or yow I knowe not. Your plesure in theis, my lorde, I hartely besече yow, and I ever at your commandment by Goddis grace, hoo preserve yow to heis hei honor. This xxij. day of Maye, From Gloscetur, by your servant and orator,

RICHARD DOVORENS.

It seems by the date of the following letter that the bishop remained several weeks occupied between Gloucester and Bristol. It appears, however, that during this period he had visited Marlborough and Winchester, and perhaps also some other places in that part of the country.

XCVIII.

RICHARD BISHOP OF DOVER TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 251.]

My synguler good lorde, my dewte presupposyd, pleseythe yt yower good lordeschype to understande, that before I receyvyd yower letter by my servantt, I had beyn in Brystowe at the Whyte Fryers,* and also in ij. howsys of Glowsetur, and ther for the gret clamor that was for dettes ther, I had men assyugneyd by the mayeres of bothe townes to prise suche as was in thoys iij. howsys, and solde all and payd the dettes, as by my accounttes yt shall appere, and the howsys put in saffe custody tyll the kynges plesur be forther knowyn. The substans in the more parte of the howsys ys very small; in dyverse placeys lytyll more than the dettes; and the clamor of pore men to whom the monye ys oweynge ys to tedyus. Wherfor thys order I toke tyll yower letter cam specyally, where that the dettes were moche. But nowe that I knowe your forther plesur, I shall folowe yower commandement so nere as I can, and accordeynge to yt I have begon with the Grey Fryers in Glowsetur.† And because I am in dowte off

* The priory of the Carmelites or White Friars in Gloucester, a small house, was founded in the latter part of the reign of Henry III.

† There was in Gloucester a house of Grey or Franciscan Friars, or Friars Minors, which existed as early as the year 1268, but the date of its foundation is uncertain.

my returne to London, I sende to yow here the copys off every indenter off the inventorys off every howse that hathe gyffyn up into the kynges hondes, because yf that yt shall fortene in the tyme any howse by the kynges grace or yow to be set any order for yt, that ye maye knowe the order and substans off that howse by theys copys. And where that yt hathe pleseyd yower lordeschype to wryght to me, as ye juge, that though I have changeyd my habet, I have not changeyd my fryeres hartt, goode my lorde, juge me not so, for God shall be my juge, my fryers hart was gone ij. yeres befor my habet, saveynge only my leveynge; but the favor that I have schewyd hathe not be for my fryers hartt, but to brynge all thynges with the moste quiet to passe; and also tyll now that yower honorabull letter cam to me, I never koulde perseyve any thyng of yower plesur, but ever fereyd that yf I wer to quike, that I shulde offende yower lordeschype, the whyche I wolde not by my wyll for all that I am abull to make in the worlde. But yff that I myght know that I shulde not offende the kynges grace nor yower lordeschype, I koulde by juste and fayer menys, and do no wronge, dyspache a gret parte off the fryeres in Ynglonde, or my yere off vysytacyon was endeyd, so that I myght have sum lyberte to lycens them to change ther habettes after ther howsys were gyffyn up. For off trewthe ther harttes be clene from the relygyon the more parte, so they myght change ther cotes, the whyche they be not abull to paye for, for they have no thenge. I harttely besече yower lordeschype be good lorde to theys pore men that have gyffyn up ther howsys that they may have sum dyscharge. I sende ther namys here incloseyd. And where yower lordschype noteythe that I shulde sum thinge wryght in commendacyon of the fryers, and suffer sum to tery at mennys desyer, the trewthe ys, I have so don because that I wolde not be taken to schewe them extremyte, but rather favor. But in my besynes amonge them, ther appereythe lytyll favor, for where that I fynde them fawte, I declare ther fawttes after suche facyon that they rather woll gyffe up the howsys, than I shulde declare ther deme-

nors, as by that menys I have receyvyd iij. howsys sythe that I wrought laste to yower lordeschype, the whyche I thynke wolde not a lytyll a moveyd yower lordschype, yff ye had knowen the order off them; sum stekeynge faste in wyndowys naked goynge to drabbes, so that the peler was fayne to be sawyde to have hym owte; sum beynge plucked from under drabbes beddes; sum feytynge so that the knyffe hathe stoken in the bone; wythe suche other praty besynes, off the whyche I have to moche. But on I thynke ye shulde doo a goode dede to wryght to the mayer of Marleburthe, that he sumwhat loke on a fryer ther that ys in prison for a mayde chylde off x. or xi. yeres of age, whom he useyd nowtely; they wolde that I shulde a delyveryd hym at my beynge ther, but master Yorke and I spake with the chylde and here fryndes, so that the mater appereyd so that I wolde not medell with the fryer. As for the Blacke Fryers of Wynchester,* I lefte yt with all the stuffe in a seculer mannys handdes, and gave but lycens to the prior to say masse ther tyll that I sent hym my letter ageyn, the whyche nowe I have senth to advoyde hym thense.

Sythe that I last wrought to yower lordschype I have receyvyd iiij. howsys into the kynges handdes. The Whyte Fryeres in Brystowe,† the whyche all that was in yt ys lytyll more than payd the dettes. Yt ys a goodly howse in byldeynge, mete for a gret man, no renttes but ther gardens. Ther ys a chapell and an yle off the chyrche, and dyverse gutteres, spowtes, and condytes, lede; the reste all tylle and slate. A goodly laver and condyte cumynge to yt. Thys howse was in dett above xvj^{li}. of the whyche payd viij^{li}., the rest dyschargeyd by plegeys. In Glowsetur I have dyschargeyd iij. howseys, as by the mayer and aldermennys handes

* The house of Black or Dominican Friars in Winchester, was founded by Peter de Rupibus, or Derroches, bishop of Winchester, in 1221.

† I find no account of this house in the Monasticon. It was against the order of the friars to possess lands; but the gardens, which they let out on leases, were allowed to pass by a quibble.

ye may perseyve. The Blacke Fryers* ys a proper lytyll howse; lytyll led but on yle; no renttes, but ther gardens, the whyche master Bell the alderman hathe in lese under ther convente sell for many yeres, and I harttely desyer yow be good lorde to hym that he also may have that howse. He dothe moche goode in that towne amonge the pore pepull, setteynge many on worke, above iij. hunderyd dayly; and I am moche bownde to hym for heys gret comfort in all my besynes ther at bothe tymys, and for the more parte I have beyn at borde with hym. I beseche youe be good lorde to hym. The Grey Fryers ys a goodly howse, moche off yt new byldeyd, specyally the chyrche, quere, and dorter; the rest small logeynges; dyverse leseys owt for yeres off logeynges and gardens; no led but a condyte and small gutturs. The Whyte Fryeres but a small howse, and in decay, and sum howseys taken downe and solde; no renttes but xx^s. by yere, and that ys taken for xx. yeres befor, off the wyche ix. or x. yere to cum. Yonge Thomas Bell hathe parte off the gardens off yt for yeres. I wold he myght have that howse, yf yt pleseyd the kynges grace and yower lordschype. My singuler goode lorde, I mekely beseche yow pardon me of my rude and longe wrytynge, and yff yt plese yow to be good lorde to me to sende the dyscharge for the fryeres and yower forther plesur by thys brynger, he shall sende yt to me to Ludlowe or Harforde † thys nexte weke, and I ever yower orator to Jhesu, whom I hartely beseche to gyve me that grace to do that thyng that shall be to hys hey honor, to the kynges graceys plesur and yowers, to the whyche I woll appley my selfe to the uttermost of my pore.

Yowr servantt and orater,

RICHARD DOVORENS.

My gude lorde, if that 3e wold be so gode lord to me to send to

* The house of the black or Dominican friars in Gloucester was founded about 1239. The last prior was John Raynolds.

† Hereford.

me a hunderyd worans for the delyverans of a hunderyd ffreeres that schall gyff up ther howseys in thys progresse, and leve a space for ther nameys, I woll brynge 3ow the nameys and place at my returne. And, gode my lord, I beseche 3ou thynke noht that I am any feynour to 3ow, for I insuer 3ow I am no3t, but am and woll be as trew and as secrete to 3ow as any servantt that 3e have, and as glad to do that thyng that schuld plese God specyally and the kynges grace and 3ow. I wolde do all thynges with so moche quiet and withowt any clamor so ner as I know; if that I knew 3ower plesur, ther schall no parte be left undon so ner as I may. My commyscyon gyffyt me no auctoryte to put any owte withowte they gyff up ther howseys; but if that I knew 3ower plesur, I may fynde causeys suffycient to put them owte of many placeys, for ther mysleveyng and for disobeyyng the instruccyons and the kynges actes.

[At] Winchelse, accordeyng to 3ower commandement, I have sold the stuff; the howse is at the kynges commandement and yowres.

To my synguler goode lorde
Crumwell, lorde prevy seale,
be thys delyveryd with
honor.

(Inclosure.)

TO MY SYNGULER GOODE LORD CRUMWELL, LORDE PREVY SEALE.

I beseche yower lordeschype to have dyscharge for theys fryers to change ther apparell.

The Blacke Fryers of Glosseter.

Fryer Johan Raynoldes, bachyler in dyvynyte, *prior nuper*.

Fryer Johan Howper.

Fryer Rychard Bylond.

Fryer Wylliam Swan.

Fryer Wylliam Walton.

Fryer Raffe Howell.

Fryer Thomas Meykyns.

The Whyte of Gloseter.

Fryer Thomas Knyght.
 Fryer Wylliam Plesans.
 Fryer Henry Byschewode.

The Grey Fryers off Gloseter.

Fryer Wylliam Lyghtfote.
 Fryer Johan Barclaye.
 Fryer Henry Jaket.
 Fryer George Coper.
 Fryer Johan Rebull.

The Whyte Fryers of Brystowe.

Fryer Thomas Wraxall.
 Fryer Thomas Clyfton.
 Fryer Symon Vagan.
 Fryer Johan Hoper.

The Whyte Fryeres of Marlysborrowe.*

Fryer Thomas Goldysborowe.
 Fryer Crystofer Hyll.
 Fryer Martyn Brasy.
 Fryer Austen More.
 Fryer Johan Arnolde.

The Grey Fryers off Wynchester.*

Fryer Thomas Parys.
 Fryer Wylliam Kenett.
 Fryer Rycharde Forde.

The Austen Fryers off Wynchester.†

Fryer Johan Wyhtt.

The Blacke Fryers off Wynchester.

Fryer Rycharde Chessam, doctor of dyvynyte, prior.
 Fryer Robarde Browne.
 Fryer Johan George.
 Fryer Nycholas Barker.
 Fryer Johan Ynggylbye.
 Fryer Robarde Haynys.

* The house of the white friars in Marlborough was founded by two merchants in 1316.

I wante iij. or iiij. freeres nameys of the Austen and Wheyte Freeres of Winchester. I lefte the boke at hom. If ye wold be so gode to send to me iij. or iiij. warantes with a space for ther namys, I wer bonde to yow.

My lorde, I intende, God willing, your plesure not knowen to the contrary, to ride now to Bristow, to Winchester, to Chichester, to Arrondell, to Sowthamton, to Salisbury, and so all the west contre within xvj. mile of the Mownthe, and so returne into Walys, and cum ageyne to Ludlowe and to Schrewisbery, and so to Denbith and to Bangar, and so to Westchester and to Lancaster, and so all the northe abowthe or I returne. In all placeys wher as yet I have ben I have made inventory indenteid, and seleyd up their common sealys so that thei shall sell or alienate nomore of their jewellys nor other stuffe, wherfor I am suar that within a yere the more parte shall be fayne to giffe up their howseis for povertie. I beseche your lordechipe that my servant may knowe your plesure whether he shall adwaythe for a letter from your lordeschipe or no.

XCIX.

REPORT OF THE SURRENDER OF THE FRIARS GLOUCESTER.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 252.*]

Memorandum, thys xxviiij. day of Julii, in the xxx. yer of ower most dred soverren lord kyng Henry the viij^{te}, Rychard byschop of Dowor and vesityr under the lord prevy selle for the kynges grace was in Glowsetur, and ther befor the meyar and aldermen in the howseys of freeres ther at ij. tymeys in ij. days putt the seyde freeres att ther lyberteys, whether they vould contynew in ther howseys and kepe ther relygyon and injuxcyons accordeyng to the same, or ellys gyff ther howseys into the kynges handdes. The injuxcyons he ther declareyd among them, the whyche war thowthe by the seyde meyar and aldermen to be good and resonabyll, and also the seyde freeres seyde that they war accordeyng to ther rewlys, yet as the

* The convent of the Grey Friars at Winchester is said to have been founded by Edward III.

† This house stood outside the town: the Austin friars settled here in the time of Edward I.