsus simul cum redditu p'd'co tenere possint sibi & successorib' suis p'd'cis impetuu', tenore p'senciu' similiter licenciam dedim' sp'alem, statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd &c — seu grauent'. Saluis tamen capitalib' &c. — consuetis. T. R. apud Turrin London'. xxiii. die Januar'. p'br'e de p'uato sig'.

## No. VI.

[Inq. p.m. 44 Edw. III. (1. nra.) n. 45.]

Inquis' capt' apud Ilmynstre in Com' Som's' coram Will'mo Cheyne Esc' d'ni Regis in eod'm Com' die martis

p'x' post f'm s'ce Margarete anno regni Reg' Edwardi t'cij  
 a cong' quadragesimo quarto virtute br'is d'ni Regis huic  
 inquis' consuti p' sac'm Ade Swyf Will'i Hucker Will'i  
 Moure Ric'i Cook Will'i Walround Will'i Dounh'm Will'i  
 Sherf' Rob'ti Hare Thome Deme Laur' Wyly Rob'ti Dany  
 & Thome Ansty qui dic' sup' scr'm suu' q'd Rog'  
 Mounfort vtlag' nulla tenuit t'r' seu ten' in d'nico suo vt  
 de feodo in com' pd'co die p'mulgac'onis vtlagarie sue seu  
 postea de Rege in capite uel de aliquo alio die quo obiit  
 set tamen tenuit vnu' corrodiu' ad t'm vite sue ex concessio'e  
 Priorisse de Canyngton' apud Canyngton' quod val' p'  
 annu' xls quod quide' corrodiu' vicecomites Som's' qui p'  
 temp'e fuerint ad opus d'ni Reg' receperunt Et q'd id'm  
 Rog' obiit in f'o corp'is X'pi anno d'ni Reg' nu'c xlijo Et  
 q'd null' he's ip'e Rog' h'uit p' ut istud requirit. In  
 cuj' rei testio'm p'd'ci Jur' sigill' sua apposuer' Dat' loco  
 die & anno sup'd'cis.

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No. VII.

[Pat. 5 Ric. II. p. 2. m. 12.]

D' licencia dandi ad  
 manu' mortuam.

R' om'ib' ad quos &c. Salt'm  
 Licet &c. tamen pro viginti  
 marcis quas dile'a nob' in

X'po Priorissa de Canyngton nob' soluit in hanap'io n'ro  
 concessimus & licenciam dedimus p' nob' & heredib' n'ris  
 quantum in nob' est Mag'ro Rob'to Crosse p'sone eccl'ie de  
 Spaxton' q'd ip'e sex mesuagia centum & nouem acras t're  
 decem & octo acras p'ti cum p'tin' in Poulet dare possit &  
 assignare p'fate Priorisse & Conuentui eiusdem loci h'end'  
 & tenend' sibi & ear' successorib' ad inueniend' duos cereos  
 vocatos Torches competentes & honestos, vnum videlicet ad  
 dext'um cornu & vnum ad sinistrum cornu sum'i altaris in  
 d'co Prioratu p' tempus & a tempore consecrac'ois corporis  
 X'pi singulis dieb' ad missam de die in honore d'ci corporis  
 vsq' ad finalem p'cep'oem eiusdem corporis continue ardentem  
 imp'p'm. Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e d'ca  
 mesuagia t'ram & pratum cum p'tin' a p'fate Mag'ro Rob'to  
 recip'e possint & tenere sibi & ear' successorib' ad inueniend'  
 d'cos cereos in forma p'd'ca ardentem imp'p'm sicut p'd'cm  
 est, tenore p'sencium similit' licenciam dedimus sp'alem

statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd &c. — seu g'uent'. Saluis &c — consuetis. In cuius &c. T. R. apud Westm' xvj die Junij.

## No. VIII.

[Memorand. Scacc. 1 Hen. V., m. xiiij.]

Adhuc com'ia de t'm'i'o sc'e Trinitatis anno sc'do  
Regis Henrici Quinti  
Adhuc Recorda.

Som's'

D' Priorissa de Canyngton p'munienda ad ostendend' quare ip'a de c'tis t'ris & tenementis in Pederdam & Combewysssh p' subtracc'one divini s'vicii d'no Regi computare non deb'. Comp'tum est p' quandam Inquisi-co'em captam apud Stokvrcy die lune in c'stino s'ce Trinitatis anno regni Regis Henrici quarti nup' Regis Angl' post conquestum t'ciodecimo

coram Rob'to Veele tunc Esc' d'ci nup' Regis in Com' Som's' virtute officij sui q'd d'ns de Coursy quondam dedit Priorisse de Canyngton & successorib' suis c'ta t'ras tenementa prata pascuas boscum & decimas garbar' & minutas decimas residuas in Pederdam iuxta Combewyche & in Combewyche ad inueniend' quendam capellanu' idoneu' divina celebrantem imp'p'm ad orand' p' animab' Regum Anglie & Successor' suor' vide't in capella s'ci Leonardi apud Combewyche qual't alt'a die d'nica & quol't alt'o duplici festo p' annu' & in capella S'ci Jacobi apud Pederdam p'd'cam qual't alt'a die d'nica & quol't alt'o duplici festo p' annu' et q'd p'd'ca Priorissa ad inueniend' huiusmodi capellanu' celebrantem in d'ca capella S'ci Jacobi apud Pederdam cessavit & se retraxit p' quinq' annos iam elapsos p'x' ante capco'em d'ce Inquisic'ois & q'd t're ten' prata pascua boscu' & decime p'd'ca in Pederdam val' p' annu' quatuor marcas. Et in Combewyche val' p' annu' x marc'. Et q'd Johanna nunc Priorissa de Canyngton exitus & p'ficua inde p'cepit & p' idem tempus h'uit usq' diem capco'is Inquisic'ois p'd'ce vnde eadem Priorissa d'no Regi est responsura. Sup' quo concordatu' est int' Barones q'd p'd'ca Priorissa de Canyngton

p'muniat' p' br'e de Scire fac' essend' hic ad ostendend' & p'ponend' ei quid p' se h'eat vel dic'e sciat quare ip'a de exit' & p'ficius d'cor' t'rar' & ten' prator' pascuar' boscor' decimar' garbar' & minutar' decimar' residuar' in Pederdam iuxta Combewyche & in Combewyche cu' p'tin' in Com' p'd'co a tempore subtracco'is divini s'uicū p'd'ci ib'm hucusq' d'no Regi computare respondere & satisfac'e non deb'. Et p' s' vic' Som's q'd p' p'bos &c. scire fac' &c. Ita &c. a die S'ci Mich'is in XV dies ad ostendend' &c. Ad quem diem vic' non retorn' br'e. I'o p's ei sicut alias &c. Ita &c. In octab' S'ci Martini Ante quem diem p'dca Priorissa ven' p' Ric'm Hukelegh' attorn' suu' Et dicit q'd ex quo in p'd'ca Inquis' non est comp'tum quale nomen p'd'cus d'ns de Cursy h'uit nec que t're & ten' seu decime dat' fuerunt p'dict' p'decessori d'ce Priorisse & successor' suis nec q'd p'd'ca t're ten' & decime dat' fuerunt ante statutu' vel post statutu' de t'ris & ten' ad manu' mortuam non ponend' editu' nec q'd d'ns Rex qui nunc est nec p'genitor' sui fuerunt fundatores eccl'ie sive prioratus de Canyngton p'dict' nec q'd idem d'ns Rex qui nunc est aut aliquis p'genitor' suor' dedit t'ras ten' & decimas p'dict' aut aliqua alia t'ras seu ten' p'd'ce Priorisse que nunc est aut alicui p'decessar' suar' Priorissar' eccl'ie sive prioratus p'd'car' vnde non intendit q'd d'ns Rex ip'am Priorissam inde velit impetire &c. et petit exon'ari v'sus d'nm Regem de exit' t'rar' & ten' p'd'cor' in d'ca Inquisicioe specificat' Et quia videt' Baronib' huj' sc'cii q'd d'ca Inquis' non est sufficiens in lege ad ponend' d'cam Priorissam que nu'c est ad respondend' d'no Regi de t'ris & ten' & decimis p'd'cis nec ad seisiendu' t'ras & ten' & decimas p'd'ca in manu' d'ni Regis seu on'and' d'cam Priorissam de exit' eor'dem t'rar' & ten' Ideo considerat' est p' eosdem Barones q'd p'd'ca Priorissa eat inde sine die ob d'cas insufficiencias Inquisicio'is p'd'ce.

## No. IX.

[From Card. Pole's Pension-Book, f. xxix<sup>oo</sup>. Off. Augment.]

Cannyngton nup' Priorat'	}	Ffeod'	{	Thome Hache capitl' sen <sup>ll</sup>	}	xx'
				tocius nup' por' p'd' p'		
				scriptu' abb'is et conven'		

## No. X.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Voll., n. 244, n. 110.]

Rex om'ibus ad quos &c. salt'm. Cum nuper Prioratus de Cannyngton in Com' nro Som's' auctoritate parliamenti iam suppressus et dissolutus existit vnde quedam Cecilia Verney tempore dissolucio'is illius & diu antea Priorissa inde fuit Nos volentes r'onabilem annualem penco'em siue p'moco'em condignam eid'm Cecillie ad victum et exhibico'em suam melius sustinendi p'uideri. Sciatis igit' q'd nos in consideraco'e p'missor' de gra' n'ra sp'iali ac ex c'ta sciencia et mero motu n'ris p' aduisamentu' et consensum Cancellar' & Consilij Curie Augmentac'onu' revenc'onu' Corone n're dedim' et concessim' ac p' p'sentes dam' et concedim' eid'm Cecillie quand'm annuitatem siue annualem penco'em decem marcar' sterlingor'. h'end' gaudend' et annuatim p'cipiend' easdem decem marcas p'fat' Cecillie & assign' suis a tempore dissolucio'is et suppressionis d'ci nup' prioratus ad t'minu' & pro t'mi'o vite ip'ius Cecillie tam p' manus Thesaurarij Curie n're p'd'ce pro tempore existen' de Thesauro n'ro in manibus suis de reuenco'ib' augmentac'onu' Corone n're remanere contingen' q'm p' manus Receptor' p'ticulariu' revenc'onu' p'd'car' de eisdem revenco'ib' ad festa Annu'ciaco'is b'e Marie Virginis & sc'i Mich'is Arch'i p' equales porco'es omi'o soluend'. Eo q'd exp'essa mencio &c. In cui' rei &c. Test. xx<sup>mo</sup> die Nouembr' a° xxvij<sup>mo</sup> h vij<sup>mo</sup>. Irro'.

## No. XI.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Voll., n. 205, f. 28.]

IN DECLARACO'E siue valor' Terr' & Tent' ib'm De anno R. Henrici vij<sup>mo</sup> xxvij<sup>mo</sup> inter al' cont' ut sequit' Videt'.

PRIORAT'  
de Cannyngton  
in Com' Som's'

<p>MANER' de Cannyngton</p>	}	<p>val' in</p>	<p>{ EXIT' Terr' dnic' ib'm p' annu' cum xxxij' vij<sup>d</sup> de Exit' xxvij' acr' prat' sic arent' in gross' lix' de Exit' lix acr' t'r' arabil' &amp; pas- tur' ad xij<sup>d</sup> le acr' }</p>	<p>iiij<sup>ld</sup> xij<sup>e</sup> vij<sup>ld</sup></p>
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CANYNGTON Rector' in Com' Som's'	} val' in	DECIM' Garb' Rector' ib'm cu' p'tin' iiij <sup>a</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup> archud' de Taun- ton ex rector' de Canyngton .. vij <sup>td</sup> xv <sup>a</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup> cu' v <sup>a</sup> Ep'o sol' Bath &
WETHERIGE in Com' Deuon'		DECIM' p'dial' cu' al' p'fic' Rector' ib'm vij <sup>td</sup>
LIB' CAPELL' de Pedilwaldiston in Com' Dors'	} val' in	QUADAM porc' decim' Garb' lane & al' xl' cum iiij libr' Cere deliband' priori Eccle'ie X'pi in Com' Dors'.
Sm <sup>a</sup> xxj <sup>td</sup> vij <sup>a</sup> xj <sup>d</sup> Ex' p' Will'm Turno' Audit' ib'm.		

## No. XII.

[From the Ministers' Accounts, 27-28 Hen. VIII. Off. Augment.]

(1.) SM<sup>a</sup> TOT'LIS RE<sup>ta</sup> xxxix<sup>td</sup> xij' xj<sup>d</sup> de quib' exon' hic de xvij<sup>td</sup> xv' v<sup>d</sup> ob' de firm' o'im p'mias' p' prima med' huius anni Eo q'd fuer' in man' & cultur' Cecilie Verney nup' prioriss' ib'm ad vsum et necc' sustent' hospic' s' p' idem tempus. ET DEBET xxj<sup>td</sup> xvij' v<sup>d</sup> ob'. De quib' allo' ei de xliij' iiij<sup>d</sup> p' penc' & com'ensal' vicar' ib'm celebrant' & administrant' cum xxxvj' vij<sup>td</sup> p' penc' s' p' vno q're anni finit' ad ff'm S'ci Mich'is Arch'i d'co anno xxvij<sup>td</sup> iux<sup>a</sup> ratam vij<sup>td</sup> vj' vij<sup>td</sup> p' annu' et cu' vj' vij<sup>td</sup> p' com'ens' s' a temp'e dissoluc' priorat' ib'm hoc est a xxij<sup>td</sup> die Sept' vsq' d'cm ff'm S'ci Mich'is tunc p'xim' sequen' scil't p' spac' iiij<sup>or</sup> septim' iux<sup>a</sup> rata' xx<sup>d</sup> p' qual't septim'. ET EIDEM xvij' iiij<sup>d</sup> p' vad' & com'ens' vnus prisbit'i celebrant' apud Capell' de Comage infra p'och' de Cannyngton p'd'ca p' consi'li q're anni finit' ad p'd' ff'm S'ci Mich'is Arch'i cu' xiiij' iiij<sup>d</sup> p' vad' s' p' id'm tempus iux<sup>a</sup> rat' liij' iiij<sup>d</sup> p' annu' — et cum iiij' p'

com'ens' s' p' d'cis iiij septim' iux<sup>a</sup> rat' xij<sup>i</sup> p' qual't septim' ——— ET LIB'AVIT Thome Arundell mi<sup>ti</sup> Rec' Gen'al' de exit' ffirm' p'd' viij<sup>id</sup> xiiij<sup>a</sup> ix<sup>d</sup> ob. ET DEB'T x<sup>id</sup> ij<sup>a</sup>.

(2.) SM<sup>a</sup> ALLOC' I<sup>o</sup> DICT' xxx<sup>a</sup> v<sup>d</sup> ET DEB'T xlj<sup>id</sup> iiij<sup>a</sup> j<sup>d</sup> D' quib' exo<sup>r</sup> hic de xix<sup>id</sup> xvij<sup>a</sup> iij<sup>d</sup> ob'. Vt de tot' Denar' p' p'd'cam Cecilia' Verney nup' prioriss' ib'm de Exit' Offic' p'd'ci p' prima me<sup>te</sup> huius anni ad vsum hospic' s' recept' & expendit' in eod'm hospicio ante primu' aduent' Com'ies' d'ni R' illuc q<sup>d</sup> erat xxvj<sup>to</sup> die Maij d'co anno xxvij<sup>mo</sup> ——— ET on'at' in comp'o d'ce prioriss' de vj<sup>id</sup> x<sup>a</sup> j<sup>d</sup> de consi'lib' denar' p' ip'am re' de Exit' eiusd'm Offic' a d'co xxvj<sup>to</sup> die Maij vsq' tempus dissoluc' d'ci priorat' q' erat xxiiij<sup>o</sup> die Septembr' eod'm anno scil't p' spaciū xvij septiman' ex recognic' s' in libro re<sup>te</sup> s' de eod'm temp'e ——— ET lib'avit Thome Arundell mi<sup>ti</sup>. Rec' d'ci d'ni R' ib'm de Exit' ffirm'e p'd'ce ——— x<sup>id</sup> xvij<sup>a</sup> v<sup>d</sup> ET DEBET lxvij<sup>a</sup> iij<sup>d</sup> ob'.

### No. XIII.

[Abstract of Orig. 30 Hen. VIII. p. 2. r. ccxxxi.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Sciatis q'd nos de gra' ——— necnon in consideraco'e boni veri & fidelis s'uij quod dil'cus s'uiens n'r Edwardus Rogers ante hec tempora nob' fecit dedim' & concessim' &c eidem Edwardo totam domu' & scitum nup' Prioratus de Cannyngton in Com' n'ro Som's' auctoritate parlamenti supp'sai & dissoluti ac totam eccl'iam campanile & cimiteriu' eiusdem nup' Prioratus. Necnon om'ia mesuag' domos edificia orres stabula columbaria ortos pom'ia gardina t'ram & solum n'ra tam infra q'm ext<sup>a</sup> ac iuxta seu p'pe scitum septum ambitum circuitum & p'cinctum eiusdem nup' Prioratus exist' ac totum man'ium n'rm de Cannyngton' & totam Rectoriam n'ram de Cannyngton' ac no'iac'oem & p'sentat' ad vicariam de Cannyngton' p'd'ca quandocumq' vacau'it cum eor' iurib' membris & p'tin' vniu'sis ——— ac om'ia mesuagia t'ras ten' molendina p'ta pascuas pasturas &c &c ——— p'ficua emolumenta n'ra quecumq' tam sp'ualia q'm temporalia cuiuscumq' sint gen'is ——— situat' iacen' vel existen' in Cannyngton' Powlett Stowey

& Ffedyng in d'co Com' Som's' seu alibi vbicumq' eisdem man'io &c ——— p'tinen' ——— adeo plene & integre &c ——— Que quidem scitus man'iu' Rectoria &c sunt clari annui valoris quadraginta quinq' librar' octo solidor' & decem denarior'. H'end' tenend' &c p'fato Edwardo Rogers & hered' masculis de corpore suo legitime p'creatis Tenend' de nob' hered' &c in capite p' s'uiciu' militare videl't p' decimam partem vnus feodi milit' ac p' annualem redditum sexdecim librar' octo solidor' & decem denarior' ad Cur' n'ram Augmentacionu' &c ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i soluend' ——— Et vlt'ius ——— concedim' p'fato Edwardo exitus &c a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito hucusq' p'uenien' &c. H'end' eid'm Edwardo ex dono n'ro absq' compoto seu aliquo alio p'inde nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris quoquo modo reddend' soluend' vel faciend' Eo q'd exp'ssa mencio &c. In cuius &c. T. R. apud Westm' viij die Maij.

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#### No. XIV.

[Abstract of Orig. 34 Hen. VIII., p. 3, r. xxxii.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Cum nos p' quandam indenturam sub magno sigillo n'ro &c ——— geren' dat' apud Westm' decimo die Julij anno regni n'ri tricesimo t'cio tradidim' &c ——— Joh'i comiti Bathon' totam domu' & scitum nup' domus siue hospitalis S'ci Joh'is de Briggewater in Com' n'ro Som's' tunc dissolut' vna cum domib' edificijs &c infra scitum septum &c d'ce nuper domus &c ——— ac vnu' clausum pasture vocatum Le Hundred Acres cum p'tin' continen' p' estimac'oem octuaginta & quatuor acras vnu' aliud clausum pastur' vocatum Smale Crofte cum p'tin' continen' p' estimaco'em viginti quinq' acras que om'ia &c ——— vulgarit' nuncupat' Lez Demeane Landes d'ce nup' domus ——— H'end' & tenend' ——— p'fato Joh'i Comiti Bathon' & assign' suis a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i tunc p'x' sequen' vsq' ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnus annor' extunc' p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' Reddend' inde annuatim nob' hered' & succ' n'ris octo libras tres solidos & sex denar' ad festa An'unciaco'is B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i ——— Cumq' eciam nos p' quandam aliam indenturam ——— int' nos ex vna parte &

Joh'em Ogan de hospicio n'ro ex alia parte gerent' dat' vicesimo t'cio die Octobris anno regn' n'ri tricesimo sc'do int' alia tradiderim' concesserim' & ad firmam dimiserim' p'fato Joh'i Ogan grangiam de Barton alias dict' Blake-don' cum p'tin' in Com' p'd'co nup' prioratui de Taunton in Com' n'ro Som's' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' vnam om'ib' domib' edificijs orreis columbar' ortis pomerijs & eidem grangie p'tinen' videl't vnu' pratum vocatum Barnehayes continen' p' estimaco'em vnam acram vnu' pratum vocatum Parkemeade continen' p' estimaco'em duas acras ac terram siue pasturam vocatam Oldhayes alias Olde bares continen' p' estimaco'em tres acras vnam pasturam vocatam Le Orcheyarde continen' p' estimaco'em vnam acram ac terram siue pasturam vocatam Fflower continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras ac terram siue pasturam vocatam Le Twentie Acres Close continen' p' estimaco'em viginti acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocat' Barnehayes continen' p' estimaco'em quinq' acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocatum Le Sevenacres Close continen' p' estimaco'em septem acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocatum Woodcrofte continen' p' estimaco'em duodecim acras vnu' clausum t're siue pasture vocatum Laushere iacen' iuxta Spyding continen' p' estimaco'em duodecim acras ac vnu' clausum t're siue pasture continen' p' estimaco'em septem acras de Spryng ac vnam pastur' vocatam Kingesleasse continen' p' estimaco'em tresdecim acras ac vnam acram pasture iuxta Laushere continen' p' estimaco'em vnam acram & vnam pasturam vocat' Le Priours Parke necnon vnam pastur' in Lyng infra po'chiam de Lyng in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' in tenura Thome Blansheflower & Will' Blansheflower ac om'es t'ras in Pytmyster in Com' p'd'co in tenura Ric'i Mylbury ac om'es t'ras in Pytmyster p'dict' in tenura Thome Spryng d'ce grangie spectan' & p'tinen'. Cumq' eciam vlt'ius p' eandem indentur' tradiderim' &c — p'fato Joh'i Ogan totam Rectoriam & capellam de Corff & Pytmyster in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' prioratui dudu' spectan' & p'tinen' & om'es & om'imod' decimas garbar' penco'es porco'es ac om'ia alia p'ficia quecunq' eidem Rectorie & Capelle de Corff & Pytmyster seu ear' alt'e ab antiquo spectan' siue p'tinen'. H'end' & tenend' — p'fato Joh'i Ogan &c — a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i tunc vltimo p'terito vsq' ad finem

t'ini & p' t'iniu' viginti & vnus annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend'. Reddend' annuatim nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris p' p'd'ca grangia de Barton alias dict' Blakedon ac p'd'cis t'ris &c ——— centum solidos Et p' p'd'cis decimis & alijs p'ficuis Rector' & Capella de Pytmyster & Corff p'dict' octo libras & septem solid' ad fest' An'unciaco'is B'e Mar' Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vel infra vnum mensem ——— soluend' ——— Cumq' eciam nos p' quandam aliam indenturam ——— int' nos ex vna parte & Jacobum Dyer geno'sum ex alia parte gerent' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo nono die Decembr' anno regni n'ri tricesimo primo tradiderim' &c. — p'fato Jacobo Dyer Rectoriam de Trull cum suis iurib' & p'tinen' vniu'sis in Com' n'ro Som's' nup' prioratui de Taunton in eodem Com' dudum spectan' & p'tin' vna cum om'ib' & om'imod' decimis garbar' lane & agnellor' &c ——— except' tamen ——— om'ib' illis decimis garbar' de Hamewoode & Sernehay p'cell' d'ce Rectorie de Trull que Joh'i Sayth p' copiam Cur' dimittit' H'end' & tenend' Rectoriam p'd'cam &c — a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i tunc vltimo p'terito vsq' ad finem t'ini & p' t'iniu' viginti vnus annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' Reddend' inde annuatim nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris octo libras legalis monete Anglie ad festa Annunciaco'is B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i &c soluend' ——— Cumq' eciam nos p' quandam aliam indenturam sub sigillo &c int' nos ex vna parte & Joh'em Luttrell de Dunster in Com' Som's' ex alt'a parte geren' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo octauo die Octobr' anno regni n'ri tricesimo primo int' alia tradiderim' &c. p'fato Joh'i Luttrell scitum nup' domus siue prioratus vel celle de Dunster in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' tunc dissolut' &c ac om'ia t'ras &c vocat' Wagland cum p'tin' & vnu' clausum pasture subtus le Conygre &c &c nup' prioratui de Dunster spectan' &c a festo S'ci Mich'is vltimo p't'ito vsq' ad finem t'ini & viginti & vnus annor' — Reddend' inde annuatim nobis &c septuaginta tres solidos & quatuor denar' ad festa B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i &c soluend' ——— Cumq' eciam ——— Myddelcote ——— Northcote prioratui de Pilton spectan' ——— Le Graye Ffreers iuxta civitatem Exon' &c ——— Sciatis q'd nos p' sum'a noningentar' sexaginta duar' librar' septemdecim solidor' & quatuor denar' legalis

monete Anglie ——— p' dile'm subditum n'rm Humfr'm Colles gen'osum solut' ——— dedim' & concessim' &c p'fato Humfr'o Colles ren'co'em o'im & singulor' p'dcor' domus ——— Bryggewater — Barton — Corff — Pytmyster — Trull — Dunster — Northcote — Middlecote — Greyfreres — Cathanger in p'och' de Stogursey nup' prioratui de Barliche dudum spectan' ——— necnon om'ia & singul' mesuagia t'ras ten'ta &c in p'ochia de Goodley in Com' n'ro Deuon' ac nup' prioratui de Cannyngton in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' Necnon ——— scituin prioratus de Bathe ——— Lyncombe Wydcome &c — Combe — Cote — Syon in Com' Midd' — Martok — London — Dam' &c p'fato Humfr'o Colles on'es illos boscos n'ros in Priours Parke spersim crescen' & continen' p' estimaco'em viginti acras in p'ochia de Pytmyster Corff Trull & Orcharde p'dict' d'co monast'io de Taunton dudum spectan' ——— Necnon totum illum boscum n'rm vocatum Ffoxegrove continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras in p'ochia de Dunster ——— Aceciam totum illum boscum n'rm vocatum Cathanger Grove continen' p' estimaco'em quatuor acras & dimid' in p'ochia de Stogursey et prioratui de Barliche dudum spectan' ——— Necnon totum illum boscum siue grovam n'ram vocatam Le Parke continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras in Bromesfelde in p'ochia de Estbuckelande nup' prioratui de Pilton dudum spectan' ——— Aceciam totam illam copiciam bosci n'ri vocatam Le Lyttlecops continen' p' estimaco'em sex acras in p'ochia de Estbuckelande nup' prioratui de Pilton dudum spectan' ——— ——— Dam' eciam p'fato Humfr'o Colles advocaco'es p'sentaco'es &c de Corff Pytmyster & Trull nup' monast'io de Taunton dudum spectan' ——— ——— Quequidem ten'ta &c prioratui de Barliche spectan' extendunt' ad clar' annuu' valorem quadraginta solidor' ——— prioratui de Cannyngton centum sex solidor' ——— celle de Pilton &c quatuor librar' & vnus obuli ——— Greyfreeres &c quadraginta solidor' ——— Tenend' de nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris in capite p' s'uiciu' quadragesime p'tis vnus feodi militis ac reddend' annuatim nob' &c p' Cathanger quatuor solidos ——— p' priorat' Bridgewater &c sexdecim solidos & quatuor denar' & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' mesungijs &c prioratui de Cannyngton p'tinen' decem solidos & septem denar' & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' grangia de

Barton &c decem solidos ——— p' Rector' & Capella de Corff & Pytmyster &c sexdecim solidos octo denar' & vnu' obulum ——— p' Trull &c duos solidos & octo denar' ——— p' Dunster &c septem solidos & quatuor denar' ——— p' Estbuckelande octo solidos & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' Exon' quatuor solidos ——— p' Bathe octo solidos & quatuor denar' ——— p' Martok sex solidos vnu' denar' vnu' obulum & vnu' quadrantem ——— p' London duodecim solidos ——— ad Cur' n'ram Augment' ad festum S'ci Mich'is Archi singulis annis soluend' ——— Et ult'ius acquietabim' &c. Humfr'o Colles hered' &c de om'ib' corrodijs redditib' feod' annuitatib' &c. p'terq'm de sep'alib' redditib' &c nob' res'uat' ac p'terq'm de sex libris tresdecim solidis & quatuor denarijs annuatim solutis capellano divina celebranda [celebranti] in Eccl'ia de Trull p'dict' p' stipendio suo ——— Et ult'ius dam' p'fato Humfr'o Colles om'ia exitus &c a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i ultimo p'terito hucusq' p'uenien' ——— Aceciam volum' & concedim' p'fato Humfr'o Colles q'd h'eat has l'ras patentes &c absq' fine seu feodo magno vel p'uo ——— In cuius rei &c T. R. apud Westm' xvj die Marcij.

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No. XV.

[Abstract of Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 6, r. xx.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. sal'tm. Cum nos p' l'ras n'ras patentes sub magno sigillo Cur' Augment' ——— sigillat' geren' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo die Maij anno regni n'ri vicesimo octauo ——— tradiderim' concesserim' & ad firmam dimiserim' dil'co nob' Edwardo Rogers gen'oso totam illam Rectoriam n'ram de Wytherygge in Com' n'ro Deuon' nup' prioratui de Cannynghon' in Com' n'ro Som's' modo dissolut' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' Acetiam om'ia & singula decimas garbar' feni agnor' oblacionu' p'fic' & emolument' quor'cumq' d'ce Rectorie p'tinen' siue spectan' H'end' & tenend' p'd'cam Rectoriam decimas &c. p'fato Edwardo Rogers & assignat' suis p' t'mino viginti vnus annor' Reddend' inde annuatim nob' hered' & successorib' n'ris septem libras legalis monete Angl' ——— Sciatis q'd nos p' sum'a trescentar' vnus librar' & septem solidor'

ad manus Thesaurar' &c. p' dil'cos nob' Georgiu' Heydon gen'osum & Hugonem Stucley armig'um solut' — dedim' & concessim' — p'fato Georgio & Hugoni reu'sionem — tocus d'ce Rectorie de Wytherygge in d'co Com' n'ro Deuon' & o'im & singulor' decimar' &c. d'ce Rectorie p'tinen' siue spectan'. Necnon dam' & concedim' eidem Georgio Heydon & Hugoni Stucley totum domu' & scitum nuncupat' Lez Grayfreres infra Lewes in Com' Sussex — Necnon om'ia illa tria cotagia siue ten'ta n'ra cum suis p'tinen' iacen' & existen' in Wytherygge p'dict' in d'co Com' n'ro Deuon' d'co nup' prioratui de Cannington' in Com' n'ro Som's' modo' dissolut' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' — Ac eciam aduocaco'em donaco'em &c. vicarie & eccl'ie de Wytherygge p'dict' — Necnon mesuagiu' in Rollesclyff in parochia de Brodeclyst alias Brodeclyff nup' Prioratui S'ci Nich'i Exon' — spectan' — Ac totum illud mesuagiu' n'r'm vocat' Saltmayde in parochia de Clyff S'ci Georgij in Com' n'ro Deuon' nup' Prioratui S'ci Nich'i Exon' dudum spectan' &c. — Exceptis om'ib' alijs aduocac'oib' &c — eciam om'ib' & singulis campanis plumbo campanar' metall' ferro eccl'ia campanile capellis claustr' & dortur' &c. — Que quidem domus siue scitus nuncupat' Lez Grayfreres &c extendunt' ad clarum annuu' valorem sexdecim solidor' & octo denarior'. Ac que quidem Rectoria de Wytherygge ac cet'a p'missa p'cella possessionu' d'ci nup' prioratus de Cannington' modo extendunt' ad clarum annuu' valorem nouem librar' duor' solidor' et quatuor' denarior'. Ac que quidem mesuagia &c. prioratus S'ci Nich'i Exon' modo extendunt' ad clarum annuu' valorem quatuor librar' tresdecim solidor' & quatuor denarior' — Tenend' de nobis hered' & successorib' n'ris in capite p' s'uiciu' vicesime partis vnus feodi militis. Ac reddend' inde annuatim nob' &c de & pro Grayfreres viginti denarios. Et de & pro Rectoria de Wytherygge & trib' cotagijs — octodecim solidos & tres denarios. Et de & pro mesuagio &c. S'ci Nich'i Exon' nouem solidos & quatuor denarios legal' mon' Angl' ad Cur' n'ram Augmentacionu' &c. ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i singulis annis soluend' — Et vlt'ius dam' &c. Georgio Heydon & Hugoni Stucley om'ia exitus redditus &c. a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito hucusq' p'ueniend' &c. Volum' &c. q'd h'eant has l'ras n'ras

patentes sub magno sigillo — absq' fine seu feod' magno vel paruo reddend' vel soluend' &c. In cuius rei &c. T. R. apud Westm'. xiiij die Junij.

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No. XVI.

[Abstract of Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3, r. ix.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Cum nos p' l'ras paten' sub magno sigillo n'ro Angl' confect' geren' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo primo die Ffebruarij anno regni n'ri tricesimo sc'do — dederim' & concesserim' Edwardo Rogers man'ium de Radway Ffytzpayn cum suis membris &c — nup' p'cell' possessionu' Henrici nup' marchionis Exon' de alt' p'dico'e attinct' — h'end' & tenend' p'fat' Edwardo Rogers p' t'mino vite sue — Cumq' eciam nos p' quasdam alias l'ras n'ras paten' — quar' dat' fuit apud Westm' decimo septimo die Marcij anno regni n'ri tricesimo sc'do — concesserim' &c p'fat' Edwardo tot' hundred' n'rm de Cannynghon' cum p'tin' in Com' Som's' ac om'ia & om'imod' reddit' &c. — que om'ia & singula nup' antea fuerunt p'cell' t'rar' &c. Henrici nup' marchionis Exon' attinct' — h'end' &c. p'fat' Edwardo Rogers execut' & assign' suis a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito — vsq' ad finem & terminu' viginti & vnus annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' reddendo inde annuatim nobis &c. septem libras quinq' solidos vnu' obulum & vnu' quadrantem ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i tantum — Sciatis igit' q'd nos — dedim' &c. p'fato Edwardo Rogers tot' dict' man'iu' de Radwaye Ffytzpayne cum suis membris &c. necnon p'dc'm hundr'm n'rm de Cannynghon' cum om'ib' & singulis suis p'tin' — Que quidem man'iu' de Raddway Ffytzpayne &c. extendunt' ad clar' annuu' valorem viginti sex librar' vndecim denar' & vnus obuli Et quod quidem hundr'm de Cannynghon' &c. modo extendunt' ad clar' annuu' valorem septem librar' quinq' solidor' & vnus obuli. H'end' &c. p'dc'm man'ium de Radwaye Ffytzpayne — & p'dc'm hundr'm n'rm de Cannynghon' cum om'ib' & singulis p'tin' suis — p'fat' Edwardo Rogers & hered' masculis de corpore suo legitime p'creatis Tenend' de nob' &c. in

capite p' s'uic' vicesime p'tis vnus feod' milit' p' om'ib' s'uicijs — soluend' Et insup' cum nos p' quandam indentur' &c dat' apud Westm' vicesimo die Marcij anno regni n'ri vicesimo octauo — tradiderim' &c p'fato Edwardo Rogers de hospicio n'ro armig' — lib'am capellam de Pyddelwaldestone in Com' n'ro Dors' nup' prioratui de Cannynghon spectan' &c vna cu' om'ib' decimis oblaco'ib' p'ficuis & emolument' quibuscumq' eidem capelle p'tinen' — a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'it' vsq' ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnus annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' reddendo inde annuatim nob' hered' &c quadraginta solid' ad fest' Annunc'ois B'e Marie Virginis & S'ci Mich'is Arch'i — soluend' Nos volentes &c. dam' &c p'fato Edwardo d'cam lib'am capellam de Peddylwaldestone &c. — Que quidem capella &c extendunt' ad clar' annuu' valorem quadragint' solid' H'end' &c p'fato Edwardo Rogers & hered' masculis de corpore suo legittime p'creat' Tenend' nob' &c p' fidelit' tantum in lib'o socagio & non in capite ac reddendo inde annuatim nob' &c quatuor solid' legalis monet' Angl' ad Cur' Augment' &c. ad festum S'ci Mich'is singulis annis soluend' — Et dam' p'fato Edwardo om'ia reddit' &c a festo S'ci Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p't'ito — absq' fine seu feod' magno vel p'uo In cuius rei &c. T. R. apud Tychefelde t'cio die Augusti.

T. H.