In the secunde lyne ys sett the letter that standyth upon his cell dore. The thyrd lyne is the number of the persons.

We have already seen several allusions to the intended visitations of the Universities, as connected with the visitation of the monasteries, for it is clear that the Universities were at this time looked upon and treated as at least in great part monastic establishments. The following letter from Dr. Layton affords us a kind of sample of what was done at Oxford. It is a curious picture of the state of learning at the moment when our island was about to participate with the continent in its restoration.

XXX.

DR. LAYTON TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Faustina C. vii. fol. 205.]

Pleasit your goodnes to be advertisyde that in Magdelen Colege we fownde stablisshe one lecture of divinitie, two of philosophie, one morale another naturale, and one of Laten tonge, well kept and diligently frequented. To thes we have adjoined a lecture in the Greke, that is, the grammer in Greke perpetually to be rede there, and all the yewthe therunto to have confluence for ther principulles. In New Colege we have stablisshe two lecturres publike, one of Greke, another in Laten, and have made therfore for evermore an honeste salarie and stipende. In Allsowllen Colege we have in lyke maner stablisshe two lecturres, one of Greke, another in Laten, with a goode stipende and salarie therunto assignede for ever. In Corpus Christi Colege we fownde two lecturres stablisshe by the founder, one in Greke, another in Latten, publike for all men therunto to have concourse. We have further stablisshe a lecture in Laten tonge, publike, in Marten Colege; and another in Qwenes Colege; and have assignede and made a sufficient stipende for either of thes for evermore. Bicause we fownde all other the colegeis not able in londes and renews to have within them lectures publike, as the other afore rehersed hathe, we have injoned the saide poire

colegeis that they and evere of them shall frequent and have dayly concourse unto the saide lectures. *Penam imposuimus* to evere scoler within the universitie not heryng at the leste one of theses lectures, for that day that he shalbe absent from one of the saide lectures to be punissede in the losse of his commons for that day, the saide paine evere day *toiciensquociens absens fuerit, nisi concurrenti causa aliqua legitima, approbanda tamen per prepositum collegii sive aule.*

We have sett Dunce * in Bocardo, and have utterly banisshede hym Oxforde for ever, with all his blinde glosses, and is now made a comon servant to evere man, faste nailed up upon postes in all comon howses of easment: *id quod oculis meis vidi.* And the seconde tyme we came to New Colege, affter we hade declared your injunctions, we fownde all the gret quadrant court full of the leiffes of Dunce, the wynde blowyng them into evere corner. And ther we fownde one Mr. Grenefelde, a gentelman of Bukynghamshire, getheryng up part of the saide bowke leiffes (as he saide) therwith to make hym sewelles or blawnsherres to kepe the dere within the woode, therby to have the better cry with his howndes. We have also, in the place of the canon lecture, joned a civel lecture, to be rede in evere colege, hale, and in.

We have further, in visitynge the religiouse studenttes,† amongste all other injunctions adjoyned that none of them for no maner cause shall cum within any taverne, in, alhowse, or any other howse whatsoever hit be, within the towne and the suburbs of the same, upon payne onse so taken by day or by nyght to be sent immediatly home to his cloister whereas he was professede. With-

* Duns Scotus.

† The *religiouse studenttes* were the students sent to the university with exhibitions from the monasteries. One of the visitorial injunctions, in allusion to this class of students, directs:—"Also that the abbot or president kyp and fynd in some universite one or two of his brethren, accordyng to the habilitie and possessions of this house, which brethren, after they be lernyd in good and holly letters, when they retorne home, maye instruct and teache ther brethern and diligently preache the worde of God."

oute doubte we here say this acte to be gretly lamentede of all the duble honeste women of the towne, and specially of ther laundres that now may not onse entre within the gaittes, and muche lesse within ther chambers, wherunto they wer ryght well accustomed. I doubt not but for this thyng onely the honeste matrones will sew unto yowe for a redresse.

Other thynges moo wiche ys to tediousse and long to conceive by writyng we have done, wiche all I shall declare unto yowe at my cummyng. This Sonday by nyght we shall make an ende; for all this day we repaire to colageis for the redresse of division and complaintt put unto us. To morowe by vij. of the cloke in the mornyng I wilbe in the chapitre howse at Abyngton, and I truste to bring yow the trewth of evere thyng for that howse; and therof doubte ye not. On Wedinsday by nyght, at utermoste, I truste to be with yowe at Winchestre, Gode willyng, who sende yowe as goode helthe as your hert desierith. We fynde here all men applyng and glade to accomplisse all thynges. From Oxforde, thys Sonday the xijth day of Septembre,

by your moste assurede poire preste and servant,

RYCHARDE LAYTON.

To the ryght honorable Mr. Thomas Cromwell,
cheffe secretarie to the kynges hyghnes.

The letter which follows appears to have been written about the same time as the preceding. The abbey of Rewley, or *De regali loco*, in the suburbs of Oxford, was founded by the will of Richard king of the Romans, brother of Henry III. The last abbot (the writer of this letter) was Nicholas Austen.

XXXI.

THE ABBOT OF REWLEY TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 269.]

Ryght honorable and my syngular good master, my dutye remembred, I humblye commend to yow, glad to here of youre helth,