if he did, he did the kinges grace greate injurie, and offendid God, breakyng his lawes commaunding obedience towards prynces. And in this behalf we shewed that the king, being a christen prynce, was a spirituall man, and that obedience which they owed to the kinge by Goddes lawe was a spirituall obedience and in spirituall causes; ffor they wolde be obedient but only in temporall causes. But all this reason coude not synke into their obstinatt heddes and worne in custome of obedience of the pope. Albeit we ffurthre declared unto them that bothe archebissoppes of this realme, the bisshoppes of London, Wynchester, Duresme, Bathe, and all other prelattes and heddes, and all the ffamouse clerkes of this realme, have subscribед to this conclusyon, *Quod Romanus pontifex non habet majorem jurisdictionem ex sacris literis in hoc regno Anglie quam quivis alius externus episcopus*. All this notwithstanding, their conclusion was, they had professed sainte Frauncis religion, and in the observance therof they wolde lyve and dye. Sory we be we can not bring them to no better fframe and ordre in this behalf, as our ffaithfull myndes was to doo, ffor the accomplishment of the kinges pleasure. From the Myles ende, the xvth day of June.

By yower assurydly, ROLAND CO. ET LICH.
Your owne, THOMAS BEDYLL.

To master Secretary.

XVI.

BEDYLL TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cleop. E. vi. fol. 168.]

After my moost due thanks and hertie commendations unto you, I do you to understand that, as it was agreed bytwixt you and me at your departing, I have deliverd al maister Dr. Fysshers bookes late bisshope of Rochester, devised by him in the defense

of the kinges grace first unlawful marriage and against his second lawful marriage, to my lord of Cauntrebury, to be seen and weyed by him and suche as gyve attendance on him at this tyme for thaunswer to be made to Cocleus* boke and others, trusting that my said lord and the said other lerned men wol make so substantial aunswer to the said M. Fisshers books and the seid others, that not only the peple of this tyme, but also suche as shal rede the said aunswers at al tymes hereafter, shall wel perceyve thereby that al the kinges procedinges in thoes maters have been grownded upon good reasons and auctorites founded in the law of God, which his grace was bounden in conscience to folow, notwithstanding any other assertion or intelligence.

I have also been at Syon sith your departing with my lord of London, where we have found the lady abbas and susters as conformable in every thing as myght be devised. And as towching the father confessor and ffather Cursone (whiche be the saddest men ther and best learned) they shewed thaimselfes like honest men; and I think the confessor wol now on Sonday next in his sermon make due mension of the kinges title of supreme hed, according as he is commaunded. What towardnes or intowardnes we have seen in som other of the brethern there, I wol informe you at your retorne to Londone, and omitte it now bicause I have som hope that by the wisdom of the father confessor and father Cursone the residue shal shortly be brought to good conformite. And if not, there be two of the brethern must be weded out, whiche be sumwhat sediciose, and have labored busily to infect thair felowes with obstinacy against the kinges said title.

I had the father confessor alone in the very secrete comunicacion concernyng certen letters of the said M. Fisshers, of whiche father Rainold made mention in his examination, whiche the said Fissher promised the kinges grace that he never shewed to any

* Cocleus, a German theologian, was one of the foreign writers against the King's divorce from Catharine of Arragon.

other man, nouthur wold. The said confessor hath confessed to me that the said Fisser sent to him, to the said Rainold, and to one other brother of thers decessed, whoes name I remember not, the copy of his said letters directed to the kinges grace, and the copie of the kinges aunswer also, but he hath sworn to me upon his fidelite that the said copies tarried not with thaim but one nyght, and that none of his brethern saw thees same but thees thre affor named. He hath knowleged to me also that the said Fisser sent unto thaim with the said copies a boke of his made in the defense of the kinges grace first marriage, whiche he confessed himself to have in his keping, and which he hath willingly deliverd unto me, and also Abels booke, and one other booke made by the emperour his ambassitor (as I suppose).

My lord of Londone declared reasons for the confirmation of the kinges title of supreme hed, and for the infirmation and extinction of the bisshope of Rome jurisdiction and power within this realme, in such maner and fassion as was excellent and singuler. And maister More hath used him self like a feithful true man to his prince, and I wol ye wold write him som commendations or thanks to recomfort him. Finally maister almaner and I wold know your mynd and pleasure concernyng the boke whiche we drewe out of my lord of Yorke his bothe devises, whereof we withdrew many thinges and likewise added. And where ye willed us to adde thereto suche substancial mater for the purpose as we shuld thinke convenient, that it myght be set furthe to printe, albeit we have gathered suche mater as shal please you when ye se it, yet we wol not be so bolde as put it to printe tyl ye se it and allowe it.

I have kept Londone al this yere, and have had litel passetyme abroad. If it myght please you to help me to a warrant or two in Kent, at Ledys or elwher, or nyghe London, it wolde be muche to my comfort, whiche am alwayes at your commaundement. From London, the xxviiith day of July. By your owne,

THOMAS BEDYLL.