CXXIV.

THE COMMISSIONERS TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 43.]

Please it your lordship to be advertised, at our commyng to Sainct Albons on Thursedaye last we beganne a visitacion amonges the moonkes, thabbot being than in Londone. And bicause we wolde the more fully knowe the hole state of alle thinges, taried the lenger in the examinacion of theym. And upon Friedaye last we sent a monicion for the abbot to appere before us, who camme hether on Saturday bifore none, whome we have likewise as fully examined upon alle thinges as we might. And allthoughe as well by the examinacion of the moonkes as by confessioun of thabbot hymself ther doth appere confessed and fully proved juste cause of deprivacion ageinst thabbot, not only for breking of the kinges injunctiouns, but also for manifest dilapidacioun, making of shiftes, negligent administracion, and sundry other causes, yet, by what meanes we knowe not, in alle communications or motions made concernyng any surrendre he sheweth hymself so stiffe, that, as he saith, he wolde rather choyse to begge his bredde alle the dayes of his lif than consent to any surrender. We have everich of us severally and also alle togethers communed with hym and used alle suche motions as we thought might moste further that purpose, but he contynueth allweys one man and waxeth hourelly more obstinate and lesse conformable. Whether he so doo upon trust and confidence of any frendeshipp, we knowe not. The premisses we thought our bounden duetie to signifie unto your lordshippe, moste humbly beseching the same that we maye by Mr. doctour Layton knowe the kinges highnes further pleasure by you, whether we shalle contynewe in this processe of deprivacion ageinst hym and so deprive hym according to thorder of justice without lenger delaye; which doone the house wilbe in suche debt that we thinke no man wille take thoffice of abbot

here upon hym, except any doo it only for that purpose to surrender the same to the kinges handes; and by thies meanes we thinke this thing maye most easely and with leste speche be brought to the kinges highnes purpose. Or els whether we shalle staye in owre processe at this tyme, and appoynte some longer daye to here the sentence of deprivacioun, leaving hym in the meane tyme in utter desperacion of any favour; which weye maye also be occasion that he, whan it shalle appere unto hym that he shal be deprived, wille perchaunce sue to have his surrender taken, bicause he wolde be assured of some lyving. The premisses we referre to the kinges highnes pleaser, which knowen by your lordeship, we shalle with alle our possible diligence confourme ourselfes to accomlishe the same, and in the meane tyme travaille with the moonks to knowe howe many of theym maye be induced to this purpose. Thus almighty God have your lordeship in his blessed keping. From Saint Albons, the xth of December.

Your lordscyps ever att commandement

THOMAS LEGH.

Your Lordyshippes most bounden servant,

WILLIAM PETRE.

The nunnery of Gracedieu, at Belton in Leicestershire, was founded by Rohesia de Verdon, in the 24th of Hen. III. The last prioress was Agnes Litherland.

CXXV.

JOHN BEAUMONT TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 216*.]

My dutye unto your ryght honorable lordshype in moste humble fforme remembred, pleyseth hyt the same to be by thes advertysed,