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.

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 harttily 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,

which are noo hardar thane ower owne rule and profession byndis us, and as alle other relygyus men use and observe where god relygioun is observid and kept; wherewith they be sore grevid, and yntend the most parte of them to depart with capacitise withowt my concent and wylle, and won of them hathe purchesid a capacitye the last terme withowt my lycence, which is agene the wordes of his capacite, wherefor I have restraynyd his departyng, for no gret los that I showld have of hym, but for the yl exemple to othere; for yf I showld suffer this man to depart yn this maner, I shall have never a chanon to byde with me. I am sore thretynynd with won master Roger Arundell, a gret berar and maynty-nar of my bretherne agenst me, and the procurar of there capacities, to be browght before the kynges grace honorable counsell, for that I have not sufferd this lewde chanon to depart with his capacite acordyng to there yntent. I pray you harttily to shew this mater to my gode master secretary, desieryng hym, as my speciall trust ys yn hym, yf anney complayntes cum to hym, as I dowt not but that there wol, yt may plese hym to refer the examynatioun of the mater to sir Johan Arundell, sir Peter Egge-cumbe, sir Johan Chamond, or any other discrete gentilmen yn the contrey whatsoever, so that I cum not to London, as there purpose ys, which showld be to gret a charge for me to bere, my hows beyng sore yndettid alleredy. This gentilman hathe procured a commyssion, as I am informyd, to pull downe a were longyng to my pore hows, whiche hathe stande us thes ccccc. yere and more. If nede be, I wol wryte more of this mater by mastre Hill. Thus fare ye as wel, as your gentil hart can thynke, and alle my gode frendes and lerners to honour (?) pray you have harttily commendid. From Badmyn, 25 May, by your owne for ever,

THOMAS, priour there.

To the ryght worshipfull
master W. Loke, mercer, dwellyng yn the
Chepscyde, at the syngne of the
Padlok, this be dd. with spede.

The following letter from Richard Beerly, a monk of Pershore, is a curious illustration of the state of the religious houses. His request appears to have been granted, as we do not find his name among the list of monks who received pensions at the dissolution of the house. The Benedictine abbey of Pershore in Worcestershire, was founded towards the end of the seventh century. The last abbot appears to have been John Stanewell or Stonywell.

LX.

RICHARD BEERLY TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 161.]

Most reverent lord yn God, second person yn this rem of Englonde, ynduyd with all grace and goodnes, y submytt my selfe unto your grace and goodnes, desyuryng you myckely to be good and gracyus lord unto me synful and poor creatur, my lowly and myck scrybullyng unto your nobull grace at thys tyme ys gruggyng yn my conchons that the relygyon wyche we do obser and keype ys no rull of sentt Benett, nor yt no commandymnt of God, nor of no sentt, but ly3th and foullyse serymonys, mayd sum yn old tyme and sume yn our tyme, by ly3th and ondyscrytt faders, wych have done ther dutys and fulfellyd ther owne serymonys, an lett the preceps an commandymentes of God go. And so have y do thys syx yere, wych doth now greve my conchons sore, that y have bye a dyssymblar so long tyme, the wych relygyon say sent Jamys, ys yn vayne and bryngyng forth no good fruttes; bettur owtt then yn the relygyon, except yt were the tru relygyon of Chryst. Also we do nothyng seyrch for the doctryn of Chryst, but all fowloys our owne sensyaly and pleser. And thys relygyon, as y supposse, ys all yn vayne glory, and nothyng worthy to be except nather before God nor man. Also, most gracyus lord, ther ys a secrett thyng yn my conchons wych dothe move me to goo owt of the relygyon, an yf yt were never so perfett, wych no man may know but my gostly fader, the wych I supposs yf a man mothe guge yn other yong persons as yn me selfe, for Chryst say,