# Nynehin Barrow Priory.

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FROM the chief city of Western England to the pleasant watering-place of Weston-on-the-Sea, the tourist in Somersetshire may travel by an ancient highway whereof every mile is rich in natural beauties or in picturesque memorials of olden days. Turning his back on the spires and pinnacles of the mercantile metropolis of the mediæval age, and leaving on his left hand the shrine where modern piety has reverently attempted to re-create for holy use the half ruined sanctuary of our forefathers, he first enters a green and lonely valley, and, after many shady windings, with gleams of sunlight through the trees illuminating the steep declivities and forests of the hills on either side, suddenly finds himself by the church of Long Ashton. Further on, and about six miles from Bristol, a lane of genuine Somersetshire character leads him by less than the distance of a mile to the wall of an extensive park, across the undulating level of which he can discern a small and unpretending village church, and closely adjoining thereto a large mansion of the age of Queen Elizabeth, flanked by some barns and other farm

buildings of an earlier period. By the time that he arrives at the site of these edifices he will have left the valley and have mounted to a considerable eminence above its level. The buildings, as he will find, are on the crest of the hill, and he will not fail to be delighted with the prospect which they command. His eye passes over the rich valley below him and encounters the wooded heights of Wraxall and Long Ashton, following the course of which he may descry the gilded vanes of the old city shining out clearly and sharply in the sun. The traveller then turns, we will suppose, to the peculiarities of the scene immediately behind him. With the exception of the tower of the church and some of the farm buildings already referred to there is nothing which strikes him as indubitably old. He finds that he is on a spot where strange hands have unhappily obliterated what earlier possessors delighted to adorn, and that, if he would conjure up the scene as it once existed, he must endeavour to learn its characteristics from descriptions of the place contained in statements not originally intended to serve such a purpose, rather than amid the hardly appreciable evidences of the ancient glory which sacrilege has yet permitted to remain.

On the spot now occupied by the Elizabethan edifice once stood a small and little-known Priory. Its history has to be gathered grain by grain from the vast aggregate of MSS. memorials contained in our national and ecclesiastical depositories instead of the meagre and unsatisfactory sketches which the press has hitherto disseminated. The place has been so little known to the writers of the last three centuries that one of them, to whom Somersetshire archæologists are under special obligations, the learned Archdeacon Archer, who furnished Hearne with his very imperfect but still valuable list of

Superiors, frankly admits that he could hardly associate the few facts which he had strung together with any particular locality—"ubi vero terrarum situs est iste conventus de Bargh haud certe scio."* Oblivion has all but buried the tale which in the following pages I have endeavoured once more to narrate, and has covered with an obscurity all but impenetrable the picture which I have attempted again to present, in as much of its original colouring as can now be recovered, for those who love the olden days of England's greatness and treasure the evidences of their true nobility.

It may appear to some an almost perverse exercise of research to endeavour, as I have done in the present and several former instances, to draw back the veil which has so long and closely covered the fortunes of a small and indigent community. Multiplicity of inmates, however, or of possessions, is but an indifferent criterion of the interest which attaches to such establishments. The smallest and poorest of them, as I hope I can show, is not without the means of furnishing, to the hand which knows how to gather, many and precious memorials of times over and gone. All were members of one sacred family, and presented in a greater or less degree the fair lineaments of the same gracious original. It may also be that the more obscure and little-known the subject the greater is the pleasure of throwing upon it the light which will avail to place it among the clearest and best understood. Added to which our present investigation supplies one of the two yet remaining gaps in the history of the Mediæval Nunneries of Somersetshire, whereof Mynchin Buckland and Canyngton have already been treated in a similar manner, and

* Chron., p. 236.

White Hall of Ilchester alone remains to complete the series. I would again plead in extenuation of the minuteness of my details were I not certain that I am inducing a considerable number of readers to estimate their value as I do myself, and to think that the particularity of the information which I furnish is a special excellence of my labours. Those only entertain a light opinion of such particularity who are either careless of the subject itself, profoundly unconscious of their own deficiencies, or having an evil purpose to serve in keeping others as ignorant as themselves.

The name of the founder of the House, which appears in the records as Mynchin Barwe, Barewe, Bargh, Barouwe, Barow, Barowe Gurney, &c., cannot be stated with certainty. It has been asserted, but entirely without reason, that to Gervase of Canterbury, sometime in the reign of Richard I., that honour is to be attributed. The founder was without doubt a member of the family of Gournay, or Gurney, Lords of Stoke Hamden. One of them founded the House of the Gaunts, at Bristol, and to the same generous hand Leland ascribes the establishment whose fortunes I am about to narrate. "Gurney," he says, "was one of the four chief Lords of Mendepe, Lord of Stoke Hamden, and ther he lyethe buryed in a Colegiate Chapell by the Ruyns of his Castle. He was chefe Foundar, as some say, of the Howse of Gaunts at Bristow. He was Foundar of the Priorye of Nunes in Somersetshire caullyd Barow Gurney."* This also, however, is an error. The period at which the Monastery in Bristol was founded is well known to be far subsequent to that of the foundation of Barwe. As we shall see presently, the latter must have

* Itin., vii. 82.

been in existence in the middle of the reign of King John, while the former did not figure among the Religious Houses of Bristol until late in that of Henry III.

The family of the founder, which gave to the Manor its distinguishing name of Gournay, is early mentioned as possessed of property within its limits. Robert Fitzharding obtained it by grant from William Rufus. Eva de Gournay, his grand-daughter and heir, married Thomas, son of William de Harptre in the time of Richard I., and died before the year 1230. She was the mother of Robert de Harptre, who assumed his mother's name of Gournay, and was the founder of the Hospital of Gaunts. It is by no means improbable that to the good Eva de Gournay, from whom her half-brother, Maurice de Gaunt, held the Manor of Barewe for his life,* the honour of founding a House for a religious community of her own sex may rightly be referred. Leland, as we have already observed, ascribes the foundation to a member of the family of Gournay, while Collinson says that one of the Fitzhardings was the founder.† In the attribution of the good work to Eva de Gournay both of these statements may be held to agree.‡

The exact date of the foundation cannot be recovered, but, as has been already stated, the House was in existence prior to the year 1212. To that period is referrible the bequest to it by Hugh Wallis, Bishop of Lincoln, of ten marcs, "domui Monialium de Berwe x marc." The Bishop's will was dated on the Feast of S. Brice, the 13th

* Cart. 16 Joh. Pat. 18 Joh. m. 1. Add. MS. B.M. 1985, p. 312.

† Hist. of Somerset, ij. 309.

‡ See Appendix No. I. for a pedigree of this branch of the Gournays. The history of the family at large has been written with great ability by Daniel Gurney, F.S.A., in his *Record of the House of Gournay*, 4to. Lond., 1848, 1858; but I regret that a few words at pp. 602 and 633 are all that he devotes to the history of the Priory.

of November, 1212, and was attested by John, Bishop of Bath and Wells; Master Helyas, of Durham; Master John, of York; Master Reginald, of Chester; Masters William, Roger, and Helyas, chaplains; Peter de Cicester; and William de Hamm; the two first-named of whom were the executors. He died on the 7th of February, 1234-5.*

The Priory, which was founded for Benedictine Nuns, was dedicated to the B.V.M. and to S. Edward, King and Martyr, and, also, as it appears by a document of an age not long anterior to the Dissolution, to the Holy Trinity.

As is the case with a large number of similar establishments, we are ignorant of the extent of its original possessions. They must have been very small, for I have been able to identify almost all its endowments with the benefactions of subsequent times. The land immediately surrounding the House was probably the source of its entire revenues.

In the 47th year of Henry III. an instance of the tenure by the Gournay family occurs in a most voluminous "extenta terrarum" of Richard de Clare, late Earl of Gloucester, where it is set forth that Robert de Gurney, the son, as we have seen, of Eva de Gournay, held xxj fees in Harpestre, Ferinton, Barewe, Westharpestre, Englescumb, and Haletre, in the county of Somerset, and in Sernecote and Dodington, in the county of Gloucester.†

This Robert de Gurney held, on the day of his decease, among other property, the manors of Barewe and Hinglescombe, with their appurtenances, by the service of twenty two and a half knights' fees, of the Earl of Gloucester in

* MS. Harl., 6968, pp., 19, 20.
† Inq. p. m., 47 Hen. III., n. 34 c. MS. Harl., 4120, p. 7.

chief. Anselm de Gurney was his son and next heir, and of full age.*

The Berkeleys were subsequently Lords of the Manor, as well as patrons of the Priory. Thomas de Berkeley, son of Maurice de Berkeley, was returned by the oath of a jury as Lord of Bacwell, Barwe Gurney, &c., and of all their free tenants, from ancient feoffment. The King's writ of enquiry, in answer whereunto this return was made, bears date, witness the King, at Trouern, the 3rd of June, in the 11th year of Edward I., 1283.†

The nuns obtained at a very early period a pension, payable from the Church of Twiverton, near Bath, of £1 6s. 8d. a-year, references to which will frequently come before us in the following pages. It is mentioned in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV.,‡ which was compiled about the year 1291. No mention is made in that record of the Church of Barrow, or of any other possessions of the Priory, either spiritual or temporal. For an account of the Taxation itself, I must refer the reader to my History of Canyngton Priory, p. 12.

Very shortly after this we have an interesting notice of the connection of the manor with the Gournay family, and a minute description of its extent and value. In answer to a writ, dated, witness the King, at Rokesburg, the 12th of May, in the 24th year of Edward I., 1296, Oliva de Gurneye, widow of John de Gurneye, and daughter of Henry, Lord Lovel, of Castle Cary, deceased, is stated, in an Inquisition made at Westharpetre, on the 8th of June following, to have held the manor of Barwe Gurney of the Countess of Gloucester and her heirs, by military service,

* Eschaet., 53 Hen. III., So. 23. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 9. MS. Lansd. 316, f. 21b.
† Inq. p. m. 11 Edw. I., n. 117, (olim 38).
‡ Tax. Eccl. P. Nich. IV., p. 199.

for half a knight's fee; and that there was there a capital messuage, with a garden and dovecot, worth vj$^{s}$ viij$^{d}$ a-year; that the pasture in the park was worth xiij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$ a-year; rents of assize, payable at Easter and Michaelmas, worth iiij$^{li}$ xij$^{s}$ iij$^{d}$; of arable land in the demesne, cc acres, worth xvj$^{s}$ viij$^{d}$ a year, at j$^{d}$ per acre; of meadow mowing-land xx acres, worth xx$^{s}$ a year; of enclosed pasture in common, worth xiiij$^{s}$ a year; and pleas and perquisites, worth iiij$^{s}$ a year. The jurors conclude by stating that Elizabeth, the first-born daughter of the said Oliva, is her nearest heir, and was of the age of twenty-one years and upwards at Michaelmas last past.*

At the same time the heir of Robert de Gurney held five fees in Fferinton, Babinton, Harpetrė, Barwe, and Englescombe.†

In 1313, the heirs of John le Sor held one half of the vill of Bacwell, with one portion of the advowson of the church there, of Gilbert de Clare, earl of Gloucester, by the service of a half of one knight's fee. Richard de Rodeneye held the other moiety of the same. And the heirs of John Apadam held the manor of Barwe of the earl aforesaid, by the service of one knight's fee.‡

We are now introduced to the interior of the House. By a letter, dated at Chu, the 26th of June, 1315, Bishop John de Drokenesford directs the Prioress of Bargh, by virtue of her canonical obedience and on pain of excommunication and suspension from her office, to observe and cause by her nuns to be observed impartially and inviolably his injunctions, which follow. That they should

* Inq. p. m. 24 Edw. I. n. 28. MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 40, 42. See Appendix, No. I.

† Inq. p. m. 24 Edw. I., So. 107. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 42.

‡ Eschaet. 7 Edw. ij. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 71.

submit themselves obediently to the custodian of their affairs which the Bishop had appointed, or should appoint, and should be content with his decisions. That the Prioress should for the future cease to interest herself with worldly and secular matters, by reason of which the service of God would suffer postponement; but should above all things apply herself to the worship of God, and diligently and carefully to the government of her sisters. That the Prioress and the other nuns should eat and sleep together, unless hindered by ill health or other just cause. That the Prioress should not concede to any one of her nuns permission to go into or beyond the vill, except from great and lawful cause, and that then they should go in pairs, and in their nun's habit, and should not wander to places to which their leave did not extend, nor voluntarily absent themselves beyond the time of their leave. That silence should be observed, as their rule required. That the Prioress should not carry herself harshly towards her nuns, but should live in all charity, love, and unanimity. That the Prioress should take diligent and assiduous care that Divine Service should be devoutly performed according to their rule by all her nuns, and at the due hours. And that their rule should be read among them frequently, distinctly and openly, so that it might be understood by all.*

It is satisfactory to find that these injunctions, the result no doubt of an Episcopal Visitation, hint at the breaches of regular discipline, rather than at those grosser immoralities which are too often considered by uninformed persons to be inalienable from the monastic system.

This was followed a few days afterwards by a letter from

* Reg. Drok. f. lxxixb. Appendix, No. II. Abstract in MS. Harl., 6964, p. 27

the Bishop to William de Suttone. The writer begins his missive with the declaration that it is pious and consonant to right to succour the wretched, and to relieve them from their miseries in time of necessity. He then, with a compliment to his fidelity and prudence, both of which qualities were assuredly needed for the delicate and difficult duty, commits to him by those presents, and until he thought fit to revoke his license, the care and administration of the House of Nuns of Barwe, imploring him to show himself diligent in the work, and to consult him as often as should be needful about the matters appertaining to his office, so that he might deserve the thanks of Him who is the giver of all good things, and of himself the writer. The letter is dated at Evercrich, the nones, or 7th, of July, 1315.*

In the autumn of the following year the Prioress either resigned her office, or departed this life. Her name has not been preserved. The choice of a successor fell on Johanna de Gurnay, a Nun of the House. She was of the kin of the founder, and, I believe, a daughter of either Robert or Thomas de Gournay; in either case niece of Oliva and cousin of Elizabeth before mentioned, and, in the latter, sister of Sir Thomas de Gournay, the regicide.† The Bishop wrote to John de Godele, Dean, and Hugh de Pencery, Canon of Wells, empowering them in his stead to examine the election of Johanna, to confirm the person of the elect if canonically elected, and, after confirmation, to put her into corporal possession of the Priory and its rights, as the custom was. Of all these proceedings they were to certify him under their seal. The letter was dated at

* Reg. Drok. f. lxxx. Appendix, No. III.
† See Appendix, No. I.

Evercrich, the 4th of October, 1316, and the seventh year of his consecration.*

On the 20th of July, 1317, the chapel of the Bishop's palace at Banewell was witness to a scene of no little solemnity. On that day Johanna de Gornay, Agnes Sant de Marays, Milburga de Derneford, and Bacillida de Sutton, Nuns of Barwe, were professed by imposition of hands of the Lord Bishop.† We shall meet with these ladies on several subsequent occasions.

It was afterwards discovered that the election of Johanna de Gournay was null and void according to the constitutions of a general council, inasmuch as at the time of her election she was not a nun professed. In a letter to the Archdeacon of Bath or his official, the Bishop asserts that on the occasion of a late judicial visit to the monastery of Bargh, in the matter of that election, he had found that the said election was void for the reason above stated. That he had diffinitively so pronounced, and that the nuns had lost accordingly for that time the right of election. That he had found, however, that the said Johanna was fit for the office, and that, now that the canonical objection was removed, he authorised him to visit the Monastery in person and to induct the said Johanna into corporal possession of the same, with an injunction to all the nuns, by virtue of their religion, and on pain of excommunication, to pay her due and canonical obedience. The letter was dated at Hynedon, the 26th of October, 1317, and the eighth year of his consecration.‡

In the appropriation of the Church of Twyverton to the Prioress and Convent of Kyngton, the advowson of which

* Reg. Drok. f. lxxxxix. Abstract in MSS. Harl. 6964, p. 37 ; 6985 B. f. 128.
† Reg. Drok. f. cl. Appendix, No. IV.
‡ Reg. Drok. f. clv. b. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964., p. 57.

belonged to them on the resignation thereof of Hugh de Alresforde, the rector, dated at Welington, the 16th of March, 1320, that church is stated to be granted to them and their successors, reserving to the Prioress and Nuns of Barwe the portion of tithes which the said Prioress and Nuns lawfully received, and have from old time been accustomed lawfully to receive, and saving the vicarage, to be appointed by him, and to be taxed according to his will and pleasure.*

The state of the Priory appears to have soon necessitated the adoption of stringent measures for its improvement. On the 6th of September, 1323, the Bishop wrote from Yatton to Adam de Burlee, rector of Chyu, and Henry, rector of Harpetre, that, inasmuch as the Convent of Barwe, by defect of counsel and aid — from which it would seem that the efforts at reformation of William de Suttone, some eight years before, had not been crowned with permanently beneficial results—was of late so depressed and pauperised that it was hardly possible that it should rise again, he, from a desire, as far as he could, with divine aid, to provide a remedy, had directed his attention to them, in whose fidelity and industry he had the utmost confidence, and, at the good pleasure of his will, committed to them and each of them by those presents the care and custody of the said House and the goods and possessions of the same, for the relief of its burdens. And it was further provided that they should not permit the Prioress of the said House, to whose bad management it is evident that the evil was attributable, to run about the country without reasonable cause and the consent of both or of one or the other of them, to the shame of her religion and the damage of the House aforesaid.

* Reg. Drok. f. clx. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 59. Chron. Well., f. 253.

The Bishop adds his will and command that this should be intimated to the said Prioress and to all whom it concerned.*

This was not long afterwards followed by a Visitation. On the 18th of January, 1324-5, the Bishop, at Banewell, commissioned his official to visit the Priory and Nuns, and to remove the Prioress from her administration if there should be urgent necessity; and also to correct, inquire into, and punish the excesses of delinquents in the aforesaid Priory.†

It would undoubtedly appear that the ecclesiastics to whom the Bishop successively entrusted the work of reforming the Priory found the task to be above their powers. The office was at best a thankless and unpleasant one, wherein, if failure were a disgrace, success could hardly be considered an honour. On the 7th of February, 1324-5, the Bishop wrote to the Rector of Bacwell a long letter on the subject of the Priory and its troubles. He says that in consideration of the poverty of the Nuns and the insufficiency of the Prioress, and also of the near neighbourhood of Bacwell and Barwe, he had committed to him, of whose honesty, faithfulness, and industry he had full assurance, the custody of the House and its possessions. He firmly enjoins him by virtue of his obedience, that with the counsel of the Sub-Prioress, and of Basilia de Sutton, and the discretion given to him by God, he should dispose the said House and all its possessions for the advantage of its members, as he should think fit. Further, that he should entirely remove the burdensome retinue of servants and other persons admitted to board in the same House, which should to him seem useless, as often as

* Reg. Drok., f. ccvj.
† Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxiiij b.

there should be need. That he should restrain all opponents and rebels, if he should meet with any, by ecclesiastical censures. For the doing and expediting of all and each of the premises the Bishop adds his full authority and canonical power, until he shall think fit to revoke the same. The letter was dated at Wyvelescomb, on the day above mentioned.*

On the same day the Bishop addressed from Wyvelescomb a letter to the Prioress and Convent, expressing his paternal sympathy with their misery and poverty, and informing them that he had thought fit to commit by his letters the custody of their House and all their possessions to the prudent and honourable Rector of Bacwell, their neighbour, enjoining on him to take the oversight of the said House and their possessions, and providently to dispose the same for their use and benefit. He concludes by commanding them to pay all just obedience and submission to their custodian, as his officer.†

In less than three months after the date of the last transaction Prioress Johanna de Gurney resigned her office. It was, indeed, high time that a change took place in the government of the House. Her authority had already been practically superseded, and her removal from office was the proper reward of a long continuance of maladministration. A memorandum in the Register of Bishop John de Drokenesford records the fact that Johanna, the Prioress, accompanied by Agnes de Santa Cruce, Sub-Prioress, and Basilia de Sutton, appeared in person at Banwell on the next juridical day after the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, the 3rd of May, 1325, to-

* Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxv.
† Reg. Drok., ib. Appendix No. V.

gether with certain other Nuns of the aforesaid Priory ; and that, after the recitation of certain articles specially affecting the person of the Prioress, the said Prioress purely, spontaneously, and absolutely resigned her office in the presence of the Lord Bishop, then and there. The Bishop forbade, on pain of excommunication, any Nun then present to disclose to any others what had taken place ; and a day was given to the Nuns to elect a successor, namely, the Thursday or Friday next after the Feast of S. John before the Latin Gate, which two days were in that year coincident with the 9th and 10th of May, on which, according to canonical usage, they were to proceed to the election, and to provide for the Priory then desolate. There were present R. and J. de Wamberg, and Adam de Rushton, clerks of the aforesaid Bishop. The Prioress and Nuns submitted to this arrangement.*

The choice, as might have been expected, fell on the good Sub-Prioress, Agnes de Santa Cruce. The Bishop wrote to his official to investigate and report upon the election, and to confirm the elect if canonically elected. The missive was dated at Evercrich, the 4th of June, 1325.†

It would appear that the patron's permission had not been obtained for this election. A commission was addressed to Thomas de Retford, chancellor, Richard de Fforde, treasurer, and Robert de Wamberg, the Bishop's official, Canons of Wells, to examine the business and to report upon the same. The commission was dated at Wyvelescomb, the 5th of October, 1325.‡ A letter

* Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxix. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 94.

† Reg. Drok., f. ccxxxix b. Abstract in MS. Harl., 6964, p. 94, 6985 B. f. 131.

‡ Reg. Drok., f. ccxlj.

was directed on the same day to the commissaries, "a latere," under the Bishop's privy seal, advising them that, if it should appear by letter that the patron had refused his consent, after that consent had been duly solicited, they should proceed to the canonical confirmation of the elect, notwithstanding the opposition of the said patron, provided that there was no other obstacle to the election or the elect.*

The examination of the election of Agnes by Robert de Wamberg, Thomas de Retford, chancellor, and Walter Broun, Sub-Dean of Wells, was satisfactory, and they thereupon confirmed her in her office. The Bishop wrote from Blakeford, on the 9th of February, 1325-6, to the Archdeacon of Bath, to induct her into corporal possession.† And on the same day he addressed a letter to all and singular the Nuns of Barwe enjoining on them the the duty of obedience and submission.‡

The notice of a commission which follows in the Register appears by the fault of some subsequent binder to have lost its proper place in the volume. It records the commission to Wamberg, Retford, and Broun, under which we have just seen them acting, revoking one to Richard de Fforde and L. de la Barr, and is dated at London, the 26th of November, 1325.||

The troubles connected with this vacancy were not yet over. Again the Bishop addressed a letter to the Archdeacon of Bath, expressing his surprise that his previous monition as to the induction of Agnes de Santa Cruce had not been obeyed. He says that although he had ordered

* Reg. Drok., ib.
† Reg. Drok., f. ccxlij.
‡ Reg. Drok., ib.
|| Reg. Drok., f. ccxliiij.

the Archdeacon to induct the said Agnes, and to put down any opposition, a certain Johanna de Gornay,* a Nun of the said Priory, had nevertheless maliciously hindered him in the execution of his office, by pertinaciously resisting, and intruding herself in the stall of the aforesaid Prioress, and by occupying the said stall, against whom the Archdeacon had not fulfilled his order, whereat the Bishop is much astonished, "de quo vehementer admiramur." He commands him by virtue of his obedience and on pain of excommunication to enjoin on Johanna de Gurnay that she desist from her rash behaviour and show herself obedient; and adds that if this should fail of due effect he was to excommunicate her, and cite her to appear before him in the Church of Wyvelescumb on the third juridical day after the Feast of S. Gregory, Pope, the 12th of March, to answer for her contempt and disobedience. And he was, further, to certify to him that he had so done. The letter was dated at Wyvelescumb, the 19th of February, 1325-6, and was sealed with the seal of his official, as he had not his own at that moment at hand.† As we hear of no further opposition it is to be presumed that this was sufficient, and that at length peace was restored.

Prioress Agnes de Santa Cruce departed this life after a short conventual reign, thus unfavourably begun, of less than three years. The Nuns addressed a letter to the Bishop, informing him that on the 14th of October, 1328, the Priory being without a Superior through the death of Agnes de Santa Cruce, they had met in their Chapter House, had agreed to elect a Successor to the office, and

* I would remind the reader who may be struck with the diversities of orthography which this and other names present, that I invariably give them in the form which they bear in the particular document from which I am deriving my information.

† Reg. Drok. f. ccxlviij. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6964, p. 101.

had unanimously elected Basilia de Sutton to be their Prioress by acclamation, "omnibus consentientibus alta voce et una clamantibus *fiat, fiat, amen,*" together with all other observances which belonged to a lawful election. They beseech him to accept and confirm the said Basilia, thus rightly elected. The letter was sealed with their common seal, and dated in the Monastery at Barwe on the Feast of S. Martin, Bishop, the 11th of November, 1328.* Annexed to this in the Register is a letter, written in French, from Thomas de Berkeleye, the patron, to the Bishop, "a treshonorable piere en dieux," begging him to accept the said Basilia, and concluding "Sire, le Seynt Espirit soit garde de vous, et vous doint bone vie et longe."† The Bishop granted their request, and at the same time was pleased to dispense with some of the usual formalities in the elections of Superiors, on account of the poverty of the House which was unequal to the burden. In the instrument of confirmation he says that, having respect to the small means of the Priory of Baruwe, on account of which the Nuns were not accustomed nor able to conduct the election, on a vacancy of the Priory, like other Religious of the Diocese who were the owners of ample possessions moveable and immoveable, he had been pleased to admit and confirm the elect, in agreement with previous custom and after receipt of their letters patent, and thus to relieve them from the loss and injury which a long vacancy would entail; and that the form employed was as follows: "In the name of God, Amen. Forasmuch as we have found the election of the Nuns of Baruwe of Dame Basilia de Sutton, Nun professed of the same House and of

* Reg, Drok., f. ccc b.
† Reg. Drok., ib.

our Diocese, to be Prioress of the same, the consent of Thomas de Berkeleye, patron of the same place at this turn, having been in the meanwhile obtained, to be exactly and entirely celebrated according to the custom of the said Priory, we pontifically confirm the same, graciously supplying beforehand the defects, if there were any, in the form of the election aforesaid."* The oath of canonical obedience which was taken by the Prioress was as follows:— "I, Basilia de Sutton, Nun of Barwe, elected and confirmed to be Prioress of the same House, will be obedient to you, venerable father, Lord John, by the grace of God Bishop of Bath and Wells, and to your successors in the see, and to your officials also acting in your behalf in lawful and canonical commands. So help me God and His Holy Gospels."†

Bishop John de Drokenesford died on the 9th of May, 1329. His successor, Ralph of Shrewsbury, wrote from Dogmersfeld, on the 1st of March, 1329-30, to the Prioress and Convent of Barwe, requesting them, in the French of that period, to admit Elizabeth, daughter of Hamo le Fitz Richard, Knt., as a Nun of the House. This was done, it is affirmed in the Register, by a laudable custom by which the Bishop claimed the right. We have already seen in the History of Canyngton that the Prioress and Nuns of that House were similarly favoured at the same time, and that the ladies of both establishments had to thank the Bishop's dearest friend, the Prior of Bath, for this unwelcome addition to their numbers.‡

The Nuns shortly afterwards figure in a royal brief,

* Reg. Drok., f. ccc b. Appendix, No. VI. Abstract in MS., Harl. 6964, p. 132.

† Reg. Drok., f. cccij. Appendix, No. VII.

‡ Reg. Rad. ff. xix b., xx. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 26.

dated at Westminster, the 6th of December, 1331. It was issued to collect the arrears of the disme, and among others contains the following names with the sums demanded of each :—The Nuns of Barwe, a pension, that doubtless from the Church of Twyverton, 2s. 8d.; the vicar of Montacute, 5s.; the rector of Ceden, 6s. 8d.; the rector of Monketon, 20s; and the rector of Wroxale, 21s. 4d.*

With the 13th year of Edward III. we have a singularly valuable notice of five generations of the Gourney family. Thomas de Gourney then came of age and petitioned for seisin of his estates. The jury presented that Anselm de Gourneye, some time Lord of the Manors of Inglescombe, Ffarnton, and Westharptre, gave these Manors to Thomas, his son, and his heirs. That after the death of the said Thomas these Manors came to Thomas, his son; and after the death of this Thomas, the son of Thomas, the son of Anselm, then to Thomas the father of the present petitioner. That the Manors of Inglescombe and of Ffarnton were held of Thomas de Gourney, Lord of Estharpetre, each of them by the service of a rose on the Feast of S. John the Baptist; and that Westharpetre was held of Lord Richard Lovell, by the annual service of twelve cross-bow shot.†

On the 17th of June, 1340, Prioress Basilia de Sutton was numbered with her predecessors. Milburga Dourneford, the Sub-Prioress, wrote to the Bishop on the 12th of August, from the Chapter House at Barwe, notifying to him the fact that the late Prioress had died on the day abovementioned, and acquainting him with the subsequent proceedings in the election of her successor. She informs

* Reg. Rad., ff. xlviij b. Abstract in MS. Harl, 6965, p. 50.

† Eschaet. 13 Edw. III., n. 37. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 128. Appendix, No. VIII.

him that, after the burial of the deceased Prioress, and licence to elect asked for and obtained from Thomas de Berkelay, the patron, the sisters met in their Chapter House on the 9th of August, and appointed the 12th of that month for the election. They commissioned one of their sisters, Agnes Sauntemareys, to warn all and singular who were under suspension or interdict to retire from the Chapter House. After this, the same sister and Juliana de Groundy were chosen to be scrutators to take the votes, reduce the same to writing, and afterwards publish them. They found, after this process, that two parts of the sisterhood—the names of the ladies are unfortunately omitted—were for Juliana de Groundy, who is declared to be provident, discreet, in life and manners commendable, of lawful age, born in lawful wedlock, and in spiritual and temporal things most circumspect. Thereupon the said Agnes Sauntemareys at their command and in their presence solemnly announced to the sisters the election which they had made. The customary solemnities were then proceeded with. Te Deum was sung, the elect was carried to the high altar, and her election duly announced to the clergy and people assembled. Afterwards, about the first hour, the election was declared to the elect by the aforesaid Agnes and Agnes Balon, and her consent solicited. She replied that she desired to deliberate, and, being again questioned by the same sisters about the sixth hour of the same day, unwilling to resist the Divine will, declared her assent. The Sub-Prioress concludes her letter, dated, as aforesaid, on the 12th of August, 1340, by soliciting the Bishop's agreement with their act, and his confirmation of the person of the elect.* The Bishop

* Reg. Rad. ff. ccxj, ccxjb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 132.

issued a commission, dated at Evercrich, the 13th of August, to examine the election, whether the same were unanimous or opposed, and requested to be apprised of the facts of the case by the Monday next after the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.* The answer was favourable, and another commission, dated at Midsomeres-norton, on the 20th of the same month, was addressed to John de Carleton, canon of Wells, to install the said Johanna and induct her into corporal possession.† The confirmation by the commissary concludes the series of documents connected with the election, which, as in a very similar instance in the History of Canyngton, supplies us with a curious and interesting account of the ceremonial, and no less a proof of the care and precision with which these episodes in conventual life were at all times characterised.‡

In the ordination of the Vicarage of Twyverton, dated at Evercrich, the 11th of August, 1342, the claim of the Nuns to their ancient pension is allowed and enforced.‖

Prioress Juliana de Groundy continued to govern the House until the year 1348. She either died or resigned before the 20th of October in that year, for on that day the Bishop at Claverton confirmed the election of Agnes Balun, whose name has been already before us, a Nun of Barwe, as Prioress of the House. It is evident from the terms of the memorandum that the form was resorted to, which, as we have lately observed, was generally necessitated by the smallness of the finances. The Bishop is said to have himself supplied the defects, if there happened

* Reg. Rad. ccxjb.
† Reg. Rad. ib.
‡ Reg. Rad. ib.
‖ Reg. Rad. f. ccxv. MS. Harl. 6965, p. 152.

to be any, in the election, and to have committed to the elect the care, rule, and administration of the House. He further commissioned the Archdeacon of Bath or his official to install and induct her into corporal possession.*

Hugh le Despenser, who died on the 8th of February, 1349-50, was seised at the time of his death of fees in Bakwell, Barwe, &c. A jury returned this fact, and that Edward, the son of Edward the brother of the aforesaid Hugh, was his next heir, and was of the age of 12 years and upwards. The return was dated the 5th of March following.† Thomas de Gourny held of the same Hugh a half of one knight's fee in Westharptre and Inglescombe ; and the heirs of John Apadam a half of one knight's fee in Barwe.‡

Twelve years after this, the Nuns received one of their most important benefactions. Richard de Acton, chevalier, obtained permission, by payment of a fine of ten pounds, to give and assign eight messuages, one shop, six tofts, ten acres of meadow and eight acres of pasture, with their appurtenances, in Welles and Barwegorney, to the Prioress and Nuns of Munechenbarwe, to provide a chaplain for the celebration of Divine Service every day for ever at the altar of Blessed Mary in the Priory Church, for the health of Guy de Brian and the aforesaid Richard himself during their lives, and for their souls after their deaths, and for the souls of their ancestors, and of all the faithful departed. The letters patent conveying this permision, and authorizing the Prioress and Nuns and their successors to receive and hold the property for the purpose above-mentioned, were dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 14th of

* Reg. Rad. f. cccxxvj. Appendix, No. IX. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6965, p. 191.
† Inq. p. m. 23 Edw. III., 2 pars, n. 169.
‡ Esc. 23 Edw. III., MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 152, 153.

October, 1361.* In Richard de Acton we may recognise, I presume, the rebuilder of Bathpool Mills, and, in Guy de Brian, one of judges in the suit between the Abbat of Glastonbury and his complainants, in the year 1382, in connection with those valuable establishments.†

In the same year Thomas de Berkele, who held the Manor of Barwe Gournay of Edward le Despenser, as of the honor of Gloucester, was succeeded by Maurice de Berkele, his son and next heir, of the age of thirty years.‡

The transaction to which I shall now introduce the reader will furnish him with an excellent specimen of the great particularity and careful minuteness with which in feudal times the transfer of property was effected, so as to preserve intact the legal liabilities of the donors. On the 20th of July, 1369, a writ was addressed to William Cheyne, the King's eschaetor in the county of Somerset, witness the King, at Westminster, on that day, commanding the verdict of a jury to be taken as to whether or not it would be to the harm of the King or his successors, if leave were granted to Sir Richard de Acton, knt., Hugh Penbrigg, John de Panes, Henry Fforde, John Torney of Wolvynton, Walter Laurence, Robert Scoville, William Scoville, Richard Ffraunkeleyn, Richard parson of the church of Wroxale, John parson of the church of Bakwell, and John parson of the church of Cameleye, to give and assign one messuage, seventy-two acres of arable land, and seven acres of meadow with appurtenances in Barouwe Gournay to the Prioress and Convent of Barouwe, for

* Esc. 35 Edw. III., (2nd nrs.) n. 20. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 178. Pat. 35 Edw. III., p. 3. m. 30. Appendix, No. X.

† See the Author's History of Taunton Priory, pp. 49, 50; and his Ramble by the Tone, pp. 14-19.

‡ Esch. 35 Edw. III., n. 12. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 173.

providing a lamp which should be constantly burning in the Prioress's Church of Blessed Mary of Barouwe before the high altar, in honour of the Body of our Lord. They were further required, as usual, to state the tenure and service by which the said messuage, &c. were held, their value in all issues, the mesnes between the King and the aforesaid Richard and his fellows, and the lands that the donors would possess after the said donations, with their several ability of meeting the customary demands upon them in the shape of suits, views of frank-pledge, aids, tallages, &c. The inquest thus ordered was held at Bedmynstre, before the aforesaid Willlam Cheyne, on the 10th of March, 1369-70; and the verdict contains a number of incidental particulars which can hardly be without interest to the Somersetshire historian. The jurors, Richard Cheyn, Thomas atte Mulle, William atte Pole, William Neel, John Bailly of Bourton, Thomas Ffair, John Sparkman, Henry Masseday, John Richeman, Richard Skappe, John Skut, and John Bysshopisworth, returned upon oath that it would not be to the harm of the King or his successors if such leave were granted. They further reported that the said messuage, land, &c. were held of John de Berkelee, son of Thomas de Berkelee, by military service; and that the said John held them of Edward le Despenser, by military service; and that the same Edward held them of the King in chief, by military service; that the lands were worth per annum in all issues forty shillings; that there were no more mesnes between the King and the aforesaid Richard, Hugh, John, Henry, and the rest: that there remained to the aforesaid Richard de Acton the Manor of Thornfaucon, with its appurtenances, held by him of John Mohoun of Dunsterr, by military service, and worth per annum in all issues x$^{li}$: that John de Panes held one messuage and one

carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Chattelee of John de Berkelee, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xl$^{s}$: that Henry Fforde held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Fforde of the Prior of Bath, by military service, worth per annum in all issues lxvj$^{s}$ viij$^{d}$: that John Torny of Wolvyngton held one messuage and one carucate of land in Wolvyngton of John Moigne, by military service, worth per annum in all issues lx$^{s}$: that Walter Laueraunce held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Sprotraggel of John Rodeney, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xl$^{s}$: that Robert Scovill held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, at Claverton of Edward le Despenser, by military service, worth per annum in all issues four marcs: that William Scovill held one messuage and one carucate of land, with appurtenances, in Broklegh of Robert de Asshtoun, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xxviij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$: that Richard Ffraunkleyn held one messuage and one carucate of land in Bacwell of John Rodeney, by military service, worth per annum in all issues xliij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$: that these were sufficient for the customs and services as well of the aforesaid messuages, lands, &c., as of the other lands in their possession, and for sustaining all other burdens, as the writ required: and that no lands or tenements remained to the aforesaid Hugh, Richard parson of the church of Wroxhale, John parson of the church of Bacwell, and John parson of the church of Cameley, which were sufficient for sustaining the aforesaid burdens, as the writ required. In testimony whereof the jurors to this inquisition annexed their seals. Dated in the place, day, and year aforesaid.* The letters

* Inq. p. m. 44 Edw. III. (2 nrs.) n. 46. Appendix, XI. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 192, 193.

patent were granted accordingly, empowering both the givers and receivers to complete the transaction. They are couched in the usual language, and bear date, witness the King, at Westminster, the 12th of June, 1370.*

On the 9th of the following September, 1370, a writ was addressed, witness the King, at Westminster, to William Auncel, the eschaetor in the county of Gloucester, with the usual enquiries as to the gift by John Blanket, of Bristoll, of two messuages, two shops, and two gardens contiguous to the same shops, with their appurtenances, in the city and suburbs of Bristoll, to the Prioress and Convent of Nuns of Barwe, and their successors, for perpetually providing bread and wine for all masses at the high altar in the conventual Church of Barwe, and other works of piety for the health of the said John during his life, and for his soul after his decease, and for the souls of his parents and friends, and of all the faithful departed. To it were appended the usual questions relative to the service by which the lands were held, their yearly value, the mesnes, if any, the property still belonging to the said John, of whom held, and of what yearly value, &c. The inquest was held at Bristoll, on the 17th of the following month; and the jurors William Wike, Henry Godman, Robert Gratelee, Walter Stodlegh, Richard Carpenter, John Wattes, John Beste, John Pyntail, John Seymor, Thomas Graunt, Ralph Blanket, and Adam Stevenes, returned a favourable verdict. They added that the aforesaid two messuages, shops, and gardens were held by the said John of the King in chief, by the service of free burgage, and that they were worth in all issues, according to their true value, lx$^{s}$ a year. Also that John Blanket

* Pat. 44 Edw. III., p. 2, m. 23. Appendix, No. XII.

had tenements in Bristoll, beyond the aforesaid gift, which were held of the King in chief, by service of free burgage, and were worth c$^{s}$ a year. That thus the said John had land and rents beyond the gift sufficient to meet all his customs, services and other burdens; so that the country would not be damaged by his intended donation.* The letters patent were issued accordingly, empowering the aforesaid John Blanket to give, and the Prioress and Convent to receive the aforesaid property for the purposes above detailed. They are dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 4th of November, 1370.†

The Close Roll of the 49th year of Edward III. presents us with some additional information about the descent of the Manor of Barwe. I am particular in mentioning the various steps in the descent of this property, inasmuch as the Lords of the Manor were the patrons of the Priory. In the record now referred to it is set forth that John, son of Thomas Apadam, knt., remitted to Katherine Berkele, to John, her son, and his heirs male, and to Thomas de Berkele, Lord of Berkele, and his heirs, all right in the Castle and Manor of Beverston, and in the Manor of Overe, in the county of Gloucester, and in the Manor of Barwe, one messuage and four virgates of arable land in Tikenham, in the county of Somerset, and in the advowson of the church of Cherncote, in the county of Wilts.‡ The Manor of Barwe continued for upwards of a century with their descendants, the Berkleys of Beverston, and then passed into the family of Compton, as appears by

* Inq. ad q. d. 44 Edw. III., n. 7.

† Pat. 44 Edw. III., p. 3. m. 17. Appendix, No. XIII.

‡ Claus. 49 Edw. III., m. 34. MS. Harl. 1176, p. 102.

an inquisition, dated at Yevell, the 22nd of January, 20 Hen. VIII., 1528-9.*

Although not strictly in the line of our subject, yet, as illustrative of the place and neighbourhood, I may record the fact that the Bassets were at this period holders of property at Barwe, under the great family of Le Spencer. On the 12th of February, in the 5th year of Richard II., 1381-2, a writ was addressed, witness the King, at Westminster, to John Radeston, the eschaetor, and in pursuance thereof an inquest was held at Wells, on the Monday next after the feast of S. James, in the 6th year of the same king, which is coincident with the 28th of July, 1382; when the jurors, Henry English, William Sambrook, Henry Chaumpeneys, Thomas de Coumbe, John atte Fforde, John Warde, John Lyghtfot, Walter Haywarde, John Dorcote, Edward Badefaunt, Thomas Botelle, and Thomas Tomekyns returned a verdict that John Basset held lands on the day that he died in Wynflyth, in Salford, Dondray, Barwe, Bakwell, Hasell, Rochell, and Aschton, but by what title they were ignorant, with the advowson of the Church of Wynflyth, of Edward le Spencer, as of the honor of Gloucester, by military service; that the value was ten pounds; that Margary was the daughter and next heir of the said John, and that the said John died on Thursday next after the feast of the Epiphany, in the 35th year of Edward III., or the 13th of January, 1361-2.† As the information contained in this return was not sufficiently explicit, a more circumstantial account was ordered by writ of *certiorari*, dated at Westminster, the 24th of January, 1382-3; and a very similar verdict was

* MS. Harl. 756, p. 70.
† Inq. p. m. 5 Ric. II. n. 8.

returned by the jurors John Eyr, William Wyke, John Saymor, John Mey, Henry Mey, John Yong, John Cockes, John Praty, John atte Hele, William Kyng, and others, dated at Wellys, on Saturday, the feast of S. Mark the Evangelist, the 25th of April, 1383.*

The third year of the reign of Henry IV. found the Sisters involved in a new trouble. The first notice of the circumstance is not a little significant. A jury returned for their verdict that Gilbert Harclyve gave to Johanna Panes, late Prioress of Barwe, and her successors for ever, a meadow in a close called Chapelmeade, containing eleven acres of meadow, in Burghgorney, but that the donation had been made without the royal licence.† Not long afterwards the matter assumed a more serious form, and the King was solicited to grant letters patent of pardon and condonation for the legal delinquency of which the Prioress and Convent had unwittingly been guilty. This document sets forth that in the time of the King's grandfather, King Edward III, Sir Richard de Acton, knt., deceased, and others, had obtained licence to give one messuage, seventy-two acres of arable land, and seven acres of meadow, &c., to the Prioress and Convent, for the maintenance of a certain lamp to be kept constantly burning before the high altar in the Priory Church. We have already had the particulars before us. It then declares that subsequently to this transaction the Prioress and Convent supposing that a certain close called Chapelescroft, and one acre of land in Barouwe, which did not exceed the value of thirteen shillings and four pence a year, also given to the Prioress

* Inq. p. m., 6 Ric. II. n. 16. 13 Ric. II. n. 3., &c. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, pp. 215, 231. Rolls of Parliament, vol. iij. pp. 289, 461, 462, 463.

† Esc. 3 Henry IV. n. 8. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 305.

and Convent by the aforesaid Richard by his charter under the name of "all that land and meadow lying in a certain close called Chapelescroft in Barouwe Gournay with its appurtenances, and one acre of land with appurtenances in the same vill of Barouwe, which acre extendeth itself in length to the park of the said vill," were comprehended in the aforesaid licence, when they were not, had, under colour of such licence, entered upon, and held, and occupied the land, and appropriated the issues and profits thence accruing. That this had continued, until the King's late eschaetor, John Manyngford, had taken the aforesaid close and acre into the King's hands for the reason specified. Upon this, as the document proceeds to show, the Prioress and Convent humbly sued the King's grace in their behalf, and solicited pardon for their unlicenced appropriation and occupation of the land and receipt of its profits. The letters patent convey to them the King's condonation, and remission of the forfeiture of the property thus incurred, and his licence for the future possession of the close and acre aforesaid, together with all the issues and profits derived from the same, by them and their successors towards their maintenance for ever. The letters conclude with the usual reservations, and are dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 29th of November, 1403.*

Margery Ffitz Nichol was Prioress in 1410, but was then, as it would appear, of advanced age and precarious health. From a commission addressed by Bishop Nicholas Bubwith to John Hody, precentor of Wells, and John Tissebury, canon, we learn that she petitioned the Bishop, for certain true and lawful causes, to be released entirely from the care, government, and administration of her office,

* Pat. 5 Hen. IV. p. 1. m. 20. Appendix, No. XIV.

that she might be more free to serve God in quiet of spirit, and prayed his gracious consent to this her desire. He confided to these ecclesiastics the task of assigning and authorising a lawful and competent portion for her living and maintenance. The commission was sealed and dated in the episcopal Manor of Dogmersfeld, on the 2nd of September, 1410, and the third year of the Bishop's translation.* The government of this and similar establishments was by no means a work of ease, and the repugnance which we remark to have been oftentimes expressed to the acceptance of such appointments was no mere affectation of humility, but the genuine dislike of a position, the responsibility attached to which was more than commensurate with its dignity.

I presume that the report of the Commissaries was favourable, and that the Prioress's petition was granted. Little more, however, than a year and a half afterwards, the matter again assumes an unpleasant aspect, in the shape of a judgment pronounced by the same Bishop on the late Prioress Margery for neglect of her duties. It certainly looks as if she considered that with the surrender of her office of Prioress she could relieve herself of her responsibilities as a Sister of the House. The Bishop informs her that it had lately come to his ears that she had refused, and was still in the habit of refusing, to observe and obey the regular observances of her order and profession, and that she had slothfully neglected and still did neglect punctual attendance on the hours both of night and day, when she could conveniently be present, to the danger of her soul and the manifest violation of the rule of her order aforesaid. He therefore commands and strictly

* Reg. Bubwith, f. xlb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 17.

enjoins her that for the future she pay due and proper attention to the hours both of night and day, according to the regular observances of her order and profession aforesaid, when she is able so to do, and that she by no means allow her old age or weakness of body to furnish cause of absence. The missive was dated at Keynsham, on or about the 14th of April, (as the previous entry is dated the 13th and the following the 16th of that month,) 1412.*

In the 2nd year of Henry V., 1415, Thomas, late Lord le Despenser, who died on the 5th of January, 1414-15, is returned as having held one knight's fee in Barowe, which the heirs of John Apadam sometime held.†

In the year 1416 a return was furnished to the collectors of the King's disme, which gives us some idea of the poverty of the House at that period. We learn that the Church of Barowe, in the Archdeaconry of Bath and Deanery of Radecliffe, appropriated to the Prioress and Nuns of Barowe, is not taxed nor accustomed to pay the tenth, nor is there in it a vicarage endowed. The same Prioress and Nuns are stated to have a certain annual pension of xxvj$^{s}$ viij$^{d}$ in the parish Church of Twyverton, in the said Archdeaconry and in the Deanery of Bath.‡

A long series of similar proofs of the poverty of the House will be furnished by its constant exemption from the payment of the King's disme. In answer to a brief for this collection, dated at Westminster, the 22nd of December, 1417, the Nuns of Barowe are declared exempt, together with those of Canyngton and Ivelchester.§

To a similar commission, bearing date the 20th of September, 1421, the Priory of Barogh, together with

* Reg. Bubw. f. lvij. Appendix, No. XV.
† Esc. 2 Hen. V., n. 14. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 312.
‡ Reg. Bubw., f. cxxviijb. § Reg. Bubw., f. cxxxviijb.

those of Canyngton and Staverdale, and the Hospitals of Bristol and Wells, are returned as excepted.*

In 1426 the Church of Barwe Monialium was valued at £4, or six marcs.†

We have already noticed that the Berkeleys were the patrons of the Priory, in right of their possession of the Manor of Barrow. Full proof of this is afforded by various inquisitions taken on the decease of the successive heads of the family. These are documents of considerable interest, and well worth giving in detail.

In answer to a writ dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 10th of March, in the 6th year of Henry VI., 1428, the jurors, Thomas Blaneford, John Lemington, John Lyte, Richard Arnell, William Chambrelayne, John Brympton, Walter Parsones, Richard Samiores, William Hoskynce, George Rusceley, Thomas Broun, and Robert Bryse, in an inquisition held at Bruton, on the 4th of May, before John Gregory, the eschaetor, returned that John de Berkele, chivaler, was formerly seised in his domain as in fee of the Manor of Barwe Gurnay, with its appurtenances, and of the advowson of the Priory of Nuns of Mynchenbarwe; and also of one carucate of arable land, containing in itself c acres, x acres of meadow, x acres of pasture, iiij$^{xx}$ acres of timber trees, xxx acres of underwood; and of x messuages, and xxx shillings of rent, with appurtenances to the same Manor appertaining. That some time previous to his death, the said John de Berkele had leased and granted the said Manor, &c. to one Thomas Norton of Bristoll, merchant, to Cristina his wife, to Walter, and Thomas the younger, his surviving son, and to Thomas his elder son,

* Reg. Bubw., f. clxxxvjb.
† Reg. Stafford, f. viijb.

now deceased ; to be held by Thomas and Cristina for the term of their lives for a rent of xj$^{li}$ payable yearly to the same John, his heirs and assigns, at the terms of Hokkeday and Michaelmas, in equal portions ; reserving always to the said John, his heirs and assigns, the advowson of the Priory aforesaid, a moiety of the perquisites of the Manor Court, a moiety of all fines, and herietts, and underwood, a moiety of all "Wayf and Straye," happening in any way within the said Manor, or a moiety of their profits, and the fees and timber of the said Manor. That Thomas Norton the father and Cristina, yet surviving, held the Manor of Barwe Gurnay by virtue of the delivery and concession aforesaid, exceptis perexceptis. That John de Berkele died seised in his domain as in the fee of the said advowson of the Priory, and of the said various moieties and woods. That the advowson of the Priory was of no value per annum : that the moiety of the perquisites of the Manor Court was worth per annum, beyond reprises, xx$^{d}$ : that the moiety of the fines, herietts, "Wayf and Straye" was worth per annum in all issues, beyond reprises, ij$^{s}$ : and that the timber aforesaid was of no value per annum beyond reprises. That John de Berkele died on the 5th of March last past, and that Maurice was his son and next heir, and was of the age of xxx years and upwards.*

By virtue of a mandate, issued at Dogmersfeld, the last day of December, 1432, a subsidy of two pence in the pound was levied on all ecclesiastical benefices, for the Council of Basle. The pension of the Nuns of Barwe in the Church of Twyverton is duly set forth.†

* Inq. p. m. 6 Hen. VI., n. 50. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, p. 331.

† Reg. Staff. f. lxxxiij. MS. Harl. 6822. f. 174b.

The same year witnessed a change in the government of the House. John Stafford, Bishop of Bath and Wells, addressed in very complimentary and gracious terms a letter to Johanna Stabler, Nun of the Priory of Barwe, expressly professed, informing her that he had received abundant commendation of her manners and deserts, and that he was thereby moved to show her liberal favour. He then proceeds to acquaint her that, by reason of length of vacancy, the right of nomination to the office of Prioress having devolved upon him by law, in conformity with the statutes of a Lateran Council, he, with an earnest desire to promote the good of the Priory and to prevent the evils of a still longer interval, conferred upon her the office, with all its rights and appurtenances, and committed to her the government, care, and administration of the House in spirituals and temporals. The letter was dated at the Bishop's Inn in London, the 20th of May, 1432.* The lady's name was not unknown to earlier ecclesiastical annalists. A William de Stabler was vicar of Englescombe on the 18th of May, 1315.†

The good Prioress was called to preside over a very poor community. Too certain evidence of this fact is presented by the frequent repetition of exemptions from payment of the King's disme. The House is thus returned in answers of the Bishop, dated at Dogmersfeld, on the 20th of April, 1435 ;‡ at his Inn in London, on the 6th of February, 1437-8 ; § at the same place, on the 2nd of May, 1440 ;‖ at Woky, on the 26th of September, 1450; ¶ at the Palace at Wells, on the 1st of October, 1453 ;** at

* Reg. Staff. f. lxxvb. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 43.
† Reg. Drok. f. lxxxxb.
‡ Reg. Staff. ff. cxjb, cxij.
§ Reg. Staff. f. cxlj.
‖ Reg. Staff. f. cxlvijb.
¶ Reg. Bek. ff. cxvijb., cxviij.
** Reg. Bek. f. clxvb.

Wells, in reply to a writ of King Edward IV., dated at Westminster, on the 9th of August, 1461, where the King urges on the collectors the consideration of "the greet burthens and charges that resten upon us and daily must for the common weel," and that therefore they "certifie noon excepcions saue oonly suche as of verraye necessite and pitee most and oweth to be certified;"* and at the Palace of Wells, on the 11th of January, 1462-3.†

Isabella, late Countess of Warwick, held, 18 Hen. VI., one knight's fee in Barowe, which the heirs of John Apadam sometime held; and Henry de Beauchamp held the same at his death, 24 Hen. VI.‡

In the notice of a subsidy demanded of the Clergy in 1445, in aid of the King against the Saracens and Turks, the Nuns are stated to have a pension in the Church of Barowe, and that such pension was then taxed in two pence.§ We have already seen, and shall notice from a document to be subsequently offered to the reader, that the Church of Barrow was appropriated to them, though when so appropriated, and how served, there is no certain evidence to show.

We here catch another glimpse of the regular routine of conventual life. Quietness and order were with rare exceptions its common characteristics, jointly hallowed and enlivened by the occurrence of such solemnities as those to which the present notice introduces us. On the 3rd of February, 1462-3, Thomas Bekynton, Bishop of Bath and Wells, addressed from his Palace at Wells a Commission to John Erl, chaplain, rector of the parish Church of Bacwell, empowering him to receive, in his

* Reg. Bekynton, ff. cclxvijb., cclxviijb.
† Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxj. ‡ MS. Harl. 4120. pp. 350, 357.
§ Reg. Bek. f. xxixb.

stead and by his authority, on some convenient day which the said John was to determine, the professions of Sibilla Prest and Isabella Bacwell, Sisters of the House, and to see that these ladies were publicly and expressly professed, in accordance with the canonical statutes and regular observances of the said Priory.*

Collinson, in his sketch of the history of the place, gives the name of Agnes Leveregge as Prioress in 1463,† and the last Editors of Dugdale, who have done little more than copy his account, have taken him as authority for the fact. Unfortunately he does not furnish us with any reference for the accuracy of his statement; and it must, I fear, be considered doubtful, as the Episcopal Registers make no mention of her, and Tanner and Archer are equally silent.

Again we have certificates of exemption, in favour of the Nuns of Barowe, from payment of the disme, dated at the Bishop's Palace at Wells, on the 9th of January, 1463-4 ;‡ at his Inn in London, outside Temple Bar, on the 10th of November, 1468 ;§ at the same place, on the 3rd of August, 1472 ;‖ at the same place, on the 21st of April, 1475 ;¶ at Wells, on the 2nd of June, 1485 ;** and at the same place, on the 7th of May, 1487.††

The two following documents carry on the proof of the possession of the advowson of the Priory by the family of Berkeley. I scarcely need suggest to the reader their importance and value.

In obedience to a writ, dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 12th of May, 38th of Henry VI., 1460, addressed to the Eschaetor of Somerset and Dorset, an

* Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxij.
† Hist. of Somerset, vol. ij., p. 311.
‡ Reg. Bek. f. cclxxxxviijb.
§ Reg. Stillington, f. xxb.
‖ Reg. Still. f. lxxxiijb.
¶ Reg. Still. f. xcvij.
** Reg. Still. f. cxxvijb.
†† Reg. Still. f. cxlb.

inquisition was taken at Henstryge, on the last day but one of the same month, before Peter Baunfeld, Esq., and the jurors, John Henxtrygge, Thomas Sylver, John Lange, Nicholas Benett, William Gyldon, Thomas Russell, William Loote, John Brayn, William Letteford, John Sparowe, John Gybbis, and Henry Garnade, presented on oath that Maurice Berkeley, late of Beverston, in the county of Gloucester, knt., held on the day of his death the Manor of Barowe Gurnay, with its appurtenances, and the advowson of the Priory of Nuns of Mynchynbarowe, to the same manor appertaining ; and that the said manor was held of Edward Nevill, Esq., as of the honor of Gloucester, by the service of half a knight's fee for all services, and was worth per annum in all issues beyond reprises iiij$^{li}$ : that the said Maurice died on the 5th of May last past, and that Maurice Berkeley, of Bettesthorn, in the county of Southampton, Esq., was the son and next heir of the said Maurice, and was of the age of twenty-six years and upwards.*

The end of an interval of fourteen years saw another head of the family in his grave.

In answer to a writ dated, witness the King, at Westminster, on the 14th of May, in the 14th year of Edward IV., 1474, addressed to the Eschaetor of Somerset and Dorset, an inquisition was taken at Taunton, on the 31st of the following October, before Richard Vouwell, the Eschaetor ; and the jurors, John Hygons, Esq., John Gilbert, Esq., John Bonvyle, Esq., John Mauncell, John Irlond, Richard Crypse, John Rede, John Tracy, John Chafy, John Ffourde, John Walford and Thomas Walton, returned on their oath that Maurice Berkeley, of Beverston,

* Inq. p. m. 38-39 Hen. VI. n. 57. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, p. 369.

knight, held on the day of his death the Manor of Barow Gurney, with its appurtenances, in the aforesaid county, and the advowson of the Priory of Nuns of Mynchynbarow, to the same Manor appertaining; and also one carucate of land, containing in itself a hundred acres of arable land, ten acres of meadow, ten acres of pasture, eighty acres of timber trees, and thirty acres of underwood, with appurtenances, of all of which he had died seised; that the manor, advowson, and carucate of land, with their appurtenances, were worth per annum in all their issues, beyond reprises and burdens, vj$^{li}$ xiij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$, and were held of George Duke of Clarance, by fealty only for all services; that the said Maurice died on the 26th of March last past,* and that William Berkely, Esq., was the son and next heir of the aforesaid Maurice, and was of the age of twenty-three years and upwards.†

Barowe received another Prioress in the earlier part of the year 1501-2. On the 22nd of March in that year was exhibited, in the Conventual Church of the Priory of the Holy Trinity of Mynchon Barowe, the election of Dame Isabella Cogan, Sister and Nun of that Priory, to the place and office of Prioress of the House aforesaid. She was confirmed in her office by John Pykman, LL.D., the Bishop's Commissary. The elect took the regular oath of canonical obedience; and forthwith the said John Pykman, Archdeacon of Bath, installed the said Dame Isabella, and inducted her into real and corporal possession of the said Priory.‡ This is the only instance that I am

* In the inquisition for property in the county of Devon, it is, "on the Saturday next after the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. last past," which was in that year coincident with the former date.

† Inq. p. m. 14 Edw. IV., n. 41. Abstract in MS. Harl. 4120, p. 392.

‡ Reg. King, f. 39. Abstract in MS. Harl. 6966, p. 174.

acquainted with of the statement that the Priory was dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

Ralph Bee was curate of Mynchynbarowe, on the 1st of February, 1510-11, and was one of a jury which then gave a verdict in reference to the contested right of the patronage of the Church of Backwell.*

The Priory presented, on one occasion at least, a clerk for Holy Orders. On Ember Saturday, the 7th of March, 1515-6, at an Ordination in the Lady Chapel in the Cloister at Wells, "per Thomam Solubrien' Ep'm," Robert Durant, of the Diocese of Bath and Wells, was admitted to the Order of Sub-Deacon, "ad titulum Prioratus de Mynchynbarow," of the same Diocese.†

On the 16th of March, 1533-4, a transaction occurred to which reference will have to be repeatedly made. On that day Isabella Cogan, Prioress of the House of Nuns of Blessed Mary, Virgin, and of S. Edward, King and Martyr, of Mynchynbarowe, and the Convent of the same leased to farm to John Babor, of Chewestoke, their Rectory of Twyverton, and their tithe-barn, with all and every kind of tithes both of corn and hay as of all other tithes, oblations, obventions, and profits whatsoever appertaining to the said Rectory. The terms of the lease are suggestive of some previous loan on the part of the lessee. The said John Babor and his assigns were to enter on possession from the feast of the Annunciation next ensuing, and were to have and hold the property for and to the end of the full term of sixty years after the date of those presents. They were to pay to the Prioress and Convent every year during the first ten of the aforesaid sixty years, one penny at the

* Reg. Adrian, f. lxxxxiiij.
† Reg. Adrian, ad fin.

feast of the Annunciation, if it should be demanded. At the end of the ten years, and onwards throughout the remainder of the term, they were to pay yearly the sum of twenty shillings, of good and lawful English money, in equal portions at the two usual terms of the year, Michaelmas and the Annunciation, for all services save the service of the King. John Babor and his assigns, and each of them, were well and competently to repair the tithe-barn aforesaid during the term, at their own proper cost and expence. If the aforesaid rent of twenty shillings were in arrear in part or in all for fifteen days after either feast, and duly demanded, it was then to be lawful for the Prioress and Convent and their successors to enter into the said tithe-barn and distrain, and the distress so taken to carry away, and impound, and retain in their possession, until the rent with arrears, if any, should be fully contented and paid. If the rent were to continue in arrear and unpaid in part or in all for four months after either feast, and duly demanded, it should then be lawful for the aforesaid Prioress and Convent and their successors to re-enter on the possession of the tithe-barn, and totally to expel and eject from the same the said John Babor and his assigns, and to retain the property as they had done before, the present lease notwithstanding. The instrument concluded with the usual warranty, acquittance, and defence of the lessee against all persons whatsoever. Two copies were prepared, one, to which the Conventual seal was appended, to remain in the possession of John Babor, and the other, bearing his seal, to remain with the Prioress and Convent. It was dated in their Chapter House, on the 16th of March, in the twenty-fifth year of King Henry VIII, 1533-4. The lease was allowed, with the usual proviso against fraud on the part of the petitioner, by the Court of Aug-

mentations, in Michaelmas term, the 27th of November, 1542.*

Before the end of the same year the acknowledgment of the King's Supremacy was forced upon the Religious Orders. The document, however, by which the House declared its assent has not been preserved.

This would appear to have been the last official act of Prioress Isabella Cogan in secular matters before her resignation, which took place in the August of the following year. She has been incorrectly given as the last Prioress of the House, although, as we shall see, there is abundance of proof to the contrary. On the 30th of August, 1535, Katherine Bowle, the lady who had been elected to supply her place, and Convent gave a bond to the late Prioress, called in the deed "Elizabeth Cogan, nuper dicti Monasterii Priorissa," and to Sir Edward George, knt., obliging themselves, by a penalty of one hundred pounds sterling, to perform as follows. At this point the document proceeds in English, and I cannot do better than to let it speak for itself. "The condicion of this obligacion is suche that if the w^t^inbounden Priores and Covent and their successours or their assignes do paye or cause to be paide vnto the above-named dame Elizabeth Cogan or Edward George knight or to their executours or lawfull attorneys or deputies yerely duryng the naturall lyfe of the foresaid Elizabeth Cogan foure poundes st^r^ling money of Englond Within the p'yshe Churche of Wraxall in the said Countie of Som's' in maner and fourme folowyng that is to saye at the feast of Seynt Michell tharchaungell twenty shyllyng*es*† at the Natiuitie of our lorde Jesu

* Off. Augment. Miscell. Voll. n. 103. (Orders and Decrees, vol. XIII.) ff. 108, 108b. Appendix, No. XVI.

† The letters in italics are expressed in the original by marks of contraction.

Chryst twenty shyllynges and at the Annu'ciacion of our lady the Virgyn twenty shyllynges And at the Natiuitie of Seynt John the Baptyst twenty shillynges And so from yere to yere and from quarter to quarter duryng the naturall lyfe of the said Dame Elizabeth Cogan So that at euery payment the said dame Elizabeth Cogan or Edward George knyght or their attorney to delyuer to the forsaid Priores and Covent or to their successours or assignes a lawful and a sufficient acquittaunce for the paymentes thereof Then this present obligacion to be voyde and of no strenght nor effecte And if any defaulte of the said yerely pencion of foure poundes sterlyng to be vnpaide in parte or in all by the space of one moneth after any of the said feastes which it ought to be paide contrary to the fourme aforesaid if it be lawfully requyred or demaunded that then it shalbe leful to the said dame Elizabeth Cogan or Edward George knyght or their executours or assignes to enter into all and euery parcell of the demeanes to the said Monastery apperteynyng to distreyne and the same distresse to take cary and bere awaye vnto the tyme the said somme be fully contentyd and paide That then this present obligacion to stande in his full strenght and virtue" On due examination that this document was bonâ fide and genuine, the Court of Augmentations allowed the same on the 20th of October, in Michaelmas term, 1537, and ordered the said sum of four pounds to be paid yearly to the said Elizabeth during her life, together with four pounds for arrears due to the said Elizabeth for the year ending at the feast of S. Michael last past, to be paid by the King's Receiver of the issues, &c. of the lands and possessions of the late Monastery.*

* Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 92. (Orders and Decrees, Vol. II.) ff. 3, 3b.

With this act Prioress Katherine Bowle, Bowell, Boule, or Bulle, inaugurated her Conventual reign, which, short though it was, was destined to witness so many and sweeping changes before its compulsory termination.

Before the end of the year the well-known "Valor" was taken of the Conventual property, which enabled the King to adjust with accuracy the amount of the pressure to be in the first instance inflicted on his victims, and, not the less, to estimate the value of the future spoil. The document is necessarily of considerable interest and importance, as exhibiting the precise state of the possessions of the House immediately before the Dissolution. I have, as before, given it in exact translation, and have arranged the items with more regard to modern eyes than as they stand in the original return.

## DEANERY OF REDECLYFF.

### Priory of Mynchynbarow.

Declaration of the Annual Value of all the Lands and Possessions, as well temporal as spiritual, to the aforesaid Priory belonging; namely, as they were taxed by Henry Capell, Knt., and the other Commissioners of our Lord the King as above, and in the time of Katerine Boule, now Prioress there.

### Mynchynbarow.

| | £ s d |
|---|---|
| Value in Rents of all Tenants there per annum .. vij$^{li}$ iiij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$ | |
| Demesne Lands in the hand of the said Prioress remaining, as shown by iiij trustworthy men .. .. .. cj$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$ | xij v viij |
| So clear | |

## Bristow.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Value in Rents of all Tenants there per annum .. | lxxxj$^{s}$ xj$^{d}$ | |
| On the other side :— | | |
| For a Rent resolute to the Mayor of the City there .. | vj$^{s}$ viij$^{d}$ | lxxiij$^{s}$ ix$^{d}$ |
| For a Rent resolute "p' long' lez cabyll' " there yearly .. | xviij$^{d}$ | |
| So clear | | |

## Wells.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Value in Rents of all Tenants there per annum .. | iiij$^{li}$ xvj$^{s}$ x$^{d}$ | |
| For Twyverton .. .. | vj$^{d}$ | |
| On the other side :— | | iiij$^{li}$ xij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$ |
| For a Rent resolute to John Brynscom, bailiff there .. | v$^{s}$ | |
| So clear | | |

## Spirituals, as under.

## Barow Parsonage.

| | | £ s d |
|---|---|---|
| Value in Issues or Profits of the Rectory there per annum, as in preceeding year | vj$^{li}$ xiij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$ | |
| Oblations, with personal Tithes and other Casualties falling at Easter, in common years | xlj$^{s}$ vij$^{d}$ ob | viij xiiij xj ob |
| Sum | | |

| | £ s d |
|---|---|
| Sum total of the value of the aforesaid temporals and spirituals :— .. | xxix vj viij ob |

From this

FEES, WITH OTHER ALLOWANCES.

| | £ | s | d |
|---|---|---|---|
| Fee of Edward Beynton, chief Steward there .. .. .. .. | xx | | |
| Rent resolute to the Prior of Cristechurche yearly .. .. .. | | xviij | |
| Rent resolute to the Mayor of the City of Wells, per annum .. .. | | iij | iiij |
| Paid to the Bishop of Bath, as for procurations yearly .. .. .. | | vij | vj ob'q' |
| Paid yearly to a certain Chaplain there celebrating Divine Service .. | iiij | | |
| Sum of the Allowances aforesaid .. | | cxij | iiij ob'q' |
| And so there remains clear after all deductions .. .. .. | £ xxiij | s xiiij | d iij ob'q' |
| The Tithe from thence .. .. | | xlvij | v q'* |

The next step will bring us to the outrage which consigned these possessions to other owners. But before that step is taken, and while the old aspect of the House is still before us, a few words on some of its characteristics will not be out of place.

In my History of Canyngton Priory I endeavoured to show the reader that the modern notion of the rigid and perpetual enclosure of Nuns within the walls of their House is altogether erroneous. Considerable latitude was allowed in their intercourse with the neighbourhood, and the only restrictions imposed on them were such as a due regard to their safety and good name suggested and necessitated. At a previous page this is clearly brought out in

* Val. Com. Somers. f. 56. Val. Eccl. j. p. 183. MS. Harl. 701. f. 104b.

the Bishop's injunctions to the Prioress, to which reference was made in the History of the Canyngton Sisterhood, where the reader will find an additional example derived from the records of a neighbouring Diocese, even more directly affirmatory of the fact.

I hardly need draw attention to the frequency with which ladies of rank and position were found in these communities. Mynchin Buckland and Canyngton have already supplied instances, and Mynchin Barrow was no less distinguished. This would, doubtless, be more fully proved by individual examples, had time shown greater mercy towards the records of the House. As it is, however, the fact is certain. Johanna de Gournay, Basilia de Sutton, Elizabeth Fitz Richard, and Isabella Cogan of Mynchin Barrow, were parallels to Isabella de Berkelee, Alianor de Acton, Katharine de Erlegh, Katharine Boucher, and Katharine Popham of Mynchin Buckland, and to Matilda de Morton, Johanna de Bere, Lucy de Popham, Avice de Reigners, and Cecilia de Vernai of the neighbouring Sisterhood.

The kind and vigilant supervision of the House by the Diocesan and his officials cannot posssibly have escaped the reader's attention. The former, and the latter when deputed by him, had the power of visiting the Religious Houses, and appear to have considered it a duty of the greatest importance to make a frequent and minute inspection of their state. This occasionally resulted in those monitions, addressed either to the Superiors of the Houses themselves or to certain officers whom the Bishop selected in their stead, of which the Episcopal Registers furnish so many and interesting examples. It is, however, as I have observed on more than one former occasion, very pleasing to remark, that, although many and watchful eyes were

around these Communities, and no endeavour was made to conceal irregularities, but rather on the contrary to detect and expose them, fewer instances of the lower and grosser vices are observable, either than what might by many be supposed antecedently probable, or than what the ignorance and conscious laxity of modern times have studiously attempted to fasten upon them, and, let me not forget to add, have exhibited a foul delight when such endeavours have achieved a measure, how slight and miserable soever, of apparent success.

A comparison of the ceremonial in the election of Superiors given at an earlier page with that related in the History of Canyngton, would furnish the reader with tolerably certain proof, even in the absence of other authority, that the order observed on these solemn occasions was as nearly as possible identical. This may be briefly described as follows. On the occasion of a vacancy by death, the body of the deceased Superior was after a very brief interval consigned to the grave. Application was forthwith made by the Community to the Patron, who was either of the family of the founder, or his representative in office or descent of property, for licence to elect a successor. On the receipt of this, the officer highest in rank convened the members of the House, who then and there appointed a day for the election. On the day fixed upon they met in their Conventual Church, and the mass "de Spiritu Sancto" was sung, imploring Divine aid in their subsequent deliberations. Service over, they assembled in their Chapter House. After a preliminary exhortation, the names of all who had a right to vote were read over. One of the Community was then appointed their procurator, who accordingly conducted the business of the election. The hymn "Veni Creator" was chanted, and the procurator solemnly

commanded all who were under ecclesiastical censure or interdict to depart forthwith. Next came the reading of the patron's licence, then that of the twenty-fourth canon of the fourth council of Lateran, which orders that all elections shall be made either by scrutiny of votes; by compromise, or surrender by the members of their right of voting to certain of their community; or, lastly, by inspiration, unanimous agreement and affirmation. The first was of course the most usual, and in that case two or more of the members were selected as scrutators to take the votes, reduce them to writing, and read aloud the result. On examination of these, one of the scrutators announced to the House the election which had been made. "Te Deum" was then sung, the elect was carried to the high altar, and the election announced to the crowd of clergy and people commonly assembled on these occasions. It was then notified to the elect, and the assent of the same was requested. This was not immediately given, but, after a few hours' deliberation solicited and obtained, the Divine will, as signified by the previous election, was in general submitted to and the assent of the elect usually accorded. The official report of the proceedings by a notary was then forwarded to the Bishop and Patron for their approval and confirmation. A commission was thereupon ordered by the Bishop to examine into the circumstances of the election, and, if a favourable answer were returned, a day was appointed for receiving the oath of subjection to the Diocesan, which was immediately followed by confirmation of the elect, induction into corporal possession of the House, and a monition to its members to pay their new Superior due and canonical obedience.

So far as they can now be recovered, the names of the ladies who were thus distinguished were as follow. I refer

the reader to our earlier pages for the details relating to each :—

1. Johanna de Gournay, 1316.
2. Agnes de Sancta Cruce, 1325.
3. Basilia de Sutton, 1328.
4. Juliana de Groundy, 1340.
5. Agnes Balun, 1348.
6. Margery Fitz Nichol, 1410.
7. Johanna Stabler, 1432.
8. Agnes Leveregge, 1463 (?)
9. Isabella Cogan, 1502.
10. Katherine Bowle, Boule, or Bulle, 1535.

Agnes de Sancta Cruce was Sub-Prioress in 1325, and Milburga Dourneford in 1340.

So far as I can discover, there were no Vicars of Barrow, but the Church was served by a Chaplain, appointed by the Prioress and Convent. This would appear certain from the return made in the year 1416, already given, and from the notice of the Chaplain's stipend, with which also the reader has been furnished, in the "Valor" of 1535. Ralph Bee was Curate in 1511, and, probably, Robert Durant in 1516.

We will now proceed with the History of the House.

The "Valor," as we have seen, was taken in the later part of the year 1535. It was but one, and that a very short, step between the compilation of these tempting returns and the spoliation for which they furnished data at once accurate and complete. Mynchinbarrow, which from the smallness of its revenues was among those lesser Houses whose Dissolution was first decreed, had but a brief respite from the grip of the spoiler. On the 26th of May, 1536, as I have discovered from a most important

document presently to be submitted to the reader's notice, the King's Commissioners arrived at the Convent, and forthwith took into their hands the superintendence of the estates and revenues. From the same authority we learn that the formal act of Dissolution and Suppression took place on the 19th of the following September, 1536. Similar atrocities were being committed on all sides. The scene at Mynchinbarrow was re-enacted at Canyngton only four days afterwards.

In previous histories of Religious Houses I have recounted with more or less detail the odious doings of that horrible time, and to them I must refer those of my readers who choose to know either the events themselves or my estimate of the same.

I am unable to furnish a list of the Sisters at the period of the Dissolution. I have searched for it with no little care, but, unfortunately, up to this time in vain among the records of the Court of Augmentations, and have no hope of its existence. But I have found an order for a pension to the Prioress Katerina Bulle, by which she is to receive an annuity or annual pension of one hundred shillings sterling, from the time of the Dissolution and Suppression of the Priory, for the term of her life, to be paid by the hands of the Treasurer of the Court of Augmentations for the time being, at the feasts of the Annunciation and of S. Michael the Archangel in equal portions. The document is precisely similar to that which was made in favour of the Prioress of Canyngton, the original of which will be found in the Appendix to that History, No. X. It was signed by "Richard Riche, Tho. Pope, John Onley, and Robert Sowthwell," four names of evil notoriety, and

is dated the 14th of February, the 28th of Henry VIII., 1536-7.*

There is no mention of the Sisters—nor, indeed, of any Steward or other lay Officer of the House—in the Pension Book of Cardinal Pole ; but whether the Nuns died in the interim between the date of the Dissolution and the compilation of that Record, the 3rd and 4th of Philip and Mary, I am unable to determine. No doubt their troubles were severe enough to shorten lives more likely to be protracted and to weaken frames more vigorous than those of the unhappy and innocent sufferers, thus inhumanly consigned to a fate from which their previous existence would induce them to instinctively shrink with horror, and whose subsequent experience was one of interminable regret for a blessing departed and beyond recall.

I have already said that the King's Commissioners were in possession of the Estates for several months previous to the final act of Dissolution and Suppression. From the day of their arrival they had to keep an accurate account of income and expenditure, to be submitted at certain intervals to the new appropriator. The first document connected with these transactions has now to be offered in detail. It formed the groundwork of all subsequent proceedings in the transfer of the property, either by lease or by sale, and it is impossible to over-rate the importance of its statements. It possesses all, and far more than, the interest of the "Valor" previously examined, and supplies us with a multitude of minute details which the compilers of that return did not think necessary to include, but which have for us the greatest possible value. It is the "Ministers' Accounts," in other words the

* Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 244. n. 112. Appendix, No. XVII.

Return made by the Crown Officers of the state, value, tenants, &c., of the lands of which the Crown had lately taken possession, from the 4th of February, 1535-6, to the Michaelmas following. I have arranged it in something of a more easily intelligible form than that in which it is presented in the original, but I have endeavoured by close translation to preserve its archaic character; not only because nothing would be gained by modernising my authority, but also from a desire to make the reader acquainted with the manner in which ancient accounts of this kind are elaborated, and with the consequent minuteness of detail which is their precious characteristic. I hardly need repeat that the whole deserves a most careful examination, as furnishing a number of particulars which will be sought for in vain from any other document now extant.

The Account of all and singular Bailiffs, Provosts, Farmers, and other Ministers of Account, of all and singular manors, lands, tenements, rectories, portions, pensions, and other possessions whatsoever of our Lord the King, as well spiritual as temporal, to the said late Priory now dissolved and suppressed pertaining or belonging, &c., by the authority of a certain Act of Parliament held at Westminster, on the 4th day of February, in the 27th year of King Henry VIII., &c., to the 14th day of April then next following: namely from the said 4th day of February, in the said 27th year, to the feast of S. Michael the Archangel then next following, in the 28th year of the aforesaid King; that is to say, for half of one year, six weeks and six days, as below appeareth:—

## Priory of Mynchynbarowe.

Mynchynbarowe Manor with Rectory.

The Account of — Drewe, farmer there.

Arrears.—None, as it is his first Account.

Farm of Site of Manor, with Rectory.

Rent of xxviij acres of arable Land at vj$^{d}$ the acre, xxvj acres of meadow at divers rates, and rent of xlviij acres of pasture at xij$^{d}$ the acre, thus valued and leased by the Commissioners of our Lord the King, payable at the feasts of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. and S. Michael the Archangel, equally, as appeareth by the valor then taken by the same Commissioners examined with this account .. .. .. cj$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$

Farm of tithes of corn, wool, lambs, and other profits arising or increasing from the Rectory there, thus valued and leased by the aforesaid Commissioners, thus payable at the aforesaid feasts in equal portions, as appeareth, &c. .. viij$^{li}$ xiij$^{s}$ xj$^{d}$ ob.

Sum total of Receipts aforesaid :— xiij$^{li}$ xvj$^{s}$ iij$^{d}$ ob.

Of which he is disburdened as follows :— Of a moiety of the farm of the site and Rectory aforesaid, for half a year ended at the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M., within the period of this Account; because Katerine Bowle, the late Prioress there, had and held the site of the aforesaid Manor, together with the Rectory and all their commodities and advantages in her own proper

hands for the use and commodity of her House there for the same time : so that no profit thence arrives to the hands of the said Accountant, as is sufficiently evident to the Commissioners aforesaid .. vj$^{li}$ xvj$^{s}$ j$^{d}$ ob q'.

Paid to Thomas Arundell, Knt., Receiver of our Lord the King, of the issues of the farm of the site of the Manor aforesaid, with appurtenances, without bill, but by his own recognizance .. .. .. l$^{s}$ vj$^{d}$

And he owes :—iiij$^{li}$ ix$^{s}$ vij$^{d}$ ob. q'.

Mynchynbarowe The Account of John Dawbeney, Collector. collector of Rents there.

Arrears.—None, as it is his first Account.

Rents of Assize. Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Crewe, per annum, payable at the festivals of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. and S. Michael the Archangel, equally, as appeareth by the renewed rental exhibited and examined with this Account xxxiij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Margaret Crosse, per annum, payable as above .. .. .. .. xx$^{s}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Richard Stepheynes, per annum, payable as above .. .. .. .. xiiij$^{s}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Thomas Aleyn, per annum, payable as above .. .. .. .. v$^{s}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Walle, per annum, payable as above .. .. .. .. vij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Hithcok, per annum, payable as above .. .. .. .. iij$^{s}$ viij$^{d}$

Rent of one tenement in the tenure of John Stepheyns, per annum, payable as above .. .. .. xviij$^{s}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Isabella Broke, per annum, payable as above .. .. .. .. xiij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of — Leue*r*age, per annum, payable as above iiij$^{s}$

Free Rent of John Broune, for his land, per annum, payable as above .. iiij$^{s}$

Free Rent of John Gawdys, per annum, payable as above .. .. vj$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$

Rent of one close, in the tenure of Thomas Hoorte, per annum, payable as above xx$^{s}$

Rent of William Phipp*es*, per annum, for certain land in his tenure there iiij$^{s}$

Rent of one grove, in the tenure of Robert Hoorte, per annum, payable as above vi$^{d}$

Sum :—vij$^{li}$ xiij$^{s}$ vj$^{d}$

RENTS OF ASSIZE IN BRYSTOW.

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Wilk*es*, alias Chapman, payable as above .. .. .. .. xxvj$^{s}$ viij$^{d}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Peter Panton, payable as above x$^{s}$

Rent of a certain house called Storehouse, per annum, in the tenure of John Haule, payable as above .. .. x$^{s}$

Rent of two tenements, in the tenure of Thomas Stapilton, per annum, payable as above .. .. .. .. xxxj$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$

Rent of one garden there, in the tenure of John Broune, payable as above iij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$

Rent of one house there, called Corner-house, at Sainte Mary Hill, payable as above .. .. .. .. vj$^{s}$ viij$^{d}$

Rent of one close there, in the tenure of Arthur Kemys, called Tryne Mille*s*, payable as above .. .. .. .. ij$^{s}$

Rent of one tenement there, called Sainte Jamys Bake, in the tenure of Roger Peny, payable as above .. .. ij$^{s}$

Sum :—iiij$^{li}$ xij$^{s}$.

RENTS OF ASSIZE IN WELLYS.

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Joan Stoky, widow, payable as above viij$^{s}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Joan Alowne, per annum, payable as above vj$^{s}$

Rent of one garden there, in the tenure of John Sadler, payable as above .. ij$^{s}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Brymston, payable as above viij$^{s}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of John Mawdlyn, payable as above iij$^{s}$ iij$^{d}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Henry Pecok, payable as above vj$^{s}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Richard Smyth, payable as above v$^{s}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Robert Kyngesborowe, payable as above .. .. .. .. xxvj$^{s}$ viij$^{d}$

Rent of one house, called Chamhouse, in the tenure of William Rede, payable as above .. .. .. .. iiij$^{s}$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of Elizabeth Tresorer, payable as above $x^s$ $viij^d$

Rent of one tenement in the tenure of William Shurlok, payable as above $viij^s$

Rent of one tenement, in the tenure of William Shurlok, payable as above $x^s$

Sum :—$iiij^{li}$ $xvij^s$ $viij^d$.

SUM TOTAL OF RECEIPTS :—$xvij^{li}$ $iij^s$ $ij^d$

Out of which,

RESOLUTION OF RENT. A Rent resolute to the Mayor of Brystoll, out of land in Bristoll, per annum, as paid in the year preceding .. $vj^s$ $viij^d$

A similar Rent resolute to the Church of Brystoll, out of the land aforesaid, per annum, by ancient custom, cancelled because not demanded this year .. .. $viij^d$

A similar Rent resolute to the Bishop of Bath, per annum, out of land in Welles, cancelled for reason aforesaid .. $iij^s$ $iiij^d$

Sum :—$vj^s$ $viij^d$.

FEES OR STIPENDS. Fee or Stipend of the Accountant holding the office of Collector there for the time aforesaid, for the exercise of his office aforesaid during the same time, namely, in allowance of the same both for the exercise of his office aforesaid, as for his keep and expences in coming to render his Account, and for the renewing of the Rental there, &c. $xx^s$

Stipend of the Clerk of the Auditor, the writer of this Account, as usually allowed to the Auditors of our Lord the King, according to the force, form, and effect of a certain

Statute or Act of Parliament, holden at Westminster, &c., the 4th day of February, in the 27th year of Henry VIII., for the Establishment of the Court of Augmentations, &c. .. .. .. ij$^{s}$

Sum :—xxij$^{s}$.

Sum of the Allowances aforesaid :—xxviij$^{s}$ viij$^{d}$.

And he owes :—xv$^{li}$ xviij$^{s}$ vj$^{d}$.

Of which he is disburdened, as follows :—Moneys received by Katerine Bowell, late Prioress there, of the issues of the aforesaid office, received for the use and necessity of her House, for the first half of this year, and expended in the same House before the first arrival of the Commissioners of our Lord the King thither, which was on the 26th day of May, in the said 28th year; as to the same Commissioners not only by oath of the said Prioress, but also by due examination then and there made, was sufficiently evident. And he is charged in the account of the said Prioress .. .. .. x$^{li}$ x$^{d}$ ob.

Like moneys received by the same, out of the issues of the same office, to the necessary sustenance of her House aforesaid, from the said 26th day of May, to the Dissolution of the said Priory, which was on the 19th day of September, in the same 28th year; that is to say, for the space of twenty weeks, from her own recognizance in the book of her receipts

for the same time, with this account examined . . . . . xxxj$^{s}$ vj$^{d}$*

AND HE OWES :—iiij$^{li}$ ij$^{s}$ j$^{d}$ ob.

WHICH he has paid to Thomas Arundell, Knt., &c., without bill, &c.

AND IT IS BALANCED.

TWYUERTON. THE ACCOUNT.

PORTION OF TITHES.

Of a certain profit or sum of money arising from a portion of the tithes of the Rectory of Twyuerton, to the amount of xl$^{s}$ per annum, according to what it was ordinarily leased for in preceding years, no receipts. Because the said portion with all its profits is now leased to one John Babor, of Chewe Stoke, in the County of Somerset, for a term of sixty years, paying for the ten first years one penny in each year, at the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M., if duly demanded, and, after the end of the said ten years, then paying yearly xx$^{s}$ at the feast of S. Michael the Archangel, and the Annunciation of the B.V.M., in equal portions ; as appeareth by an Indenture under the conventual seal there, dated the 16th day of March, in the 25th year of Henry VIII. The present year is the third of his term. Therefore the place of the Council of the Court of Augmentations aforesaid—ideo locū Concil' Curi' Augment' p'dict' quid inde qz suppo'it$^{r}$ esse Collus.'—because some collusion is supposed to be ——— (?)

A process to issue against the aforesaid Farmer.

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

Sum :—not any.*

It would seem, from the imperfect and obscure minute with which the return concludes, that Mr John Babor either suspected others, or, more likely, was himself suspected, of an attempt to mislead the Court, or to tamper with some of its officials. If the latter, we may be tolerably sure, from the "fiat p'cessus v's p'dict' fir' " as a defaulter appearing against him in the margin, that his endeavours were ineffectual. But, from our previous knowledge of the transaction, as well as from the fact that the lease was allowed by the Court of Augmentations in 1542, we have no need to suspect him of any such attempt. For the other side, indeed, the same can by no means be said. With them the imputing of evil was strictly natural. Robbers have vigilant eyes, and are ever suspicious of their neighbours' fingers.

Returns of a somewhat similar kind, but lacking the minuteness which gives interest and value to this, were made at intervals until the property was finally disposed of.† It is to the particulars of this transfer that I have now to solicit my reader's attention.

On the 20th of March, 1537, the 28th of Henry VIII., the scite of the late Priory, with all its houses, buildings, granaries, stables, dove-houses, pleasure grounds, orchards, gardens, and lands, lying within the scite and precinct of the same, together with twenty-eight acres of arable land more or less, twenty-six acres of meadow more or less, and twenty-eight acres of pasture more or less, belonging and appertaining to the late Priory, were leased in fee farm to John Drewe, of the city of Bristol, Esq. All timber trees, and under woods, and all such buildings within the scite

* Appendix, No. XVIII.

† Ministers' Accounts, to 37 Hen. VIII. Off. Augment.

and precinct of the said late monastery, as should afterwards be ordered by the King to be overthrown and removed, were excepted and reserved. The lease was to run from the Michaelmas last past, ten days subsequent to the Dissolution, unto the full term of twenty-one years next ensuing, and the annual rent was to be a hundred and one shillings and eight pence of lawful English money, to be paid in equal portions at the feast of the Annunciation of the B.V.M. and Michaelmas, or within one month after either feast. The payment of all rents, fees, and sums of money whatsoever, issuing from the property, together with the repairs of the premises both in timber and tiles and slates for the roofs, were to be always at the cost of the King and his successors during the aforesaid term, but the other repairs at the cost of the farmer. The latter was also to have sufficient hedgbote, ffyrebote, cartbote, and ploughbote, that is, the use of wood sufficient for these purposes, growing on the estate, and to be used thereon and not elsewhere.*

On the same day was leased to the said John Drewe the Rectory of the Parish Church of Mynchyngbarowe, together with all tithes, oblations, profits, obventions, and emoluments whatsoever, to the aforesaid Rectory appertaining or belonging. The timber and advowson of the vicarage, &c., were reserved. The term was for twenty-one years, from the same date as that of the lease of the scite, and the annual rent was eight pounds, fourteen shillings, and eleven pence, of lawful English money, to be paid as aforesaid. The lessee was to have the same perquisites as those enumerated in the former instrument, but was charged with the pay-

* Enrollments of Crown Leases, Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 209. f. 49 b. Miscell. Books, vol. 205. f. 25.

ment of the annual stipend of a Chaplain, performing Divine Offices, and serving the Cure in the Parish Church of Mynchynbarowe, which amounted to vj$^{li}$.* It will be observed from the references that I have found a transcript of each of these leases still preserved among the Records of the Court of Augmentations.

In a copy of the Particulars for lease, given in the Appendix, the auditor, William Turnor, omits the amount of this payment, and merely adds the "Memorandum that the same p*ar*sonage is to be charged w$^{t}$ the Stipend of a p*re*ste there oute of the same som*m*e of viij$^{li}$ vij$^{s}$ xj$^{d}$ yerely."†

Long before the end of the term, as it would appear that the lessee was either unwilling or unable to purchase, the property passed by sale into other hands. In the 35th year of Henry VIII., it was requested for purchase by William Clerc, gentleman; and, as the documents furnish us with an excellent specimen of the mode usually resorted to on these occasions, it will be well to exhibit the particulars of the transaction in some detail. The memorandum, which was the first step in the negociation, sets forth "that I William Clerc desire to haue of the King*es* maiestie by weye of grant and purchace the Scite and Demeanes of the late priorie of Mynchinbarowe in the countie of Somers*et* and other the premisses being of the clere yerely value of fiftein poundes eightein shilling*es* and a pennye, that is to say, the tenth therof not deducted . . . . . to the Rate mencioned in the p*ar*ticulars hereunto annexed. In witnes wherof I the saide William Clerc haue hereunto sett my hande and Seale the daye and yere

* Enrollments of Crown Leases, Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 212. f. 125 b.

† Miscell. Books, Off. Augment. vol. 205, f. 24. Appendix, No. XIX.

of the saide Rate. P' me Will'um Clerc." Next follow the particulars of a "Parcel of the Possessions of the late Priory of Mynchynbarowe," consisting of the farm of the House or Scite of the late Priory, together with all the houses, buildings, &c., as aforesaid, leased as aforesaid, and with the aforesaid exceptions, reservations, and conditions. The value of this is stated at cij$^{s}$ ij$^{d}$. To this is annexed the farm of the Rectory of the said late Priory, together with all tithes, &c., as enumerated in the lease already given, excepting the Chaplain's annual stipend of vj$^{li}$. The value of the Rectory was viij$^{li}$ xiij$^{s}$ xj$^{d}$; and, together with that of the scite, xiij$^{li}$ xvij$^{s}$ j$^{d}$. Deducting the Chaplain's stipend of vj$^{li}$, the clear value, beyond reprises, was vij$^{li}$ xvij$^{s}$ j$^{d}$. There was yet a further addition in that of the Manor; whereof the Rents of Assize of the Customary Tenants,—as we have already seen minutely detailed, with the name and amount of each tenant, in the Ministers' Accounts, from which return it is quite clear that the details were mainly derived,—amounted to vij$^{li}$ iij$^{s}$ ij$^{d}$; the rents of the Free Tenants, similarly given, to x$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$; and the Perquisites of the Manor Court and other casualties in common years to vij$^{s}$ vj$^{d}$. The sum total of this was viij$^{li}$ xij$^{d}$; and the clear annual value of the whole property solicited for purchase was xv$^{li}$ xviij$^{s}$ j$^{d}$.

To this statement the Auditor, whose duty it was to examine, or indeed prepare, the particulars for the party desirous of negociating, appended the following characteristic notices :—"What ffynes where gyvyn or wilbe gyvyn at thexpyracyon of the yerres ffor anye of the premyssys J knowe not. Also it is percell of no mano$^{r}$ fferme gr$^{a}$unge or other hereditament of the Kinges graces excedynge the yerely value of xl$^{li}$. Parke fforest Chace or other Capitall Mancyon place wherunto the Kinges grace

nathe accesse at any tyme is none adioynynge to my knowelege. Ffurdermore J haue Delyuered the particlers of the Scite and Rectory aforsaid to John Drewe esquyer who is ffermor therof. What woodes growith vpon the premyssys the Surveyour therof can certifie. P' Mathiam Coltehirste Audit." Next comes, though much obliterated, the results of the examination of the foregoing by the Crown Officer, beginning with a repetition of the values of the demeane lands and manor, as already given; and, after deducting the tithe, amounting to xxxj$^{s}$ x$^{d}$, and setting forth the clear remainder of xiiij$^{li}$ vj$^{s}$ iij$^{d}$, continues thus :—" Wych is solde to the said William for the summe of clx$^{li}$ to be paide . . . . . the Kinges Ma$^{te}$ to discharge the byer of all incumbraunces excepte . . . . . and except the tenth before reser'ved and except the Stipende of the preste of Mynchinbarowe . Rychard Ryche."

Not the least interesting is the certificate of the woods, with which the return concludes. Mynchynbarowe Grove is said to contain six acres, whereof two acres are of one year's growth, valued at xvj$^{d}$ ; one acre of two years' growth, valued at xvj$^{d}$ ; one acre of three years' growth, valued at iij$^{s}$; one of four years' growth, valued at ij$^{s}$ viij$^{d}$; and one of six years' growth, valued at iiij$^{s}$; amounting in all to xij$^{s}$ iiij$^{d}$. The spring of the wood or ground of six acres, yearly rated at viij$^{d}$ per acre, or in all iiij$^{s}$, amounts after twenty years' purchase to iiij$^{li}$. To all which detail the Surveyor annexed the following notice :—" There be growyng in the seyd grove and about the scytuacons of the seyd late Priory and vij tenementes y$^{r}$ and in the landes perteynyng to the sam be growyng CCC shorte shrubyd okes and ashes of xl or lx yeres growt most part vsually cropped and shru[b]de not valuyd but reseruyd to the ffermor of the seyd scyte and demeanes for hys housbote

hedgebote fyerbote ploughbote and Cartebote w^ch^ he hayth by couen^a^nt as appeareth by an indento^r^ sealed w^t^ the great seall of the courte of Augmentacons beryng date the xx daye of M*ar*sche in the xxviij yere of the reign of o^r^ so*ue*raign lorde Kyng henry viij^th^ and for tymber for to repayr the seyd vij ten*ementes* w^ch^ the ten^a^nt*tes* there haue hade by theyr custom of olde tyme vsed and to repayr and maynteyn the hedg*es* and fence*s* aboute the seyd landes. P' me Will'm Cowp*er*."* Such was the minuteness with which the transfer was effected, and such the care that the royal dealer might lose no part of his ill-gotten gains.

But little time was suffered to elapse before the bargain was concluded. The lessee, John Drewe, was probably unwilling to risk his money in the dangerous transaction whereby the irrevocable step was passed, and the lands were for the future consigned to strangers. The offer, accordingly, of William Clerc was accepted, and in the first month of the following regnal year the letters patent conveying the grant were issued. They commence by reciting the lease to John Drewe of the Scite, &c., of the late Priory, and then set forth that in consideration of the sum of one hundred and sixty pounds of lawful English money the King had granted to the aforesaid William Clerc, gentleman, the reversion and reversions of the House, Scite and other possessions aforesaid of the late Priory of Mynchinbarowe, &c., &c., with the houses, buildings, &c., &c., already enumerated; also, the aforesaid annual rent of one hundred and one shillings and eight pence; also, all the lands called the Demeane Landes, containing by estimation eighty-two acres, situate in Mynchynbarowe; also, the

* Particulars for Grants, 35 Hen. VIII., Clerc William.

wood called Mynchynbarowe Grove, containing by estimation six acres, parcel of the possessions of the said late Priory; also the Manor, Rectory and Church, with all and singular their rights, members, and appurtenances; also the advowson, donation, free disposition, and right of patronage of the vicarage and church of Mynchynbarowe, to the said late Priory belonging; and all and singular the messuages, granges, mills, tofts, cottages, lands, tenements, waters, fisheries, &c., &c., with the court-leets, views of frank-pledge, knights' fees, farms, annuities, pensions, portions, tithes, profits, &c., appertaining to the same—as fully, and entirely, and amply to be held and enjoyed as they had been by the last Prioress or any of her predecessors. The House, Site, Manor, Rectory, lands, &c., were valued at the clear annual sum of fifteen pounds, eighteen shillings, and one penny. The tenure was to be in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one Knight's fee, and an annual fee-farm rent to the King and his successors of thirty-one shillings and ten pence sterling, to be paid yearly at Michaelmas to the Court of Augmentations in lieu of all services and demands whatsoever. All the issues, rents, revenues, profits, &c., were to commence from Michaelmas last past. Further, the said William Clerc, his heirs and assigns, were exonerated and acquitted of all corrodies, rents, fees, annuities, pensions, and sums of money whatsoever, save and except the rent and service already reserved to the King and his heirs, the annual pay and stipend of the Chaplain performing Sacred Offices and serving the Cure in the parish Church of Mynchynbarowe, and all the other burdens which a farmer is bound to pay or in any way discharge. They were further to have, hold, enjoy, and convert to their own proper uses the said Rectory and Church of Mynchynbarowe, and all the land,

glebe, tithe, offerings, and other profits thereunto belonging, as fully and entirely as the last possessors. And finally, the letters patent were to be issued to the said grantee under the great seal of England, without fine or fee great or small. They were dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 22nd of May, 1544.*

In March, 1545, John Aylworth submitted a Request to purchase that portion of the property of the late Priory which was situated in the city of Wells. The Request slightly differs in form from that which has just been before us. It runs :—"M^d^ that I John Aylworth doe requyre to p^r^chase of the Kinges Ma^te^ by vertue of his graces co'myssion of sale the premysses, conteynyd in the perticulers herunto annexid, being of soche yerelye value as is comprysed in the same. Jn Wytnes wherof to these presents subscribyde w^t^ my hand J haue put to my Seale the iiij^th^ of Marche, in the xxxvj^th^ yere of the raigne of o^r^ Soueraign Lord Henrye the VIII^th^ by the grace of God of Inglond, ffraunce, and Ireland King, Defendo^r^ of the ffayth, and in erthe Sup^r^me hedd of the Churche of Ingland, and also of Ireland. By me John Aylworth." After this flourish, which clearly betrays the hand of the public servant, for John Aylworth was Receiver of rents of various kinds to the Court of Augmentations, the requested possessions are enumerated. They consisted of all the tenements, cottages, burgages, &c., situated both within the city of Wells itself and in the suburbs of the same, which, with the names of the tenants, &c., have already been fully described in the Ministers' Accounts. There was a deduction in favour of Robert Reve, the collector of rents, of his fee of xl^s^ a

* Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 27. mm. 27 (24)—25 (26). Orig. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 9. r. xxxj. Appendix, No. XX.

year, for the exercise of his office aforesaid. Together with the property belonging to Mynchinbarowe, John Aylworth requested to purchase that situated in Wells which belonged to the Hospital of S. John in that city, and the parsonage of Locking belonging to the late Priory of Worspring. Of that with which we are more immediately concerned the auditor states that "All the said *par*celles lyeth w^th^in the Towne or Cytie of Welles forsaid. Also the Kinges grace hath no more landes or Ten*ement*es there appertey*n*yng to any late Howse of Relygion w^th^in my Circute. Ex^r^ p' Mathiam Coltehirste Audit." The remarks of the Crown Officers follow, dated the 24th of February, in the 36th year of Henry VIII., and consist of a detail of the data by which they were enabled to arrive at their valuation. The reader will have no difficulty in following them in their calculations :—

Free Rents of tenements, belonging to the Priory of S. John, per annum, the tenure in socage .. .. xvij^s^ viij^d^

Parsonage of Locking, tenure by military service .. .. .. l^s^

Sum :—lxvij^s^ viij^d^

Deducting tithe v^s^

Remaining clear lxij^s^ viij^d^

which, rated at twenty years' purchase, is lxij^li^ xiij^s^ iiij^d^

Tenements in Wells, belonging to the said Hospital, by the year .. .. xxxix^li^ vj^s^

Tenements belonging to Minchingbarowe, by the year .. .. .. iiij^li^ xvij^s^ viij^d^

Sum :—xliiij^li^ iij^s^ viij^d^

"Wherof abated for the balyes fee .. xl^s^

and so rem*ains* .. xlvij^li^ iij^s^ viij^d^ in socage

Which, rated at vij yeres p^r^chace, ys cciiij^xx^xv^li^ v^s^ viij^d^

And so the hole Som'e for the p*er*chace of all the p*re*misse*s* ys :—cccl vij$^{li}$ xix$^{s}$

Whereof in hand :—cc$^{li}$

And at Mydsome*r* next :—clvij$^{li}$ xix$^{s}$

William Seint John.

Irro$^{r}$ p' Joh'em Hanbye. Edward North

Ric. Sowthwell."*

The letters patent were issued, witness the King, at Westminster, the 25th or 26th of March, 1545, and set forth that for the sum of £357 19s. 0d. of lawful English money, as aforesaid, the King granted to John Aylworth and Ralph Dukkenfeld all the messuages, tofts, cottages, burgages, lands, tenements, cartilages, buildings, granaries, stables, orchards, gardens, shops, cellars, solars, and waste places, now or lately in the tenure of the persons already mentioned, and all other tenements, situated in the city and suburbs of Wells, and lately belonging to the Priory of Mynchynbarowe, now dissolved. To this were added the aforesaid property belonging to the Hospital of S. John, and the parsonage of Locking. We can understand by the details above given how the next statement was arrived at, namely that the property of the Hospital was valued at the clear yearly sum of £40 3s. 8d.; of Mynchinbarow at £4 17s. 8d.; and of Locking at 50s. The lands in Wells were to be held in free burgage, by fealty only and not in chief; and the parsonage of Locking in chief, by the service of a fortieth part of one Knight's fee, and a yearly rent of five shillings of lawful money of England, to be paid at Michaelmas. The grant was to take effect from Michaelmas last past, and was dated on the day and year above-mentioned.†

* Part. for Grants, 36 Hen. VIII. Aylworth John.

† Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 11. m. 46. Orig. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 4. r. iiij$^{xx}$vj.

A request was made by Henry Brayne, or, as he subscribes himself, "Harry Brayn," dated the 8th of July, in the 37th year of Henry VIII., 1545, to purchase so much of the property of the Priory as was situated in Bristol. To the enumeration of the tenements, tenants, and sums already given in the Ministers' Accounts, is annexed the following notice by Ralph Lambe, the Auditor's deputy:—"All the said Tenements lyeth within the Cytie of Bristoll forsaid & in the subarbs of the same where the Kinges highnes hath no more landes or Tenements other than ys abouesaid apperteynyng to any late howse of Relygion w^tin my masters Circute. The Kinges grace ys also chargid with the Reperacions of the moste of the said Tenements Also theis be the firste perticlers that I haue made [to] any person of the same. Ex^r p' Rad'um Lambe deput' Mathie Coltehirste Audit." The Crown Officers reiterate the previously given value of iiij^li xij^s, and add:—"The teanure of all the premisses in Socage. Memor^d the Kyng must discharge the premisses of all incombraunces excepte leases & the x^ths being reserued & excepte suche charges as the ffermors ar bounde to discharge by force of there Indentures & also excepte such Rep^rs as been conteined within the perticlers hereunto annexid.

John Bakere Edward North Ric. Southwell.
Irro^r p' Joh'em Hanbye.*

The letters patent were hereupon granted, conveying to Henry Brayne, citizen and merchant tailor of London, and John Marsshe, for the sum of £739 15s. 2½d., divers possessions in Bristol, formerly belonging to the monasteries of Tewkesburye—"the Signe of the three Cuppes in Wyne strete"—Cirencester, Laycock, Braddenstok, the scite and

* Part. for Grants, Brayne Henry, sect. 2. mm. 5, 8, 9.

church of the Priory of S. Mary Magdalene in Bristol, S. James's Monastery in Bristol, Bathe, Keynsham, Henton, Witham, Clyve, Mynchynbarowe, and Canyngton; together with a tenement called "The Rose at Holborne Brige," in London, belonging to the monastery of S. Mary of Graces, and to that of Shene, &c. The property belonging to Mynchynbarowe is described, as we have already noticed, to be in the tenure of John Wylkes alias Chapman, Peter Panton, John Halle, Thomas Stapleton, and John Browne, the tenement called the Corner-house at Saynt Marye hille, one close called Tryne Mylles, now or lately in the occupation of Arthur Kemys, and a tenement called Seynt James Backe, with their appurtenances, together with all other tenements in Bristol or its suburbs, formerly belonging to the said late Priory. These tenements were of the clear annual value of £4 12s. 0d., and were to be held of the King, and his heirs and successors, in socage, by fealty only for all services whatsoever, and the grant was to take effect from the Michaelmas last past. The letters were dated, witness the King, at Westminster, the 25th of September, 1545.*

The farm of a portion of the tithes of the Rectory of Twyverton, parcell of the possessions of the late Priory, leased to John Barbor, of Chewestoke, for a term of sixty years, and of which and the conditions annexed to it the reader has already had a minute description in the Decree of the Court of Augmentations, where they are recited, and in the Ministers' Accounts, from which the particulars are quoted, was requested for purchase by Sir Thomas Hennage. The Request bears the signature, declaratory of its accuracy, of the official auditor—"exr p' Mathiam Colte-

* Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 5. mm. 38 (10)—34 (14). Orig. 37 Hen. VIII. p. 1. r. lxvij.

hirste Audit."* We have seen, however, that the bond of the Prioress and Convent in respect of this property was allowed to John Babor by the Court of Augmentations, on the 27th of November, 1542.

John Wyllyams requested to purchase a tenement with a water-mill at Mynchynbarowe, with all and singular its appurtenances, then or lately in the tenure of Margaret Crosse, widow, parcell of the possessions of the late Priory, and valued, as we have already noticed in the Ministers' Accounts, at a rent of xx$^{s}$ a year. The particulars, however, although bearing the signature of Matthew Coltehirste, are cancelled, and the "fiat dimissio" is made to John Peyton, or, as on the dorse, Robert Payton, for a term of twenty-one years, on payment of a fine of £5 to Sir Thomas Arrundell. Appended is the order of the Court Officer for this alteration—"p' fn$^{e}$ v$^{li}$ Rychard Ryche."† I have found another order for a lease of the same property to John Peyton, for a similar term, bearing the signature of "Rychard Ryche," with the particulars attested "p' Mathiam Coltehirste Audit."‡ I have also found the lease to John Peyton still existing among the Records of the Court of Augmentations. It bears date at Westminster, the 29th of July, 34 Hen. VIII., 1542, and sets forth that the premises are leased to John Peyton for the term above stated, commencing from the Michaelmas next ensuing, at a yearly rent of twenty shillings of lawful English money, payable at the feasts of the Annunciation and Michaelmas, or within one month after either. If the rent were in arrear in part or in all for one month and duly demanded, the lease was to be void and held for naught.

* Part. for Grants, Hennage Sir Thomas, sect. 2. membr. 43.
† Particulars for Grants, Hen. VIII. Williams, D. 14.
‡ Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 194, f. 63.

The timber-trees and underwood growing on the property were reserved. The King was to keep the buildings in repair during the term, in timber only, from time to time; the said John Peyton to do all other necessary repairs. The lessee was to be exonerated of all annuities, and payments whatsoever issuing from the tenements, &c., and to have hedgebote, fyerbote, ploughebote, and cartebote, sufficient for his use.*

This completes the history of the Conventual property down to the time when it had passed by force into the hands of strangers.

I have but a word, for it is beyond my province, about the vicissitudes of the place from that time to our own. It descended successively through the families of Clerc, James, Dodington, and Gore, until in the present century it reached that of Blagrave, a member of which is now its possessor. The most conspicuous features of the spot I sketched at the commencement of the History. The Conventual buildings have been compelled to give place to the existing edifice which was erected soon after the Suppression. It is a plain and uninteresting structure, of three stories in height, and is popularly asserted to be in the form of the letter M, from having been erected in the reign of Queen Mary. The windows are large and rectangular, with stone mullions. Portions of the edifice, as the main entrance, are of the age of James the First, but the rest appears to be of the latter part of the foregoing century. A few fragments of stained glass in some of the windows, especially one with the figure of a male head surrounded by a cruciform nimbus, may have come from its predecessor, or still more probably from the Church, but

* Miscell. Books, Off. Augment. vol. 215, f. 35 b.

no part of the original fabric itself appears to be preserved. Beyond the house is a building now occupied by a farmer, of two stories, with a few pointed doorways. Further to the south is a picturesque edifice, used as a stable, with a doorway bearing shields without devices in the spandrels. Neither of these, however, seems to be older than what is ordinarily called Henry VIII's Gothic, and consequently may have been erected by the first grantee.

The only building that can be assigned with tolerable certainty to an age prior to the Dissolution is a fine old barn, with a high pitched roof and transept for doors, similar in kind, but not equal in excellence to many of those noble examples of Monastic Barns with which the Somersetshire Archæologist is happily familiar.

The Church stands on the north side of the enclosed lawn in front of the Court, and within a few yards of the mansion. Of this structure the tower alone is of ancient work, the other parts of the edifice having been rebuilt in the vile taste of the execrable Georgian era about forty years ago. I am indebted to the courtesy of the present Incumbent, the Rev. J. W. Hardman, L.L.D., for the information that it originally consisted of a nave, chancel, and south aisle (probably the Nuns' Church), with a tower at the west-end. At the rebuilding the chancel disappeared, and the Church now consists of two parallelograms of nearly equal breadth, connected by an arcade of three arches of Perpendicular character, which Dr. Hardman does not believe to be original. The tower, which he considers of the Early English period, has a Perpendicular window inserted over the west door, with the hood moulding finished in the form peculiar, or almost so, to this district. It was divided by a lath and plaster screen into a kind of porch. This Dr. Hardman has judiciously removed, and has thereby thrown open a fine

arch which before was completely closed and hidden. A noble slab, with an elegant incised cross of fourteenth century work, was removed at the same time into the Church from the church-yard, where another, of the same age but less ornamental character and much decayed, together with the base of the ancient cross, is still to be seen. There are three bells in the tower, but not of early date; one bears that of 1607. The Church contains some interesting monuments, but all of post-dissolution times.

In reviewing the History of Mynchin Barrow, I would direct attention to the fact that we have here not only a picture of the numerous excellencies of the Monastic System, but also a specimen of those several blemishes which really constituted the defects of the female Communities of mediæval times. Even this latter peculiarity, however, is valuable, as it furnishes us with a knowledge of the actual state of such establishments, in contradistinction to those erroneous and distorted fancies in which the moderns have been pleased to indulge. For several centuries it has been sedulously endeavoured to be inculcated that the monasteries of mediæval England were so many focuses of impurity and iniquity, where lust and intemperance ruled supreme, and where the holy vows which preceded the abandoned life only made the contrast between each more fearful and repulsive. An examination of the annals which have been laid before the reader will tend to disabuse him of any such notion. The evils of the institution were such as perhaps may be inalienable from the institution itself. They were those which result from the inexperience of women in matters of secular business, and from the mark which the weakness of their sex naturally presents to the unscrupulous and aggressive. And their very worst features were ordinarily associated with that petty tyranny

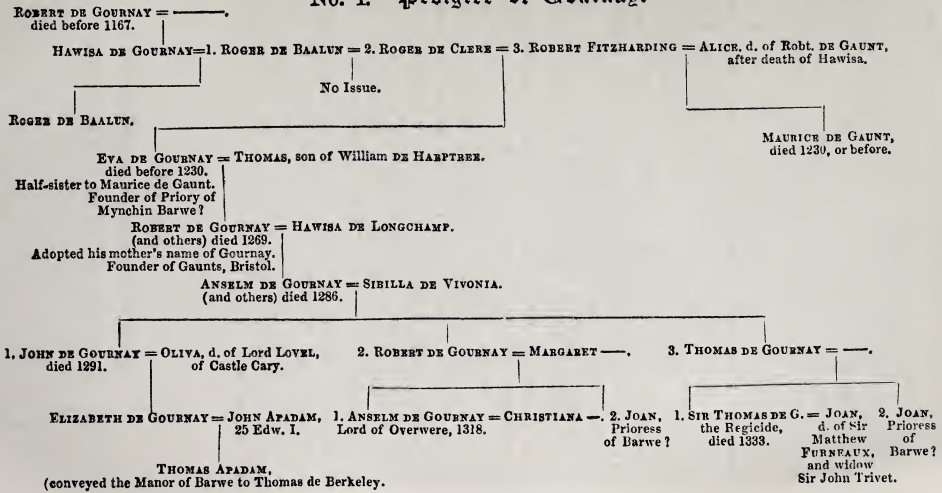
and love of dominion which some individuals, when placed in a position to exercise such powers, are unable entirely to forego. When, however, we have admitted so much as this, which is common to all times, places, and institutions, we have admitted all. The atrocities which the moderns are fond of charging on these Societies were of the most unfrequent occurrence. That they happened occasionally is possible, but that they were the ordinary character and condition of the system is altogether opposed to fact. There cannot be any reasonable doubt of the truth of this assertion. For, be it remembered, no attempt was made to conceal such delinquencies, whenever they were perceived to exist by the vigilant eyes around. The Episcopal Registers contain minute information of the circumstances of the diocese of every imaginable kind, and any idea of suppression of the truth was never in the remotest degree entertained. Accordingly, such researches as the present furnish us with both positive and negative argument, positive of the presence and negative of the absence whether of good or of evil. Hence, if no mention be made of irregularities, we may fairly conclude that they were not in existence. The only way of arriving at correct conclusions, and, indeed, the only honest mode of conducting the investigations which may lead to them, is that of patient and careful study of the original records, wherein alone is exhibited an undistorted reflex of the actual original. This is our duty, in agreement with every dictate of that honour and impartial love of truth which a research of such a nature demands. Modern notions are nothing to us. The memorials of contemporary ages can alone fill up for us the picture, and present us with the veritable lines of a living likeness. And the character which it portrays is at length, I am happy to think, receiving more

and more of the homage which is its due—the character of those "who forgave men their faults, and tried to expiate them in their place,—gentle, feeble beings who had the wretchedness of those who are punished, and the smile of those who are rewarded." Men whose daily duties lie, like those of the writer of these pages, in the central depths of an enormous metropolis, can best tell the value of such an influence in directing the shameless to higher and better courses, in setting forth an example whereof the need is frightfully urgent, in showing that saintliness has charms with which no impure fascination may bear comparison, and in thus leavening the mass and staying the plague which is on every side. It is with a solemn sense of responsibility that I offer such a judgment, and feel as deeply that in these pleasant labours, illustrative of the working of the Divine Hand in the visible government of Holy Church, I am not only contributing to one of the fairest fields of secular literature, but, what is even and far better, am aiding the extension of sacred knowledge, the right interpretation of holy endeavour, and the reverent appreciation of the providence of God.

THOMAS HUGO.

# APPENDIX.

## No. I.—Pedigree of Gournay.



## No. II.

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

Monic'o f'ca l'ratorie priorisse de Bargh & conuentui eiusdem dom'.

Joh'nes p'm &c. dilc'e filie d'ne . . . priorisse de Bargh n're dioc' salt'm gr'am & b'n. Mandam' vob' in v'tute obed'ie & s'b pen$^{a}$ exco'is & suspensionis ab officio q$^{a}$tn' infra sc'ptas iniunctiones n'ras obs'uetis & p' om'es moniales v'ras nulli parcendo faciat' inuiolabl'r obseruari. Vidz q'd custodi rer' v'rar' p' nos deputato seu deputando sitis intendentes & contente f'tis suis licitis & honestis. It'm q'd vos . . . . priorissa de negocis campestrib' & hi' sec'larib' q'cq$^{a}$m de cet'o no' intromittatis, ro'ne cui' s'uiciu' dei p'ponat$^{r}$ set p'ncipalit' cultui dei & regimini soror' v'rar' diligent' & sollicite vacetis. It'm q'd vos priorissa & cet'e moniales sim'l comedatis & dormiatis nisi impedite fu'itis ex infirmitate v'l alia iusta causa. It'm q'd vos p'orissa no' concedatis cuiq$^{a}$m monialiu' v'rar' licenciam eundi in villam aut ex$^{a}$ villam n' ex magna & legi'a causa, et q'd tunc bine incedant & in habitu moniali, et no' ad alia loca q$^{as}$ se extendit licencia seu diu'tant quoquo modo et vlt$^{a}$ temp' licencie sue se voluntarie no' absentent. Et q'd silenciu' obs'uet$^{r}$ p'ut regula ear' req'rit. It'm q'd vos priorissa erga moniales v'ras vos moleste no' g'atis u$^{t}$ aliqua monialis alt'i. sz in caritate & dilecc'one vnanimit' viuatis. It'm q'd vos priorissa curetis diligent' & assidue q'd seruiciu' diuinu' sc'd'm reg'lam v'ram p' om'es moniales v'ras deuote fiat & debitis horis. Et q'd reg'la v'ra int' vos frequent' distincte & ap'te legat$^{r}$, ita q'd ab om'ibz intelligat$^{r}$. Dat' apud chu. vj$^{to}$ Kal'n Julij. anno d'ni sup$^{a}$d'co. [1315.]

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## No. III.

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

Joh'nes p'm &c. dil'co in x'po Will'mo de Suttone salt'm &c. Quia piu' est & iuri consonu' p'sonis miserabilibz subuenire & eas in necessitatis tempore a suis miseriis releuare, considerata q' tua fidelitate & prudencia, tibi curam seu administraco'em dom' n're monialiu' de Barwe n're

dioc', quousq' hoc dux'im' reuocandu' p' presentes duxim' committend', rogantes q$^{a}$t'n' te s$^{t}$ in p'missis diligentem exhibeas, nos q' quociens op' fuerit sup' hiis que ad d'cam c'am p'tin'e dinoscunt$^{r}$ consulentes, vt ab eo qui o'im bonor' reru' dator existit & a nob' grar' acc'oes valeas p'm'eri. In cui' rei &c. Dat' die & loco p'x [apud Eu'c'z non. Julij anno d'ni suprad'co. 1315.].

## No. IV.

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

M$^{d}$ q'd apud Banewell xiij$^{o}$ Kaln' aug'ti anno d'ni m$^{o}$.ccc$^{o}$. xvij$^{o}$. Et cons' d'ni Joh'is dei grā Bathon' & Wellen' Ep'i octauo. In capella d'ci d'ni Ep'i infra cur' suam ibidē, d'ne Joh'na de Gornay, Agnes Sant de Marays, Milburga de Derneford, & Bacillid' de Sutton moniales de Barwe, p'fesse fuerunt p' d'ci d'ni Ep'i manuū imposicionē.

## No. IV*.—Page 57.

[MS. Harl. 6964, p. 59.]

16 Mar. 1320. Eccl. de Twyverton de patronatu Johanne Durdent Prioriss de Kyngton & Convent. Sarum dioc. appropriatur illis p' resign. Hugonis de Alresforde rectoris ejusd. Salva priorisse & monialibus de Barwe dioc. B.W. porcione decimarum quam infra parochiam d'ce eccl'ie de antiquo perceperunt. & salva vicaria p' nos statuenda perpetuo pro n're voluntatis arbitrio taxanda.

## No. V.

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

Joh'es p'missione d'ina &c. P'orisse & conuentui de Barwe n're dyoc' sal'. gr'am & b'n'. Miserie & paup'tati v're pat'na aff'cco'e co'pacientes, custodiam dom' v're ac poss'onū v'rar' q$^{a}$r'cu'q' viro p'uido & honesto d'no Will'o rectori ecc'e de Bacwell vicino v'ro l'ris n'ris duxim' co'm$^{t}$tendā. Iniūgentes ei'dm q'd d'cam dom' & poss'o'es v'ras sup'uideat. et p' vt'litate u'ra p'uide disponat de eisd'm. Cui vt u'ro custodi pareat' & intendat' ut est iustū. Dat' ap' Wyuelesc' vij$^{o}$ Id' ffebr.' a$^{o}$ d'ni sup$^{a}$d'co. [1325.]

## No. V.*—Page 62.

[MS. Harl. 6964, p. 101.]

Xj Kal. Mar. 1325. cu' d'ns ep'us mandaverat ut Agnes de s'ca cruce installaretur Priorissa de Barwe, Johanna de Gornay monialis d'ce prioratus opposuit installaco'i ejusd. intrudendo se in stallu'. propter quod citatur.

## No. VI.

[From B'p. Drokenesford's Register, f. cccb.]

Nos J. p'm' &c. Attenta d'ci p'orat' de Baruwe exilitate p'pt' qua' ip'i' p'orat' moniales no' consueueru't n$^{e}$ pot'unt elecco'em vacante p'oratu facere in scriptis ad instar alior' religiosor' n're dioc' possessiones amplas mobibes & immobiles optinenciu', p'pt' q'd elecco'em d'car' monialiu' de Barwe iux$^{a}$ consuetudine' ear' hacten' f'cam p' easdem, nobis q' p' l'ras suas patentes more solito p'sentata', admisim' & ad electe confirmaco'em ne d'cus p'oratus p' diutina' vacaco'em pateret$^{r}$ dispendiu' & iacturam p'cessim' in forma que sequit$^{r}$ In dei no'ie am' Quia nos elecco'em monialiu' de Baruwe de d'na Basilia de Sutton eiusde' n're dioc' p'fessa in p'orissa' eiusde' p'orat' d'ni Thome de Berkeleye patroni eiusde' loci hac vice int'ueniente consensu inuenim' iux$^{a}$ consuetudine' ip'i' p'orat' concordit' p' om'ia celebrata ip'am pontifical' confirmam', defectus si qui sint in forma elecc'onis p'd'ce eade' antea grac'ose supplentes. [1328].

## No. VII.

[From B'p. Drokenesford's Register, f. cccij.]

Ego Basilia de Sutton monialis de Barwe in p'orissam loci illi' electa confirmata ero obedie's vobis ven'abili p'ri d'no J. dei gr'a Bathon' & Well' ep'o v'risq' successoribz & s'cis Bathon' & Well' sedibz . . officialib' ecia' v'ris & vices v'ras gerentib' in licitis & cano'icis mandatis. Sic deus me adiuvet & s'ca ei' eu$^{a}$ngelia.

## No. VIII.

[Eschaet. 13 Edw. III. n. 37. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 128.]

Jurat' dicunt q$^{d}$ Anselimus de Gourneye quonda' d'ns m' de Inglescombe ffarnton et Westharptre dedit m' p'd'co

Thome fillio suo et hered' de corp'e suo exeunt'. Et q'd post mort' ip'ius Thome, p'd'ca m' Thome filio eiusde' Thome. Et post mort' eiusde' Tho. fil' Thome fil' Anselmi p'fato Thome patri ip'ius Thome qui nu'c est. Et q'd p'd'cus Thomas nunc petens est fil' et heres p'd'ci Thome iam defunct' et etat' 21 Annor'. Et m' de Inglescombe [&] de ffarnton tenent' de Thoma de Gourney d'no de Estharpetre vtrumq' eor' p' sr' vni$^{us}$ rose in fest' sc'i Jo: Bapt'i. Et m' de Westharpetre tenet' de d'no Ric'o Louell p' sr' duodene quarellar' p' ann'. So. 37.

## No. IX.

[From B'p. Ralph's Register, f. cccxxvj.]

Xiij Kal. Nouembr' anno quo sup$^{a}$ [1348] Dn's apud Clau'ton confirmauit elecco'ne' facta' de Agnet' Balun moniale mon' de Barwe monialiu' in p'orissam eiusd'm mon' cano'ice celebrata' supplens defectus si qui forsitan fu'int in ead'm Sibi q' cura' regimen & administraco'em eiusd'm mon' cōmitt'. Et demand' fuit Arch'o Bathon' v'l ei' offic' p' installaco'e & inducco'e in corporale' poss'io'em eiusd'm.

## No. X.—1.

[Esc. 35 Edw. III. p. 2. (2 nrs.) n. 20.]

Edwardus dei gr'a Rex Angl' Dn's Hib'n & Aquit' dil'co sibi Joh'i de Bekynton Escaetori suo in Com' Som's' salt'm. Precipim' 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 concedam' Ric'o Dacton chiualer q'd ip'e octo mesuagia vnam shopam sex tofta decem acras p$^{a}$ti & octo acras pasture cum p'tin' in Welles & in Barwegorney dare possit & assignare dil'cis nob' in x'po Priorisse & monialibz de Munechenebarwe h'end' & tenend' sibi & successoribz suis ad inueniend' quendam Capellanu' diuina singulis diebz ad altare be' marie in eccl'ia priorat' p'd'ci p' salubri statu dil'ci & fidelis n'ri Guidonis de Bryan & ip'ius Ric'i dum vix'int & a'iabz suis cum ab hac luce mig$^{a}$uerint ac animabz antecessor' suor' & o'im fideliu' defunctor' celebratur'

imp'petuu' necne. Et si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' tunc ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' n'rm & ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' alior' & quor' & qualit' & quo modo & de quo vel de quibz p'd'ca mesuagia shopa tofta pratu' & pastura teneant$^{r}$ & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo & quantu' p'd'ca mesuagia shopa tofta p$^{a}$tum & pastura valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz iuxta veru' valorem eor'dem. Et qui & quot sunt medij int' nos & p'fatu' Ric'm de mesuagiis shopa toftis prato & pastura p'd'cis. Et que t're & que ten' idem Ric'us [*sic*] vlt$^{a}$ donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas remaneant & vbi & de quo vel de quibz teneant$^{r}$ & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo & quantu' valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz. Et si t're & ten' eidem Ric'o remanencia vlt$^{a}$ donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas sufficiant ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mesuagiis shopa toftis prato & pastura sic datis q$^{a}$m de aliis t'ris & ten' sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a que sustinuit & sustinere consueuit vt in sectis visibz ffranci plegij auxiliis tallagiis vigiliis finibz redempco'ibz amerciamentis contribuc'oibz & aliis quibuscumq' on'ibz em'gentibz sustinend'. Et q'd idem Ric'us in assisis iuratis & aliis recognico'ibz quibuscumq' poni possit p'ut ante donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consueuit. Ita q'd p'ria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em illas in ip'ius Ric'i def't'm magis solito non on'et$^{r}$ seu g$^{a}$uet$^{r}$ Et inquisico'em inde distincte & ap'te f'cam nob' sub sigillo tuo & sigillis eor' p' quos f'ca fu'it sine dil'one mittas & hoc br'e. T. me ip'o apud Henlee. xxix. die Julij. Anno r' n' tricesimo quinto. Burst'

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## No. X.—2.

[Esc. 35 Edw. III. p. 2. (2. nrs.) n. 20.]

Inquisicio capta apud Bedmynstre coram Joh'ne de Bekynton Escaetore d'ni Regis in Com' Som's' die mercurij p'x' post festu' decollaco'is sc'i Joh'is Bapt'e anno regni Regis Edwardi t'cij post conq' Angl' t'cesimo q$^{u}$nto virtute br'is d'ni Regis huic inquisico'i [consuti] p' sacr'm Rob'ti Champeneys Joh'is Hurlemere Walt'i Tyler Will'i Fflemyng Joh'is in la Ffelde Whytyndon Joh's de Shepton Ric'i Ffrankeleyn Rob'ti Ffoul Will'i Whytsyth Walt'i Laurence & Joh'is atte Mulle qui dicunt sup' sacr'm suu' q'd non

est ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' d'ni Regis aut alior' licet idem dn's Rex concedat Ric'o Dacton chyualer q'd ip'e octo mesuagia vnam shopam sex tofta decem acr' p$^{a}$ti & octo acr' pasture cu' p'tin' in Welles & in Barewegorney dare possit & assignare dil'cis d'no Regi in X'po Priorisse & monialib' de Munechenebarwe h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' p'ut br'e istud requirit imp'p'm. Et dicunt q'd p'd'ca mesuagia shopa & tofta tenent$^{r}$ de Ep'o Bathon' & Wellen' p' s'uiciu' reddendi eidem Ep'o iij$^{s}$ p' annu' p' om'i s'uicio Et q'd p'd'ca p$^{a}$tum & pastura tenent$^{r}$ de Margareta de Romesey p' s'uiciu' reddendi eidem Margarete vnu' clauu' geleofr' p' om'i s'uicio. Et q'd p'd'ca mesuag' shopa tofta p$^{a}$tum & pastura valent p' annu' in om'ibz ex' iuxta veru' valorem eor'dem lxx s. Et q'd p'd'cus Ep'us Bathon' & Wellen' est medius int' dn'm Regem & p'fatu' Ricu' de mesuagiis shopa & toftis p'd'cis. et q'd p'd'ca Margareta & Edwardus le Despenc' sunt medij int' dn'm Regem & p'fatu' Ric'm de p$^{a}$to & pastura p'd'cis Et q'd remanent p'fato Ric'o vltra donacionem & assignacionem p'd'cas maneriu' de Cheluy cu' p'tin' in com' p'd'co quod tenet$^{r}$ de Joh'ne Branboys p' s'uiciu' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xx li. quod quidem maner' remanens eidem Ric'o vltra donacionem & assign' p'd'cis sufficit ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mesuag' shopa toftis prato & pastura sic datis q$^{a}$m de t'ris & ten' sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a que sustinuit & sustinere consueuit sustinend' p'ut br'e istud requirit. Et q'd idem Ric'us in assisis iuratis & alijs recognicoib' quibuscu'q' poni potest p'ut ante donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consueuit. Ita q'd p'ria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em illas in ip'ius Ric'i def't'm magis solito non on'abit$^{r}$ seu grauabit$^{r}$. In cu' rei testimoniu' tam p'd'cus Escaetor q$^{a}$m p'd'ci iurati huic inquisico'i indendato sigilla sua alt'natim apposuerunt. Dat' loco die & anno sup$^{a}$d'cis.

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## No. X.—3.

[Pat. 35 Edw. III. p. 3. m. 30.]

D' licencia dandi ad manu' mortua'

R' om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Licet &c. tamen p' decem libris quas Ric'us de Acton chiualer nobis soluit

concessim' & licenciam dedim' p' nobis & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nobis est eidem Ric'o q'd ip'e octo mesuagia, vnam shopam sex tofta decem acras prati & octo acras pasture cum p'tin' in Welles & Barwegorney dare possit & assignare dil'cis nob' in xp'o Priorisse & monialib' de Munechenbarwe, h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' quendam capellanu' diuina singulis dieb' ad altare b'e marie in eccl'ia Prioratus p'd'ci p' salubri statu dil'ci & fidelis n'ri Guidonis de Brian & ip'ius Ric'i dum vix'int & p' a'iab' suis cum ab hac luce migauerint, ac a'iab' antecessor' suor' & o'im fideliu' defunctor' celebratur' imp'petuu'. Et eisdem Priorisse & monialib' q'd ip'e mesuagia, shopam, tofta, pratu' & pasturam p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fato Ric'o recip'e possint & tenere sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' capellanu' p'd'cm diuina singulis dieb' ad altare p'd'cm p' statu & a'iab' p'd'cis celebratur' imp'p'm, sicut p'd'cm est tenore p'senciu' similit' licenciam dedim' sp'alem. statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd p'd'cus Ric'us vel heredes sui aut p'fate Priorissa & moniales seu ear' successores r'one statuti p'd'ci p' nos vel heredes n'ros seu ministros n'ros quoscu'q' occ'onentr in aliquo seu gauentr. Saluis tamen capitalib' d'nis feodi illius s'uiciis inde debitis & consuetis. In cuius &c. T R apud Westm'. xiiij. die Octobr.

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## No. XI.—1.

[Esc. 44 Edw. III. (2 nrs.) n. 46.]

Edwardus dei gr'a Rex Angl' & Ffranc' & Dn's Hib'n dil'co sibi Will'o Cheyne Escaetori suo in Com' Som's' salt'm Precipim' 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 concedam' Ric'o de Acton militi Hugoni Penbrigg Joh'i de Panes Henr' Fforde Joh'i Torney de Woluynton Walt'o laurence Rob'to Scouille Will'o Scouille Ric'o Ffraunkeleyn Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de Wroxale Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Bakwell & Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Cameleye q'd ip'i' vnu' mesuagiu' sexaginta & duodecim acras t're & septem acras pati cu' p'tin' in Barouwe Gournay dare possint & assignare dil'cis nob' in x'po Priorisse & conuentui

de Barouwe ad inueniend' quandam lampadem in eccl'ia ip'ius Priorisse b'e marie de Barouwe coram su'mo altari in honore corporis ih'u x'pi continue ardentem, h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & conuentui & successoribz suis ad inueniend' lampadem p'd'cam vt p'd'cm est imp'p'm necne et si sit ad dampnu' vel p'iudiciu' n'rm aut alior' tunc ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' n'rm & ad quod dampnu' & quod p'iudiciu' alior' & quor' & qualit' & quo modo & de quo vel de quibz mesuagiu' t'ra & p$^{a}$tu' p'd'ca teneant$^{r}$ & p' quod s'uiciu' & qualit' & quo modo & quantu' valeant p' annu' in o'ibz exitibz iuxta veru' valorem eor'dem et qui & quot sunt medij int' nos & p'fatos Ric'm Hugone' Joh'em Henr' Joh'em Walt'um Rob'm Will'm Ric'm Ric'm Joh'em & Joh'em de mesuagio t'ra & p$^{a}$to p'd'cis et que t're & que ten' eisdem Ric'o Hugoni Joh'i Henr' Joh'i Walt'o Rob'to Will'o Ric'o Ric'o Joh'i & Joh'i 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 & quantu' valeant p' annu' in om'ibz exitibz et si t're & ten' eisdem Ric'o Hugoni Joh'i Henr' Joh'i Walt'o Rob'to Will'o Ric'o Ric'o Joh'i & Joh'i remanencia vlt$^{a}$ donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas sufficiant ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mesuagio t'ra & p$^{a}$to sic datis q$^{a}$m de aliis t'ris & ten' sibi retentis debita faciend' & ad o'ia alia on'a que sustinuerunt & sustinere consueuerunt vt in sectis visibz franciplegij auxiliis tallagiis vigiliis finibz redempco'ibz am'ciamentis contribuco'ibz & aliis quibuscu'q' on'ib' em'gentibz sustinend' Et q'd ijdem Ric'us de Acton Hugo Joh'es de Panes Henr' Joh'es Torney Walt'us Rob'tus Will's & Ric'us Ffraunkeleyn & heredes ip'or' Ric'i p'sone Joh'is p'sone & Joh'is p'sone in assisis iuratis & aliis recognico'ibz quibuscu'qz poni possint p'ut ijdem Ric'us de Acton Hugo Joh'es de Panes Henr' Joh'es Torney Walt'us Rob'tus Will's & Ric'us Ffraunkeleyn & antecessores ip'or' Ric'i p'sone Joh'is p'sone & Joh'is p'sone ante donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas poni consueuerunt Ita q'd patria p' donaco'em & assignaco'em p'd'cas in ip'or' Ric'i de Acton Hugonis Joh'is de Panes Henr' Joh'is Torney Walt'i Rob'ti Will'i & Ric'i Ffraunkeleyn & heredu' ip'or' Ric'i p'sone Joh'is p'sone & Joh'is p'sone def't'm magis solito non on'et$^{r}$ seu g$^{a}$uet$^{r}$ Et inquisico'em inde distincte & ap'te f'cam nob' sub sigillo tuo

& sigillis eor' p' quos f'ca fu'it sine dil'one mittas & hoc br'e T me ip'o apud Westm' xx die Julij anno r' n' Angl' quadragesimo t'cio r' v'o n' ffranc' tricesimo. Wynhop.

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## No. XI.—2.

[Esc. 44 Edw. III. (2 nrs.) n. 46.]

Inquis' capt' apud Bedmynstre in Com' Som's' coram Will'mo Cheyne Esc' d'ni Regis in eod'm Com' decimo die marcij anno regni Regis Edwardi t'cij a conq' Angl' quadragesimo quarto virtute br'is d'ni Regis huic inquis' consuti p' sacr'm Ric'i Cheyn Thome atte Mulle Will'i atte Pole Will'i Neel Joh'is Bailly de Bourton Thome Ffair Joh'is Sparkman Henr' Masseday Joh'is Richeman Ric'i Skappe Joh'is Skut & Joh'is Bysshopisworth qui dic' sup' sacr'm suu' q'd no' est ad dampnu' nec p'iudiciu' d'ni Regis nec alior' licet id'm dn's Rex concedat Ric'o de Acton militi Hugoni Penbrigg Joh'i de Panes Henr' Fforde Joh'i Torny de Woluington Waltero Laueraunce Rob'to Scouyle Will'o Scouill Ric'o Ffraunkleyn Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de W[r]oxhale Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Backwell & Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Cameleye q'd ip'i vnu' mes' sexaginta & duodecim acr' t're & septem acr' prati cu' p'tin' in Barouwe Gournay dare possint & assignare dil'cis sibi in x'po Priorisse & conuentui de Barouwe ad inueniend' quandam lampadem in eccl'ia ip'ius Priorisse beate marie de Barouwe coram su'mo altari honore corp'is ih'u x'pi continue ardentem h'end' & tenend' eisd'm Priorisse & Conuentui & successoribz suis ad inueniend' lampadem p'd'cam vt p'd'cm est imp'petuu' Et dic' q'd mes' t're & p[a]tum p'd'ca teneant[r] de Joh'e de Berkelee filio Thome de Berkelee p' s'uic' militar' et id'm Joh'es illa tenet de Edwardo le Despens' p' s'uic' militar' et idem Edwardus illa tenet de Rege in capite p' s'uic' militar' que quidem mes' t'r' & pratum p'd'ca valent p' annu' in om'ibz exit' iuxta veru' valorem eor'dem quadraginta solidos Et q'd non sunt plur' medij inter dn'm Regem & p'fatos Ric'm Hugone' Joh'em Henr' Joh'em Walteru' Rob't'm Will'm Ric'm Ric'm Joh'em & Joh'em de mes' t'r' & p[a]to p'd'cis. Et q'd remaneant p'fato Ric'o de Acton maneriu' de Thornfaucon cu' p'tin' quod tenet[r] de Joh'e Mohoun de Dunsterr'

p' s'uic' militar' & valet p' annu' in om'ibz exit' x. li. et d'co Joh'i de Panes vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam t're cu' p'tin' in Chattelee que tenet$^{r}$ de Joh'e de Berkelee p' s'uic' militar' et val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xl s. Et p'fato Henr' Fforde vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam t're cu' p'tin' in Fforde que tenent$^{r}$ de Priore Bathon' p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' lxvj. s. viij. d. Et p'd'co Joh'i Torny de Woluyngton vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam t're cu' p'tin' in Woluyngton que tenent$^{r}$ de Joh'e Moigne p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' lx. s. Et p'fato Waltero Laueraunce vnu' mes' & vnam carucatam terr' cu' p'tin' in Sprotraggel que tenent$^{r}$ de Joh'e Rodeney p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz exit' xl. s. Et p'fato Rob'to Scouill vnu' mes' & vnam carucat' t're cu' p'tin' apud Clau'ton que tenent$^{r}$ de Edwardo le Despens' p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' quatuor marcas Et p'fato Will'mo Scouill vnu' mes' & vna' carucat' t're cu' p'tin' in Broklegh que tenent$^{r}$ de Rob'to de Asshtoun p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xxviij s iiij d Et p'fato Ric'o Ffraunkleyn vnu' mes' & vnam carucat' t're cu' p'tin' in Bacwell [que] tenent$^{r}$ de Joh'e Rodeney p' s'uic' militar' & val' p' annu' in om'ibz ex' xliijs iiijd que sufficiant ad consuetudines & s'uicia tam de p'd'cis mes' t'r' & p$^{a}$to sic dat' quam de alijs t'r' & ten' sibi retent' debita faciend' & ad om'ia alia on'a sustinend' p'ut br'e istud requirit Et q'd null' t'r' seu ten' remaneant p'fatis Hugoni Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de Wroxhale Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Bacwell & Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Cameley que sufficiant ad on'a p'd'ca sustinend' p'ut idem br'e requirit In cui' rei testi'o'm p'd'ci Jur' huic inquis' sigilla sua apposuer' Dat' loco die & anno sup$^{a}$d'cis.

## No. XII.

[Pat. 44 Edw. III. p. 2. m. 23.]

P'Priorissa de Barouwe & Conuentu R' o'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm Licet &c. tamen p' octo marcis quas dil'ca nob' in x'po Priorissa de Barouwe Gournay nob' soluit concessim' & licenciam dedim' p' nob' & heredib' n'ris quantu in nob' est Rico de Acton militi Hugoni Penbrig' Joh'i de Panes Henr' fforde Joh'i Torney de Woluynton

Walt'o Laurence Rob'to Scouille Will'o Scouille Ric'o ffraunkeleyn Ric'o p'sone eccl'ie de Wroxale Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Bakwell & Joh'i p'sone eccl'ie de Cameleye q'd ip'i vnu' mesuagiu' sexaginta & duodecim acras t're & septem acras p$^{a}$ti cum p'tin' in Barouwe Gournay in Com' Som's' dare possint & assignare p'fate Priorisse & eiusdem loci conuentui ad inueniend' quandam lampadem in eccl'ia ip'ius Priorisse b'e Marie de Barouwe coram su'mo altari in honore corporis Ih'u x'pi continue ardente' h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui & successorib' suis ad inueni' lampadem p'd'cam in forma p'd'ca imp'petuu' Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e mesuagiu' t'ram & p$^{a}$tu' p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fatis Ric'o Hugone Joh'e Henr' Joh'e Walt'o Rob'to Will'o Ric'o Ric'o Joh'e & Joh'e recip'e possint & tenere sibi & successorib' suis p'd'cis ad inueniend' d'cam lampadem imp'petuu' sicut p'd'cm est tenore p'senciu' similit' licenciam dedim' sp'alem Statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes &c.—— debitis & consuetis. In cui' &c. T R apud Westm xij. die Junij.

## No. XIII.

[Pat. 44 Edw. III. p. 3. m. 17.]

P'Priorissa & Conuentu de Barwe

R' om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm Licet de co'i consilio regni n'ri Angl' statutu' sit q'd non liceat viris Religiosis seu aliis ingredi feodu' alicui' Ita q'd ad manu' mortuam deueniat sine licencia n'ra & capitalis d'ni de quo res illa inmediate tenet$^{r}$ : de gr'a tamen n'ra sp'ali & p' centu' solidis quos dil'ca nobis in x'po Priorissa monialiu' de Barwe nobis soluit concessim' & licenciam dedim' p' nobis & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nob' est Joh'i Blanket de Bristoll' q'd ip'e duo mesuagia duas shopas & duo gardina eisdem shopis contigua cum p'tin' in villa Bristoll' & suburbio eiusdem que de nobis tenent$^{r}$ in lib'um burgagiu' dare possit & assignare p'fate Priorisse & Conuentui eiusdem loci h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui & successorib' suis ad inueniend' panem & vinu' p' om'ib' missis ad su'mu' altare in eccl'ia ip'ar' Priorisse & Conuentus de Barwe celebrand' & alia op'a pietatis p' salubri statu ip'ius Joh'is dum vix'it et p' a'ia sua cum ab hac luce migrau'it & a'iab' parentu' &

amicor' suor' & o'im fideliu' defunctor' iuxta ordinaco'em eiusdem Joh'is faciend' imp'p'm Et eisdem Priorisse & conuentui q'd ip'i mesuagia shopas & gardina p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fato Joh'e recip'e possint & tenere sibi & successorib' suis ad inueniend' panem & vinu' pro om'ib' missis ad su'mu' altare in eccl'ia p'd'ca celeb$^{a}$nd' & alia op'a pietatis p' salubri statu ip'ius Joh'is dum vix'it & p' a'ia sua cum ab hac luce mig$^{a}$uerit & a'iab' parentu' & amicor' suor' & o'im fideliu' defunctor' iuxta ordinaco'em p'd'cam faciend' imp'p'm sicut p'd'cm est tenore p'senciu' similit' dedim' sp'alem statuto p'd'co non obstante. Nolentes q'd p'd'cus Joh'es seu heredes sui aut p'fati Priorissa & conuentus seu successores sue r'one statuti p'd'ci seu p' eo q'd d'ca mesuagia shope & gardina de nobis tenent$^{r}$ in burgagiu' sicut p'd'cm est p' nos vel heredes n'ros Justic' Esc' vic' aut alios balliuos seu ministros n'ros quoscumq' inde occ'onent$^{r}$ molestent$^{r}$ in aliquo seu g$^{a}$uent$^{r}$. Saluis tamen nobis & heredib' n'ris & aliis capitalib' d'nis feodi illius s'uiciis inde debitis & consuetis. In cui' &c. T R apud Westm' quarto die Nouemb'i

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## No. XIV.—1.

[Esc. 3 Hen. IV. n. 8. MS. Harl. 4120, p. 305.]

Henrici Quarti Anno tertio.

Jurat' dicunt q'd Gilb'us Harclyue dedit Joh'i (*sic*) Panes nup' Priorisse de Barwe et suc' suis imp'p'm vnu' pratu' in Clauso vocat' Chapelmeade, contin' 11 acr' prati in Burghgorney sine licenc' Reg' So. 8.

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## No. XIV.—2.

[Pat. 5 Hen. IV., p. 1. m. 20.]

P' Priorissa & Conuent' de Barouwe Gournay.

R' om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm Sciatis q'd cum dn's E nup' Rex Angl' Auus n'r p' l'ras suas patentes concessisset & licenciam dedisset p' se & heredib' suis quantum in ip'o fuit Ric'o de Acton militi iam defuncto vt dicit$^{r}$ & aliis q'd ip'i vnu' mesuagium sexaginta & duodecim acras t're & septem acras p$^{a}$ti cum p'tin' in Barouwe Gournay in Com' Som's'

dare possent & assignare Priorisse de Barouwe & eiusdem loci Conuentui ad inueniend' quandam lampadem in eccl'ia ip'ius Priorisse b'e marie de Barouwe coram su'mo altari in honore corporis Jhu X'pi continue ardentem h'end' & tenend' eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui & successorib' suis ad inueniend' lampadem p'd'cam in forma p'd'ca imp'p'm Et eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e mesuagium t'ram & p$^{a}$tum p'd'ca cum p'tin' a p'fatis Ric'o & alijs recip'e possent & tenere sibi & successorib' suis p'd'cis ad inueniend' d'cam lampadem imp'p'm sicut p'd'cm est licenciam similit' dedisset sp'alem Statuto de t'ris & ten' ad manu' mortua' non ponend' edito non obstante p'ut in eisd'm l'ris plenius continet$^{r}$ Ac postmodum p'fate Priorissa & Conuentus supponentes quoddam clausum vocatum Chapelescroft & vnam acram t're in p'd'ca villa de Barouwe que valorem tresdecim solidor' & quatuor' denarior' p' annu' non excedunt vt dicit$^{r}$ & quo p'd'cus Ric'us p' cartam suam p' nomen tocius illius t're & p$^{a}$ti iacent' in quodam clauso vocato Chapelescroft in Barouwe Gournay cum p'tin' & vnius acre t're cum p'tin' in eade' villa de Barouwe que quidem acra t're se extendit in longitudine v'sus parcum ville p'd'ce eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui dedit & concessit h'end' & tenend' sibi & successorib' suis imp'p'm in licencia p'd'ca comp'hensa extitisse cum non extitissent eadem clausum & vnam acram t're colore licencie p'd'ce ingresse fuissent & ea tenuissent & occupassent ac exitus & p'ficua inde p'cepissent quousq' iam tarde p'd'ca clausum & vna acra t're p' Joh'em Manyngford nup' Escaetorem n'rm in Com' p'd'co seisita fuerunt in manus n'ras ex causa p'd'ca vt accepim'. Nos ad supplico'em p'd'car' Priorisse & Conuentus de gr'a n'ra sp'ali p'donauim' eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui t$^{a}$nsgressionem qua' fecerunt adquirendo sibi & successorib' suis de p'fato Ric'o clausum & vnam acram t're p'd'ce cum p'tin' & ea ingrediendo tenendo & occupando ac exitus & p'ficua inde p'cipiendo licencia regia sup' hoc non optenta p'donauim' insup' concessimus & remisimus eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui forisf'curam clausi & vnius acre tr'e p'd'cor' cum p'tin' si qua ad nos occ'one adquisico'is ingressus & occupaco'is eor'dem p'tineat ac exitus p' ip'os vel p'decessores suos post ingressum p'd'cm inde p'ceptos Et vlt'ius concessimus p' nob' & heredib' n'ris quantu' in nob' est eisdem Priorisse & Conuentui q'd ip'e clausum &

vnam acram t're p'd'ca cum p'tin' vna cum exitib' & p'ficuis inde p'ceptis reh'eant & teneant sibi & successorib' suis in auxiliu' sustentaco'is sue de dono & concessione n'ris imp'p'm Statuto p'd'co aut aliqua seisina siue forisf'cura inde f'ca seu aliquo alio iure vel titulo nob' in hac parte competenti vel competitur' non obstant'. Saluis tamen capitalib' &c.——— consuetis. Nolentes q'd &c.——— molestent^r in aliquo seu g^auent^r In cuius &c. T R apud Westm' xxix die Nouembr' p' ip'm Rege'

## No. XV.

[From Bp. Bubwith's Register, f. lvij.]

Nich'us &c. Dil'ce in X'po filie d'ne Marg'ie ffitz Nichol moniali de Barwe nup' priorisse ib'm n're dioc' salt'm &c. Cum ad aures nup' n'ras p'uenit q'd tu obs'uancias tuor' ordinis & p'fessionis reg'lares obs'uare & subire nedū recusasti sicuti adhuc recusas, sz accidie dedita horis nocturnis et diurnis cu' com'ode pot'is int'esse distulasti & differs in p'senti In ai'e tue p'icl'm & regule tui ordinis p'dict' violaco'em manifest' Tibi igit^r mandamus firt' iniungentes quattin' horis nocturnis & diurnis iux^a ordinis & p'fessionis tuor' p'd'ct' obs'uancias reg'lares cu' com'ode pot'is senio v'l infirmitate corp'ali absentandi causam nullaten' mi'strante de cetero iux' reg'lam & obs'uancias p'dict' debite int'sis p'ut decet in futur' Dat' ap'd Keynsha'.

## No. XV.*—Page 85.

[Esch. 14 Edw. IV. n. 41.]

Inquisic'o capt' apud Taunton' in Com' Som's' xxxj^mo die mensis Octobr' anno rr' Edwardi quarti post conq'm Anglie quartodecimo coram Ric'o Vouwell Eschaetore d'ci d'ni Regis in Com' p'd'co virtute br'is d'ci d'ni Regis eid'm eschaetori direct' & huic inquisico'i consut' p' sacr'm Joh'is Hygons armig'i Joh'is Gylbert armig'i Joh'is Bonuyle armig'i Joh'is Mauncell Joh'is Jrlond Ric'i Crypse Joh'is Rede Joh'is Tracy Joh'is Chafy Joh'is Ffourde Joh'is Walford & Thome Walton Qui dicunt sup' sacr'm suu' p'dict' q'd Mauricius Berkeley miles in d'co br'i no'iatus

tenuit die quo obijt in d'nico suo vt de feod' man'iu' de Barow Gurney cu' suis p'tin' in Com' p'dict' et Advocaco'em Prioratus Monialiu' de Mynchynbarow eid'm man'io p'tin' ac eciam vnam Carucat' t'r' continent' in se Centu' acr' t'r' decem acr' p$^{a}$ti decem ac'r pastur' octogint' acr' bosci triginta acr' subbosci cu' p'tin' ib'm et de tali statu idem Mauricius obijt inde s'situs que quid'm Man'iu' Advocacio & Carucata t'r' cu' p'tin' suis valent p' annu' in omnibz exitibz suis vlt$^{a}$ repris' & on'a .vjli xiijs iiijd. Et q'd tenent$^{r}$ de Georgio Duce Claranc' p' fidelitate' t'm p' om'ibz s'uicijs Et vlt'ius Jur' p'd'ci dicunt sup' sacr'm suu' p'd'cm q'd p'd'cus Mauricius Berkeley nulla alia neqz plura t'r' neqz ten'ta reddit' seu s'uicia tenuit de dict' d'no Reg' nec de aliquo alio in d'nico nec in s'uicio in d'co Com' Som's' die' quo obijt. Et dicunt sup' sacr'm suu' p'd'cm q'd p'd'cus Mauricius Berkeley obijt vicesimo sexto die mensis Marcij vltimo p't'ito Et q'd Will'ms Berkeley armig' est filius & heres p'd'ci Mauricij Berkeley militis p'pinquior et q'd est etatis viginti triu' annor' & amplius. In cu' rei testi'om Jur' p'd'ci huic Inquisico'i Indentat' sigilla sua apposuer' Dat' apud Taunton' p'dict' die & anno p'dict'.

## No. XVI.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 103. ff. 108, 108b.]

Memorand' q'd t'mino sc'i Mich'is videl't vicesimo septimo die Novembr' anno regni d'ni Regis nunc Henrici octaui tricesimo quarto, Joh'es Babo$^{r}$ venit in Cur' d'ci d'ni Regis Augmentac'onu' reuenc'onu' corone sue, Et p'tulit ib'm quandam indentur' sub sigillo Conuentuali nup' monast'ij de Mynchynbarowe in Com' Som's' modo dissolut' fact' & sigillat', Et petit illam allocari cuius quidem indenture tenor sequit$^{r}$ in hec v'ba. Om'ib' x'pi fidelib' ad quos p'sens Scriptum indentat' p'uen'it Isabella Cogan priorissa domus Monial' b'e Marie virginis & s'ci Edwardi Regis & Martiris de Mynchynbarowe in Com' Som's' & eiusdem domus Conuent' salt'm in d'no sempit'nam. Nou'itis nos p'fat' prioriss' & Conuent' vnanimi assensu consensu & voluntate nostr' concessisse tradidisse & hoc p'senti Scripto n'ro indentat' ad firmam dimisisse Joh'i Babo$^{r}$ de Chewestoke in Com' p'd'co totam R'coriam n'ram de Twyu'ton in

Com' p'dict' ac orriu' n'rm ib'm cum om'ib' & omi'od' decimis tam fructuu' granar' & feni q$^{a}$m aliar' decimar' oblac'onu' obuenc'onu' & p'fic' R'corie p'dict' siue orrio p'dict' qualicumq' p'uenien' spectan' siue p'tinen', h'end' & tenend' R'coriam p'd'cam & orriu' p'd'cm ac cet'a p'missa sup'ius specificat' cum om'ib' & sing'lis eor' p'tin' p'dict' Joh'i Babo$^{r}$ & assign' suis a festo An'u'ciaco'is b'e marie virginis p'x' futur' post dat' p'senciu' vsq' ad finem t'mini Sexaginta annor' tunc p'x' sequen' & plenar' complend'. Reddend' inde annuatim nobis p'fat' prioriss' & Conuent' ac success' n'ris durante t'mi'o decem annor' p'd'cor' Sexaginta annor' p'x' & i'mediate sequen' post dat' p'senciu' vnu' denar' ad fest' Annu'ciaco'is b'e Marie virginis tantum si petat$^{r}$ Et post finem t'mini p'd'cor' decem annor' Tunc reddend' inde annuatim nobis p'fat' prioriss' & Conuent' ac Success' n'ris durante t'mi'o resid' p'd'cor' Sexaginta annor' tunc futur' viginti solidos bone & legalis monete Anglie ad duos anni t'mi'os ib'm vsual' videl't ad festa s'ci Mich'is Arch'i & Annu'ciaco'is b'e marie virginis p' equales porco'es p' om'ib' alijs s'uicijs saluo s'uicio Regal'. Et p'dict' Johe's Babo$^{r}$ & assign' sui totum p'd'cm orriu' n'rm bene & competent' rep'abunt & quil't eor' rep'abit durante t'mi'o p'd'co sumptib' eor' p'prijs & expens'. Et si contingat p'd'cm redditum viginti solidor' aretro fore in p'te vel in toto p' quindecim dies post aliquod festum festor' p'd'cor' quo vt p'fert$^{r}$ solui debeat insolut' & debit' modo petat$^{r}$, q'd tunc bene licebit nobis p'fat' prioriss' & conuent' ac Successorib' n'ris in p'd'cm orriu' cum p'tin' intrare & distring'e & districco'es sic ib'm capt' licite asportare abduc'e effugare & imp'care & penes se retinere quousq' de p'dict' reddit' simul cum arreragijs si que fu'it nobis plenar' fu'it satisfact' & p'solut' Et si contingat p'd'cm redditum viginti solidor' aretro fore in p'te vel in toto p' quatuor menses anni post aliquod festum festor' p'd'cor' soluco'is p'dict' quo vt p'fert$^{r}$ solui debeat insolut' & debit' modo petat$^{r}$, q'd tunc bene licebit nobis p'fat' Prioriss' & Conuent' ac success' n'ris in p'd'cm orriu' cum p'tin' reintrare & p'dict' Joh'em Babo$^{r}$ & assign' suos inde tot'lit' expellere & amouere, vnacum om'ib' alijs p'miss' p'dict' Joh'i Babor & assign' suis p'concess' & ea vt in pristino statu n'ro retinere & reh'ere ista dimiss' in aliqua non obstan'. Et nos v'o p'fat' Prioriss' & Conuent' ac Success' n'ri R'coriam p'dict' & orriu'

p'dict' ac cet'a p'miss' p'concess' cum om'ib' eor' p'tin' p'd'cis Joh'i Babor assign' suis modo & forma p'dict' durante t'mi'o p'd'co & t'mi's p'd'cis contra om'es gentes warrantizabim' acquietabim' & p' p'sentes defendemus. In cuius rei testimoniu' vni p'ti huius p'sentis Scripti n'ri indentati penes p'd'cm Joh'em Babor remanen', Nos p'fat' Prioriss' & Couent' Sigillum n'rm Conuentual' apposuim'. Alt'i v'o p'ti huius p'sentis Scripti indentat' penes p'fat' Priorissam & Conuent' remanen' p'd'cus Joh'es Babor sigillum suu' apposuit. Dat' in domo n'ra Capit'lari sextodecimo die mensis Marcij anno regni Regis Henrici octaui vicesimo quinto. Quequidem indentur' ac om'ia & sing'la in eodem content' & specificat' p' Concellariu' & Consiliu' Cur' p'd'ce allocantr. P'uiso tamen q'd si impost'um debit' modo p'bat' fu'it coram Cancellar' & Consilio Cur' p'd'ce p' tempore existen' q'd p'dict' Joh'es Babor dict' dimiss' ro'ne & p'textu indenture p'dict' in forma p'dict' h'ere & gaudere non debeat q'd tunc hoc p'sens decret' vacuu' sit ac nullius vigoris in lege aliquo clauso siue artic'lo in eodem content' in contrariu' inde non obstan'.

## No. XVII.

[Off. Augment. vol. 244. n. 112.]

Rex omnib' ad quos &c. salt'm Cum nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe in Com' n'ro Som's' auctoritate Parliamenti supp'ssus et dissolut' existit vnde quedam Katerina Bulle tempore dissoluco'is illius et diu antea priorissa inde fuit nos volentes r'onabilem Annualem Penco'em siue p'moco'em condignam eidem Kat'ine ad victu' & exhibico'em suam melius sustinend' p'uideri Sciat' igitr q'd nos in consideraco'e p'missor' de gr'a n'ra sp'iali ac ex certa sciencia & mero motu n'ris p' aduisamentu' & consensu' Cancellar' & consilij Cur' Augmentac'onu' reuenc'onu' Corone n're dedim' & concessim' ac p' p'sentes damus & concedim' eidem Kat'ine quandam Annuitatem siue Annualem Penco'em Centum solidor' sterling' H'end' gaudend' & annuatim p'cipiend' eosdem Centum solidos p'fate Kat'ine & assign' suis a tempore dissoluco'is & supp'ssionis d'ci nup' Prioratus ad t'minu' & p' t'mi'o vite ip'ius Kat'ine tam p' manus Thesaurarij Curie n're p'd'ce p' tempore existen' de thesauro n'ro in manib' suis de reuenco'ib' p'dc'is re-

manere contingen' q$^{a}$m p' manus Receptor' partic'lariu' reuenc'onu' p'd'car' de eisdem reuenco'ib' ad festa Annu'ci-co'is b'e Marie Virginis et sancti Mich'is Arch'i p' equales porco'es omi'o soluend' Eo q'd exp'ssa mencio &c. In cui' rei &c.

Richard Riche
Tho. Pope
John Onley
Robert Sowthwell

Irro$^{r}$ T xiiij die ffebruarij A$^{o}$xxviij h viij

## No. XVIII.

[From the Minister's Accounts, 27-28 Hen. VIII ]

Et debt—xvli xiiijs vjd D' quibz exo$^{r}$ hic de xli xd ob–ut de tot den'ijs p' Kat'inam Bowell nup' prioriss' ib'm de Exit' Offic' p'd'ci–rec' ad vsum & necessit' hospic' sui p' prima me$^{te}$ huius ann' & expendit' in eod'm hospic' ante primu' aduent' Comiss' d'ni R' illuc q'd erat xxvj die Maij d'co anno xxviij$^{uo}$ p'ut eisd'm Comiss' no' solu' p' sacr'm d'ce prioriss' set ecia' p' debit' exami'ac' inde adtunc & ib'm fact' sat' constab' ET O$^{r}$ in Comp'o d'ce Prioriss'. De xxxjs vjd de consi'lib' den'ijs p' ip'am rec' de Exit' eiusd'm Offic' ad necc' sustend' hospic' s' p'd'ci a d'co xxvj$^{to}$ die Maij usq' dissoluc' d'ci priorat' quod erat xix$^{no}$ die Sept. eod'm anno xxviij$^{uo}$ sciz p' spaciu' xx$^{ti}$ Septim' ex recognic' s' in libr' Re$^{te}$ s' de eod'm temp'e sup' hunc Comp'm exami'at.

## No. XIX.

[Off. Augment. Miscell. Books, vol. 205. f. 24.]

Mynchynbarowe in Com' Som's' — In declaraconib' siue Valor' capt' de terr' & Tent' ac al' possess' t$^{a}$m sp'ual' q$^{a}$m temp'al'int' al' cont$^{r}$ sic ut sequit$^{r}$

vjli xiijs iiijd vz

Rector' de Mynchynbarow.

val'in { DECIM' lan' & agnell' & xljs vijd; al' p'ficuis eid'm Rector' p'tin' Co'ib' ann' } viijli xiiijs xjd

repris' in { SINOD' & p'curaco'b' ann$^{ti}$ sol' Ep'o Bathon' .. .. vijs vjd

Et rem' clar' ult$^{a}$ Repris' p'dict' viijli vijs xjd

Me$^{d}$ that the same p'sonage is to be charged w$^{t}$ the Stipend of a p'ste there oute of the same so'me of viijli vijs xjd yerely

resp$^{r}$ p'cess'

Ex$^{r}$ p' Will'm Turno$^{r}$ Audit' ib'm

fiat dimissio Joh'i Drewe de villa Bristoll ar' Ir' &c. vt sup$^{a}$.

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## No. XX.

[Abstract of Pat. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 27. mm. 27 (24)—25 (26)]

P' Will'o Clerk de con' sibi & hered' Rex omnibus ad quos &c. salt'm. Cum nos p' quandam Indenturam sub magno Sigillo n'ro Cur' n're Augmentaconu' reuenconu' Corone n're confect' gerent' dat' apud Westm' vicesimo die Marcij Anno Regni n'ri vicesimo octauo p' aduisament' &c. tradiderim' concesserim' & ad firmam dimiserim' Joh'i Drewe de villa Bristoll armig'o domu' & Scitum nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarrowe in Com' Som's' auctoritate p'liamenti suppressi & dissolut' vnacum om'ibz domibz edificiis orreis stabulis columbar' ortis pomeriis gardinis terr' & solo infra Scitum & p'cinctum dict' nup' Prioratus existen' Ac viginti octo acras terr' arabilis p' estimaco'em siue plus siue minus inde h'eatur viginti sex acras prat' p' estimaco'em siue plus siue minus inde h'eatur & viginti octo acras pastur' p' estimaco'em siue plus siue minus inde h'eatur d'co nup' Prioratui spectan' et p'tinen' Except' inde a nob' hered' et successoribz n'ris om'ino res'uat' om'ibz grossis arboribz & boscis p'miss' ac om'ibz talibz et huiusmodi edificiis infra Scitum et p'cinctum dict' nup' Monast'ij que nos ibidem adtunc imposter' prosterni & auferri mandauerim'. H'end' & tenend' om'ia & sing'la p'missa cum p'tin' except' preexcept' p'fat' Joh'i & assign' suis a festo sc'i Mich'is Arch'i adtunc vltimo preterito vsqz ad finem termini & p' terminu' viginti & vnius annor' extunc p'x' sequen' & plenarie complend'. Reddend' inde annuatim nob' hered' & successoribz n'ris Centum & vnu' Solidos & octo denarios legalis monete Angl' ad festa Annu'ciaco'is beate Marie virginis et sc'i Mich'is

Arch'i vel infra vnu' mensem post vtrumqz festum festor' illor' ad Curiam p'd'cam p' equales porco'es soluend' duran' termino p'd'co p'ut p' eandem Indenturam int' alia plene apparet. Sciatis q'd nos p' su'ma Centum & sexaginta librar' legalis monete Angl' ad manus Thes' n'ri &c. p' dil'cm nob' Will'm Clerc gen'osu' solut' de qua quidem su'ma &c. exoneratos esse p' p'sentes de gr'a n'ra sp'iali ac ex c'ta sciencia & mero motu n'ris dedim' & concessim' ac p' p'sentes dam' & concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc reu'sionem & reu'siones p'dict' domus & Scitus dict' nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe ac p'd'cor' domor' edificior' ortor' pomerior' gardinor' columbar' stabulor' terrar' prator' pasturar' & ceteror' o'im & singl'or' p'missor' sup'ius p' p'd'cam Indenturam p'fat' Joh'i Drewe vt p'fert' dimissor' Necnon totum p'd'cm a'nuu' reddit' Centum vnius solid' & octo denarior'. Dam' etiam & p' consideraco'e p'd'ca p' p'sentes concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc totum domu' et Scitum dict' nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe ac om'ia domos edificia orrea stabula columbar' ortos pomeria gardina stagna viuaria terr' et solu' n'ra quecu'qz infra Scitum septum ambit' circuitum et p'cinct' eiusdem nup' Prioratus existen'. Necnon om'ia illa terr' prata pastur' et hereditamenta n'ra quecu'qz vocat' lez demeane landes dict' nup' Prioratus continen' p' estimaco'em octoginta & duas acras iacen' et existen' in Mynchynbarowe in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' prioratui dudum spectan' et p'tinen' et p'cell' possessionu' inde existen' ac cum p'd'co Scitu dict' nup' Prioratus p'fat' Joh'i Drewe dimiss' seu locat'. Acetiam totam terr' n'ram et boscum n'rm vocat' Mynchynbarowe grove continen' p' estimaco'em sex acras iacen' et existen' in Mynchynbarowe in p'd'co Com' Som's' d'co nup' Prioratui dudum spectan' et p'tinen' ac p'cell' possessionu' eiusdem nup' Prioratus existen'. Damus vlt'ius et p' considerac'oe p'd'ca p' p'sentes concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc totum illud man'iu' n'rm de Mynchynbarowe Et totam Rectoriam n'ram & eccl'iam n'ram de Mynchynbarowe cum om'ibz et sing'lis eor' iuribz membris et p'tin' vniu's' in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' Prioratui dudum spectan' & p'tinen' ac p'cell' &c. Necnon aduocaco'em donaco'em liberam disposico'em et Jus p'ronatus vicarie et eccl'ie de Mynchynbarowe in d'co Com' Som's' d'co nup' Prioratui dudum spectan' et p'tinen' Ac om'ia & sing'la mesuagia

grangias molendina tofta cotagia terr' ten'ta prata pascuas pastur' co'ias vasta iampna bruer' mariscos aquas piscar' boscos subbosc' &c. &c. Necnon cur' let' visus franc' pleg' catalla &c. extrahur' feod' firmas a'nuitates penco'es porco'es decimas &c. et om'ia alia n'ra p'ficua co'moditates emolumenta &c. situat' &c. in Mynchynbarowe ac d'co man'io et d'ce Rectorie et eccl'ie quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen' —adeo plene et integre ac in tam amplis modo et forma p'ut vltimus prior dict' nup' Prioratus de Mynchynbarowe aut aliquis vel aliqui p'decessor' suor' &c. h'uerunt tenuerunt vel gauisi fuerunt &c. Que quidem domus et Scitus dict' nup' Prioratus' ac p'd'em Man'iu' Rector' mesuag' terr' tent' et cetera om'ia & sing'la p'missa cum p'tin' modo extenduntr ad clar' annuu' valorem quindecim librar' octodecim solidor' et vnius denarij. H'end' tenend' et gaudend' p'dict' reu'sionem et reu'siones p'dict' domus et Scitus dict' nup' Prioratus &c. necnon p'd'ca man'iu' Rectoriam &c. &c. p'fat' Will'o Clerc hered' & assign' suis imp'p'm. Tenend' de nob' heredibz et successoribz n'ris in capite p' s'uiciu' vicesime p'tis vnius feodi militis, Ac reddend' inde a'nuatim nob' hered' & successoribz n'ris triginta vnu' solidos & decem denarios sterling' ad Curiam n'ram Augment' reuenc'onu' Corone n're ad festum sc'i Mich'is Arch'i sing'lis annis soluend' p' om'ibz redditibz s'uiciis & demand' quibuscumqz p'inde nob' hered' vel successoribz n'ris quoquo modo redden' soluen' vel faciend' Et vlt'ius &c. damus &c. p'fat' Will'o Clerc om'ia exit' redd' reuenco'es et p'ficua p'dict' &c. cu' p'tin' a festo Sc'i Mich'is Arch'i vltimo p'terito hucusqz p'uenien' siue crescen' h'end' eidem Will'o Clerc ex dono n'ro absqz comp'o seu aliquo alio p'inde nob' heredibz vel successoribz n'ris quouismodo reddend' soluend' vel faciend' Et insup' &c. exonerabim' acquietabim' et indempnes conseruabim' tam eundem Will'm Clerc heredes & assign' suos qam p'dict' man'iu' Rectoriam mesuag' terras &c. de om'ibz & om'i'od' corrodiis redditibz feodis annuitatibz penco'ibz et denar' su'mis quibuscumq p'terqam de reddit' & s'uicio sup'ius reseruat' Et p'terqam de vadeo & stipendio vnius capellani a'nuatim diuina celebran' et curam obseruan' in eccl'ia p'ochiali de Mynchynbarowe p'dict' Ac p'terqam de om'ibz aliis oneribz que aliquis firmarius p'missor' seu alicuius inde p'celle tenetr soluere aut quoquo modo exonerare.

—Et vlt'ius &c. concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc hered' & assign' suis q'd h'ebunt tenebunt & gaudebunt ac in vs' suos p'prios conuertent d'cam Rectoriam et eccl'iam de Mynchynbarowe ac om'ia terr' glebas decimas oblaco'es & cetera p'ficua eidem Rectorie & eccl'ie spectan' et p'tinen' adeo plene & integre &c. p'ut vltimus Prior &c. vel aliqui p'decessor' suor' &c. h'uerunt tenuerunt vel gauis' fuerunt aut in vsus suos p'prios conuertebant &c. Volum' etiam et p' p'sentes concedim' p'fat' Will'o Clerc q'd h'eat & habebit has l'ras n'ras patentes sub magno sigillo n'ro Angl' debito modo fact' & sigillat' absq' fine seu feod' magno vel paruo nob' in hanap'io n'ro seu alibi ad vsum n'rm p'inde quoquo modo reddend' soluend' vel faciend'. Eo q'd expressa mencio &c. In cuius rei &c. T R apud Westm' xxij die Maij

p' br'e de priuato sigillo

T. H.