XVIII. *An Account of the Register of Persons who sought Sanctuary at S John of Beverley in Yorkshire, preserved among the Harleian Manuscripts in the British Museum; in a Letter from Henry Ellis, Esq. F.R.S. and S. A. to Nicholas Carlisle, Esq. Secretary.*

Read 21st January, 1813.

DEAR SIR,

British Museum, Dec. 12, 1812.

AMONG the Harleian Manuscripts in the British Museum is a thin folio volume written upon vellum, marked N° 4292, and containing the Register of Persons who sought Sanctuary for different crimes at St. John of Beverley in Yorkshire, in the reigns of King Edward the Fourth, King Henry the Seventh, and King Henry the Eighth. The book-binder by whom it appears to have been rebound of later years, seems to have mixed some of the leaves, or, at least, to have put the entries of King Edward the Fourth's time after some of those of King Henry the Seventh's.

The greater part of the manuscript is of course confined to a list of names and crimes: but on the reverse of folio 17 is a copy of the oath taken by those who sought the peace of the place. I do not remember to have met with a sanctuary-oath elsewhere. The bailiff of the town, by whom the oath was administered, is directed to enquire of the refugee "what man he killed, and wher with, and both ther names: and than gar hym lay his hand vppon the book, sayng "on this wyse,

'Sir tak hede on your oth. Ye shalbe trew and fëythful to my lord Archbishop of York, lord off this towne, to the provest of thesame, to the chanons of this chirch, and all othir minstr's therof.

'Also ye shall bere gude hert to the baillie and xii governars of this town, to all burges' and comyners of thesame.

‘ Also ye shall bere no poynted wapen, dagger, knyfe, ne none other wapen ayenst the kyngs pece.

‘ Also ye shalbe redy at all your power if ther be any debate or stryf or oð sothan case of fyre within the town to help to s’cess it.

‘ Also ye shalbe redy at the obite of Kyng Adelstan, at the Dirige and the Messe at such tyme as it is done at the warnyng of the bel-man of the town, and do your dewte in ryngyng, and for to offer at the messe on the morne, so help you god and thies holy Evangelists.’

“ And then gar hym kysse the Book.”

The Bailiff’s fee on this occasion appears to have been two and four-pence: that of the Clerk of the Court, for inscribing the name of the party seeking refuge in the Sanctuary Register, four-pence.

The earliest entry is of the eighteenth year of King Edward the Fourth,^a when William and John Salvan, Esquires, John Heghfeld, gentleman, George Walker, and John Hunt, were received, after the murder of Henry Hardewyk, April 13th.

Another entry occurs in the same year, on the twenty-third of May, when refuge was sought by John Boys of Doram, after the murder of one Baxter, a monk of the Cistercian Abbey of Jorevaulx in Yorkshire.^b

The greater part of the early entries are made in Latin: a few, however, occur in English; as,

“ M^d. that Jhon Sprot of Barton open Umber in the counte of

^a “ Willm’s Salvan, Armiger.

Johannes Heghfeld, generos.

Johannes Salvan, armig.

Georgius Walker.

Johannes Hunt.

} Omnes isti fuer’ recept’ xij die Aprilis pro morte Henrici Hardewyk per ipsos interfect’.”

^b Jōhes Boys de Doram, als DDorham, xxiiij.^o die Maij Anno r.r. Edwardi quarti post conquestum Anglie xviii.^o venit hic ad pacem sancti Jōhis Beverlaci pro morte dompni Baxter monachi ordinis Cisterciensis de Gervaxem com. Ebor. per ipm̄ Jōhem Boys interfecti apud Doram predict’ infra Episcopat Dunelmie xij.^{mo} die Aprilis anno r.r. supradicto. Et accept’ ab ipo Johanne Boys sacramento secundum consuetudinem, &c. idem Jōhes admissus est et receptus mansurus et moraturus infra libertatem, &c.”

Lyngcoln jentilman com to Beverlay the ferst day of October the vij. yer of the raen of Keng Herre the vij. and asked the lybertes of sant Jhon of Beuerlay for the dethe of Jhon Welton husbandman of the sam toon, and knowleg hym selff to be at the kyll yng of the saym Jhon w' a dager the xv. day of August."

The description of the party, whether as a gentleman, a tradesman, or a yeoman, is regularly entred; with the place of residence, and the place and mode in which the crime protected was committed by the person seeking refuge.

From a manuscript note in a copy of Bishop Nicolson's Historical Libraries, at Oxford, I learn that the *Register of the SANCTUARY at WESTMINSTER* was purchased by Humphrey Wanley, at the auction of Sir Henry Spelman's manuscripts, for Lord Weymouth, in whose library at Long-Leate it was placed, and where it may probably be still found.

I am, dear Sir, with great respect,

Your obedient and faithful servant,

HENRY ELLIS.

NICHOLAS CARLISLE, Esq. &c. &c.