the covent seale from the abbott and covent here.* He desyrethe oonly your favour, and no other thinge; and I know so moche that my lord schall fynde hym as conformable a man as any in thys realme, as more at lardg I will tell yow at the begynnyng of the terme, by the grace of Godd, who with increse of moche worschippe longe preserve yow. At Reding, xvij^o Septemberis.

Your most bounden oratour,
JOHAN LONDON.

CX.

DR. LONDON TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 223.]

In my most humble maner I have me commendyd unto your gudde lordeschippe, with my assured prayer and service, I have sent upp to your lordeschippe the surrender of the Grey Fryers of Reding, with ther plate, suche as yt ys. I have inwardly defacyd the churche and dorter; the resydew of the howse I have left hole till I know your farther pleasur, and clerly dispacchyd all the fryers owt of the doores in ther seculer apparell, and have geven to every oon of theym mony in ther purcys, and have clerly payd ther dettes. Thys ys a towne of moch power people, and they fell to steling so fast in every corner of the howse, that I have be fayne to tary a hole wek here to sett every thing in dew ordre, and have and schall receyve to the kinges grace use I trust above xli^{li}. The mansion holy reservyd. I have sent upp the principall relik of idolytrie within thys realme, an aungell with oon wyng that browȝt to Caversham the spere hedde that pereyd our Saviour is syde upon the crosse. It wasse conveyd home to

* Reading Abbey was not dissolved till the year following, when the abbot was hanged.

Notley, butt I sent my servant purposley for ytt. I have sent also iij. cotes of the image, with such thinges as I fownde upon them, with the dagger that they say slew king Henry the vj. and the knyff that kyled seynt Edward, with many other lyk holy thinges. I have defacyd that chapell inward, and have sent home the chanon to hys master to Notley. I have requyred of my lord abbott the relykes of hys howse, wich he schewyd unto me with gudde will. I have taken an inventory of them, and have lokkyd them upp behynde ther high awlter, and have the key in my keping, and they be always redy at your lordships commaundement. They have a gudde lecture in scripture dayly redde in ther chaitour howse, bothe in Inglysche and Laten, to the wich ys gudde resortt, and the abbott ys at yt hym self. In any other thing I can do your lordeschipp service I am and always schalbe redy, Godde willyng, who with increse of moche honour, long preserve your gudde lordeschippe. Att Reding, xvii^{jo} Septembris.

Your most bounden oratour and servant,

JOHAN LONDON.

THE INVENTORYE OFF THE RELYQUES OFF THE HOWSSE OFF
REDYNG.

Inprimis, twoo peces off the holye crosse.

Item, saynt James hande.

Item, saynt Phelype stolle.

Item, a bone off Marye Magdelene, with other moo.

Item, saynt Anastasius is hande, with other moo.

Item, a pece off saynte Pancrates arme.

Item, a bone off saynt Quyntyns arme.

Item, a bone off saynt Davyde is arme.

Item, a bone off Marye Salomes arme.

Item, a bone off saynt Edwarde the Martyre is arme.

Item, a bone of saynt Hierome, with other moo.

Item, bones off saynt Stephyn, with other moo.
 Item, a bone off saynte Blase, with other moo.
 Item, a bone of saynt Osmonde, with other moo.
 Item, a pece off saynt Ursula stole.
 Item, a chowbone of saynt Ethelmold.
 Item, bones off saynt Leodigarye and of S. Herenei.
 Item, bones off saynt Margaret.
 Item, bones off saynt Arnal.
 Item, a bone off saynt Agas, with other moo.
 Item, a bone off S. Androwe, and ij. peces of his crosse.
 Item, a bone off S. Fredyswyde.
 Item, a bone off saynt Anne.
 Withe many other.

Ther be a multitude of small bonys, laces, stonys, and ermys, wiche wolde occupie iiij. schetes of papyr to make particularly an inventory of every part therof. They be all at your lordeschips commaundement.

The nunnery of Godstow, in Oxfordshire, founded in the time of Henry I., is chiefly celebrated as the place of burial of Fair Rosamond, the mistress of Henry II. The last abbess was Catherine Bulkeley, *alias* Bewmaris, who in a subsequent letter complains that Dr. London was actuated by personal resentment towards her. As, however, we have here the visitor's private letter to Cromwell concerning the abbey, where he speaks with leniency, it appears that the abbess was mistaken. Her letter has been frequently quoted as a proof of the harsh and unjust treatment of the nuns and their superiors, but the fact was overlooked that on the dissolution Catherine Bulkeley received the extremely large pension of fifty pounds a year.

CXI.

DR. LONDON TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 227*.]

In my most humble maner I have me commendyd unto your