

NOTE TO THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

My friend, Prebendary Earle, suggests to me that I have overlooked the claims of Bishop Burnell (1275-1292), to be a great statesman as well as a great builder. He has kindly supplied me with the following notes concerning him:—"He was the son of Robert Burnell, of Acton Burnell, Shropshire—practised as a lawyer at Westminster: 1265, was Secretary to Prince Edward: 1273, was the crown nominee to the See of Canterbury against the choice of the monks, Adam de Chillondene. Dean Hook says: 'The crown nominated Robert Burnell, the Chancellor of Prince Edward, one of the greatest and most popular statesmen of the age; of whom it is said, 'Regi tam utilis, plebi tam affabilis, omnibus amabilis: vix nostris temporibus illi similis inveniatur.' In 1274 he received the Great Seal, was Chancellor till Edward's death, and retained the confidence of his royal master to the last. He was a minister worthy of the confidence of such a King as Edward I, and was one of the greatest statesmen our country has produced. I do not see his name in Collier or in Hume." (Lives of the Archbishops, iii, 308.)
