

White Hall, in Ilchester.

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A STRANGER as he stands upon Ilchester Bridge can with difficulty believe that he has before him what was, until lately, the county town of Somersetshire. A street of no great length lies immediately in front, containing what are clearly four-fifths of the houses of the place. He is told that a building in the middle distance is the town hall, but of important or sacred edifices there are none that he can discern. On the right bank behind him is the site of the late county prison, now transformed into gardens. Immediately below is the river Ivel, whose waters during the summer hardly cover their channel, as they flow with a thousand windings through the flat country both above and below the town. The shore of the river on the town side is of little more apparent interest than the other parts of the landscape. That on the left of the bridge, which was built about forty years ago, is the garden belonging to a mansion in the street, raised high above the stream by a stone wall half concealed by weeping willows and other trees, and conspicuous for the care and skill with which it is tended. That on the right is a farm yard, also protected against the stream by a wall rising to the level of the ground, which is about fifteen feet above the bed of the river, full of goodly wheat-mows

and hay-ricks, and backed by modern agricultural buildings of lias and slate. If you cross the bridge, and pass through the wheat-mows in the yard to the fields beyond, you cannot fail to observe, as indeed you may in all parts of the town, that the walls of the enclosure are composed in great measure of the remains of former edifices, worked fragments of Ham Hill stone, used promiscuously with other materials. But, with this exception, neither the farm yard nor its boundary wall contains aught of archæological interest discernible even by the most practised eye.

And yet there is a melancholy interest which haunts the spot, destitute of ability though it appears of inspiring such a feeling. In old time the Ivel, as it swept from Ilchester Bridge, flowed on beneath the walls of a picturesque group of edifices, of which not a stone now remains in its former position. All is gone, save the fragments already alluded to, if indeed these have not been brought from other buildings in the neighbourhood, as is more than likely to be the case. Visible proof of ancient occupation the place has none. We are entirely dependent on the accounts of preceding travellers, and on tradition which still lingers among the old neighbours, for a knowledge of the fact that this farm yard is the site of White Hall of Ilchester.

Ilchester is full of such memories. It abounded with Churches and Religious Houses, and of the great majority nothing now remains save the mere recollection. The description of Leland, who visited the place in the earlier half of the sixteenth century, is very remarkable for the melancholy tone in which, contrary to his wont, the writer indulges. "The Towne of Ilchester," he says, "hath beene a very large thyng, and one of the auncientest Townes yn al that Quarter. At this tyme it is yn won-

derful decay, as a thing in a maner rasid with men of Warre. Ther hath beene in hominum memoria 4. Paroche Churchis yn the Toune, whereof one yet is occupied. The tokens of other 2. yet stond, and the 4. is clene yn Ruine.”* He “enterid by the South West into Ilchester, over a great Stone Bridge of vij arches, yn the midle wherof were ij. litle Howses of Stone, one on the right Hond, wher the commune Gaiol is for Prisoners yn Somersetshir. The other House on the lift Hond. The lesser of booth semid to me to have bene a Chapelle.”† This, as Stukeley thought, who was there in 1723, was Little Saint Mary’s Church,‡ many particulars in connection with which will be mentioned in the course of the history. From this point he could see White Hall, and of it he says:—“Ther is a fre Chapelle in the Towne, the bakside wherof cummith to the Ryver side even hard bynethe the Bridge, and ther joynith a right praty Mansion House to this Chapelle. I have hard say That many Yeres syns ther was a Nunry wher this Chapelle ys.”§ In Stukeley’s time, and long before, both the Chapel on the bridge and this, which he calls White Chapel, had been “converted into dwellings.”||

Of the changeful fortunes of this last,—successively Hospital, Nunnery, and Free Chapel,—the reader shall now be furnished with such an account as from multifarious Records I can collect and glean for him.

Some time between the years 1216 and 1220, William Dacus, or Dennis, gave certain lands, enumerated in a charter which has been fortunately preserved in Bishop Droknesford’s Register,¶ in and near Ilchester, for the

* Itin. vol. ij. p. 61.

† Iter vj. vol. j. p. 155.

|| Iter vj. Ib.

† Ib.

§ Itin. Ib.

¶ Reg. Drok. fol. lvij.

purpose of founding a Hospital to the honour of the Blessed Trinity, for the reception and entertainment of poor travellers and pilgrims, and in behalf of other sacred objects which are minutely enumerated and specified. A house in Ivelcester called White Hall is the first mentioned in this document, and from it, I presume, the Hospital derived its name. There was a family of Albe, or White, resident in Ilchester from a very early period, a member of which, John Albe, gave a shop, situated in Chepstrete, in that town, to Ralph Herward, as a marriage portion with his grand daughter Matilda. The same John appears as a witness to another deed, whereby William Cocul, of Lumynton, gives to the same Ralph, as a marriage portion with the same Matilda, his daughter, a messuage with appurtenances in Lumynton, with various other lands.* Both of these deeds are undated, but are of the time of Henry III. It is not improbable that, previous to its becoming the property of William Dacus, White Hall was the mansion of this family, and that, as I before remarked, the House thus acquired its characteristic name.

The founder was a man of considerable importance. It was to him, I conjecture, that a writ was addressed, dated at Waltham, the 18th of October, 1204, commanding him to deliver to William de Montacute, the castle of Sireburn.† To him, without doubt, the charter was granted, dated at Suwic, on the 12th of May, in the 5th year of the reign of K. John, 1204, by which that monarch gave to William Dacus six pounds and ten shillings of rent which he was accustomed to pay of the farm

* Ilchester Almshouse Deeds, communicated by the Rev. William Buckler, Nos. 60, 61.

† Pat. 6 John, m. 8. Add. MS. B.M. 9783, p. 78.

of Heywarder and Heching, and of other tenements with their appurtenances, which he held of the King in the burg of Ivelcestre, with the various rights of soc and sac, &c., belonging to them.* Nor can it be held improbable that the precinct which bears to our own time its old Saxon appellation of Soke Dennis obtained its distinguishing affix from this worshipful family.

The lands with which the Hospital was endowed by its good founder, and the pious objects which he had in view may best be learned by the terms of his charter. It occurs, as I have already observed, in the Register of Bishop Drokenesford, into which it was copied for security and preservation. I give it here in exact translation, and the original will be found in the Appendix.

“To all the faithful of Christ to whom the present writing shall come, William Dacus wisheth eternal salvation in the true Saviour. Know all of you that I, by motive of divine piety, have given and freely granted, and by this my charter have confirmed to our Lord God, in pure and perpetual alms, the house of Ivelcestre which is called White Hall, with all the messuage to the same house pertaining, and two houses hard by the same house which were in the tenure of Roger de Donehefd, and both the mills which I formerly possessed in the vill of Ivelcestre, with all the arable land which pertaineth to the aforesaid mills, and with one sester of meadow land† pertaining to the said

* Cart. 5 John, m. 3.

† “Cum uno sextario prati.” In the copy of this charter, given in the Appendix to the Annals of John de Trokelowe, “sextario” is transformed into “sexclirio,” of which new and obscure word both Hearne and Du Cange have propounded some learned elucidations! Had the original been consulted, their expenditure of time and sagacity would have been prevented. The MS. is perfectly clear, and the difficulty is one which owed its origin to the blunder of the transcriber only.

mills ; so that, however, my own corn and that of my household in the same mills be quit of all grinding dues. I have also given to God the house which was Aylward Lagga's, with all the messuage to the said house pertaining, and ten acres of land lying next to the said messuage, and eighteen acres of land which are called Heychyng, and five acres of land which are called Panchot croft, which lie in the north part of Pulbring, and two shillings of the service of the tenement of Henry the Carter, to wit, of one virgate of land at Soweý twelve pence, and of one messuage in the vill of Ivelcestre twelve pence, and seven acres of land which were of Haywarder, to wit, one acre which is called Battedeacre, and one acre which lyeth near to the house of the lepers, and two acres and a half in the west part from the house of the lepers, and two acres and a half which lie near to the land of W. Ruffe-gray towards Pulbringg ; to found a Hospital to the honor of God and the Blessed Trinity, to the support of poor, weak, and sick pilgrims, for the health of the soul of Richard, Bishop of Winchester, born at Sok, and for the health of the soul of his father and mother, and of his ancestors, and of all to him by consanguinity pertaining ; and for the health of the soul of Herbert, Bishop of Salisbury, and of his father and mother, and of his ancestors, and of all to him by consanguinity pertaining ; and for the health of the soul of Jocelin, Bishop of Bath, and of his father and mother, and of his ancestors, and of all to him by consanguinity pertaining ; and for the health of the soul of Adam de Ivelcestre, Dean of Salisbury, and of his father and mother, and of his ancestors, and of all to him by consanguinity pertaining ; and for the health of my soul, and of my father and mother, and of my ancestors, and of all to me by consanguinity pertaining ; and for the

health of the soul of Emma my wife, and of her father and mother, and of her ancestors, and of all to her by consanguinity pertaining; and for the health of all those who shall mercifully contribute their alms to the improvement and support of the aforesaid Hospital. This also I add, that I and my heirs shall present the wardens of the said Hospital to the Lord Bishop of Bath, in whose protection the Hospital is. And if it shall so happen that the warden of the said Hospital to the said Hospital shall not be necessary, I and my heirs only, and no other, shall remove the same, and another whom we shall see to be suitable, by the counsel of prudent men, shall there place in his stead. I and my heirs in the name of God will warrant all the lands aforesaid to God and the Hospital aforesaid against all men. And that this my donation may remain sure, and for the time to come may continue stedfast, I have strengthened the present charter by the apposition of my seal. These be witnesses:— Lord Stephen, Archbishop of Canterbury; Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln; Jocelin, Bishop of Bath; Richard, Bishop of Salisbury; Adam de Ivelcestre, dean of Salisbury; Geoffrey, Archdeacon of Berkshire; John, Chaplain of Lord Richard, Bishop of Salisbury; Master Luke, Canon of Salisbury; Hugh Malet, Gilbert Dacus, Richard Dacus, Richard Pauncefoot, and Richard his son, Richard de Clyvedon, Bartholomew de Kemessing, and many others.”*

It is, of course, a matter of the first importance to fix the date of this foundation charter. It is assigned by Archer, Hearne, and Collinson, to about the year 1226. Each of these writers, however, is in error, as may without

* Reg. Drok. fol. lviii. Appendix, No. I. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6964, pp. 21, 22.

difficulty be proved by an examination of the attesting witnesses. The Stephen, Hugh, Jocelin, and Richard of the charter were, respectively, Stephen Lancton, Archbishop of Canterbury; from 1207 to 1229; Hugh Wallis, Bishop of Lincoln, 1209-1235; Jocelin de Welles, Bishop of Bath, 1206-1244; and Richard Poore, Bishop of Salisbury, first consecrated to Chichester on the 25th of January, 1215-16, and translated to Salisbury in May or June, 1217. Two other important names then occur—Adam de Ivelcestre, Dean of Salisbury; and Geoffrey, Archdeacon of Berkshire. The latter is principally remembered from his place in this very document,* but the presence of the former, in connection with the last-named Bishop, happily reduces us to a much narrower interval than that to which we were previously restricted. Adam de Ivelcestre was elected to the Deanery of Salisbury on the consecration of his predecessor, Richard Poore, to the Bishopric of Chichester, which, as I have already stated, was on the 25th of January, 1215-16, and died on the 23rd of August, 1220. Accordingly to some day between May or June, 1217, the date of Richard's translation, and the 23rd of August, 1220, that of Adam de Ivelcestre's death, the charter of foundation must be referred. I fear that, in the absence of a direct statement in the document itself, this interval of three years is the closest approximation to the exact date which can now be arrived at.

Before we proceed a few words must be added about the founder and his family. I am indebted to the kindness of the Rev. William Buckler, the Rector of Ilchester, for the loan of several ancient deeds belonging to the Alms-house of that town, which throw considerable light on the

* Le Neve's Fasti, by Hardy, ij. 632.

history of White Hall. The earliest is one which, though undated, is to be referred to the reign of King John, the period of the foundation of the House. Several of the names are identical with those which appear in the charter which we have just examined. By it William Dacus grants to Herward, for his homage and service, a messuage formerly in the tenure of Pagan Hoper, together with other property, in consideration of an annual rent, of eleven shillings, payable quarterly, receiving as an acknowledgment half a marc of silver. The witnesses are Gilbert Dacus, Thomas de Cirencester, Robert Triz, Geoffrey of the Hospital, either, I presume, the warden or a brother of the House, William Raffe, William de Gedding, Henry Carter, Richard, clerk, and many others.*

I find also the first of these witnesses, Gilbert Dacus, attesting an agreement between the Dean and Chapter of Wells and John de Alre and Agnes his wife, concerning land on Saltmore. It is dated on the Festival of S. Mark, the Evangelist, 25th April, 1233, in the chapel of S. Gregory, of Stok, at Northcure.†

For upwards of twenty years after the foundation of the Hospital little or nothing seems to have been done to augment its revenues. Powerful friends, however, were soon to co-operate in aid of the institution. William, Abbot of Cernel, or Cerne, to the members of which affluent and magnificent Abbey belonged the advowson of the Church of S. Mary the Less in Ilchester, and an annual payment from the same, gave to the Hospital that Church and the revenue derived from it, with the concurrence if not at the instance of Jocelin, the good Bishop of Bath, with the

* Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 34.

† Reg. Well. I. fol. 12 b.

special intent that among other advantages its inmates might have close at hand a chapel for the performance of Divine Service, instead of being compelled, as previously, to traverse the crowded streets in their way to the parish church. The rights of those parties, however, who had an interest in the arrangement which was thus altered, were carefully examined and respected. All this will be found clearly and minutely detailed in the letters of the Abbot and Convent of Cernel, and of Bishop Jocelin, in connexion with this transfer. They follow in Bishop Droknesford's Register the foundation charter already given, and I have treated them in a similar manner. I may premise that Bishop Jocelin was the same as the prelate whom we have just seen attesting the charter of foundation, and that the Abbot of Cernel, or Cerne, was William de Hungerford, who received the royal assent to his election on the 30th of March, 1232.*

“ A letter of the Abbot of Cernel, touching the ratification of the said appropriation :—

“ To all the faithful of Christ, to whom the present writing shall come, William, by Divine permission Abbot of Cernel, and the convent of the same place, health in the Lord. We directed our letters patent to the venerable Father Jocelin, by the grace of God Bishop of Bath, after these words :—To the Reverend Lord and Dearest Father in Christ, Jocelin, by the grace of God Bishop of Bath, W. by Divine permission Abbot of Cernel, and the convent of the same place, health and devoted reverence in the Lord. Know ye, that we will for ever ratify and approve the ordination which you have made touching the advowson of the Church of Blessed

* Pat. 16 Hen. iij. m. 7.

Mary the Less of Ivelcestre, and touching the annual benefice which we have been accustomed to receive from the said Church. In witness whereof we have caused our seals to be affixed to the present writing. May your Father-ship ever fare well in the Lord—‘*valeat paternitas vestra semper in Domino.*’ The said Lord Bishop, on the receipt of these our letters aforesaid, by the counsel of men prudent and learned in the law, his assessors, ordained after this manner : namely, that we should continue to receive that annual pension which we have been accustomed to receive from the same church, to wit two shillings, during the whole lifetime of Thomas now parson of that church, and that the advowson of that church should remain for ever to the said bishop and his successors. He ordained also, that after the decease or cession of the said Thomas we should receive one marc yearly within the octave of the Assumption of Blessed Mary, in the house of Cernel, out of the revenues of the said church, by the name of perpetual benefice, by the hand of the rectors of that church for the time being, and should receive that marc quit of all ordinary burden. To the making of this ordination the anxiety and care which he felt for the Hospital of S. John Baptist of Ivelcestre, which Hospital is situated in the parish of the aforesaid church, induced the aforesaid Bishop, as he declared, that he might more easily and competently be able to provide for the celebration for the future of Divine Service in the chapel of the aforesaid Hospital. We therefore entirely ratify and approve the aforesaid ordination of the said lord bishop for us and our successors. In strength and testimony whereof we have to the present writing affixed our seals.”*

* Reg. Drok. fol. lvijj. Appendix, No. II.

To the letter quoted by the Abbot at the commencement of this epistle, Bishop Jocelin replied as follows:—

“A letter of lord Jocelin, Bishop, touching his ordination of the said appropriation.

“To all to whom the present writing shall come, Jocelin, by the grace of God Bishop of Bath, health. We have received the letters patent of the Abbot and Convent of Cernell in these words:—To the Reverend Lord, &c.” as above—“We, on receipt of the said letters, (inasmuch as a certain place is, with consent of the lord of the land, assigned by pontifical authority to the use of hospitality and the maintenance of poor persons, within the parish of the said church, in honour of the Holy Trinity, the care and thought whereof lieth upon us by our pastoral office,) considering the poverty and small estate of the said Hospital, and the loss which the brethren and sisters of the same sustain, who, leaving the world, for the service of God and the poor, under the habit of poverty have taken there the habit of monachism and religion; and that, for the celebrating and hearing of Divine Service, they have necessarily had to hurry to the parish church among secular persons through the streets, to the disgrace of religion, inasmuch as in the said Hospital Divine Service might not be celebrated save by preserving intact the rights of the said mother church, by the counsel of men prudent and learned in the law, concerning the said advowson and church thus ordain:—namely, that the aforesaid Hospital and the brethren of the same shall have the advowson of the aforesaid church for ever. We grant also to the same that, on the ceasing or deceasing of Thomas, now rector of the same, they have the free ability by this our grant to convert the said church to their own uses, and to keep, and enter into possession of the same,

without in any way requiring the assent of us or our successors, so that they cause Divine Service to be for ever in the same by a fit chaplain competently performed. And that they henceforward pay yearly within the octave of the Assumption of Blessed Mary Virgin at Cernell to the Abbot and monks of the same place one marc out of the revenues of the same church, by the name of perpetual benefice, without any ordinary burden. As long, however, as the aforesaid Thomas, the present rector of the same, possesseth the said church, the said Abbot and convent of Cernell are to receive the annual pension of two shillings, which from it they have been previously accustomed to receive, so that the said brethren may have in the said Hospital a chapel of their own, in which they may cause Divine Service to be celebrated with striking of bells and other observances customary and necessary in the celebration of Divine Service. And that they may have a consecrated cemetery within the bounds of their Hospital, to bury their brethren and sisters and other persons who there shall think fit to choose to be buried; with reservation always of the right of the parish churches of those who there shall choose to be buried. This ordination we make, reserving to us and to our successors the entire jurisdiction, power and dignity of our churches and ourselves; and reserving to the archdeacons of the place their archidiaconal right, in recompense of which loss we will and appoint that to the same archdeacons the customary synodals every year be doubled. In testimony whereof we have to the present writing caused our seal to be affixed. Dated at Woky, on the day of the Conversion of S. Paul, in the year of grace one thousand, two hundred, and forty first.”*

* Reg. Drok. ff. lvijj, lvijb. Appendix, No. III.

The date of the founder's death I have not discovered, but I presume that about this time his son, John Dacus, or le Daneys, departed this life. For King Henry III. would seem to have commenced his 26th regnal year by granting letters of protection to the Master and brethren of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity of Ivelcestre and their dependents, the said letters to last to the coming of age of the heir of John le Daneys. The announcement stands first upon the Patent Roll, and is dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 28th of October, the first day of his regnal year, 1241.* These letters would give the Society an immunity from all demands of the King's Ministers and other officers of account.

John le Daneys left behind him a daughter named Ela. To the task of her protection during her minority the King appointed a member of a well-known family, which will be found repeatedly mixed up with the subsequent fortunes of White Hall. By patent dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 30th of January, 1241-2, was granted to Nicholas de Bolevill, the wardship of a moiety of all the land of John Dacus, which by the law of heirship came to Ela, the first-born daughter of the said John, together with the disposal in marriage of the said Ela; the said Nicholas to have and hold the same to the coming of age of the said Ela.†

The family of the founder was in possession of a small payment from White Hall at the time of the compilation of the Testa de Nevill, in or about the year 1270. The jurors reported that William Dacus had 2½d from the property, but that he did no service for it.‡

* Pat. 26 Hen. III. m. 13.

† Pat. 26 Hen. III. m. 10.

‡ Test. de Nevill, p. 161.

With this at the latest ends, though it may hardly be said to have more than begun, the history of the place as a Hospital. When or how the alteration was brought about we know not, but within ten years from the date last mentioned, even if it had not taken effect before, a change was made in its form of government, and it became a House of Augustinian Nuns under the rule of a Prioress. Probably it was induced by the feeling that the peculiar duties of such an institution were more likely to be satisfactorily performed by the agency of women than by that of the earlier rulers of the House. Be this, however, as it may, the first intimation which we possess of the change is presented by a document which is sufficiently curious and interesting to deserve a minute notice.

An inquest was held some time in the 9th year of King Edward I., or between the 20th of November, 1280, and the same day, 1281, and a verdict was returned on oath by Adam de Kary, William Tessun, William Cot, Thomas de Parays, John de Loveny, Gilbert de Taunton, Peter Le Rus, Nicholas de Tyntenhull, William Sclaume, William Ffoffard, Geoffrey de Tyntenhull, and Reginald de Kary, that one messuage in the vill of Ivelcestre was held of the Earl of Cornwall, by a service of one farthing a year for every service, and that the said Earl was chief lord of that messuage, and that another messuage was held of the same Earl, by a service of one halfpenny a year for every service; paying thence to Roger de Moles twelve pence a year only, without the receipt of any other service thencefrom. They presented that it would not be to the damage of the said Earl, if Cecilia Bagge and Robert her son should grant or enfeof the Prioress and Nuns of La Blanchedale of Ivelcestre, because the said Earl ought to receive the customs and services due from

the messuages aforesaid every year by the hands of the tenants of the said messuages. They further presented that four acres of land were held of John Shurek of Cilterne, by a service of one penny a year for all services, of the fee of John de Montacute, which was held of the King in chief by barony. Further, that one acre of land and a half were held of Hugh Hereward by a service of one penny a year; and one acre and a half were held of Adam Haghene by a service of one rose a year; and one acre of land was held of Thomas Bagge by a service of one half-penny a year, and were of the fee of the Earl Marescall by iiij^d of Sturgoyl; and two acres of meadow and a half were held of the heirs of William Le Deneys, who held them in chief of the King by a service of twelve pence a year. Further, that it would not be to the damage of the King if the aforesaid Prioress and Nuns were enfeoffed of the aforesaid tenements; and also that it would be similarly without loss to the lords of the fee if they were thence enfeoffed, inasmuch as nothing in the aforesaid tenements could accrue to them, unless only by escheat, if such should hap, or relief; and if an escheat should hap, that then it would be to the damage of the lords of the fee to the amount of vj^d a year from each acre of arable land, and from the two acres and a half of meadow vj^d only a year.*

It will be perceived at first sight that there is considerable obscurity in this document. It is the result of an inquest taken, I presume, at Ilchester, and an ancient but not contemporary endorsement attributes it to the year above given. It bears no date, however, nor mentions the fact of its having been taken before the King's

* Esc. 9 Edw. I. n. 79. Appendix, No. IV.

Escheator, though such, I apprehend, was the case. Nor can we be in any degree certain how much, or if any more, land beyond the two messuages held by Cecilia Bagge and Robert her son of the Earl of Cornwall was proposed to be given to the Prioress and Sisters, although it looks from the language employed as if the ten acres subsequently mentioned as held of John Shurek, Hugh Hereward, Adam Haghene, Thomas Bagge, and William Le Daneys, were intended to accompany the gift. I even think I can trace some of these small tenements in the enumeration, just two centuries afterwards, of the various possessions of White Hall, when it had long undergone a third transformation.

By a deed which, although undated, is proved by internal evidence to be of the time of Edward I., formerly in the Dering Collection but now in my possession, Henry de Rocheford, or Rogeford, son of Eudo de Estwode, gave to Henry de Broke, Nichola, his wife, and their heirs, three acres of arable land called Litlemede, lying between the land of Henry de Broke, called Brudenewere, on the south, and the road, called the Morstrete, on the north; and seven acres of meadow, lying between the parcel of arable land, which is called the Castel, on the north of the said meadow, and the meadow of the Prioress of White Hall of Yvelcestre, on the south, which arable land and meadow were formerly held to farm of the said Henry Rocheford by William Ruffegre, with the reservation of a rent-charge of sixteen pence a year, payable to the commonalty of the town of Yvelcestre, at Hokeday, for all services, suits, complaints, secular demands, and all other outgoings at any time pertaining to the land aforesaid. Henry de Broke and Nichola his wife gave to Henry de Rocheford for this donation, concession, confirmation, and warranty, twenty-

four marcs and a half of silver. Witnesses : Sirs William de Givelton and Andrew de Putford, Knts., Thomas de Hengleby, John Herod, John Pol, Henry de Spekinton, John de Aula of Montacute, John de Broke, Robert de Bradeford, and others.*

Thomas de Speketone, son and heir of Henry de Speketone, no doubt one of the witnesses of the charter just before us, quit-claimed to Walter Cole, of Ivelcester, a tenement situated towards the North Gate of that town, to the east of the tenement of White Hall, formerly in the tenure of Thomas Axtil, and which was given to William, called the Carter, as a free marriage portion with Matilda, daughter of William de Speketone. For this acquittance Walter paid twenty shillings sterling. Witnesses : Peter de Draycote, William Cook of Lymyngtone, Robert de Scheptone, clerk, Thomas de Engelby, Master Robert de Nortone, John Love, Thomas Tigel. Dated at Ivelcester, on Sunday next after the feast of the Purification of Blessed Mary, in the thirty-second year of Edward I. ; which is coincident with the 9th of February, 1303-4.†

The Priory was without a Superior either by death or resignation in the year 1313. This is the first notice that we possess of the internal affairs of the House. On the Ides, the 13th, of December in that year, Bishop John de Drokenesford issued a mandate from London to the Archdeacon of Wells, or his official, to make the customary inquiries into the matter. On the 9th of the same month a commission had been addressed from London to Antony de Bradeneye and Hugh de Pencriche, who have already figured before us in the annals of Canyngton and Mynchin Barrow, empowering them, if the examination of the lady

* Appendix, No. V.

† Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 47.

presented to them for the vacant office were satisfactory, to admit and induct her into corporal possession.*

Like the sister Houses of Canyngton and Mynchin Barrow, White Hall was ordinarily committed to the oversight of some of the neighbouring clergy. At this time the generally unthankful office was entrusted to William de Modiford, rector of Tyntenhull, and William de Insula, rector of S. Mary the Greater in Yvelcester. A commission was addressed to them, conjointly and singly, dated at Kyngesbury, the 10th of July, 1315, respecting the care and administration of the House, which was to be exercised by them during the Bishop's pleasure.†

Five weeks afterwards the Bishop committed the wardship of the Sisters and their possessions to W. [William de Glydeford], Rector of Jerlitan [Yarlton] and Simon de Montacute, Knt. They were to render to the Bishop an account of their administration, when such should be demanded, and their commission was revocable by him, if and whensoever he might think proper to recall it. The missive was dated at Woky, the 17th of August, 1315.‡

Alice de la Zerde, or Yard—a name probably derived from an estate in Ilchester belonging to the family of Boleville,—was at this time Prioress. Her misconduct unhappily compelled the Bishop's interference, and the employment of stringent measures for its correction. She was charged with extreme severity towards her Sisters, even to the extent of ejecting them from the House, and compelling them to beg for their daily bread. The Nuns applied to their Bishop, and implored with many tears his

* Reg. Drok. fol. cxlj.

† Reg. Drok. fol. lxxx.

‡ Reg. Drok. fol. lxxxjb.

aid and protection. He took their view of the matter, and sentenced the offending Superior to deprivation of her office. A commission, for the carrying out of this judgment by one or both, was addressed from Kyngesbury to Thomas de Gorges, precentor, and Hugh de Penriche, canon of Wells, whom we have already seen employed on similar occasions at other Houses, on the 4th of the Nones, the 2nd, of November, 1315.*

The Prioress appealed to the Primate at Canterbury, and the matter was referred to his court for adjudication. Bishop Drokenesford wrote to the Archbishop, informing him of the unhappy and shameful circumstances of the case, the wrongs which the Nuns had endured, and their earnest solicitation that he would apply a remedy. As he says that he has his hands tied, "*manus ligatas obtinentes*," while the cause was pending in the Archbishop's court, he entreats the Primate to befriend the Sisters in their misery, and graciously to allow them a necessary maintenance in peace out of their own property in their House aforesaid, until the judgment of his court should be given. The Bishop's letter was dated at Kyngesbury, on the Nones, the 5th, of September, 1316.†

Alice de la Zerde was deprived of her office, and Alice de Chilterne was presented by the patron, Nicholas de Bolevill, and elected Prioress of White Hall.

The late Prioress was not alone to blame. It is certain that several successive wardens had most grievously neglected the duties of their office. John de Draycote and Walter de Wouburn were special and notorious

* Reg. Drok. fol. lxxxxij. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 33.

† Reg. Drok. fol. lxxxxviiijb. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 36.
Appendix, No. VI.

culprits. The former had been placed in his post of responsibility by Simon de Montacute, to whom, as we have already seen, the wardship of the House had been committed, and the latter had been promoted by the King to the same office at the said John's suggestion, but had been for various reasons removed from it. Under their united mismanagement, and that of certain others, their accomplices and abettors, the property of the Hospital had been so consumed and wasted, that the Nuns were reduced to beggary, and the House itself seemed to have arrived at the close of its existence. So gross and palpable was the wrong done, that complaint was made to the authorities, and the whole matter came under the immediate cognizance of the law. The records furnish us with a minute account of the state to which the House had arrived, and the means by which an attempt was made to redress the evil. A writ in the first place was addressed to William de Bourn, John de Erle, and Nicholas de Wedergrave. The instrument sets forth that because, from the frequent complaints of divers persons, the King is given to understand that the goods of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity of Yvelcestre, assigned by the contribution of the faithful to the support of the poor Sisters of the aforesaid Hospital, had by John de Draycote, (whom Simon de Montacute, to whom the Escheator John Walewayn was asserted to have committed the custody of the said Hospital, under colour of a certain inquest taken by him *ex officio*, by which it was said to be discovered that Alice de Chiltern had been, at the presentation of Nicholas de Bolevill, son and heir of Nicholas de Bolevill some time defunct, who held the same in chief of the late King Edward, the father of the present King, promoted to be Prioress of the Hospital aforesaid, and, forasmuch as the

said Nicholas had not yet proved his majority, nor obtained the usual seisin of his estates from the King's delivery, had deputed) and also by Walter de Wouburn, (to whom the King had lately committed the custody aforesaid at the suggestion of the aforesaid John, and whom afterwards for certain reasons he had removed from the same,) and also by their accomplices and abettors, been wasted and destroyed, in so much that the said Sisters were by the want of care and deliberate malice of the said John and Walter now deprived of necessary maintenance, and were as good as reduced to a state of beggary and public exposure, so that, unless a very speedy obstacle should be put to the malice of the said John and Walter, there was a most probable fear that the said Hospital would be cleared out and irreparably destroyed,—the King, wishing to be more fully certified in respect of the premises, and, as well for the conservation of his right as for the indemnity of the aforesaid Hospital, justice to be done, appointed them or two of them to overlook the state of the aforesaid Hospital, and to enquire, by the oath of honest men of the county of Somerset, what and what manner of goods had been, by the aforesaid John and Walter and their accomplices and abettors, taken away or eloined from the Hospital aforesaid, and when, and by whom, and how, and in what manner, and also concerning the value of the same; and whether the aforesaid Nicholas, the father of the aforesaid Nicholas, held them on the day of his death of the King's father aforesaid, or of any heir then under age and in the King's custody, and how and in what manner; and whether the said Nicholas at the time that he presented the aforesaid Alice to the place of Prioress of the Hospital, as was aforesaid, was seised of the lands and tenements which had belonged to his aforesaid father, or not; and if so, then

by whom and how, and in what manner; and moreover what state the ancestors of the aforesaid Nicholas had in the Hospital aforesaid, on the occasions of vacancies of the same; and concerning all other matters affecting the premises, and to the restoration to the said Hospital of all the goods which they should find to have been taken and eloined from the same, and the delivery of them to the said Prioress and Sisters of the said Hospital for the support of the same; and also to compel and distrain the aforesaid John, Walter, and others, in whose possession such goods should happen to be found, according to the requirement of the law. They were further commanded to make, with certain whom they, or at least two of them, should appoint to this work, a personal visit to the Hospital, to inspect its state, to hold a diligent inquest in respect of the premised articles, to complete all and singular of the premises in the form aforesaid, and to inform the King of their proceeding, distinctly and openly, sending the inquest taken by them in respect of the premises, under their seals and the seals of them by whom it should be made, without delay, and the writ with the same. The sheriff was also commanded to aid and assist them in all and singular the aforesaid particulars. The writ was dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 28th of June, 1316.*

I am sorry to be obliged in truth and candour to state that the Prioress, Alice de Chilterne, herself cannot be exonerated from great and criminal blame. That she had numerous enemies is certain, but her own behaviour would seem, unless we attribute the charge which now appears against her to the falsehood and malice of her detractors, to have been open to grave objection. A commission was

* Pat. 9 Edw. II. p. 2. m. 7, dors.

issued by the Bishop to Sir Henry de Birlaunde, (the 'Sir' was the honorary prefix to the name of a clergyman in olden times) Rector of Stok, and John de Herminull, to take into their charge the House and its revenues. The missive sets forth that it had come to the Bishop's ears, both by the sorrowful complaint of the Nuns and by the voice of public report, that Alice de Chilterne, the Prioress, stood publicly charged with the crime of incontinence with John de Passelewe, chaplain, and also with such daily waste and alienation of the goods of the House that her Sisters for lack of maintenance were compelled miserably to beg. That the Bishop had officially caused a diligent enquiry to be made into these matters, which had resulted in the discovery that the Prioress, without care of her duty and solemn vows, was guilty of great disregard of her Sisters, had kept and was keeping them so short of food that some of them were reported to have died of starvation, had converted the goods of the House to unlawful uses, and had squandered and consumed the same, to the grave peril of her own soul, the prejudice of her Sisters and House, and the loss and scandal of religion in general. That in kindly sympathy for the want and poverty of the said Sisters, for the spiritual benefit of the Prioress herself, and for the relief of the House and its inmates, the Bishop had without delay put the law in operation against the criminal, and that at length, as though conscious of her guilt, she had entirely and absolutely submitted herself, and her state, and that of her House to his ordination, arbitrament, and decree, in the presence of a public notary. That on account of various business in the King's service, beyond the limits of his diocese, he could not leave London, and was unable to carry out the proper and official arrangement of the affairs of the House until his return.

That, accordingly, confiding in their fidelity and industry, he had committed to them the custody of the said Prioress and her Sisters with their House and its appurtenances, of the custody and administration whereof they were to render him an account. He further urges them to do their utmost to provide the necessary maintenance for the Prioress and Sisters, as far as the ability of the House will permit, and to the best of their power to gather together what had been scattered by the misconduct of the Prioress, until he should return to his diocese and ordain otherwise according to law ; granting them in conclusion full power to restrain all opposition by ecclesiastical censures. The commission was dated at Dogmeresfeld, the 18th of September, 1323, and the fifteenth year of his consecration.*

Business, as it would appear, still detaining him in London, the Bishop issued four months afterwards a commission of discipline addressed to his Official, with whom were united Master Peter de Horselegh, rector of Staweye, and Master William de Modford, rector of Tyntenhull. He says that, inasmuch as it had been lately brought to his knowledge that the Prioress was publicly accused of the crime of incontinence, by reason whereof dissensions and murmurs had arisen between her and her Sisters, and numerous scandals had been created, he had committed to them, or any two of them, without waiting for the presence of the third, the full canonical power in his stead of exercising the office of visitation in the aforesaid House, of making enquiry touching the charges aforesaid and other things which needed correction and reformation, and of correcting and punishing the excesses of delinquents and of those who there aided and abetted such, of deposing and

* Reg. Drok. fol. ccxv. Appendix, No. VII.

depriving the same, and of informing themselves of all things pertaining to their investigation and its duties. The missive was dated at Wanton, the 29th of January, 1323-4, and the fifteenth year of his consecration.*

We have already seen that the Church of S. Mary the Less, at Ilchester, was appropriated to the House. A commission was addressed by the Bishop, dated at Stokwell, by London, on the 28th of March, 1324, to John, Bishop of Landaff, empowering him to reconcile the said Church, which had been polluted by effusion of blood, and the cemetery of the same.† The circumstances are not recorded, and conjecture would be vain.

The House had indeed to struggle against enemies numerous and almost insuperable. In the midst of the unhappy transactions which have just been before us, an atrocious outrage was inflicted upon it, which also became the subject of legal interference. It was clearly owing to certain members of the same unscrupulous party which had previously drawn upon itself the vengeance of the law. A writ was addressed to John de Stonore, Ralph de Bereford, and Elias de Godelegh, and states that the King has been informed by the grave complaint of the Prioress of White Hall, of Yewelcestre, that Nicholas de Boleville, John de Harminulle, John son of Peter de Draycote, John le Do, Nicholas de Sok, William Baller, and Nicholas le Deyer, and Agnes his wife, together with certain other malefactors and disturbers of the King's peace, had entered *vi et armis* the close of the said Prioress, being under the King's protection, at Yewelcestre, and had broken open the doors of her granges there, and had threshed, taken,

* Reg. Drok. fol. ccxv. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 84.

† Reg. Drok. fol. ccxviiijb.

and carried away the corn then found in the same to the value of a hundred marcs, by which the lands of the aforesaid Prioress there remained uncultivated and unsown, and also with certain cattle had eaten, trodden down, and consumed the grass lately growing in the meadow of the said Prioress there to the value of ten pounds, and had inflicted other lawless injuries against her, in the King's contempt, and to the grave damage of the Prioress, contrary to the King's protection aforesaid and against his peace. Further, that because he was unwilling to leave that transgression, if it had been so perpetrated, unpunished, he had assigned them, or two of them, his Justices, to inquire, by the oath of honest and liege men of the county of Somerset, concerning the aforesaid evildoers, who together with Nicholas, John, and the rest had committed that offence, and to learn the truth in respect of the same, and to determine according to law, &c. The writ ended with the customary form as to the appointment of certain days and places for the investigation, the reservation of the King's rights, and the order to the sheriff of the county for his assistance in the execution of justice. It was dated, witness the King, at Tonebrigge, the 26th of June, 1324.*

The ecclesiastical commission of the previous year had by this time produced its effect. Prioress Alice de Chilterne was deprived of her office. In a missive to Sir Nicholas de Bolevill, Knt., patron of the Priory, dated at Wyvelescombe, the 3rd of April, 1325, the Bishop gives a brief summary of the case, and requests him to present a fit and proper person to the vacant post.†

* Pat. 17 Edw. II. p. 2. m. 6. dors. Appendix, No. VIII.

† Reg. Drok. fol. cccxxviiijb.

Cecilia de Draycot was the lady who succeeded, but, as it would appear, was hardly more qualified for her place than her unworthy predecessor, though her fault was of a different character. The first intimation which we have of this is presented by a commission from the Bishop, Ralph of Shrewsbury, who succeeded Bishop John de Drokenesford on the episcopal throne of Wells, on the 2nd of September, 1329, dated at Clavertone, on the 1st of September, 1334, addressed to the Rectors of Lymyngton, and S. John's, Ivelcestre, and informing them that for certain reasons he had seen fit to sequestrate the possessions of the House, of which he commanded them to take the charge. They were to supply the Sisters and servants with necessary maintenance only, until they should receive other instructions.*

The Prioress was not only incapable, but also had to govern a very unruly community, and was unable to stem the torrent which opposed her. It was a breach rather of conventual rule than of morality, which nevertheless in the opinion of a strict disciplinarian called for summary punishment. As in the instances before given, the vigilant eyes of her ecclesiastical superiors were soon directed to the fact, and exposure and punishment followed in quick succession. A commission was addressed to Master Richard, rector of Lymington, and Master Thomas, rector of Cherletonemakerel, the terms of which set forth that, although the Bishop had in his confirmation of her in her office committed the administration of the goods of the House to his beloved daughter, Cecilia de Draycot, the Prioress, yet having the greatest confidence in the fidelity and industry of Agnes Chaumpflour and Agnes de Wyn-

* Reg. Rad. fol. lxxxxvjb. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 82.

terbourn, Sisters professed in the same House, he desired that the Prioress should exercise the administration aforesaid by the inspection and counsel of the said Sisters, whom, for certain causes moving him thereto, he had specially deputed so to act. He, therefore, commands them, and each of them, to intimate this arrangement to the Prioress, and in his stead and by his authority to strictly enjoin her that in the exercise of her office she should employ the aid of those Sisters, and the Sisters themselves that they should not omit to render the same. He proceeds to state that it has come to his ears by public report that some of the Sisters, not only without the licence, but also in opposition to the inhibitions of the Prioress, whom by their vow they were bound in canonical and lawful things to obey, were accustomed to wander through the streets and lanes of Ivelcestre, and elsewhere, the modesty of their sex altogether banished, and against the honor of their order; and sometimes, which was worse, did without scruple or fear enter the houses of secular and suspected persons, and in a multitude of other ways did not hesitate to disobediently transgress the canonical commands of the said Prioress, to the scandal of holy religion and the manifest peril of their own souls. That, unwilling to leave such things under a cloke without correction, as indeed he was bound not to do, lest their blood should be required at his hands, he firmly enjoins them and each of them to make diligent enquiry, as often as shall be necessary, about the matters aforesaid and others appertaining to the state of the said House, and to enjoin salutary penances, in his stead and by his authority, on those whom they shall discover to be guilty of the aforesaid or other excesses, in proportion to the degree of their crime, according to the discretion

given to them ; and to canonically compel by ecclesiastical censures the performance of the penances so adjudged, as they should in law answer for the same, touching which he charges their consciences. To the performance of all and singular of the aforesaid acts he concludes by committing to them, and each of them, full power and authority in his stead. The instrument was dated at Banewell, the 7th of August, 1335, and of his consecration the sixth.*

Several of the Deeds connected with the Almshouse at Ilchester, to which reference has been made, supply us with very valuable and interesting information during this and the following centuries. It must, nevertheless, be recollected that, in a series of documents, preserved for the sole reason that they relate to property afterwards given to another Religious Establishment, we cannot expect to find more than a kind of oblique information about persons and places which did not happen to form the subject matter of the particular document itself. The deeds, however, as we shall see, supply us, *inter alia*, with the names of two Prioresses hitherto unknown, and also identify the site of the House with the spot which tradition has ever assigned to it. Their value, therefore, can hardly be estimated too highly.

Walter de Milton, son and heir of John de Milton, granted to John Stagon and Elen, relict of Adam de Waltham, various lands, and among them half an acre above Overmere, adjoining the land of the Prioress of White Hall. Witnesses : John de Barrye, John Attefourde, John Vag, John Turke, John Pigatz, John Englysshe, John le Ffaucouer, and others. Dated at Chilterne Vagge, on Sunday next after the feast of the

* Reg. Rad. fol. cxxvij. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 93.

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 14 Edward III., or the 26th of March, 1340.*

Cecilia, the Prioress, with her Sisters Alice de Chitterne, (I presume the deposed Prioress) Joan de Wynterbourne, and Agnes Chaunflour, and Thomas de Codeworthe, were parties at Somerton, on Monday next after the feast of S. Peter ad Vincula, 16 Edward III., the 5th of August, 1342, in a case against Gilbert Passeware and Simona his wife, who were represented by William atte Brook, their attorney, on the question of a corrody alleged to have been granted to Simona by the Prioress and Convent. A deed was exhibited, containing an agreement under the Conventual Seal to give to Simona le Lyt, for a certain sum of money, a place within the Priory close, thirty feet long and fifteen broad, on which she was to build at her own expence, together with a corrody of one Sister in a seat daily at the table of the Prioress, with attendance, a habit and veil every year, and all other necessaries proper for a Sister, for the term of her life, or an equivalent of five pence a week in lieu thereof.† The judgment is not known, as the case was carried over to another term, the recorded proceedings of which do not contain it. It was probably settled in the interim.

Alice, widow of Hugh Dodul, granted to Stephen, her son, her tenement in Chepstret, opposite the Church of S. Mary the Less, and adjoining that of the Prioress of White Hall. Witnesses: John atte Broke, etc. Dated at Ivelcestre, on Monday, the feast of the Assumption of the B.V.M., 19 Edward III., or the 15th of August, 1345.‡

Thomas de Moltone, called Baker, and Agnes his wife, gave to John Josep, of Ivelcestre, and Alice his wife, and

* Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 22. ‡ No. 46.

† Assis. Rott. Div. Com. $\left. \begin{array}{l} N \\ 2 \end{array} \right\} 3. \text{ mm. } 56, 57.$
22

her heirs, a tenement in Chepstrete, adjoining one pertaining to White Hall. Witnesses: Thomas de Broke, and others. Dated at Ivelcestre, on Sunday next before the feast of the Apostles SS. Simon and Jude, 23 Edward III. ; or the 25th of October, 1349.*

John Cole, of Bruggewatere, granted to Walter Blaunkpays and Juliana his wife, a burgage with a small curtilage, situated in the main street of Yevelcestre, opposite the Church of Blessed Mary [the Less], between the burgage which formerly belonged to John Draycote, and the burgage of Mary, Prioress of the Nywehalle. The property was to be held for the life of the survivor, at the annual rent of a rose on the feast of the Nativity of S. John Baptist, together with all due rents and services. Witnesses: Robert Pryvyere, John Rypon, Walter Fletchere, John atte Wille, John Vysshere, William Wynsam, and many others. Dated at Yevelchestre, on Friday next after the feast of Pentecost, 44 Edward III., which is coincident with the 7th of June, 1370.†

This document is of peculiar interest, as it furnishes us with the name of a hitherto unknown Prioress. It would also seem from the change of appellation that the House had lately been either enlarged or rebuilt. It is not, indeed, improbable that the previous structure was included in the ravages of a fire which a short time before appears to have destroyed a considerable part of Ilchester. I have found on the Patent Roll of the 40th year of Edward III., an order of that monarch, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 12th of May, 1366, commanding the Sheriffs and Justices to hold their Courts, Assizes, Sessions, etc., in Ivelcestre, only, for the

* Ilchester A.D., No. 6.

† I.A.D., No. 26. Appendix, No. IX.

amelioration thereof, which by divers calamities was much depauperated and depressed.*

All this while, and for many years afterwards, the House bore its full share of the miseries which surrounded it, and was hardly struggling with poverty. The same generous hands, however, which we have noticed in the histories of other Somersetshire Nunneries, were not wanting in beneficence. The help was well-timed, and speaks much for the estimation in which, contrary to other appearances, the community was held.

A writ was addressed to Adam atte More, the King's Escheator in the county of Somerset, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 5th of November, 47 Edward III., 1373, with the usual questions as to the damage or otherwise of permitting Guy de Brien, Robert Fitz Payn, Richard de Acton, Roger Pede, parson of the church of Astynton, John Bays, and Walter Laurence, to give one messuage, four tofts, thirty acres of land, and seven acres of meadow, with their appurtenances, in Ivelchestre and Sokedenys, and William de Melburn, to give one messuage and five acres of land, with their appurtenances, in Ivelchestre, to the Prioress and Sisters of White Hall, of Ivelchestre, and their successors, for the increase of their maintenance. The writ concludes with the customary enquiries as to the services, value, owners, &c., of the property. The inquest in obedience to this was taken before the aforesaid Adam atte More at Ievelchestre, on Monday next after the feast of S. Matthew the Apostle, 48 Edward III., or the 26th of September, 1374; and the jurors, Richard Britz, John Bosse, Hugh Vocle, John Wirchestre, Richard Hacche, William Sherpe, Richard

* Pat. 40 Edw. III. p. 1. m. 29.

Appelyn, Richard Greyleg, Richard Hastyns, John Lamb, Adam Bat, and Thomas Smyth returned upon oath that it would not be for the damage or prejudice of the King or others if such permission were accorded. In answer to the other questions they presented that the lands proposed to be given by the six first named donors were held of the King in free burgage as of his burg of Ivelchestre, by the service of a yearly payment to the bailiffs of the said burg of four shillings at the feast of S. Michael, as parcel of the fee of the farm of the burg aforesaid, and doing suit at the burg court twice a year for all services, and that they were worth in all issues, exclusive of the rent and suit aforesaid, xx^s a year. That the land proposed to be given by the last named donor was similarly held of the King in free burgage, as of his burg aforesaid, by a yearly payment to the bailiffs of three shillings and sixpence at the feast of S. Michael, and doing suit as aforesaid, and that the value beyond such service was vj^d. That there was no mesne between the King and the aforesaid donors. They further presented that there remained to the aforesaid Guy one messuage and one carucate of land with appurtenances in Ivelchestre, held of the King in free burgage, and worth in all issues x^{li} a year; to Robert Ffitz Payn the manor of Stokecursy with its appurtenances, held of the King in chief by knight service, and worth in all issues xx^{li} a year; to Richard de Acton the manor of Thornfaucou with its appurtenances, held of the Bishop of Winchester by knight service, and worth in all issues x^{li} a year; to Walter Laurence one messuage and one carucate of land with their appurtenances in Bychenstoke, held of the Bishop of Bath and Wells by knight service, and worth in all issues xx^s a year; and to William de Melbourn one messuage with its appurtenances in

Ilevelchester, held of the King in free burgage, and worth in all issues *iiij*^s a year; beyond the gift aforesaid. That no lands or tenements remained to Roger Pede, parson of the Church of Astyngton, and John Bays, beyond such gift. That these lands remaining to the donors aforesaid were sufficient for the customs and services due from them. In witness whereof the said jurors annexed their seals, the day, place, and year aforesaid.* The letters patent recount the particulars of the lands already given, with the names of the several donors, the extent, and the united value of the property, and give the desired permission on the payment by the Prioress of six marcs. They add to the object previously stated that of finding daily a wax taper at high mass before the high altar in the Priory Church, and are dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 4th of March, 1374-5.†

Matilda, who has not hitherto occupied a place in the modern lists of the Superiors, was Prioress in 1377. In the account of Stephen de Pemple, Dean of Wells, of the names and contributions of the beneficed and unbeneficed clergy of the Diocese, the former taxed for a subsidy at *xij*^d, and the latter at *iiij*^d, in that year, I find the name of Dame Matilda, Prioress of White Hall, with her one Sister, "cum una sorore sua," taxed together at *ij*^s.‡ I believe that at this period, as in the year 1423, and probably at other times, the little Community consisted of two members only.

A proof of the poverty of the House is furnished after this period by the constant exemption of the Nuns, in conjunction with their Sisters of Canyngton and Barrow, from the payment of the King's disme. Certificates of

* Esc. 48 Edw. III. (2 nrs.) n. 30. MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 199, 200.

† Pat. 48 Edw. III. p. 1. m. 26. ‡ Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{1}$ m. 6.

the exemption are dated the 17th of May, 4th Henry IV., 1403;* and again the 2nd of February, 1403-4;† and the 12th of October, 1404.‡

Another hitherto unnoticed Prioress is now to be introduced to the reader. Among the contributors to a subsidy of $vj^s viij^d$, from every Chaplain and Religious, granted by Convocation to King Henry IV., in 1406, occurs Cristina, Prioress of the Poor Sisters, Rector of S. Mary the Less, in Iewelcestre. The Bishop's letter to John, Abbat of Clive, authorising the collection, is dated the 22nd of June, 1406.§

The head of the family of Bonville was the ordinary patron of the House; and an instance now occurs, where one who filled that position did not forget the moral obligation which was annexed to it. Sir William Bonville left behind him a will, made on Saturday before the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, the 13th of August, 1407, and proved before Edmund de Stafford, Bishop of Exeter, at Crediton, on the 24th of March, 1408. It is a document characteristic of mediæval times, and gives us a grand idea of an old English worthy whose heart and hand were ever open. He bequeathes, *inter alia*, the following sums to Somersetshire Houses:—To the Friars of Ilchester, 100^s. To the Nuns there, 10^l. To the Friars of Bridgewater, 100^s. To the Abbey of Glastonbury, 40^l. He also leaves 40^l for masses to be celebrated for him and all Christian souls, for the space of two years, by four several priests, viz., one at Shete, (Shute, near Axminster, where he usually resided) one at Meriet, one at Woodbury, and one in the Nun's Church at Ilchester; each priest to receive 10^l for

* Reg. Bowet, fol. xxxiiij. † Ib. fol. xxiiij. ‡ Ib. fol. xxvjb.

§ Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{20}$.

this service. It would strike a modern with surprise to be told that his bounty went far beyond private or personal objects of interest. Thus he leaves 100 marcs in aid of the bridges and roads in Somerset and Devon. To his tenants at Lymyngton, he gives 20 marcs, and 20 quarters of corn from his grange at Socke. To his tenants at Meriet, twelve, and to his poorest tenants at Thurlebere, ten quarters of corn. To the Church of Stoke Denys, his smallest missal. To Alice Hogges, of Thurlebere, 10 marcs. To John Strecch, 20^l; and to John Mascal, 50^s. A codicil gives to the anchorite at S. Leonard's, near Exeter, 50^s; and fifty cows to as many poor men and women.*

John Hubarde, of Yevele, son and heir of Isabella Hubardes, sister of Alice, widow of John Josep, granted to Robert Veel a burgage, with appurtenances, in Chepstrete, between a tenement held by Thomas Ffolqui of the heir of William Bonevyle, and a tenement of the Prioress of White Hall, opposite that of John Courteys. Witnesses: William Whittoke, William Nywetone, John Brys, John Drapere, John Mascalle, and others. Dated at Yewelchester, the 12th of September, 10 Henry IV., 1409.†

Six years after this the Priory received one of its most important acquisitions of property. The nature of the transaction will be best understood by a careful study of the following documents. They constitute a most valuable and instructive series, which cannot but be of great interest to the Somersetshire reader, and present also for the general student a lively example of the system of feudal tenure which was a special characteristic of the age.

* Reg. Staff. Ep. Exon. Coll. Top. et Gen. viij. 244-6.

† Ilchester Almshouse Deed.

A writ was in the first place issued, witness the King, at Westminster, on the 1st of June, in the first year of Henry V., 1413, addressed to the Escheator in the county of Somerset, and commanding him to take the sense of a jury upon oath as to whether it would be to the damage or prejudice of the King or others, or not, if licence should be granted to John Strech, Robert Veel, William Gosse, William Neweton, Bartholomew Dure, and John Mascall, to give and assign seven messuages, one garden, and ten acres of land with appurtenances in Taunton and Shireford, and to the aforesaid Robert and William Shourte, to give five messuages and six acres of land with appurtenances in Yewelchestre, to the Prioress and Sisters of the House of White Hall of Yewelchestre, in aid of the maintenance of a Chaplain to celebrate for ever every day at the high altar in the church of the Holy Trinity of Yewelchestre for the souls of Joan, sometime wife of John Stourton, and of William Whittok, and for the souls of the parents of the said Joan and William Whittok, and for those of all the faithful departed. Also at the anniversaries of the said Joan and William Whittok every year on Thursday in Easter week in the aforesaid church, with Placebo and Dirige on the eve of the same day, with mass of Requiem with music on the same day at the altar aforesaid, to be held, observed, and solemnly celebrated for ever. The usual questions follow, to which the jurors were to return specific answers; namely, as to the precise injury, if any, which such licence would inflict, the persons from whom, and the services by which the lands were held, their true yearly value, the mesnes, if any, between the King and the aforesaid John and his fellows, and the lands which would remain to the aforesaid if the solicited licence were granted, for their sustaining and satisfying

the suits, views of frank-pledge, aids, tallages, and other feudal demands on the aforesaid donors, so that the country might incur no injury from the transaction, &c. The inquest thus ordered was taken at Yewelchestre, on the Friday next after the feast of S. Peter ad vincula, in the first year of Henry V., which in that year was coincident with the 4th of August, 1413, before Richard Stucle, the King's Escheator; and the jury, William Ponton, William Gorewell, Thomas Gane, Edmund Dygher, William Rodebere, Almaric atte Wethy, John Stert, John Dolle, John Bochell, Robert Petenyn, John Pytte, and William Smyf-famour returned a verdict on oath that it would not be to the damage or prejudice of the King or others if such licence were given, and for the purpose aforesaid. They presented that the aforesaid seven messuages, garden, and ten acres of land with appurtenances in Taunton and Shireford were held of the Bishop of Winchester, as of his manor of Taunton, in socage, by the service of a payment to the said Bishop of xij^s x^d at the four principal terms of the year, in equal portions, and doing suit of the court of the said Bishop at the two days appointed by law to that purpose, namely hokkeday and Michaelmas, yearly at Taunton for all other services. That the lands were worth yearly in all issues according to their true value beyond reprises forty-six shillings and ten pence. That there was no mesne between the King and the aforesaid John and the others, save only the aforesaid Bishop. They further presented that the five messuages and six acres of land in Yewelchestre were held of the King in socage, by the service of an annual payment of eight pence on the feast of S. Michael the Archangel, and doing suit at Yewelchestre on the two days appointed by law for all other services. That the lands were worth in all

issues according to their true value xxij^s vj^d a year. That there was no mesne between the King and the aforesaid Robert and William Shourte. And further, that the manor of Radewell, with appurtenances, which was held of the Bishop of Bath by knight service, and was worth yearly in all issues xx^{li}, remained to the aforesaid John Strech; that two messuages, one hundred acres of land with appurtenances in Shepton Beauchamp, held of Robert Seymour by knight service, and worth yearly xv^s, and four messuages with appurtenances in Bryggewater, held of Lord de la Souch in socage, and worth yearly xl^s, remained to the aforesaid William Gosse; that two messuages with appurtenances in Yewelchestre, held of the King in socage, and worth yearly xx^s, remained to the aforesaid William Neweton; that one messuage, twenty acres of land with appurtenances in Wollavyngton, held of John Tochet by knight service, and worth yearly xx^s, remained to the aforesaid Bartholomew; that one messuage, sixty acres of land with appurtenances in Stapulton, held of William Bonvile by a service of x^s a year for all services, and worth yearly xl^s, remained to the aforesaid John Mascall; and that one messuage, sixty acres of land with appurtenances in Mertok, held of the Duke of Clarence by a service of v^s a year and worth yearly lx^s, remained to the aforesaid William Shourte, beyond the gift and assignment aforesaid; which were sufficient to meet the customs and services as of the lands proposed to be given, so for those which were retained by the respective possessors, and for all other burdens which they were accustomed or ought to sustain. Also that the said John, Robert, William, and the rest could be placed in any assizes, juries, and other recognizances, as they were accustomed to be before the gift aforesaid. So that the country would receive no

unusual burden or grievance by the transaction. In witness whereof the jurors affixed their seal to these presents. Dated in the day, year, and place aforesaid.* The letters patent were accordingly granted, after the payment by the Prioress of twenty pounds, and are dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 24th of March, 1414-5.†

The Sisters are exempted from payment of the disme, in a letter of John Roland, Vicar General, dated at Wells, the 1st of March, 1416-7,‡ and in one of Nicholas, Bishop of Bath and Wells, dated at Dogmersfeld, the 26th of December, 1419.§

Cristina, Prioress of White Hall, and Joan Whyttokes, Nun and Co-sister of the same Prioress, John Peny, Thomas Drapere, Gilbert Bouche, and David Hawes granted a power of attorney to John Smythe, of Northovere, to deliver for them and in their name to Robert Veel, Richard Serle, and John Glainville, full and peaceable seisin in and of all lands and tenements lately belonging to Mark Whyttok in Northovere and Somertone. Dated on Tuesday next after the feast of S. Michael the Archangel, in the second year of Henry VI., or the 5th of October, 1423.||

The same parties, Cristina, Joan, and others, leased and confirmed the lands aforesaid to Robert Veel, Richard Serle, and John Glainville. Witnesses: Nicholas Moleyns, John Welwetone, jun., John Smythe of Northovere, Richard Dole, and others. Dated on the same day as the preceding document.¶

* Inq. ad q. d. 3 Hen. V. n. 14. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 314. Appendix, No. X.

† Pat. 3 Hen. V. p. 2. m. 27. Appendix, No. XI.

‡ Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{40}$. § Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{42}$.

|| Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 11-98. Appendix, No. XII.

¶ Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 12-99. Appendix, No. XIII.

I presume that the Nun, Joan Whyttokes, of these documents was a daughter of the William and Agnes Whittok of the Patent. I should not forget to add that Robert Veel was the founder of "the House called Almeshous," at Ilchester, in 1426. The family was known in the town from an early period. I have found that a Robert Vele was collated by Bishop Drokenesford to the chantry of Blessed Mary, in the greater church of Ivelcestre, void by the death of William Glyde, on the Ides, the 15th, of July, 1312.*

Prioress Cristina was party in a suit, against Ralph Durburgh, William Hamme, Walter Wey, John Dyker, William Plays, and John Naysse, of plea of assize of novel disseisin, and appointed as her attorney William Rider, or Gilbert Bouche, at Yevelchestre, on Tuesday next before the feast of S. Cuthbert, Bishop, 5 Henry VI, the 3rd of September, 1426† The case had been carried over from the assizes at Taunton, on Monday next after the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, the 9th of the September previous.‡ I find, however, no further notice of it.

Robert Veel and John Lane granted to John Lyte a burgage then not built in Yevelchestre, in the High Street, between a tenement of the Prioress of White Hall, lately in the occupation of Margery Carpottes, on the east, and the house called Almeshous on the west, opposite the gate of the Preaching Friars. Witnesses: Richard Purye, Thomas Seymour, then Bailiffs of Yevelchestre, Nicholas Coker, and others. Dated at Yevelchestre, the 2nd of March, 7 Henry VI., 1428-9.§

* Reg. Drok. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 17.

† Rott. Assis. Div. Com. $\left. \begin{array}{l} N \\ 2 \\ 42 \end{array} \right\} 1. m. 112.$

‡ Ib. m. 101 dors.

§ Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 13-117.

William Borde, of Badecombe, granted to William Boneville, Giles Daubeneye, and Thomas Beauchampe, Knights, and to John Stourtone, Alexander de la Lynde, Robert Veel, Nicholas Yonge, clerk, John Beoff, John Gregory, John Bolour, Edward Coleforde, John Baret, John Guldene, Hugh Kene, William Shourt, Henry Grey, John Pupelpenne, Richard Serle, Henry Havegode, and John Glainville, a burgage then not built in Yewelchestre, near the Market Place, between a tenement of the Prioress of White Hall, lately in the occupation of William Tancarde, on the north, and the tenement which once belonged to John Cole of Bruggewater, to the west, in which the gaol of old time used to be. Witnesses: Richard Purve, Thomas Seymour, Bailiffs, Edmund Dommere, Nicholas Coker, David Hawes, and many others. Dated at Yewelchestre, the 6th of March, in the seventh year of Henry VI., 1428-9.*

The same William Borde appointed David Hawes and John Denman his attornies to deliver to the aforesaid parties full seisin of the property aforesaid. Dated the 7th of March, 1428-9.†

Notwithstanding the various donations which have been successively related, the Prioress and her Sisters could with difficulty obtain a maintenance. Of the number of the inmates of the House we have no knowledge, or of their consequent requirements. But the fact that it was miserably poor is unquestionable, and, indeed, the subsequent history of the Sisterhood is to be read in the series of certificates which state their necessary exemption from the payment of the King's disme. These simple an-

* Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 15-115.

† Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 59-116.

nouncements are continued for a number of years, and poverty and privation are the burden of the tale. I have found in the Episcopal Registers the following instances.

With those of Canyngton and Barowe, and the Hospitals of S. John Baptist, Wells, and Bridgwater, the poor Nuns of Ivelchester are exempt, in a certificate dated at Wells, the 29th of June, 1416.*

The same are exempt, in a certificate dated at Wells, the 2nd of January, 1416-7.†

The Church of S. Mary the Less is returned in 1417 as very poor, and as not taxed nor accustomed to pay the disme. And it is added that on account of its extreme poverty there is no endowed vicarage in it. The officers who furnish the return profess themselves unable to discover from the Bishop's Registers and evidences, although they had carefully inspected and searched them,—“registris et evidenciis ejusdem reverendi patris penes nos diligenter inspectis et scrutatis”—the period from which the Church aforesaid had been appropriated to the House. It was, as we have seen, in the time of Bishop Jocelin, and soon after the year 1241. The certificate is dated at Wells, the 15th of January, 1416-7.‡

With the Nuns of Canyngton and Barewe the Sisters are expressly exempt, in a certificate dated at Wells, the 10th of January, 1417-8.§

Again, by name, in a certificate of the 3rd of March, 1417-8.||

Again, by name, in answer to a brief dated the 19th of December, 1419.¶

* Reg. Bubwith, fol. cxvb.

‡ Reg. Bubwith, fol. cxxviijb.

|| Reg. Bubwith, fol. cxliiij.

† Reg. Bubwith, fol. cxxvij.

§ Reg. Bubwith, fol. cxxxviijb.

¶ Reg. Bubwith, fol. clxixb.

In a certificate of the estimated value of benefices not taxed, the Church of S. Mary the Less is returned as of the value of xx^s. Dated at Wells, May, 1426.*

The Nuns of Ilchestre are, by name, together with those of Barwe and Canyngton, returned as exempt, in a certificate dated at the Bishop's Inn in London, on the 6th of February, 1435-6.†

This is the last notice that I have been able to discover, where the Nuns of Ilchester are mentioned by name. As the readers of my histories of Canyngton and Barrow are aware, there are various exemptions of those Houses for a long time subsequent to this period, indeed until a very few years before the date of their dissolution; but after the present entry the Sisters of Ilchester find no memorial, and the Priory of White Hall henceforth occurs no more.

It would be easy to speculate on the causes and mode of its suppression. Had the catastrophe, however, been the result of any fresh scandal, the Episcopal Registers, which at this period are in a perfect state, would have been certain to furnish us with the particulars. We are relieved, therefore, at least from this suspicion. The most probable conclusion is that it shared the fate which seems inseparable from Ilchester foundations in general, and that, after a long and difficult struggle for existence, it succumbed to the dire necessity of the *res angusta domi*, and languished through paralysis into natural dissolution.

Before I proceed with the annals of the Institution into which it was transformed, a few words will be necessary to complete its history.

It will be well in the first place to give such a list of the Prioresses as I have been able to furnish, referring the

* Reg. Stafford, fol. ix.

† Reg. Staff. ff. cxxjb. cxxij. Cler. Subs. $\frac{4}{67}$.

reader to my previous pages for the details connected with each :—

1. Alice de la Zerde, or Yarde, occurs in 1315; was deprived in 1316.
2. Alice de Chilterne, or Chitterne, occurs in 1321, 1323, and 1324; was deprived in 1325.
3. Cecily de Draycote occurs in 1334, 1335, and 1342.
4. Mary in 1370.
5. Matilda in 1377.
6. Cristina in 1406, 1423, and 1426.

Agnes Chaumpflour and Agnes de Wynterbourn were Sisters of the House in 1335, and Joan Whyttokes in 1423.

I have already described the present appearance of the site of the Priory. It lay on the bank of the Ivel,—between which and its buildings the town wall was the only barrier, which snugly surrounded it on its north and west sides,—and close to the North Gate. The entrance was in Chepstrete, the most populous thoroughfare of the town, close to the County Prison, and immediately opposite its impropriated Church of S. Mary the Less. Its architectural peculiarities are unknown, though we may hazard the very probable conjecture that, when first consecrated to its sacred use, it was already an ancient structure, dating from a period commencing at the very latest with the reign of King John, and presenting the noble features of the “Early English,” if not the sombre severity of the “Norman” style, and that subsequently it was, either wholly or in part, rebuilt during the still more gorgeous “Decorated” æra. Although from its position it was necessarily confined, there was room abundantly sufficient for an edifice of no mean pretensions to architectural excellence. Mediæval builders did not require large spaces, or what are called fine sites, for the erection of their inimitable works. Angular spots and of irregular outline, at which most of their modern suc-

cessors would stand aghast, were apparently welcomed by those all-accomplished workmen as what might elicit the powers of minds to which difficulties seemed to be created only to vanish and be overcome.

I reserve for a future page the full enumeration of the possessions of the House, where it will be given in its chronological place, in connection with the dissolution of the establishment into which it merged.

I have hardly need, in conclusion, to draw the reader's attention to the salient points in the history of the Priory, and among them the vigilant supervision of their ecclesiastical superiors which the Nuns of White Hall so constantly experienced. While the exemplary zeal and tenderness with which the Bishops discharged their duty, and that on occasions of great and varied difficulty, must be apparent from the foregoing narrative, it is equally evident that no attempt was made to palliate or overlook irregularities, to hinder their exposure, or to evade their punishment. Unhappily, there was in this instance only too frequent a necessity for episcopal interference, and the severities which it brought in its train. On a review of the annals of White Hall I am constrained with sorrow to admit that it is by far the worse example of a Mediæval Nunnery that I have ever met with. It cannot, of course, be denied that immoralities acquire a notoriety which virtues do not usually obtain, and that, while we have minute information of the former, the latter have frequently no earthly memorial. True as this is, and admitted to the full, White Hall must be allowed to have been on many occasions an exception to the general excellence of such establishments, all the more conspicuous from its evil rarity. It was not an ordinary specimen of a Religious House, as some may be pleased to imagine, but

one which, on the contrary, mainly owed its rescue from oblivion to the crimes and scandals which disgracefully signalized it.

It will be recollected that our last notice of the Sisterhood was a declaration of their poverty in the year 1436. Between that date and 1463, twenty-seven years afterwards, White Hall suffered its third transformation and became a Free Chapel. We have here an entirely different, though to many an equally interesting, subject of enquiry. By this term some have understood those Chapels which had been founded within parishes by the devotion of parishioners for such of the inhabitants as lived remote from their parish church, and which had no endowment but what was of the gift of the founder or other benefactors. Others have taken a Free Chapel to mean that, being built by the liberality of some good man as a chapel of ease to the Mother Church, it was "Free" to the parishioners, who were bound to attend the latter, to come or not to come to it as they pleased. And yet others have maintained that such Chapels were "Free," inasmuch as they were of the King's foundation, and exempt from the jurisdiction of the Diocesan. The last definition I hold to be correct. The first is clearly inapplicable to the Free Chapel of Ilchester, as it was not only not remote from but had the main street only between it and the Parish Church. In the case before us there was evidently a simple change from a Priory to a Chapel, the latter enjoying the same revenues as the former, which, however inadequate to the support of a Sisterhood, were sufficient for the maintenance of a single priest.

The history of Free Chapels, as well as of the Chan-] trics, with the fate of which they were closely united, is

part of that of the Church at large. This of White Hall is deserving of particular attention, as its annals may be taken as a specimen of those of similar foundations in the mode in which the presentations to it were made, the manner in which it was served, and the order of its suppression and final alienation from the objects of its founder.

Before we proceed to the series of Incumbents, the notice of a transaction which took place in the interval just referred to must not be omitted.

A subsidy was demanded of the Clergy in the year 1445, to aid the King against the Saracens and Turks. On this occasion the Church of S. Mary the Less was taxed at iij^d. The return bears date the 8th of May, 1445.*

The Episcopal Registers supply us with the following Incumbents of White Hall.

In a list of the Chaplains with their cures in the Archdeaconry of Wells and Deanery of Ylchestre, from whom a subsidy was levied, occurs the first in the person of John Bonez, of Ylchestre, against whom stands the sum of vj^s viij^d. The return is dated at Banewell, the 3rd of September, 1463.†

This date is specially important, inasmuch as it fixes that of the change of the Institution from a Priory to a Free Chapel to some period between the 6th of February, 1435-6, and the 3rd of September, 1463, an interval of twenty-seven years.

Although John Bonez is simply described as Chaplain "of Ylchestre," we learn that he was the Chaplain of White Hall by the entry which announces his death and the appointment of his successor.

On the last day but one of November, 1485, William Elyott, one of the clerks of the King's chancery, was

* Reg. Bekynton, fol. xxviiijb.

† Reg. Bek. fol. cclxxxx.

admitted to the Church or Chapel of White Hall in Yewelchestre, vacant by the death of John Banys (evidently the John Bonez of the entry of 1463), the last incumbent, to which he was presented by Henry, by the grace of God King of England and France, the true patron.*

On the 10th of March, 1497-8, Bishop King collated William Soper to it by lapse.†

On the same day, Thomas Edyall was presented to the Church of S. Mary the Less.‡

On the 20th of August, 1502, the Churches of S. Mary the Less and S. John Baptist were united to S. Mary the Greater. The small revenues of each of these churches are stated to be wholly unequal to the fitting and decent maintenance of two rectors, and that they were accordingly united for ever and made one parish, with reservation of all episcopal and archidiaconal rights. John Chaundeler, rector of S. Mary the Greater, was the first rector of the united parishes.§

On the 30th of August, 1519, Master John Moyne was admitted to the perpetual and Free Chapel of Whitehall, void by the death of William Soper, the last "possessor," on the presentation of Richard, Bishop of London, Edmund, Bishop of Salisbury, Sir John Ffineux, Knt., Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Sir George Nevile, Knt., Lord of Burgavenny, and Sir Robert Poyntz, Knt., the Feoffees of the said Chapel, at the instance and request of Henry Stafford, Earl of Wilts.||

On the 3rd of May, 1525, Walter Cokkes, LL.B., was presented to the Free Chapel of Whitehall, void by the

* Reg. Stillington, fol. cxxx.

† Reg. King, fol. xiiij.

‡ Reg. King, ib.

§ Reg. King, ff. ciiijb, ciiij. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 167.

|| Reg. Wolsey, ff. vij, vijb. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6967, p. 26b.

death of John Moyne, “ultimi custodis seu gubernatoris ejusdem,” on the presentation of Sir Richard Gray, Knt., and John Arundell, Thomas Golde, and John Bonvile, Esquires, for that turn only, by the grant and concession of Edmund, late Bishop of Salisbury, Sir George Nevell, Knt., Lord Burgevenny, and John Fynex, Justice of the Common Pleas, the Feoffees.*

In 1535, during the incumbency of Walter Cokkes, the “Valor” was taken of all ecclesiastical property. I have too frequently described the nature and objects of this return, to do more on the present occasion than to record the fact. The following is an exact translation of the entry descriptive of the revenues of White Hall :—

WHITEHALL CHAPEL.

WALTER COCKES, PERPETUAL CHAPLAIN.

Yearly value of the Free Chapel in rents

of divers parcels of land, viz.,

In Yevelchestre, ..	xiiij ^{li} xix ^s iiij ^d	} xviiij ^{li} xiiij ^s viij ^d
In Taunton, ..	iiij ^{li} xij ^d	
In Sock,	xiiij ^s iiij ^d	

From thence deduct,

In rents resolute to the King for land

in Yevelchestre	xxv ^s	} xliij ^s
To the Lord Marquis of Dorset for land in Chestremede	v ^s	
Salary of John Cuffe, steward ..	x ^s	
To the Bp. of Winchester, for rents resolute of land in Taunton ..	iiij ^s	

And there remains clear .. xvj^{li} ix^s viij^d

The tenth from thence .. xxxij^s xj^d ob. q.†

* Reg. Clarke, ff. 16b, 17. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6967, p. 37.

† Val. Eccl. Com. Som. fol. lxij. Vol. j. 199.

On the 7th of April, 1545, at Wyvellescombe, George Carew was admitted to the Free Chapel of Whythall, in or near Ivelchester, void by the death of the last incumbent [no name given], on the presentation of Michael Mallet, gent., patron for this turn only.*

On the 28th of June, in the 37th of Henry VIII., 1545, this George Carew, clerk, Archdeacon [of Totness, 1534-1549], and master of the Chapel, leased its property to Thomas Dewport, for a term of forty years from the Lady-day last past, at the annual rent of £16 10s. This sum constituted its endowment.

It was the last time that the lands were let to lease for the maintenance of the incumbent, and in conformity with the intent of the ancient donors. The Monasteries, greater and less, had already become the victims of sacrilege at once mean and remorseless. Chapels and chantries were now threatened, and it seemed to many that Parish Churches would soon follow, and that everything out of which money could by any possibility be extracted was destined to be sacrificed to the accursed greed of a band of reprobates, with whom gain was godliness, and so-called Reformation a cloke for the basest and most shameless robbery.

In Hilary term, on the first day of February, the 36th of Henry VIII., 1544-5, Sir Edward North, Chancellor of the Court of Augmentations, exhibited in the said court a warrant with sign manual of the King, and petitioned for it to be enrolled, which was accordingly done. It ran as follows: "Henry theight" etc. "To our righte trustie and welbeloued Counfaillour Sir Edwarde Northe knyghte

* Reg. Knight, fol. 24b. Abstr. in MS. Harl. 6967, p. 54.

Chauncellour of our Courte of thaugmentac'ons of the reuenues of our Crowne gretyng Where dyuerse and sondrye Colleges hospitalles* ffree Chappelles and Chaunteryes for dyuers causes and confiderac'ons by the voluntarie surrendours gyftes and grauntes of the Deanes Maisters incumbentes and cheefe gouernours and of the Canons bretherne fellowes and Mynysters of the same are dissolued and co'men to our handes, In confiderac'on wherof our mynde and pleasure is to gyue to the Deanes Masters incumbentes and cheife gouernours of the saide Colleges hospitalles free chappelles and Chaunteries and to the Canons bretherne fellowes and Mynystres therof hauyng perpetuall stipendes or lyuynges in the same before the dissoluc'on therof suche annuities or yerly so'mes of money or other reuenues or yerly proffectes for their lyuynges for terme of their lyues as shalbe mete and conuenient vntill suche tyme as the same persons shalbe otherwise adu^anced or promoted by vs to so'me benyfice or benyfices or other condygne promoc'on to the clere yerly value of suche annuities or yerly reuenues as shalbe assigned to theym for their said lyuynges ffor asmuche as we confideryng the causes of our weightie affaires cannot withoute greate paynes and inquietnes conueniently attende and assigne the saide annuities and lyuynges of the saide perones nor to assigne the warrauntes of the patentes therof to be made and graunted to theym with suche conuenient spede as our pleasure is the same to be donne for the spedye dispatche ease and quyetnesse of the same perones, knowe ye that we trustyng in your fydelytie and approued wisedome doo gyue vnto you by these presentes full power and auctoritie to appoynte and af-

* The contractions in the original are here given in italics.

figne frome tyme to tyme afwell to the Deanes Maisters incumbentes and cheife gouvernours as to the Canons bretherne fellowes and other Mynysters hauyng perpetuall luynges of suche Collegies hospitalles free chappelles and Chaunteries whiche be nowe dissolued and co'me to our handes or hereafter shalbe dissolued and co'me to our handes in maner and fourme aforfaide suche annuyties or yerly so'mes of money landes tenementes parsonages or other reuenues or yerly profites being or hereafter to be within the ordre and survey of your office as you shall thinke mete and conuenient by your discrefc'on according to the behavours degrees qualities and condic'ons of the same persones for terme of their lyves or vnto suche tyme as the same persones shalbe otherwise adu^anced or promoted by vs to som'e benyfice or beny-fices or other conding promoc'ons to the clere yerly value of the same annuyties or other reuenues so to them assigned for their livinges, and that you shall and maye make Co'myffions vndre our greate seale of our Courte of thaugmentac'ons of the reuenues of our Crowne to practife conclude and agre with the saide Deanes Maisters incumbentes cheife gouvernours and other Mynystours of the saide Collegies hospitalles free chappelles and chaunteries for thassigne and appoyntment of suche annuyties or so'mes of money yerly or other reuenues so to be assigned to them for their luynges vppon the surrendour of the same Colliges hospitalles free chappelles and Chauntries, and that you by vertue hercof shall and maye make in our name seuerall *lettres* patentees of the saide annuyties yerly so'mes of moneye or other yerly reuenues so to be assigned to cuery of the saide persones in due fourme vndre the greate seale of our saide Courte of thaugmentac'ons of the reuenues of our

Crowne remaynyng in your custodye frome tyme to tyme
 And this byll assigned with our hande shalbe to you
 sufficient warraunte and discharge frome tyme to tyme
 withoute any other byll assigned or other warraunte
 to be sued frome vs in that behalfe Eny statute acte
 ordyn^ance or prouy^syon heretofore had or made or eny
 other thyng cause or matter to the cont^ary not with-
 stondyng.”*

The failing health of the King, combined with some qualms of conscience which appear to have visited him in the last years of his life, prevented for a while the carrying into effect of this atrocious scheme. With the accession, however, of his weak and ill-directed successor, the hopes of those who craved for further aggrandisement from the patrimony of the Church revived, and means were not long wanting of putting their design into execution. The Act for the suppression of Hospitals, Chapels, and Chantries was passed in the second year of Edward VI., and surveys were immediately taken of their endowments and possessions of every kind, with a view to the disposal of them by sale. The return of the Chapel of White Hall presents as plain and business-like an inventory of the property and appointments, as if they were those of some ordinary estate which had never been solemnly consecrated to holy uses. I give it exactly as it stands. The “plate and ornaments” were happily rescued from the hands of the robbers. The bell which had called the worshippers to prayer was not so easily concealed, and therefore makes a prominent figure among the items of the spoil.

* Miscell. Books, Off. Augment. vol. 104, (Orders and Decrees, vol. xiv.) ff. 109, 109b. (2nd. nrs.)

IL- CHESTER Burrowe	The ffree Chapell of the holy Trynytie of Whyte- hall ther.	Is yerely wo ^r the in	{ THE rent of the same Chapell w ^t all the landes, tent ^{es} , and hereditament ^{es} belonging to the same, letten to farme to Thom ^s Duporte. for terme of xl yeres. by Indenture datyd the xxvij th daye of June in the xxxvij th yere of the reigne of oure late soueraigne lorde of famouse memory Kinge henry the viij th as in the same Indenture more playnly maye appere	XVJ ^{li} X ^s			
					Plate and Or- nam ^{tes}	None	BELL metall c lb.
						Memor ^d .	George Carrowe clerke incu ['] bent ther.
No fundac'on shewed.*							

At the same time a minute survey was taken of the lands belonging to the Chapel. These had been the property of the Priory, as will be seen from many of the particulars, which vividly recall to our thoughts the ancient donors and their benefactions. I have fortunately discovered the original return in a volume of miscellaneous papers among the Harleian MSS. in the British Museum, and, as it is a document of primary importance to the complete understanding of our subject, I give it in English,

* Certificate of Chantries, No. 42. n. 138.

but without abridgement, and as nearly as possible in its original form. It presents a complete picture of the possessions of the Chapel on the 25th of June, in the second year of Edward VI., 1548.

Rent of the Chapel aforesaid, with manor house of the same and garden adjacent, per annum	} x ^s
Rent of one close of pasture called Hichins, containing xx acres, leased to Richard Beton and others, for term of life, by indenture, per annum	} lx ^s
Rent of one close of pasture called Five acres, leased to John Sampson and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum	} v ^s
Rent of one tenement with iij acres of arable land and one acre of meadow in Sockemershe, and of a fifth part of one close of pasture called Newmede, and of iij acres of meadow of Sockemershe, of the demesne of the lord, leased to John Whettell and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum ..	} xiiij ^s viij ^d
Rent of one tenement with xiiij acres of arable land hard by the Spittell, and of iij acres of meadow, of which two acres lying hard by the Cawsey, and the other acre hard by the Spettill, and of one close of pasture containing vij acres hard by the Mille in Ilchester, leased to Thomas Bloughton and others, by indenture, for term of life	} xxxiiij ^s viij ^d

The Chapel of Whitehall

Is worth in

Rent of one tenement in the borough of Ilchester, with one acre of arable land in Coleplate, in the plain of Lymmyngton, and of one acre of arable land lying in Worthehill, and of one acre of arable land hard by Newe close, of one acre of meadow in Newe mede, and of one acre of meadow in Sockemershe, and of one barn, with iiij acres of arable land hard by Mowrewaie, and of one malthouse in the borough of Ilchester, with one acre of arable land called Batteacre. Also of ten acres of pasture lying outside the Bowe, in the borough aforesaid, leased to Humphry Blowghton and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum

lxij^s iiij^d

Rent of one close of pasture, called Corne Spetill, containing by estimation x acres, leased to John Belly and others, by indenture, for term of life

xxvj^s viij^d

Rent of vj sesters of meadow, each sester containing one acre and half a rod in Ilchester, now leased to the aforesaid John Bellie and others, by copy, per annum

xiiij^s vj^d

Rent of one tenement and iij acres of arable land, and of one acre of meadow in Sockemershe, of ij acres and a half of meadow in Fotesmede, and of one acre of meadow in Newmede. Also of two small

xij^s vj^dxix^{li} xiiij^s vj^d

closes, called Hemplandes, leased to William Owyn and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum

Rent of one tenement, and. iij acres of arable land, and of one acre of meadow, and of the fifth part of one close of pasture called Newmede, with iij acres of meadow in Sockemershe, of the demesne of the lord, leased to John Whigon and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum

xiiij^s viij^d

Rent of one water mill for corn, with one close called the Milham in Ilchester, leased to William Berde and others, by indenture, for term of life, per annum

xl^s

Rent of one curtilage, with garden adjacent, hard by the Shamell, and of viij acres of pasture in Chilterne lease, in the parish of Chilterne Domer, leased to Thomas Rodde and others, by indenture, for term of life

ix^s ij^d

Rent of one tenement, with garden, and of iij acres of arable land, of one acre of meadow in Sockemershe, of one acre of meadow in Newclose, and of ij acres and a half of meadow in Fotesmede, leased to Joan Roper, widow, per annum ..

xiiij^s iiiij^d

Rent of v acres of pasture, lying in the close called Newclose in the plain of Ilchester, leased to John Cuffe, per annum

v^s

Rent of three tenements, or bur- gages, in Taunton, and of viij acres of meadow in the same place, leased to John Walferde, per annum ..	}	xxxiiij ^s viij ^d
Rent of two tenements, or bur- gages, with gardens, in Taunton aforesaid, leased to Robert Bowier, alias Thompson, per annum ..	}	xiiij ^s iiij ^d
Rent of two tenements, or bur- gages, with gardens, in Taunton aforesaid, leased to George Hamley, per annum	}	xxiiij ^s

From which must be deducted:—

Reprises.	Rent resolute to our Lord the King, for fee farm rent of the bor- ough of Ilchester, per annum ..	}	xxv ^s vj ^d extinguished.
	Rent resolute to our Lord the King, for suit of his borough of Il- chester aforesaid, yearly	}	xij ^d extinguished.
	Rent resolute to our Lord the King, yearly, for Chilterne lease ..	}	vij ^d extinguished.
	Fee of Walter Bragge, Steward and Receiver there, by letters patent granted to him for term of his life, per annum	}	xx ^s The King will discharge.

Clear value, per annum, xix^{li} xiiij^s vj^d

“Memorand’ that the manor of Ilchester aforesaid
 is the lorde marques Dorsetes.”

Examined by William Bourne, deputy of Wil-
 liam Morice, esq. Supervisor of Particulars of
 our Lord the King in the County aforesaid.

Then come the instructions for leasing the property, in English, as follows :—

“xxv^{to} die Junij My lorde p'tecto's graces pleasure is
 anno Sc'do R' that S^r John ffounteney Knighte shall
 E. vj^{ti} pro Joh'e haue in ferme the p'misses And therfor
 ffounteney mil' comaundethe that a lease be made
 de London. to hym of the same for xxj yeares
 vnder the seale of the Courte of Aug-
 mentac'ons yeldinge to the Kinges
 ma^{tie} the saide yerelie rente accordinge
 to suche order as other leases vse to
 passe in the same Courte, Wth this
 p'uiso to be conteyned in the saide
 lease that if at any tyme after then-
 sealinge of this Lease the saide S^r
 John ffounteyne his executors or as-
 signes or any other for hym or them or
 in his or there right shall or doo expell
 or put out of any of the p'misses any
 of the ten^{antes} or fermo^rs havinge of
 late by Indenture or by Copie of
 Courte roll vntill suche tyme as their
 estates therin shalbe tried or Adjudged
 to be voyde in any of the Kinges
 highnes courtes of Recordes havinge
 Auctoritie to holde plee of the same
 or doe Decaye or suffer to be decayed
 any habitacon or dwellinge house or
 ferme in or vpon any of the p'misses
 That then and from thensforthe the
 the saide Leasse to be voyde.’”*

* MS. Harl. 701, ff. 18, 19. Appendix, No. XIV.

It does not appear that this arrangement was ever carried into effect, as both the name of the lessee and all reference to the transaction are omitted from the preamble of the grant which will presently be before us, and which recites the various leases granted by the Crown previous to the final disposal of the property.

To a reader who has perused with attention the foregoing enumeration of the lands belonging to the Chapel, I have hardly need to suggest the recurrence of names previously noticed in the earlier documents. Thus the Hichins, Batteacre, and Mowrewaie of this are the Heychyng, Battedeacre, and Morstrete of the ancient charters. Some of them yet retain their olden appellations, with those slight modifications which the lapse of centuries must necessarily produce. Fotesmede, for instance, Mr. Buckler informs me, is still known as Footsmead and Footmead.

I presume that from the revenues thus unscrupulously appropriated the Crown granted to the Incumbent a yearly pension of $vj^{li} xiijs\ iiij^d$. I do not find a record of the fact, but the name of "George Carewe, clerk, last incumbent of the Free Chapel of Holy Trinity in Ilchester," appears in Cardinal Pole's Pension Book as a recipient of that sum in 1556*

How he was to be maintained I know not—perhaps he received the overplus of the revenues until the lands passed to other owners,—but on the 10th of May, 1561, Queen Elizabeth presented Baptist Willoughbie, clerk, to the Rectory or Chapel of Whytehall, and directed her letters patent for his induction to Gilbert, Bishop of Bath and Wells. The letters are dated, witness the Queen, at

* Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxxb. Add. MS. 8102, B.M. fol. xxxb. Appendix, No. XV.

Westminster, on the day aforesaid.* This is the last presentation to Whitehall that I have been able to find.

The Queen, who appears to have had no kind of disinclination to profit by the evil deeds of her predecessors, found a willing agent in the work of spoliation in one whom every feeling of ordinary rectitude should have kept true and faithful to his sacred trust. The Bishop to whom the letters patent were addressed, Gilbert Berkeley, who occupied the episcopal throne of Wells from 1559 to 1581, wrote, between two and three years after his receipt of the same, a letter to Secretary Cecil, which I have found among the Lansdowne MSS. and here give entire. It is a remarkable one in many respects, exhibiting the writer, in strict agreement with the character attributed to him elsewhere, as more careful of his bodily health than of his duty as a sworn defender of the Church, and giving a fearful picture of the results of that sacrilegious movement, which, originated by the royal and noble personages of the day, extended its withering influence to some of the inferior classes of society, and deadened them to a sense of enormities which in other and better times they would have been the first to denounce. Perhaps, however, the most significant and valuable fact which it reveals is that an aider and abettor of the wrong thought it necessary that some order should be taken to keep the commonalty quiet, who naturally and most properly felt that their own welfare was inseparably bound up with that of their Church, and prudently recommended that the spoilers should proceed with due caution, "that the common people may cease from grudging."

"It maie please yo^r. honor to be advertysed, that longe er thys accordynge to my bounden dewtie, I had made Certi-

* Pat. 3 Eliz. p. 8. m. 21, *olim* 25.

ficat to the Quenes maties most honorable Councell for and concernynge the Chappelles and the nombre of howfoldes belonginge to the same : had it not byn, that no man (and not without good confideracon) shuld come into the Courte : vnlest it were well knowen from whens he came. for aight weakes agoo, I and my whole howfolde have removed from the Towne of Welles, and (thankes be to God) have contynued all hitherto in good healthe. the cawse was, that then God had vifited one howse in Welles : and therefore I was constryned to remove, and have ever sythens remayned in a Towne called Monton. Where God be prayfed, nor nere thereaboutes, there ys anye sycknes : and nowe by this bearer the Archedecon of Tanton chaplen to my Lord the Erle of Pembroke, I have sent the Certificat of the nombre of the Chappelles wthin the dyoces of Bathe and Welles : and of the howses belonginge to the said Chappelles. And furthermore these are to doo yo^r Honor to vnderstande, that s^yns the inquisition made, for the said Chappelles (notwthstanding it was so secretelie don, as possible might) yet certayn Patrons, ffermors of impropriations, and such, as have yeares in benefices have not only geuen out evill brutes for the pullinge downe of all Chappelles, but also some of them have putt in vse, to take downe the leadde of Chappelles and to cover them agayne with tyeles I thought it was my dewtie, thus much to signifie vnto yo^r. Honor, hopinge by yo^r. meanes, some order maie be taken, that the comon people maie ceasse from grudgyng. I leave any longer to trowble yo^r. Honor at this present : and shall not faile wth my contynuall praiers to praie to God for yo^r. Honors healthe and prosperous estate duringe lyfe. At Moncton, this 17. of Novembre. 1563.

Yo^r. Honors dailie Orator.

Gilb' Bathe & Welles

Endorsed—

To the right honorable Sr Willm Cicill Knight
Secretarie to the Quenes Highnes, and one of her
Maties. most honorable Privie Councill yve these.’’*

Little now remains to be offered, as when the property was alienated from its rightful uses, either absorbed in royal revenues or turned into a part of a wealthy subject's estate, my province and labour alike are ended.

On the 15th of January, 1573-4, Queen Elizabeth demised to Ralph Hope, and his executors and assigns, all that Free Chapel called Whitehall, with all its rights, members and appurtenances. Also all and singular houses, buildings, messuages, cottages, mills, woods, waters, water-courses, &c., &c., in Ilchester, Northover, Lymyngton, and Taunton, in any way belonging or pertaining to the said Free Chapel, all of which were then or lately in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Dewport, or his assigns, and had come into possession of the Crown by virtue of an Act of Parliament lately passed for the dissolution of Chantries and other similar institutions in the County of Somerset. All large trees which were or were reputed for timber, and all fair saplings which might grow into such trees, were reserved to the Crown. The lands, &c., were to be held by the said Ralph Hope and his executors and assigns, from the time at which a certain indenture and lease of George Carowe, clerk, Archdeacon, and then Master of the said Chapel, to Thomas Dewport, dated the 28th of June, 37 Henry VIII., 1545, for forty years from the Lady-day last past, should determine, for a term of twenty-one years thencefrom, at an annual rent of sixteen pounds and ten shillings of lawful English money.

* MS. Lansd. 6. n. 80. ff. 188, 189.

The letters patent are dated at Westminster, on the day aforesaid.

Little more than two years afterwards the Queen demised to Sir Christopher Hatton, Knt., then Christopher Hatton, Esq., and his heirs, five acres of pasture, with appurtenances, at Yerdend, then or lately in the tenure or occupation of Richard Sansan or his assigns, and one house called a stable in Ilchester aforesaid, lately in the tenure of Richard Cuffe or his assigns, and one house called Whitehall, with its appurtenances, and five acres of land, with appurtenances, in Ilchester aforesaid, near Tuckers lez, in the tenure or occupation of John Phillips or his assigns, at an annual rent of ten shillings and two pence, with similiar reservations to those aforesaid. The lease was dated at Gorhambury, the 3rd of April, 1576.

Further, the Queen demised to Gawin Phelips and Giles Ffathers all that Free Chapel of Holy Trinity of Whitehall, with all and singular its rights, &c., &c., and with the same reservations, from the Lady-day of 1606, for a term of twenty-one years next following that date, at a yearly rent of fifteen pounds, nineteen shillings, and ten pence. The letters patent are dated the 4th of July, 1587.

Lastly came the sale and final alienation of the property. The Queen granted to Michael Stanhope, Esq., one of the Grooms of the Privy Chamber, and Edward Stanhope, LL.D., one of the Masters in Chancery, and their heirs and assigns, in consideration of the sum of four thousand, eight hundred, and seventy-three pounds, one shilling, and eight pence, of lawful money of England,—together with large estates elsewhere, belonging to various Religious Houses; Upton, in the parish of Blewbery, in Berkshire; the Rectory and Church of Wigenhall, in Norfolk; a moiety

of the tithes, &c., in Carleton Colvile, in Suffolk; tenements in Honey Lane, in the City of London; Harden, &c., in the County of Chester; Pendevy, in the County of Cornwall; Hucknall Torkerd, &c., in the County of Nottingham; and a tenement in Whiting streete, in Bury, in the County of Suffolk—all that Free Chapel, commonly called Whitehall, otherwise the Free Chapel of the Holy Trinity of Whitehall aforesaid, with all and singular its rights, members, and appurtenances, lying and being in the vill, parish, or hamlet, of Ilchester, Northover, Taunton, and Lymyngton, or in any one of them, or elsewhere in the County of Somerset, pertaining to the said Free Chapel, estimated at the clear annual value of fifteen pounds, nineteen shillings, and ten pence, parcel of the possessions in the Queen's hands by virtue of an Act of Parliament, &c., &c. By this instrument, which recites in its preamble the leases already given, the grantees were to hold the property for their sole and exclusive use and benefit, with reservation of all Crown rights,—(not a syllable, however, is added about the providing of a Chaplain for the people thus summarily defrauded of the bequest of their forefathers)—of the Queen and her heirs and successors, as of the manor of Eastgrenewich, by fealty only, in free and common socage, and not in chief nor by knight service, for all other rents, services, exactions, and demands whatsoever, from the Michaelmas last past. Then follow exonerations of all corrodies, rents, fees, annuities, pensions, portions, &c., hitherto due from the several estates. And the grant concludes with the usual remission of account, fine, &c., and bears date, witness the Queen, at Westminster, the 27th of June, 1600.*

* Pat. 42 Eliz. p. 19, mm. 1—11.

Thus ends the history of White Hall in Ilchester. Consecutively a Hospital, a Priory, and a Free Chapel, it was apparently destined to a long and useful existence in the latter character, had not influences been brought to bear against it which hundreds of institutions of tenfold greater power had been unable successfully to resist. With those influences nothing was sacred, or worthy of so much as a thought when opposed to schemes of private aggrandisement, and the thirst of adding more to much. It did not even, apparently, suggest itself to the spoilers, so blind and infatuated had they become, that their new possessions were solemnly barred against their entrance by the most fearful of anathemas, and that disaster would as surely follow the appropriation as night succeeds the day. "De ecclesia," however, as S. Jerome had of old put it, "qui aliquid furatur, Judæ proditori comparatur." The sin soon attracted its curse. The experience of a few short years opened the unwilling eyes of many to the terrible truth that sacrilege transmits its peculiar legacy and entails its peculiar woe, and that a man may court perdition both of body and soul to establish a family, deep in whose heart the very possessions so acquired will be as a plague spot, engendering a certain and in numberless instances a speedy dissolution. "Church land," as Abp. Whitgift told Queen Elizabeth, "added to an ancient inheritance, hath proved like a moth fretting a garment, and secretly consumed both; or like the eagle that stole the coal from the altar and thereby set her nest on fire, which consumed both her young eagles and herself that stole it." It is, perhaps, the most fearful lesson which the history of the last three centuries in England can inculcate, a lesson which, indeed, may with certainty be learned not only from the denunciations of

Inspiration expressly threatening the result, but—what to some would be equally if not more conclusive—from the visitations of heralds, and the contents of muniment chests, which give their testimony without favour or affection. Neither let us imagine that the curse has lost aught of its ancient power. The “Fiat. Fiat. Amen.,” which holy hearts inspired and holy lips pronounced, does not lose its virtue with the lapse of centuries or the change of this world’s dynasties. Time is nothing. Delay gives but a fictitious confidence. The wrong continues, and the continuance of wrong does but add sin to sin. And that man must be blind indeed to what is passing around him, who cannot see evidences unmistakeable of old transgression still finding out victims in the representatives of the perpetrators, overtaking them along paths which other men tread in safety, thwarting them in ways wherein others have their will, clean putting out some, harassing and torturing others, and never sleeping or satisfied until the last of the doomed race becomes the tenant of his oftentimes early grave. Nor let any one think that these remarks are misplaced. It is the glory of the study of days of old to discern therein the finger of God, and to endeavour to interpret by such a reference the changes and chances of after times. Happy the scholar, who so learns the things which have been as to improve and elevate those which are, and, by inducing restitution and satisfaction for injury, kills that evil at the root which would sooner or later bear fruit of death. The wrong is ever crying for vengeance—surely the word of warning is never out of place. The examples are on all sides, and merciful is the hand that points to their teaching. “The destruction of Korah,” says Clement Spelman, “persuades more with the Israelites than the soft voice of Moses; and

such oratory may take thee ;—Hell hath frightened some to Heaven. View, then, the insuccess of sacrilegious persons in all ages,—that will prevail with thee. For had Korah and his accomplices been visited after the visitation of other men, thou and I, nay, perhaps the whole congregation of Israel, would have believed what they said as truth,—it sounded so like reason ; and approved what they did as pious—it looked so like religion. But their end otherwise informed them, and better instructed us.”

THOMAS HUGO.

A P P E N D I X .

No. I.

[Reg. Drok. fol. lvij.]

Carte Albe Aule Ieuelcestr'

Carta. W. Dacus Dat' p' cop'. Om'ibz xp'i fidelibz
de donac'one dom' ad quos p'sens sc'ptum p'uen'it.
Albe Aule Ieuelcestr' W. Dacus et'nam in vero saluatore
salt'm Nou'it vniu'sitas v'ra me diuine pietatis intuitu
dedisse & lib'alit' concessisse & hac carta mea confirmasse
d'no deo in puram & p'petuam elemosinam domu' de
Iuelcestr' que vocat' Alba Aula cu' toto mesuag' ad eand'm
domu' p'tine'te, & duas domos eid'm domui vicinas quas
Rog's de Donehefd tenuit & amb' molendina que possi-
debam in villa de Iuelcestr' cum tota t'ra arabili que ad
p'd'ca molendina p'tinet & cum vno sextario p'ati ad d'ca
molendina p'tine'te Ita t'n qd molicio mea & familie mee
in eisd'm molendinis quieta sit ab om'i . . . dedi eciam
deo domu' que fuit Aylwardi lagga cu' toto mesuagio ad
eand'm domu' p'tine'te & dece' acras t're . . mesuagiu'
iacentes & decem & octo acras t're que vocant' Heychyng
& q'nqz acras t're q' vocant' crofta Panchot que iacent in
p'te boriali de Pulbring' & duos solidos de s'uicio tene-
me'ti Henr' Caretarij, scil't de vna v'gata t're ap'd Sowej
duodecim denar', & de vno mesuag' in villa de Iuelcestr'
duodecim denar', & septe' acras t're que fueru't de Hay-
warderia scil't vnam acram q' vocat' battedeacre, & vna'
ac'm que iacet iux^a domu' lep'sor' & duas acras & dimid'
in p'te occident' a domo lepros', & duas ac's & dimidiam
que iacent iux^a t'ram W. Ruffegray v'sus Pulbringg' ad
statuend' Hospit' in honorem dei & b'e t'nitatis, ad sus-
cipiendu' paup'es debiles peregree proficiscentes p' salute
a'ie Ric'i Wynton' Ep'i nati apud Sok, & pro salute a'ie
p'ris & m'ris eius & antecessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitare

p'tine'cium, & p' salute ai'e Herb'ti Sar' Ep'i & p'ris & m'ris eius & an'cessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitare p'tinenciu' & p' salute ai'e Ric'i Sar' Ep'i & p'ris & m'ris eius & an'cessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitare p'tinenc' & p' salute ai'e Jocelini Bath' Ep'i & p'ris & m'ris eius & an'cessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitare p'tinenciu' & p' salute Ade de Iuelcestr' decani Sar' & p'ris & m'ris eius & antecessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitare p'tinenciu', & pro salute ai'e mee & p'ris & m'ris mee & antecessor' meor' & o'um michi consang'nitare p'tinenciu', & p' salute ai'e Emme vx'is mee & p'ris & m'ris eius & an'cessor' eius & o'um s' consang'nitare p'tinenciu', & p' salute o'um eor' q' elemosinas suas ad p'd'ci Hospital' emendaco'm & sustentaco'em mis'icordit' contulerint. Hoc ecia' adicio qd Ego & he'des mei custodes iam d'ci Hospit' d'no Bathon' Ep'o In cui' p'tecc'one Hospitale est p'sentabim', Et si ita contig'it qd custos eiusd'm Hospit' eid'm Hospit' no' fu'it necessarius, Ego & he'des mei tantu', & nullus alius ip'm remouebim', & aliu' quem viderim' expedire p' prudentu' viror' co'siliu' ibid'm s'bstituem'. Ego v'o & he'des mei in no'ie d'ni om's t'ras p'noi'atas deo & hospit' p'd'co con'a om's ho'ies warantizabimus. Et vt h' mea donacio rata p'maneat & inpost'um stabilis p'seu'et, p'sentem cartam sigilli mei apposic'one roborau'i, Hiis testibus d'no Steph'o Cant'. Archiep'o, Hugone Lync' Ep'o Jocelino Bathon' Ep'o Ric'o Sar' Ep'o Ada de Iuelcestr' Sar' decano Galfrido Archid'o de Berkshire Joh'ne Capell'o d'ni Ric'i Sar' Ep'i Mag'ro Luca Sar' cano'ico Hugone Malet Gilb'to Daco, Ric'o Daco, Ric'o Pauncefot, & Ric'o filio eius, Ric'o de Clyuedon', Barth'o de Kemessing' & multis alijs.

No. II.

[Reg. Drok. fol. lviii.]

L're Abb'is de Cernel sup' ratificaco'e d'ce approp'aco'is. Dat' p' cop' Om'ibz xp'i fidelib' ad q'os p'sens sc'ptu' p'uen'it. W. d'ina p'miss'one. Abb' Cernel & eiusd'm loci Co'uentus sal'm in d'no L'ras n'ras patent' direxim' ven'ab' p'ri. J. dei gr'a Bathon' Ep'o in h' v'ba Reu'endo d'no & p'ri in Xp'o K'mo. J. dei gr'a Bathon' Ep'o. W. di'na p'missione Abb' Cernel & eiusd'm loci co'uent' sal'm & deuotam in d'no reu'enciam. Nou'itis nos ratam & gratam

h'ituros in p'petuu' ordinaco'em qua' fec'itis sup' aduocaco'e
 eccl'ie b'e mar' minoris de Iuelcestr' & b'nficio annuo quod
 de ead'm eccl'ia p'cip'e solebam' In cui' Rei testimon' p'senti
 sc'pto sigilla n'ra apponi fecim' valeat pat'nitas v'ra semp'
 in d'no. Idem v'o dn's Ep'us receptis p'd'cis l'ris n'ris de
 consilio viror' p'denciu' & iuris p'itor' eid'm assidenciu'
 ordinavit in hu'c modu', vid't qd pensione' illam annuam
 qua' de ead' eccl'ia p'cip'e co'suevim' scil't duos solid'
 p'cipiam' tota vita Thome nu'c p'sone illius eccl'ie, & qd
 aduocac'o illius eccl'ie eid'm Ep'o & successoribz suis
 in p'petuu' remaneat, Ordinavit & q' post decessu' u'l
 cesso'em d'ci Thome p'cipiam' vna' m'rcam a'nuati inf'a
 octab' Assu'pco'is b'e Mar' in domo Cernel de p'uentibz d'ce
 eccl'ie no'ie p'petui b'nficij p' manu' R'cor' illi' eccl'ie qui
 p' te'p'e fu'it, m'rcam aut' illam p'cipiem' absqz om'i on'e
 ordinario. Ad hanc aut' ordinaco'em faciendam induxit
 p'd'em dn'm Ep'm ut dicebat sollicitudo & cura hospit'
 S'ci Joh'is Bapt'e de Iuelcestr' q'am gessit qd situ' est in
 p'ochia p'd'ce eccl'ie vt facilius & co'petenci' possit p'uidere
 q'modo i' capella p'd'ci hospit' possint inpost'um di'na
 celebrari. Nos itaqz p'd'cam ordinaco'em d'ci d'ni Ep'i p'
 nob' & successorib' n'ris p' o'ia ratam h'em' & g'atam In cui'
 rei Robur & testimon' p'senti' sc'pto sigilla n'ra apposuum'.

 No. III.

[Reg. Drok. ff. lvij, lvijb.]

L'ra d'ni Jocelini Ep'i sup' ordinac'one sua d'ce ap'p'aco'is
 Dat' p' cop' Om'ibz ad quos p'sens sc'ptu' p'uen'it Jocelin'
 dei gr'a Bathon' Ep'us sal'm. L'ras patentes Abb'is &
 co'uent' de Cernell suscepim' in hec v'ba Reu'endo d'no
 & pat' in xp'o k'mo. J. dei gr'a Bath' Ep'o. W. di'na
 p'miss'one Abb' Cernell & eiusd'm loci co'uent' sal'm &
 deuotam i' d'no reu'enciam Nou'itis nos ratam & g'atam
 h'ituros in p'petuu' ordinaco'em quam fec'itis sup' aduocaco'e
 eccl'ie b'e Mar' minoris Iuelcestr' & b'nficio a'nuo quod de
 ead'm eccl'ia p'cip'e solebam'. In cui' rei testimon' p'senti

sc'pto sigilla n'ra apponi fecim' valeat pat'nitas v'ra semp' in d'no. Nos v^o receptis d'cis l'ris cum q'dam loc' ad hospitalitatis vsum & paup'um suscepco'em inf^a p'ochiam d'ce eccl'ie in honore s'ce T'nitatis de consensu d'ni fundi sit auc^ate pontificali deputat' cu' cura & sollicitudo ex offic'io pastoralis nob' incumbit considerantes paup'tate' & tenuitatem d'ci hospiti' & def'cu' quem sustine't fr'es & sorores eiusd'm, qui rel'co sec'lo ad s'uiendu' deo & paup'ibus sub paup'tatis h'itu ibid'm conu'sionis & religionis h'itum assumpseru't Et qd p' di'nis celeb'andis & audiend' int' seculares p' vicos in scandalu' Religionis necesse h'ebant ad ip'am eccl'iam conc'rere p'ochialem cu' in d'co hospiti' no' nisi salua iusticia d'ce mat'cis eccl'ie pot'ant diuina celeb'ari de consilio viror' prudentu' & iuris p'itor' de d'ca aduocac'one & ecc'ia tal'r ordinam' vid't q' hospitale p'd'em & fratres eiusd'm h'eant aduocaco'em p'd'ce eccl'ie inp'p'm Indulgem' eciam eisd'm qd Thoma n'c Rctore eiusd'm cedente v'l decedente lib'e valeant ex hac n'ra indulgencia d'cam eccl'iam in p'pos vsus conu'tere & retin'e & ip'ius ingredi posso'em n'ro v'l successor' n'ror' assensu mi'me requisito Ita qd in ead'm p' ydoneu' capell'm faciant competent' p'petuo deseruii Et qd extu'c solua't annuatim in Octab' Assu'pcionis b'e Mar' virg' apud Cernell Abb'i & monachis eiusd'm loci vnam m'rcam annuam de fructibz eiusd'm eccl'ie no'ie p'petui b'nficij absqz om'i on'e ordinario p'd'co v^o Thoma nu'c R'ctore eiusd'm d'cam eccl'iam possidente p'cipiant d'ci Abb' & Co'uent' de Cernell annuam penso'em duor' solidor' qua' inde p'us p'cip'e consueueru't ita qd d'ci f'res h'eant in d'co Hospiti' Capellam sua' in qua faciant celeb'ari di'na cu' pulsac'one campanar' & aliis sole'pnitatibz consuetis & necessariis in diuinor' celebrac'oe Et qd h'eant cimit'ium b'ndictu' inf^a septa sui Hospiti' ad sepelliendu' f'res suos & sorores & alios qui ibid'm dux'int sepulturam eligenda'. Salua semp' iusticia eccliar' p'ochialiu' illor' qui ibid'm eleg'int sepeliri. Hec aut' ordinam' salua nob' & successorib' n'ris eccl'iar' n'rar' & n'ra p' o'ia iur'dic'one potestate & dignitate. Et saluo Archid'is loci

iure Archidiaconali In Cui' les'ois recompensaco'em volum' & statuim' eisd'm Arch'is synodalia consueta annuatim duplicari In cu' Rei testimon' p'senti sc'pto sigillu' n'rm apponi fecim' Dat' apud Woky die Conu'so'is S'ci Pauli Anno gr'e Milli'o ducentesimo Quadragesimo p'mo.

No. III.*

[Ped. Fin. 2—20 Henry III., n. 57.]

Hec est final' concord' f'ca in Cur' d'ni Reg' ap'd West'm a die Pasch' in tres septim'. Anno Regni Reg' Henr' fil' Reg' Joh'is septimo. Cora' H. de Burgo tu'c capitali Justic'. Martino de Pateshill'. Rad'o Harang. Steph'o de Seg^aue. Thom' de Haiden. Rob'to de Lexinton'. Gaufr'o Le Sauuag' Justic'. Et aliis d'ni Reg' fidelibz tu'c ibi p'sentibz. Int' Emma' que fuit ux' Will'mi Daci petente'. & fr'em Walt'm de Clapton' custode' Hospital' s'ce Trinitatis de Iueestr' tenente' de t'cia parte dece' acrar' t're. & q'ndeci' acrar' prati & duor' molendinor' cu' p'tin' in Iueestr'. Q^am t'cia' p'te' ip'a Emma clamabat e'e r'onabile' dote' sua' de lib'o tenem'to quod fuit p'd'ci Will'i q'nda' uiri sui in eade' uilla. Et vn' placitu' fuit int' eos in p'fata Cur'. Scl't q'd p'd'cs Frater Walt' recognouit tota' t'cia' p'te' p'd'ce t're & p'ati & molendinor' cu' p'tin'. e'e dotem ip'ius Emme. Et p' hac Recognico'e. fine & concord'. eade' Emma co'cessit ip'i fr'i Walt'o *ande' t'cia' p'te' p'd'ce t're & p'ati & p'd'cor' molendinor' cu' p'tin'. Habenda' & tenenda' eide' fr'i Walt'o & successoribz suis & p'd'co domui Hospital' de p'd'ca Emma q'adiu uix'it. Reddendo inde annuat' una' marc' arg'nti ad duos t'minos anni. Scl't medietate' ad Pasch'. & aliam medietate' ad festu' s'ci Mich'is p' om'i s'uic'o. Et si forte co'tig'it q'd Ide' frat' Walt' u'l success' sui no' reddid'int p'd'cam marc' ad p'd'cos t'minos sicut p'd'cm est. Licebit ip'i Emme distring'e eos p' catall' in p'd'cis t'ra & p'ato. & p'd'cis molendinis inuenta. usqz ad plena' solucione' ei'de' marce. Sum'set.

No. IV.

[Esc. 9 Edw. I. n. 79.]

Inquisic'o f'ca p' sacramentu' Ade de Kary Will'i Tessun Will'i Cot Thom' de Parays Joh'is de Loueny Gilb'ti de Taunton Pet' Le Rus Nich'i de Tyntenhull Will'i Schlaume Will'i ffoffard Galfr' de Tyntenhulle & Regin' de Kary qui dicunt sup' sacramentu' suu' q'd vnu' mesuagiu' in villa de Iuelcestr' tenetur de Com' Cornubie p' s'uiciu' vnus quadrantis p' annu' p' om'i s'uicio. Et idem Comes est capitalis d'ns illius mesuag' & aliud mesuagiu' tenetur de eodem Com' p' s'uiciu' vnus oboli p' annu' p' om'i s'uicio. Reddendo inde Rog'o de Moles duodeci' denar' p' annu' tantu' sine alio s'uicio inde recipiendo. Et dicu't q'd no' est ad dampnu' d'ci Com' si Cecilia Bagge & Rob'us filius eius concedere't u'l feofarent Priorissam & moniales de la Blanchedale de Iuelcestr' eo q'd consuetudines & s'uicia debita de p'd'cis mesuag' d'cus Comes debet recipere annuat' p' manus tenenciu' d'cor' mesuagior'. It'm dicu't q'd q'atuor acre terre tenentur de Johanne Shurek de Cilt'ne p' s'uiciu' vnus denar' p' annu' p' om'ibus s'uic' de feudo Joh'is de monte acuto q' tenetur de d'no Rege in capite p' baronia'. Et vna ac^a terre & dimidia tenentur de Hugo'e Hereward p' s'uiciu' vnus denar' p' annu'. Et vna ac^a & dimidia tenentur de Adam Haghene p' s'uiciu' vnus Rose p' annu'. Et vna ac^a terre tenetur de Thom' Bagge p' s'uiciu' vnus oboli p' annu' & sunt de feudo Com' Marescall' p' iiij^d de Sturgoyl. Et due acre p'ati & dimidia tenentur de h'edibz Will'i Le Deneys qui tene't in capite de d'no Rege p' s'uiciu' duodecim denar' p' annu'. Et dicu't q'd no' est ad dampnu' d'ni Regis si p'd'ca Priorissa & moniales essent feofati de p'd'cis tenem'tis. Et dicu't q'd no' est ad dampnu' d'nor' feudi p' annu' si inde feofati e'ent eo q'd nichil in p'd'cis tenem'tis eis accider' possit nisi tantu' p' Escaetam si euen'it u'l releuiu' & si escaeta euenerit tu'c e'et ad dampnu' d'nor' feudi de qualibet ac^a t're p' annu' vj. den'. Et de duabz acr' p'ati & dimid' vj. d. tantu' p' annu'.

No. V.

[A Deed in the possession of the Author.]

Sciant p'sentes. & futri quod Ego. Henric' de Rocheford filius Eudon' de Estwode. dedi. concessi. & hac p'senti carta mea p' me. & heredibus meis siue assing^{at}is meis confirmavi. Henrico de Broke. Nich'e vxor' sue. & eor' heredibz. tres acras. t're arabil' que vocant' Litlemede. & Iacent int' t'ra' Henr'. de Broke que vocat' Brudenewere exp'te aust^{li}. & viam que vocat' la Morstrete exp'te Borial'. Et septe' ac^{as} p^{ati} que Iacent int' cult'am que d'r le Castel exp'te borial' d'ci p^{ati}. & p^{atu}' Priorasse albe aule de Yuelcestr' exp'te austral'. quas quide' acras t're arabil' & p^{atu}' p'no'iatu'. Will's Ruffeg^e aliq^{ando} de me tenuit ad firmam. Habend'. & tenend' d'cas t^{es} acras t're arabil'. & septe' acras p^{ati} p'notatas. de me & heredibz. siue assing^{at}' meis. D'co Henr * * * * om'imoda excep^{oe} postpo'ita. lib'e. quiete. integre. bene. & in pace Jure hereditario inp'petuu'. Reddend' inde annuatim. seped'ci. Henr'. Nich' & eor' hered' Communi ville de Yuelcestr'. sexdecim. denarios. a la Hokeday p' om'ibz s'uiciis. sect'. querelis. & secularibz demandis. & p' om'ibz aliis euentibz que sup' d'cam t'ram aliquo temp'e co'ting'e pot'unt. Hec autem om'ia p'missa. cu' om'ibz iuris & lib'tatibz p'tactis Ego p'no'iat' Henr' de Rogeford. & hered. siue assing^{ati} mei. D'co Henr'. de Broke. Nich'e vx' sue & eor'd'm heredibz cont^a om'es mortales p' p'd'cm Redditu' Ware'tizabimus. acquietabim'. & defendem' inp'petuu'. P' hac aute' donac'oe. concessione. p'sentis carte confirmac'oe & Warentizac'oe. dederu't p'd'ci Henr'. de Broke. et Nich' vx' ei'd'm. anted'co Henr'. de Rocheford. viginti. q^{atuor}. m^{acas}. & dimidiam. argent' p' manibz. Vt g' hec mea donac'oe. concessio. carte mee confirmac'oe. & Ware'tizac'oe rata. & inconcussa temp'e p'petuo p'seueret. p'sente' cartam sigilli mei inp^{essio}'e roborau. Hiis testibus. D'nis. Will'o. de Giuelton'. Andr'. de Putford. militibz. Thom.' de Hengleby. Joh'e. Herod. Joh'e. Pol. Henr'. de Spekinton'. Joh'e. de aula de monte acuto. Joh'e. de Broke. Rob'to. de Brade-ford. Et Aliis.

Endorsed: C. Henr' Rocheforde f'ca Henr' de Brok de iij. acr' t're. vocat' Lytelmede.

No. VI.

[Reg. Drok. fol. lxxxxviiijb].

L'ra dir'cta d'no Archiep'o Cant' p' sororibz Albe Aule Yuelcestr'

Reu'endo in xp'o Pat' d'no W. dei g'ra Cant' Archiep'o toti' Angl' p'mati. Joh'nes p'm' eiusd' Bath' &c. salt'm &c. Quia sorores Albe Aule Yuelcestr' n're dioc', in obp'briu' reg'le sue & Religionis, p' Alic' atte Zerde que se dicit inibi Priorissam a domo sua p'd'ca expulse, cogunt' indies mendicare, ob quam c'am ad nos accedentes, s' s'r p'missis, remediū postulant importune lac'mosis suspiriis adhiberi. Nos v° lite s'r hoc in v'ra Cur' pendente manus ligatas obtinentes, affectantes qz q'd d'cis mis'abilibz p' vos in hac parte g'ciose valeat s'bveniri, reu'end' pat'nitatem v'ram sed'lo dep'cam' q'atin' sororibz p'fatis victu' nc'em & pacificu' de suo p'p'io in domo p'notata lite in Cur' v'ra ut p'mittit' pendente, benigne dignem'i si placeat p'uidere. Eccl'ie sue s'ce regimini &c. Sc'pt' apud Kyngesbur'. Non' Septembr'. a°. m°. ccc^{mo}. xvj°.

No. VII.

[Reg. Drok. fol. ccxv.]

Co'missio p' custod' dom' Albe Aule Ienele.

J. p'mission' &c. Dil'cis in xp'o filiis. D'no Henr' de Bir-launde Rectori eccl'ie de Stok n're dioc' p'sbit'o. & Joh'i de Herminull sal'm gr'am & ben'. Quia ex lac'mosa querela paup'u' religiosar' soror' dom' Albe Aule Yeuelcestr' n're dioc' ac fama public' referente, ad aures n'ras p'uenit. q'd soror' Alic' de Chitt'ne (*sic*) que se dicit P'orissam d'ce dom' de Joh'ne de Passelewe Capell'o, sup' inco'tinencie vicio extitit puplice diffamata. bona qz & res sac'as p'd'ce Albe Aule p'p'ia tem'itate distraxit nequit' & co'sumpsit ac co'sumit in dies intantu' q'd d'ce sorores sue ip'i dom' & in ea x° famulantes p' defectu sustentac'onis compellunt' q'd dolent' referim' miserabil'r mendicare. Sup' q'bz ex offi'o n'ro inq'ri fecim' diligent' p' qua' inq'sic'om comp'tu' extitit q'd d'ca soror Alicia no'iata P'orissa vt p'tangit' diffamata de s'uicio diuino cui ex religione sua e' dedita no' cura's sorores suas deo dicatas contempnit. eis qz sustentaco'm om'iodem subt'xit & subt'hit cui' occ'one alique

sorores ipsi dom' fame vt dicit' p'ieru't p'fata qz bona & res in vsus illicitos conu'tit & ea dissipat vt p'd'r tem'e & consumit in g'ue ai'e sue p'icl'm d'car' soror' suar' & dom' p'iudiciu' ac dampnu' no' modicu' & scandalu' pli'or'. Nos ig'r indigencie & paup'tati dictar' soror' pie co'paciens effectu p'missa & alia p'icl'm ai'e d'ce P'orisse co'cerne'cia p' statu d'ce dom' & soror' ip'ius releuando eid'm P'orisse opponi fecim' sine mora ip'aqz demu' P'orissa tamq' conscia s' de p'missis se ac statu' suu' & d'ce dom' ordinaco'i n're. ac laudo & decreto in p'sencia notarij publici alte & basse submisit. Cum itaq' mandatis regiis ex^a n'ram diocesim p' variis negoc' nos oporteat London' n'ram p'senciam exhib'e ordinacio'i stat' d'ce P'orisse & soror' ac d'ce dom' vsqz ad redditu' n'rm sic' co'uenit & ad nos p'tinet ex officio intender' nequeam'. de v'ra fidelitate & indust'a confidentes vob' custodiam d'ce Priorisse ac soror' & dom' p'd'ce, rer' qz ad eand'm domu' p'tinenciu' co'mittim' p' p'sentes. sic' nob' de custodia hi' & minist'c'one p' vos ibid'm fac' voluerit' responder'. Iniu'gentes vob' firmit' quatin' d'ce P'orisse & sororib' vict'm ne'cia' iux^a facultates domus & ipi' consuetudine' studeatis fid'l'r ministrar' & disp'sa p' ip'am P'orissam quaten' melius pot'itis co'gregare donec ad n'ram diocesim redierim' & iux^a iuris exigencia' alit' ordinau'im' de p'missis. Contrad'ctores & rebelles p' quas-cu'qz censuras eccl'iasticas co'pescendi. vob' d'no Henrico R'ctori sup^ad'co tenore p'senciu' co'mittim' potestate'. Dat' apud Dogm'esfeld. xiiij^o Kal'n Octobr' anno. d'ni mill'o. CCC^{mo} vicesimo t'cio. Et cons' n're qui'to decimo.

No. VIII.

[Pat. 17 Edw. II. p. 2. m. 6, dors.]

P' Priorissa de Alba Aula de Yeuelcestr'.

R' dil'cis & fidelib' suis Joh'i de Stonore Rad'o de Bereford & Elie de Godelegh salt'm Ex g'au' querela dil'ce nob' in xp'o Priorisse de Alba Aula de Yeuelcestr' accepim' q'd Nich'us de Boleuille Joh'es de Harminulle Joh'es fil' Petri de Draycote Joh'es le Do Nich'us de Sok Will's Baller & Nich'us le Deyer & Agnes vx' eius, vna cu' quibusdam aliis malef'toribz & pacis n're p'turbacoribz clausum ip'ius Priorisse sub p'teccoe n'ra existentis apud Yeuelcestr' vi & armis intrauerunt & ostia grangiar' suar'

ibidem fregerunt & blada sua in eisdem grangiis tunc inuenta ad valencia' centu' marcar' triturarunt ceperunt & asportauerunt p' q'd t're p'd'ce Priorisse ibidem frisce & non seminate remanserunt, ac herba' in p^{to} ip'ius Priorisse ibidem nup' crescente' ad valencia' decem librar' cum quibzda' aueriis depasti fuerunt conculcauerunt & consu'pserunt & alia enormia ei intulerunt in n'ri contemptu' & ip'ius Priorisse graue dampnu' & contra p'tecco'em n'ram p'd'cam & contra pacem n'ram Et quia t^{ans}gressione' illam si talit' p'petrata fu'it relinquere nolum' impunitam assignauim' vos & duos v'rm Justice' n'ros ad inquirend' p' sacr'm p'bor' & leg' hom' de Com' Som's' p' quos &c. de acco'ibz malef'cor' p'd'cor' qui vna cu' p'fatis Nich'o Joh'e &c. t^{ans}gresione' illam p'petrarunt & de t^{ans}gressione illa pleni' veritatem & ad eandem t^{ans}gressione' audiend' & t'minand' sc'dm lege' &c. Et ideo vob' mandam' q'd ad c'tos dies & loca quos vos vel duo v'rm ad hoc p'uideritis inquisico'em illa' fac' & t^{ans}gressione' p'd'cam audiatis & t'minetis in forma p'd'ca ff'c'm &c. Saluis &c. Mandauim' e'm vic' nr'o Com' pd'ci q'd ad c'tos dies & loca quos vos vel duo v'rm ei scire fac' venire fac' cora' vob' vel duob' v'rm tot &c. P quos &c. In cui' &c. T. R. apud Tonebrigge xxvj die Junij
P. ip'm R'

No. IX.

[Ilchester Almshouse Deed, No. 26.]

Om'ibz Xp'i fidelibz ad quos p'sens sc'ptu' p'ven'it Joh'nes Cole de Bruggewater Salt'm in D'no Nou'itis me tradidisse & concessisse Walt'o Blaunkpayn & Juliane uxori sue sorori mee unu' Burgagiu' cu' parvo curtilagio que scita sunt in regio vico de Yevelcestre ex oppo'ito Eccl'ie B'e Marie int' burgagiu' q'd fuit Joh'is Draycote & burgagiu' Marie Priorisse de la Nywehalle Habend' & tenend' totu' p'd'em burgagiu' cu' p'tin' p'd'cis Walt'o et Juliane uxori sue ad totam vitam eor' et alt'ius eor' diuci' viventis de me & heredibz meis Reddendo inde annuatim michi & heredibz unam rosam ad Festu' Nativitatis S'ci Joh'is Bapt'e Faciendo cciam p' me & heredibz meis om'ia reddit' & servicia inde debita & de jure D'no Regi seu quibuscumqz consueta p' om'ibz serviciis sectis heriētis & quibuscumqz secular' demandis Et ego p'd'cus Joh'nes

Cole et heredes mei totu' p'd'cm burgagiu' & curtilagiu' cu' p'tin' p'd'cis Walt'o & Juliane uxori sue ad totam vitam eor' & alt'ius eor' diuci' viventis cont^a om'es mortales in p'sert' Warantizabim' acquietabim' & defendem' In cuj' rei testimoniu' huic p'senti sc'pto Indentato sigilla n'ra alt'natim sunt appensa Hiis testibz Rob'to Pryvyere Joh'ne Rypon Walt'o Ffletchere Joh'ne atte Wille Joh'ne Vysshere Will'mo Wynsam & multis alijs Dat' ap'd Yewelchestre die Veneris p'x^a post Festu' Pentecost', Anno regni Regis Edwardi t'oij post conquestu' Quadragesimo Quarto.

No. X.

[Inq. ad q.d. 3 Hen. V. n. 14.]

Henricus dei gr'a Rex Angl' & franc' & D'ns hib'n'. Escaetori suo in Com' Som's' salt'm. Precepim' tibi q'd p' sacr'm p'bor' & leg' hom' de balliua tua p' quos rei v'itas melius sciri pot'it diligent' inquiras si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' si concedamus Joh'i Strech Rob'to Veel Will'o Gosse Will'o Newton Tholomeo Dure & Joh'i Mascall q'd ip'i septem mesuagia vnu' gardinu' & decem acras t're cum p'tin' in Taunton & Shireford Ac p'dco Rob'to & Will'o Shourte q'd ip'i quinqz mesuagia & sex acras t're cum p'tin' in Yeuelchestre dare possint & assignare dil'cis nob' in xp'o priorisse & sororibz domus Albe Aule de Yeuelchestre h'end' & tenend' eisdem priorisse & sororibz & successoribz suis in auxiliu' sustentaco'is cuiusdam Capellani diuina singulis diebz ad su'm' altare in eccl'ia s'ce Trinitatis de Yeuelchestre p' a'iabz Johanne que fuit vx' Joh'is Stourton & Will'i Whittok ac a'iabz parentu' ip'or' Johanne & Will'i Whittok & a'iabz o'im' fideliu' defunctor' celebratur' imp'p'm & ad anniu'saria ip'or' Johanne & Will'i Whittok singulis annis in die Jouis in septimana pasche in eccl'ia p'd'ca cum Placebo & Dirige in vigilia eiusdem diei cum missa de Requiem cum nota in eodem die ad altare p'd'cm tenend' obseruand' & solempnit' celebrand' imp'p'm necne. Et si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' tunc ad quod dampnu' & q'd p'iudiciu' n'rm & ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' alior' & quor' & qualit' & quo modo & de quo vel de quibz p'd'ca mesuagia gardinu' & t'ra teneant' & p' quod s'uiciu'

& qualit' & quo modo et quantum p'd'ca mesuagia gardinu' & t'ra valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz iuxta verum valorem eor'dem et qui & quot sunt medij int' nos et p'fatos Joh'em Rob'tum Will'm Will'm Tholomeu' Joh'em & Will'm de mesuagiis gardino & t'ra p'd'cis et que t're & que ten' eisdem Joh'i Rob'to Will'o Will'o Tholomeo Joh'i & Will'o remaneant vlt^a donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas & vbi & de quo vel de quibz teneant^r & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo et quantum valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz et si t're & ten' eisdem Joh'i Rob'to Will'o Will'o Tholomeo Joh'i & Will'o remanencia vlt^a donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas sufficiant ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mesuagiis gardino & t'ra sic datis q^am de aliis t'ris & ten' sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a que sustinuerunt & sustinere consueuerunt vt in sectis visibz franci plegij auxiliis tallagiis vigiliis finibz redempco'ibz am'ciamentis contribuco'ibz & aliis quibuscumq' on'ibz em'gentibz sustinend' et q'd ijdem Joh'es Rob'tus Will's Will's Tholomeus Joh'es & Will's in assisis iuratis & aliis recognico'ibz quibuscumqz poni possint p'ut ante donacionem & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consueuerunt. Ita q'd p'ria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas ip'or' Joh'is Rob'ti Will'i Will'i Tholomei Joh'is & Will'i def'c'm magis solito non on'et^r seu g^auet^r Et inquisico'em inde distincte & ap'te f'cam nob' in Cancellar' n'ram sub sigillo tuo & sigillis eor' p' quos f'ca fu'it sine dil'one mittas & hoc br'e. T' me ip'o apud West'm primo die Junij Anno. r. n. primo

Inquis' capta apud Yeuelchestr' in Com' Som's' die ven'is p'x' post festu' quod dicit^r ad uinc'la Sc'i Petri anno regni Reg' Henrici qui'ti post conquestu' primo cora' Ric'o Stucle Escaet' d'ni Reg' in Com' p'd'co virtute br'is d'ni Regis eid'm Escaet' inde directi & huic Inquis' consut' p' sacr'ment' Will'i Ponton Will'i Gorewell Thome Gane Ed'i Dygher Will'i Rodebere Almaric' att' Wethy Joh'is Stert Joh'is Dolle Joh'is Bochell Roberti Petenyn Joh'is Pytte & Will'i Smyffamour qui dicunt sup' sacr'm eor' q'd non est ad dampnu' neq' p'iudiciu' d'ni Reg' nec alior' si dn's Rex concedat Joh'i Strecch Roberto Veel Will'mo Gosse Will'mo Neweton Tholomeo Dure & Joh'i Mascall' q'd ip'i septe' mesuag' vnu' gardinu' & dece' acras t're cu' p'tin' in Taunton' & Shireford ac p'd'co Roberto & Will'mo

Shourte q'd ip'i qui'que mesuag' & sex acras t're cu' p'tin' in Yeuelchestr' dare possint & assignare Priorisse & Sororibz dom' albe aule de Yeuelchestr' h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & sororibz & successoribz suis in auxiliu' Sustentaco'is cuiusd'm capellani diuina singul' diebz ad Su'mu' altare in eccl'ia Sc'e Trinitat' de Yeuelchestr' p' ai'abz Joh'ne que fuit vx' Joh'is Stourton & Will'i Whyttok ac ai'abz parentu' ip'or' Johanne & Will'i Whittok & ai'abz o'im fidelieu' defunctor' celebraturi imp'petuu' & ad anniu'saria ip'or' Johanne & Will'i Whittok sing'lis annis in die Jouis in Septimana Pasche in eccl'ia p'dict' cu' placebo & Dirige in vigilia eiusdem diei cu' missa de requie' cu' nota in eod'm die ad altare p'd'cm ten'd' obseruand' & solempnit' celebrand' imp'petuu' Et dicunt q'd p'dicta septe' mesuag' gardinu' & dece' acre t're cu' p'tin' in Taunton' & Shireford tenent' de Ep'o Winton' vt de manerio suo de Taunton' in socagio p' s'uiciu' reddend' eid'm Ep'o xij^s & x^d ad quatuor anni t'minos p'ncipales equis porc'onibz & faciend' secta' curie eiusdem Ep'i ad duos legales dies videl't hokkediei & Mich'is annuati' apud Taunton' p'd'cam tenend' p' om'ibz alijs s'uicijs et valent p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz iuxta veru' valore' eor'd'm vlt^a repris' quadraginta sex solidos & dece' denarios Et q'd nullus est medius int' dn'm Rege' & p'fatos Joh'nem Robertu' Will'm Will'm Tholomeu' & Joh'nem de p'd'cis mes' gardino & terra in Taunton' & Shireford nisi solomodo p'd'cus Ep'us Et dicunt q'd p'd'ca qui'que mesuag' & sex acre t're cu' p'tin' in Yeuelchestr' tenent' de d'no Rege in socagio & p' s'uiciu' reddend' eid'm d'no Regi ad firma' sua' in villa de Yeuelchestr' p' soluend' annuati' octo denarios in festo sc'i Mich'is Arch'i & faciend' secta' cur' eiusd'm d'ni Regis in villa de Yeuelchestr' p'd'ca annuati' ad duos legales dies p' om'ibz alijs s'uicijs Et valent p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz iuxta veru' valore' eor'd'm p' annu' xxij^s vj^d Et q'd nullus est medius int' dn'm Rege' & p'fatos Robertu' & Will'm Shourte de mesuag' & terra p'dict' in villa de Yeuelchestr' p'd'ca Et dicunt q'd maneriu' de Radewell' cu' p'tin' quod tenent' de Ep'o Bathon' p' s'uiciu' militare & valet p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz xx^{li} p'd'co Joh'i Strech duo mes' Centu' acre t're cu' p'tin' in Shepton' Beauchamp' que tenent' de Roberto Seymour p' s'uiciu' militare que valent p' annu' xv^s. Quatuor mes' cu' p'tin'

in Bryggewater que tenent^r de d'no de la Souche in socagio que valent p' annu' xl.^s p'd'co Will'mo Gosse duo mes' cu' p'tin' in Yeuelchestr' que tenent^r de d'no Rege in Socagio que valent p' annu' xx^s p'd'co Will'mo Neweton' vnu' mes' viginti acre t're cu' p'tin' in Wollavyngton' que tenent^r de Joh'ne Tochet p' s'uiciu' militare que val' p' annu' xx^s p'd'co Tholomeo vnu' mesuag' sexaginta acre t're cu' p'tin' in Stapulton' que tenent^r de Will'mo Bonevile p' s'uiciu' reddend' eid'm Will'mo x^s p' annu' p' om'ibz s'uicijs que valent p' annu' xl.^s p'd'co Joh'i Mascall' & vnu' mes' sexaginta acre t're cu' p'tin' in Mertok que tenent^r de Duce Clarancie p' s'uiciu' reddend' eid'm Duci v.^s p' annu' que valent p' annu'. lx.^s p'fato Will'mo Shourte remanent vlt^a donac'onem & assignaco'em p'd'cas que t're & ten'ta eisd'm Joh'i Roberto Will'mo Will'mo Tholomeo Joh'i & Will'mo remanencia vlt^a donac'onem & assignaco'em p'd'cas suffiunt ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mes' gardino & t'ra sic datis q^am de alijs t'ris & ten'tis sic sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a que sustinuerunt & sustiner' consueuerunt aut debuerunt vt in sectis visibz franci plegij auxilijs tallagijs vigilijs finibz redempco'ibz am'ciamen't contribuco'ibz & alijs quibuscumqz oneribz em'gentibz sustinend' et q'd ijd'm Joh'es Robertus Will's Will's Tholomeus Joh'es & Will's in assisis iuratis & alijs recognico'ibz quibuscumqz poni possint p'ut ante donac'onem & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consueuerunt Ita q'd p'ria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas in ip'or' Joh'is Roberti Will'i Will'i Tholomei Joh'is & Will'i def't'm magis solito non on'at' nec on'abit' nec grauat' seu g^auabit' In cui' rei testi'om p'd'ci Jurat' sigilla sua p'sentibz apposuerunt Dat' die anno & loco p'd'cis.

 No. XI.

[Pat. 3 Hen. V. p. 2. m. 27.]

D' licencia dandi ad manu' mortuam R Om'ibz ad quos &c. salt'm. Licet &c. de gr'a tamen n'ra sp'ali & p' viginti libris quas dil'ca nob' in xp'o Priorissa Albe Aule de Yeuelchestre nob' soluit in hanap'io

n'ro concessim' & licenciam dedim' p' nob' & heredibz n'ris quantum in nob' est Rob'to Veel & Will'o Shomte (*sic*) q'd ip'i quinqz mesuagia & sex acras t're cum p'tin' in Yeuelchestre in Com' Som's' que de nob' tenent' in burgagio, Ac eidem Rob'to & Joh'i Strech Will'o Gosse Will'o Neweton' Tholomeo Dure & Joh'i Mascall q'd ip'i septem mesuagia vnu' gardinu' & decem acras t're cum p'tin' in Taunton' & Shireford in Com' p'd'co que de nob' non tenent' in capite dare possint & assignare eidem Priorisse & sororibz eiusdem domus h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & sororibz & successoribz suis in auxiliu' sustentaco'is cuiusdam Capellani diuina singulis diebz ad su'mum altare in eccl'ia sc'e Trinitatis de Yeuelchestre p' ai'abz Johanne que fuit vx' Joh'is Stourton' & Will'i Whittok & Agnetis vx'is eius ac ai'abz parentum ip'or' Johanne Will'i Whittok & Agnetis & ai'abz o'im fidelii' defunctor' celebratur' imp'p'm et ad anniu'saria ip'or' Johanne Will'i Whittok & Agnetis singulis annis in die Jouis in septimana Pasche in eccl'ia p'd'ca cum placebo & dirige in vigilia eiusdem diei cum missa de Requiem cum nota in eodem die ad altare p'd'cm tenend' obseruand' & solempnit' celebrand' imp'p'm Et eisdem Priorisse & sororibz q'd ip'e mesuagia gardinu' & t'ram p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fatis Rob'to Will'o Joh'e Will'o Will'o Tholomeo & Joh'e recip'e possint & tenere sibi & successoribz suis p'd'cis in forma p'd'ca sicut p'd'cm est imp'p'm tenore p'senciu' similit' licenciam dedim' sp'alem. Statuto p'd'co seu eo q'd p'd'ca mesuagia & t'ra in p'd'ca villa de Yeuelchestre de nob' tenent' in burgagio vt p'd'cm est non obstant' Nolentes q'd p'd'ci Rob'tus Will's Joh'es Will's Will's Tholomeus & Joh'es vel heredes sui aut p'fate Priorissa & sorores vel successores sue r'one statuti p'd'ci aut alior' p'missor' p' nos vel heredes n'ros Justic' Escaetores vicecomites aut alios balliuos seu ministros n'ros vel heredum n'ror' quoscumqz impetant' inquietent' molestent' in aliquo seu g'auent' Saluis nob' & heredibz n'ris ac aliis Capitalibz d'nis feodi illius s'uiciis inde debitis & consuetis. In cuius &c. T R apud Westm' xxiiij die Marcij.

No. XII.

[Chester Almshouse Deed, No. 11—98.]

Nou'int uniu'si p'p'sentes nos Cristinam Priorissam Albe Aule de Yeuelchestre & Johannam Whyttokes monialem & consororem eiusdem Priorisse Joh'em Peny Thomam Drap'e Gilb'tum Bouche & Dauid Hawes attornasse & loco n'ro posuisse dilectu' nobis Joh'em Smythe de Northov'e ad lib'andu' p' nobis & no'ine n'ro Rob'to Veel Ric'o Serle & Joh'i Glainvill' plenam & pacificam seisinam in & de o'ibus t'ris & ten'tis que nup' fuerunt Marci Whyttok in Northov'e & Somerton' Dat' die Martis p'x' post F'm Sc'i Mich'is Archang'li Anno regni regis Henr' sexti post conquestu' Sc'do.

No. XIII.

[Chester Almshouse Deed, No. 12—99.]

Sciant p'sentes & futuri q'd nos Cristina Priorissa Albe Aule de Yeuelchestr' & Johanna Whyttokes monialis & consoror eiusdem Priorisse Joh'es Peny Thom's Drap'e Gilb'tum (*sic*) Bouch & David Hawes dimisim' concessim' & p'senti scripto n'ro confirmavim' Rob'to Veel Ric'o Serle & Joh'i Glainvill' om'ia t'ras & ten' cum p'tin' que nup' fuerunt Marci Whyttok in Northov'e & Som'ton' H'end' & tenend' eisd'm Rob'to Ric'o & Joh'i Glainvill' heredibz & assign' suis de Capit'libz D'nis feodor' illor' p' s'vicia inde debita & de jure consueta imp'petuu' In cui' rei testiom' sigilla n'ra p'sentibz apposuum' Hiis testibz Nich'o Moleyns Joh'e Welweton' Jun'. Joh'e Smyth' de Northov'e Ric'o Dole & alijs Dat' die Martis p'x' post F'm Sc'i Mich'is Archang'li Anno regni Regis Henr' sexti post conquestum Sc'do.

No. XIV.

[MS. Harl. 701. ff. 18, 19.]

Reddit' Capell' p'dict' cu' dom' maner' eiusd'm et gardin' adiacen' p' annu'	x ^s
Reddit' vnus cl'i pastur' vocat' hichins cont' xx acr' dimiss' Ric'o Beton et al' p' termino vite p' Inden' per annu'	lx ^s

Redd' vnus cl'i pastur' vocat' }
 v. acres dimiss' Joh'ni Sampson }
 et alijs per Inden' p' ter'i'o vite }
 per annu' } v^s

Reddit' vnus Ten'ti cu' iij }
 acr' terr' arr' et vn' acr' prati in }
 Sockem'she ac quinte p't' vnus }
 cl'i pastur' vocat' newmede, ac iij }
 acr' prati de Sockem'she de d'nic' }
 d'ni dimiss' Joh'ni Whettell et }
 al' per inden' pro termino vite p' }
 Annu' } xiiij^s viij^d

Reddit' vnus Ten'ti cu' xiiij acr' }
 terr' iuxta le Spittell et iij acr' }
 prat' quaru' duar' acr' iacen' iux^a }
 le Cawsey et al' acr' iuxta le Spet- }
 till ac vn' claus' pastur' contin' vij }
 acr' iacen' iux^a Mille in Ilchester }
 dimiss' Thome Bloughton et al' p' }
 Indentur' pro termino vite .. } xxxiiij^s viij^d

Reddit' vnus Ten'ti in burgo de }
 Ilchester cu' vno acr' terr' in cole- }
 plate in Campo de Lymmyngton et }
 vn' acr' terr' iacen' in worthehill }
 ac vn' acr' terr' iux^a newe close vn' }
 acr' p'ti in newe mede et vn' acr' }
 p't in Sockem'she et vn' Orrei cu' }
 iij acr' terr' arr' iux^a mowrewaie }
 ac vn' domu' brasiat' in burgo de }
 Ilchester cu' vn' acr' terr' arr' voc' }
 Batteacre. Acetiam decem acr' }
 pastur' iacen' ex^a le Bowe in burgo }
 p'd' dimiss' Humfr'o Blowghton et }
 al' per Indentur' pro termi'o vite }
 p' annu' } lxij^s iij^d

Reddit' vnus cl'i pasture vocat' }
 corne spetill cont' p' est' x acr' }
 dimiss' Joh'ni Belly et al' p' Inden' }
 p' termi'o vite } xxvj^s viij^d

Capella de Whitehall

Val' in

Redd' vj Sestr' p^{ati} qual't sestr')
 cont' vn' acr' et di' rod' in Ilchester
 modo dimiss' p'd' Joh'ni Bellie et
 al' p' copio'em p' annu')

xiiij^s vj^d

Reddit' vnus ten'ti et iij acr' terr'
 arr' ac vn' acr' p^{ati} in Sockem'she,
 ij acr' et di' p^{at}' in fotesmede et vn'
 acr' p^{ati} in newmede, acetiam duar'
 p'uar' claus' voc' hempland' dimiss'
 Will'o Owyn et al' p' Inden' p'
 termino vite p' A')

xij^s vj^dxix^{li} xiiij^s vj^d
Inde in

Reddit' vn' Ten'ti et iij acr'
 terr' et vn' acr' p^{ati} ac quint'
 p't' vn' claus' pastur' vocat' new-
 mede cu' iij acr' p^{at}' in Sockem'she
 de d'nic' d'ni dimiss' Joh'ni Whe-
 gon et al' p' Indentur' pro termi'o
 vite p' annu')

xiiij^s viij^d

Reddit' vnus molendin' aquatic'
 granat' cu' vn' claus' vocat' le Mil-
 ham in Ilchester dimiss' Will'o
 Berde et al' p' Indentur' pro ter-
 mi'o vite p' Annu')

xl^s

Redd' vn' curtillag' cu' gardin'
 adiacen' iux^a le Shamell et viij acr'
 pastur' in Chilterne lease in p'och'
 de Chilterne domer dimiss' Thome
 Rodde et al' p' Indentur' pro ter-
 mi'o vite)

ix^s iij^d

Redd' vn' ten'ti cu' gardino et
 iij acr' terr' arr' vn' acr' p^{at}' in
 Sockem'she, vn' acr' p^{at}' in New-
 close et ij acr' et di' prat' in fotes-
 mede dimiss' Joh'ne Roper vid'
 p' annu')

xiiij^s iiij^d

Redd' v acr' pastur' iacen' in
 cl'o vocat' Newclose in campo de
 Ilchester dimiss' Joh'ni Cuffe p'
 annu')

v^s

	Reddit' triu' ten't' siue burgag' in Taunton et viij acr' prat' ib'm dimiss' Joh'ni Walferde per Annu'	xxxiijs viij ^d
	Redd' duoru' ten'tor' siue bur- gag' cu' gardin' in Taunton p'd' dimiss' Roberto Bowier al' Thomp- son per Annu	xiijs iiij ^d
	Reddit' duor' ten'tor' siue bur- gag' cum gardin' in Taunton p'd' dimiss' georgio Hamley p' annu'	xxiijs
Rep's in	Reddit' resolut' d'no Regi p' feod' firm' burg' de Ilchester p' annu'	xxv ^s vj ^d exting ^r
	Redd' resol' eid'm d'no Regi p' sect' burg' s' de Ilchester p'd' an- nuati'	xij ^d exting ^r
	Reddit' resol' d'co d'no Regi an- nuati' pro Chilterne lease ..	vij ^d exting ^r
	Ffeod' Walter' Bragge Sen ^{li} et Rec' ib'm p' l'ras paten' concess' p' ter'i'o vite s' p' annu'	xx ^s Rex exon'abit
	Et val' clare p' annu'	xix ^{li} xiijs vj ^d

Memorand' that the manor of Ilchester aforesaid is the lorde marques Dorset'.

Ex' p' Will'm Bourne deput' Will'i
Morice ar' p'tic' sup'uis' d'ni R' com' p'd'.

(The remaining portion of the Document, which is in English, has already been given at page 81).

No. XV.

[Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxxb.]

Penc. { Georgij Carewe clic' vlt incu'b lib' } vj^{li} xiiij^s iiij^d
 Capell' Sc'e Trini^t in Ilchester

No. XVI.

[Pat. 42. Eliz. p. 19. mm. 1—11.]

Regina Om'ibz ad quos &c. salt'm. ————— Cumqz
 eciam nos p' al' P'ras n'ras paten' sub magno sigillo n'ro
 Angl' confect' geren' dat' quarto die Julij anno regni n'ri
 vicesimo nono Recitan' q'd cum nos p' P'ras n'ras paten'
 magno sigillo n'ro Angl' sigillat' geren' dat' apud Westm'
 decimo quinto die Januarij anno regni n'ri decimo sexto
 de gr'a n'ra sp'iali ac ex c'ta sciencia & mero motu n'ris
 t^ddidissem' concessissem' & ad firmam dimissem' nup'
 s'uien' n'ro Rad'o Hope adtunc defuncto totam illam lib'am
 Capellam n'ram vocat' Whitehall cum om'ibz suis iuribz
 membris & p'tin' vniu'sis in Com' n'ro Som's' Necnon om'ia
 & singula domos edificia mesuag' toft' Cottag' curtilag'
 molendin' terr' ten' prat' pastur' & al' p'fic' co'ias bosc'
 subbosc' reddit' reu'co'es s'uic' aquas stagna aquar' cursus
 riuos &c. &c. scituat' iacen' & existen' &c. infra vill' paroch'
 hamlett' & campos de Ilcheston (*sic*) Northover Lymyngton
 & Taunton aut in ear' aliqua vel alibi in p'd'co Com' n'ro
 Som's' d'ce lib'e Capelle quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen'
 aut vt membr' part' vel parcell' eiusdem lib'e Capelle siue
 possessionu' eiusdem tunc antea dimiss' locat' vsitat' occupat'
 &c. Que om'ia & singula eadem p'miss' tunc vel tunc nup'
 fuerunt in tenura siue occupaco'e Thome Dewport vel
 assign' suor' ac parcell' terr' & possessionu' in manibz n'ris
 existen' r'one Actus Parliamenti tunc nuper edit' p' dis-
 soluco'e Cantar' & al' h'mo'i in Com' p'd'co Ac om'ia &
 singula domos edificia &c. &c. quecunqz p'missis p'd'cis
 seu cor' alicui quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen' &c. p'
 reddit' sexdecem librar' & decem solid' in d'cis l'ris paten'
 rescruat' &c. Except' tamen semp' & nob' hered' &
 successoribz n'ris om'ino res'uatis om'ibz grossis arboribz
 que adtunc fuerunt marem' aut p' maremio adtunc reputa-
 bant' ac om'ibz huiusmodi pulchris lez Sapling' quecun'

in p'dict' bosc' existen' que ad mare' crescen' magis apt' & idonee viderent' Ac om'ibz ward' maritag' &c. &c. p'missis quoquo modo spectan' p'tinen' &c. H'endum & tenend' p'dict' lib'am Capellam ac cet'a eadem p'missa sup'ius in eisdem l'ris paten' recitat' cum suis iuribz membris &c. p'fato Rad'o Hope executoribz & assign' suis a tempore quo quedam Indentura & dimissio inde geren' dat' vicesimo octauo die Junij anno regni nup' p'charissimi P'ris n'ri Henrici octau'i nup' Regis Angl' tricesimo septimo p' Georgiu' Carowe Cl'icum Archidiacon' & adtunc p'd'ce lib'e Capell' magr'm. p'd'co Thome Dewport Confect' p' t'mino quadraginta annor' a festo Annu'ciaco'is b'e Marie Virginis tunc vltimo p't'ito ante dat' eiusdem Indenture p' expiraco'em sursumreddico'em foris'turam seu det'minaco'em inde aut aliuo alio modo tunc primo & p'x' vacari finiri seu det'minari conting'et vsqz ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnus annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' Reddendo inde extunc an'uatim nob' hered' & successoribz n'ris sexdecem libras & decem solidos legal' monete Angl' p'ut p'easdem l'ras patentes int' diu'sas conuenco'es in eisdem sp'ificat' plenius liquebat & apparebat. Nos p' easdem l'ras n'ras paten' geren' dat' p'd'co quarto die Julij d'co anno regni n'ri vicesimo nono p' consideraco'ibz in eisdem l'ris paten' exp'ss' t'adid'im' concesserim' & ad firmam dimiserim' Gawino Phelips & Egidio ffathers totam illam p'd'cam nup' lib'am Capell' n'ram sc'e Trinitatis de Whitehall p'dict' ac totam ill' p'd'cam lib'am Capellam n'ram vocat' Whitehall cum om'ibz & singulis suis iur' membris & p'tin' vniu'sis in p'd'co Com' n'ro Som's' Necnon om'ia & singula domos edificia structur' horr' stabula hort' pomar' gardina &c. &c. d'ce lib'e Capelle quoquo modo spectan' & p'tinen' Except' tamen semp' & ext'a eandem concessionem n'ram om'ino reseruatis quinque acris pastur' cum p'tin' iacen' apud Yerdend tunc vel nup' in tenura siue occupaco'e Ric'i Sansan vel assign' suor' ac vna domo vocat' a Stable in Ilchester p'd'ca nup' in tenura Ric'i Cuffe vel assign' suor' ac vna domo vocat' Whitehall cum p'tin' ac' om'ibz illis quinqz acris terr' cum p'tin' in Ilchester p'dict' iacen' iuxta Tuckers lez que tunc nup' scil't t'cio die Aprilis anno regni n'ri decimo octauo fuerunt in tenura siue occupaco'e Joh'is Phillips vel assign' suor' ac p' l'ras n'ras paten' magno Sigillo n'ro Anglie sigillat'

geren' dat' apud Gorhambury d'co t'cio die Aprilis d'co anno regni n'ri decimo octauo p'dile'o & fideli Consiliar' n'ro Christofero Hatton militi p' nomen Dile'i nob' Christoferi Hatton armig'i & hered' suis (int' alia) dat' & concess' attingen' ad an'ual' reddit' decem solidor' & duor' denarior' except' eciam p'ut in eisdem l'ris paten' excipiunt' h'end' & tenend' totam p'd'cam lib'am Capellam Sc'e Trinitatis de Whitehall ac p'd'cam nup' lib'am Capellam vocat' Whitehall ac om'ia p'de'a terr' tenementa p'ta pasc' pastur' &c. except' p'except' p'fat' Gawino Phillips & Egidio ffathers executoribz & assign' suis a festo Annu'ciaco' is b'e Marie Virginis quod ad tunc esset in anno d'ni mill'imo sexcentesimo sexto vsqz ad finem t'mini & p' t'minu' viginti & vnus annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend' Reddendo inde extunc an'uatim nob' heredibz & successoribz n'ris quindecim libras nouemdecem solidos & decem denarios legal' monete Angl' p'ut p' easdem l'ras paten' plenius eciam liquet & apparet

Sciatis q'd nos p' & in consid'aco'e su'me quatuor mille octingentar' septuaginta triu' librar' vnus solidi octo denarior' legalis monete Angl' &c. p' dile'os subditos n'ros Mich'em Stanhope armig'um vnu' Gromett' priuate Cam'e n're & Edwardum Stanhope in legibz Doctorem ac vnu' mag'r'or' Cancellar' n're ad vsum n'r'm solut' &c. dedim' & concessim' ac p' p'sentes p' nob' heredib' & successoribz n'ris dam' & concedim' p'fat' Mich'i Stanhope & Edwardo Stanhope hered' & assign' suis totum illud maner' n'r'm de Vpton in paroch' de Blewbery in Com' n'ro Berk'

Re'oriam & Eccl'iam n'ram de Wigenhall in Com' n'ro Norff' ————— medietatem decimar' &c. in Carleton Colvile in Com' n'ro Suff' ————— Hony Lane in Ciuitate n'ra London ————— Harden &c. in Com' Cestr' ————— Pendevy in Com' Cornub' —

Dedim' eciam & concessim' &c. ac p' p'sentes damus & concedim' p'fat' Mich'i Stanhope & Edwardo Stanhope, heredib' & assign' suis totam ill' lib'am Capellam n'ram vulgarit' vocat' Whitehall alias dict' lib'am Capellam Sc'e Trinitatis de Whitehall p'dict' cum om'ibz & singulis suis iuribz membris & p'tin' vniu'sis iacen' & existen' infra vill' paroch' siue hamlett' de Ilchester Northover Taunton & Lymyngton aut in eor' aliquo vel alibi in Com' n'ro Som's' eidem lib'e Capelle vulgarit' vocat' Whitehall p'dict'

spectan' siue p'tinen' p' particular' inde a'nual' reddit' siue
 valoris quindecem librar' nouemdecem solidor' decem de-
 narior' parcell' possessionu' in manibz n'ris existen' virtute
 Actus Parliamenti p' dissoluc'o'e Cantariar' & al' huius-
 modi nup' edit' & p'uis' — Hucknall Torkerd, &c. in
 Com' Noting' — Whitingstreete in Bury in Com' n'ro
 Suff' &c. — Aceciam om'ia & singula mesuagia molendina
 domos &c. &c. p'missis p'tinen' &c. adeo plene lib'e &
 integre &c. &c. — Quequidem Capella S'ce Trinitatis de
 Whitehall p'dict' & cet'a p'missa eidem Capelle p'tinen' p'
 particular' inde extendunt' ad clarum a'nuu' redditum siue
 valorem quindecem librar' nouemdecem solidor' decem
 denarior' p' Annu' — except' tamen semp' & nob' here-
 dibz &c. aduocaco'ibz donaco'ibz &c. — h'end' tenend'
 & gaudend' p'fat' Mich'i Stanhope & Edwardo Stanhope
 heredibz &c. ad solum & p'priu' opus & vsum &c. Tenend'
 — p'd'cam Capell' S'ce Trinitatis de Whitehall p'dict'
 &c. de nob' heredibz & success' n'ris vt de man'io n'ro de
 Eastgrenewich in Com' n'ro Kanc' p' fidelitatem tantum
 in lib'o & co'i socagio & non in Capite nec p' s'uiciu' mili-
 tare p' om'ibz al' redditibz s'uicijs exacco'ibz & demand'
 quibuscunqz p'inde nob' heredibz vel successoribz n'ris
 quoquo modo reddend' soluend' seu faciend' — a festo
 sc'i Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p'tito hucusqz p'uenien' siue
 crescen' h'end' eisdem Mich'i Stanhope & Edwardo Stan-
 hope ex dono n'ro absqz Comp'o seu aliquo alio p'inde
 nob' heredibz vel successoribz n'ris quoquo modo reddend'
 soluend' vel faciend' — Et de tempore in tempus exone-
 rabim' &c. ab om'ibz & om'imod' corrod' reddit' feod'
 a'nuitat' penco'ibz porco'ibz quibuscunqz &c. —
 Volum' eciam &c. absqz fine in hanap'io &c. — In cuius
 rei &c. T R apud Westm' xxvij die Junij
 p' br'e de priuato sigill' &c.

A D D I T I O N S .

Page 17.—A case of the Prioress of Iuelcestre against Stephen, son of Richard Kayllewey, of plea of assize of mort d'auncestor, was essoined at the assizes held at Puntinton, on Monday next after the feast of S. James the Apostle, 9 Edward I., the 28th of July, 1281, to Thursday next after the feast of S. Bartholomew, the 28th of the August following, at Somerton.*

Page 23.—Against one of the offenders the Prioress obtained at least a partial satisfaction, for at the assizes at Bath, before Henry Spigurnel and Richard de Rodeyne, on Thursday next after Easter three weeks, 14 Edward II., the 14th of May, 1321, Alice de Chilterne, Prioress of La Blanche Sale of Yvelcestre, complained by her attorney against John, son of Peter de Draycote, of plea of trespass. He made no appearance, and a precept was issued to the Sheriff to levy a distress on the lands of the said John, and to pay the demand from the issues thereof, and further to bring the said John himself before the Justices at Somerton, on Monday, the morrow of S. Lucy, Virgin, the 14th of the following December.†

Page 27.—The case seems to have been one in which the law's delays were more than ordinarily instanced, for so

* Rot. Assis. 9 Edw. I., $\left. \begin{array}{l} N \\ 2 \\ 4 \end{array} \right\} 7. m. 15 dors.$

† Rot. Assis. Somers. 14 Edw. II., $\left. \begin{array}{l} M \\ 5 \\ 16 \end{array} \right\} 1. m. 19.$

late as at the assizes, held at Cherde, on Wednesday next after the close of Easter, or Quasimodo Sunday, 19 Edward II., the 2nd of April, 1326, the Prioress complained against Nicholas de Boleville, chivaler, John de Herounville, John le Doo, Nicholas le Dyghere, and Agnes his wife, Nicholas de Sok, Thomas Cole, sen., Gilbert le Shephurde, of Somerton, Ralf Gydie, Robert de Sok, William le Cartere, of Sok, and William le Ballere, of plea of assize of novel disseisin. The case was adjourned to Monday next after the feast of S. James the Apostle, 20 Edward II., the 28th of August following, at Somerton, on which day the Prioress did not appear, and judgment went against her accordingly.*

Page 31.—The case between Prioress Cecily and her Sisters against Gilbert Passeware and Simona his wife is a most curious specimen of litigation, and deserves a more extended notice than that which I have given it. The question at issue was the validity of a certain deed of agreement, by which, as it was asserted by the plaintiffs, Simona Passeware was entitled to the benefit of a corrody, the particulars of which I have already given. The agreement referred to was as follows:—"To all to whom this present writing shall come, Cecily, Prioress of White Hall of Yewelcestre, and the Brethren and Sisters of the same House, health in the Lord. Know ye that we with unanimous assent and consent have given, granted, and by this present writing confirmed to Simon le Lyt a place within the close of our House of White Hall of Yewelcestre, to build in the same at the cost of the said Simon. We have also given, and by our present writing have confirmed to the aforesaid Simon a corrody of one Sister

*Rot. Assis. Somers. 19 & 20 Edw. II. ^M5 } 3. mm. 3, 10 dors.
16 }

in our House aforesaid, in food and clothing and in all other necessaries, as any Sister there has or has been wont to have, or for the rest of the time shall hap to obtain, in money or in eatables, habit and veils, with all things affecting them, and affecting in both ways the state of a Sister, or in secular clothes, to the true value at the will of the said Simon : to have and to hold for her whole life, of us and of our successors, freely, quietly, entirely, well, and in peace; for a certain sum of money which we have received from the said Simon. And we the aforesaid Cecily, and the Brethren and Sisters of our House of White Hall aforesaid, and our successors will warrant, acquit, and defend all the aforesaid place and superstructure, and all the aforesaid corrody in food and clothing with all things affecting them, as is aforesaid, to the said Simon for the whole of her life against all men. In witness whereof we have to this writing affixed our common seal.”

My reader may be glad to have the text of this agreement. It ran thus:—

Vniu'sis ad quos p'sens scriptu' p'u'en'it Cecilia Priorissa Albe Aule Yeuelcestr' & eiusdem dom' f'res & sorores salt'm in d'no Nou'itis nos vnamini assensu & consensu dedisse concessisse & hoc p'senti scripto confirmasse Simoni le Lyt vnam placeam infra clausum dom' n're Albe Aule Yuelcestr' ad edificand' in eadem sumptibz eiusdem Simonis. Dedim' eciam & p'senti scripto n'ro confirmauim' p'fate Simoni corrodium vnus sororis in domo n'ra p'd'ca in victu & vestitu & in om'ibz alijs necessar' tanq^{am} quelibet soror' ibidem h'et aut h'ere consuevit vel de cet'o optinere contig'it in denar' v'l in cibarijs habitu & velis cu' om'ibz ea tangentibz statu' sororis vtrobic' tangentibz vel in pannis secularibz ad verum valore' ad voluntatem eiusdem Simonis. habend' & tenend' ad tota' vitam suam de nob' & successoribz n'ris lib'e quiete integre bene & in pace. p' q^{ad}dam su'ma pecunie quam ab eadem Simone recepim' Et nos vero p'd'ca Cecilia & fr'es & sorores dom' n're Albe Aule p'd'ce & successores n'ri totam p'd'cam

placeam & sup'edificatam & totu' p'd'cm corrodiu' in victu & vestitu cu' om'ibz ea tangentibz vt p'd'cm est, d'ce Simoni ad tota' vitam suam cont^a om'es mortales War' acquiet' & defendem' In cuius rei testimoniu' huic scripto sigillu' n'rm co'e apposum'.*

The Prioress argued that this instrument could not refer to the plaintiffs or avail for them, inasmuch as it was clear from the writing exhibited that the grant aforesaid was made to one Simon—"Simoni"—le Lyt, which name could not be understood otherwise than as the name of a man and not of a woman; and that in all other places of the same, where the name occurs, it was used as such. She prayed for judgment accordingly, inasmuch as the grant could not be understood as made in favour of the plaintiff, as she was not named in the same by her right appellation. The plaintiffs replied that by the very words of the writing it was sufficiently clear that the grant was made to Simon the plaintiff, and not to any male person, inasmuch as in different places of the same writing the same name is determined by an adjective of the feminine gender, to wit, in the clause "confirmavimus prefate Simoni," and in that "pro quadam summa pecunie quam ab eadem Simone" &c., and in that "Warantizabimus dicte Simoni," &c. and prayed in their turn for the judgment of the court. A day was hereupon appointed to the parties for the hearing of the case, which was fixed for Monday next before the feast of S. Gregory, Pope, the 10th of April, 1342-3, and the necessary writs were issued accordingly.

Page 41.—The proximity of the Priory to the old County Prison, before that establishment was transferred to the north shore of the Ivel, is unpleasantly indicated by the proceedings of a Gaol Delivery at Yewelchestre, before

* Rott. Assis. Div. Com. $\left. \begin{array}{l} N \\ 2 \\ 22 \end{array} \right\} 3. m. 56.$

William Skrene and William Cheyne, the Justices assigned for that office, on Thursday next after the feast of S. James, the Apostle, 2 Henry V., the 31st of July, 1414. It appears that William atte Nassh, son of John atte Nassh, of Homere, was taken under an indictment before Robert Hill and his fellows, justices of the peace, for that he with other persons unknown did on the night of Thursday next before the feast of S. Nicholas, Bishop, 12 Henry IV., which is coincident with the 4th of December, 1410, with great violence break and escape from the gaol of our lord the king at Yewelchestre, in the custody of Richard Boyton, then sheriff of Somerset, with two levers and other fine instruments contrived for breaking the door, stocks, and other fastenings of the said gaol, used for the safe keeping of the prisoners there, and also did feloniously take and lead away John Ffisher, of Strete, the approver, and Walter atte Nassh, prisoners in the said gaol, by conveying them, with heavy fetters of iron firmly remaining round their legs, within the sanctuary of the Priory of White Hall, to wit, within the cemetery of the Church of the Holy Trinity of the same Priory. The prisoner was placed on his trial, and pleaded not guilty. The jury took a merciful view of his case, on what grounds we are not informed, and returned a verdict of not guilty of the felonies aforesaid or of any one of them.*

* Delib. Gaol. 1 & 2 Hen. V. No. 1.