and certefye the same of all thinges at large. This berar can certefye your lordeshipp whow farre wee have procedyd hitherto, by whom wee have send the names of the chanons for the making of ther capacites. And so allmighte God have your lordeshipp in his blessed keping. From Lanthonye, the xvijth of Marche.

Your lordeshippes most bownden beadesman and servant,

WILLIAM PETRE.

The abbey of Peterborough was a foundation of great antiquity, dating from the middle of the seventh century. It was originally named Medeshamstede, but was afterwards called Peterborough, from the name of its patron saint. Its abbot in later times wore the mitre, and had a seat in parliament. At the dissolution, it was converted into a bishop's see by the king. The last abbot was John Chambers, who became the first bishop, being consecrated on the the 23rd October, 1541.

XC.

WILLIAM PARRE TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cott. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 205.]

Pleasethe your lordship to bee advertised, that according to the tenour of my last lettre sente unto your lordship by this berer, I have bene at Peterbourgh, where the abbot, upon the rumour that was spred abroad of the commyng downe of the visitours, and not upon any occasion geven or mynistred to hym either in worde or dede by doctor Layton, shewed hymself to bee affrayed, inso-moche as at my furst commyng thiddir he required me of myne advise and favour what was best for hym to doo, and perceiving by hym amongis other commynicacion that specialle he tendred the contynuaunce and standing of his monastery, I declared that I had no auctorite ner commysion to treate or comon with hym concernyng any poynt, cause, or purpos, touching either the standing or the dissolucion of his hous, and that my commyng thiddir was for no other matier but bicause he sent for me, advising hym to put all doubt awaye, onles he knewe other matier thene I did. Nevertheles this coude not satisfie his myende, but

ffering that some thing shulde bee done contraire to his myende, he sent sir Thomas Tresham, the marshall of his hall, and Johan Layne of Kettring to me, who alledged on his behalf that he was contente upon condicion that he mought bide in suertie that his hous shulde stande to give the kinges highnes on hoole yeres rent of all the landes apperteynyng to the monastery, whiche I thinke amountethe nigh upon two thousaunde and five hundred merkes. And over that to gratifie your lordship to bee good lorde to hym, with the some, as I suppose, of thre hundred poundes. Notwithstanding therein I gave hym directe aunswere, that I coude not determyne any such poyntes with hym more thene I had alredie before shewed hym, untill suche tyme as I had knowleige of your lordshippes pleasure, wherewith and at that same tyme there arrived this said berer with letters from your lordship. And afre he had knowelege howe good lorde ye were unto hym, by the reaporthe of on that came from the court, he digressed apartelie from his ffurst commynicacion, and said that in his suetes towards the kinges highnes and your lordship he wolde bee ordred as Mr. comptroller and myself wold advise hym, and in this state I left hym, without any ferther prouf or treatie bitwene hym and me. Howebeit if [it] shall pleas your lordship to commaunde me with any ferther service in thapproving hym eftesones in his matier, I shall most humble ensue the same, supposing that small treatie wolde moeve hym to accomplishe his furst offre.

It maye pleas your lordship to bee soo goode lorde to me as to have the bill of Kendall for the pore inhabitauntes of the same in your remembrance, wherebie your lordship shall not onlie, in my judgement, doo as good a dede as ever was done and acquire all the comons there for ever to bee your perpetuell bedmen, but alsoo suche rest, quietnes, and suertie against the kinges ennemyes shall therebie procede, that it shalbee to the comforte and rewise of all that parties, whiche nowe by the crueltie and senistre pollicie of on or two privat persones is in maner clerelie subverted. The pore men hathe no other meane but dailie either on nombre or

other to labour hiddir to shewe theire grieffes, in trust that for theym all I shulde bee a sueter unto your lordship to releasse theym of theire extreme oppressons and bondage, whiche most humblie I beseche your lordship amonges other your weightie busynes to considre. And thus the hoolie Trenytie evermore have you, my singler good lorde, in his hoolie governaunce. At Horton, the xvijth. daye of Merche.

Your lordshippis assured most boundon,

WYLLIAM PARRE.

The great priory of Lewes in Sussex was founded by William earl of Warren in 1077 or 1078. The priors were mitred and sat in parliament. Robert Crowham was the last prior. The site of this house was granted to Cromwell. The date of the surrender given in the last edition of the *Monasticon*, 6 Nov. 1538, must be incorrect. March 1537, is, of course, 1537. The following letter gives a singular picture of the devastations made in many of the dissolved houses.

XCI.

JOHN PORTINARI* TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. p. 232.]

My lord, I humbly commend my selfe unto your lordshyp, the laste I wrote unto your lordshyp was the xxth daye of thys present monith by the handes of Mr. Wyliamson, by the whych I advertised your lordshyp of the lengthe and greatenes of thys churche, and how we had begon to pull the hole down to the ground, and what maner and fashion they used in pulling it down. I told your lordshyp of a vaute on the ryghte syde of the hyghe altare, that was borne up with fower greate pillars, having abowt it v. chappelles, whych be compased in with the walles lxx. stokes (?) of length, that is, fete ccx. All thys is down a Thursday and Fryday last. Now we ar pluckyng down an hygher vaute, borne up by fower

* Perhaps this is a disguised name, as the letter appears to be in the hand-writing of Richard Moryson.