

The following letter relates to the proceedings of the commissioners in Northamptonshire. At Chaucomb, Chacomb, or Saucomb, there was a priory of Augustine canons, founded by Hugh de Chacombe in the reign of Henry II. The last prior was Thomas Stoner. Ashby Magna, in Leicestershire, was a manor belonging to the nunnery of Catesby, or Catteby, in Northamptonshire, which house was founded by Philip de Esseby or Ashby, or by his son Robert, about the reign of Richard I. The last prioress is said to have been named Jocosa, i.e. Joice. From a subsequent letter it appears that this letter was addressed to the Chancellor of the Augmentations.

## LVIII.

THE COMMISSIONERS IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE TO SIR R. RICH.(?)

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 209.]

Ryght honorable, after all humble recommendacions, theis shalbe to advertyse you that we have byn yn execucion off the kynges commission directed unto us, begyngnyng at Chacumbe, wher we accomplysshed alle thynges acordyng unto our commyssion, and frome thens we repayred to Assheby, where after on days tarreyng we werr ffayne to departe thens unto Catesby nunrey, by occasion of sykenesse, where we have also accomplysshed the kynges commyssion accordyng to his high commandement and our poore distreccions. Which howse of Catesby we ffounde in verry perfett order, the prioeres a sure, wyse, discrete, and very religious woman, with ix. nunnys under her obedyencye as religious and devoute and with as good obedyencye as we have in tyme past seen or belyke shall see. The seid howse standyth in sueche a quarter muche to the releff off the kynges people, and his graces pore subjectes their lykewyse mooche relewed, as by the reporte of dyvers worshyppfulles nere therunto adjoynnyng as of alle other yt ys to us openly declared. Wherefore yf yt shulde please the kynges highnesse to have eny remorse that eny suche religious house shall stande, we thynke his grace cannot appoynt eny house more mete to shewe his most gracious charitie and pitey one than one the said howse of Catesby. Ferther ye shall understande, that as to her bounden dewtye towards the kynges highnes in theis his affayres, also for discrete enterteynment of ws his commysioners and our company, we have not fownde nor belyke shall

fynde eny suche of more dyscrecion. And lese peradventure theyr may be labor made to her detryment and other undoyng, before knowleg showlde cum to his hyghnesse and to yow frome us, yt may therfore please yow to sygnefy unto his hyghnesse the effecte of theis our lettres, to thentent his grace may stay the graunte theyrof tyll suche tyme we may ascerteyn yow of our fulle certyfycat and compartes in that behalfe accordyng. Frome Catesby, the xij. day off this present moneth off May; from the kynges commysioners at your commandement.

EDMOND KNYGHTLEY.

JOHN LANE.

GEORGE GYFFARD.

ROBT. BURGOYN.

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The priory of St. Petroc at Bodmin in Cornwall was founded in Saxon times, and was refounded for Augustine canons in 1120. The site with demesnes were granted, after its dissolution, to Thomas Sternhold, the celebrated translator of the Psalms. The last prior was Thomas Vivian, alias Wannyworth: he was suffragan bishop of Megara in Greece, and his tomb is still preserved in the church.

LIX.

THE PRIOR OF BODMIN TO MR. LOK.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 116.]

Master Lok, I harttili recommend me unto you, so thankyng you for your gret kyndenesse and payne that ye have take for me, which I trust wons God wylllyng to recompens. Syr, I am sore disquietid with a sett of unthryfty chanons, my convent and there berars, which of longe contynuans have lyvyd unthriftili and agene the gode order of relygyon, to the grete sklaunder of the same, as all the contrey can telle. For the reformacyon thereof, the buschope yn hys late visitacyon gave certayne and dyvers injuncions, commaundyng me straytle to see observyd and kept,