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

gudde lordeschippe, acertenynge the same that I am now at Godstow to execute the kinges highnes commission, wher I perceyve my ladye do tak my comynge som thing pencifye, and hathe desyred me to spare herre determynate answer untill suche tyme sche may with convenyent spede know the kinges highnes determynate and resolute pleasure in that behalf. And in the mean tyme I schall som thing rype my self in knowledg of the state of the howse bothe inwardely and utterward, and if the kinges grace pleasur be notwithstanding herre desyer for suche considerations as movith his grace for the reformation of suche abuses to tak the howse by surrendre, then I besek your lordeschipp to admytt me an humble sutar for my lady and herre sisters and the late abbasse and suche as have covent seales for lyvinges in that howse, that they may be favorably orderyd, specially my lady, wiche lately payd herre fyrst fruytes, and wasse indaungeryd therfor unto herre fryndes. Many of the mynychys(?) be also agyd, and as I perceyve few of the other have any fryndes, wherfor I besek your lordeschipp to be gudd lord unto them. In dyvers of the fryers suppressyd they hadde no covent sealyes, ffor my lord of Dover tok them away, as they saye, and badd them lyve upon ther stock and plate, and so dydd they, as apperithe. I have taken, wher the kinges grace ys nott founder, a feofement also (besyd the surrendre) made to me to the kinges use. I dydd it by my lord Bawdwyngs counsell at Aylisbury. I have sent uppe all the plate, wyche commythe, with the plate I delyverd to M. Gostwik, to xvijc. viij. unc. *et di.* Thys ys besyd the plate of Oxforde and the Fryers of Redinge, wiche wasse befor delyverd to M. Thacker, whom I have desyred to know your lordeschips pleasur in certain articles necessary abowt my besynes. Oon of your lordeschips injunctions geven in the kinges name ys that no ffryar schalbe admytted to serve any cure. Now they be dismissed owt of ther howses, no man will admytt any of them to be curattes, unlesse they do bring ther capacityes; wherfor I besek your lordeschippe we may have them with spede, ffor in the mean tyme the power

men be withowt lyvinges, and now I have sett many abrode. I have sold no maner of thyng at Tollissop Crosfryers besyd Warwick,* for the howse stondith alone, and if I hadde begon any sale, all the howse wold have be spoyld or I hadde com agen. I have left all in safe custodye till my retornyng. In thausten ffryers at Northampton,† a lytill befor my commyng, the prior devydyd xxx^{li}. of plate money amonge hys brothern. In that I wold fayne know your lordeschips pleasure: ffor that and other lyk maters, I left the prior in prison, and I have xl^s. of that money agen. As your lordeschips pleasur schall farther be in all the premisses, I schall in that and all other do my best diligens, by the grace of almyztie Godd, who with increse of moch honour long preserve yower gudde lordeschipp. At Godstow, vj^o. Novembris.

Thys mornyng my lady holy referrithe her self to your lordeschips pleasur; wherfor I besek your lordeschippe of your favorable letters to herre, and also for your favour to herre and herre sisters for ther lyvinges. When I am at the Chartre Howse of Coventry, Colme‡ ys within iij. myles.

Your most bounden oratour and servant,

JOHAN LONDON.

CXII.

THE ABBESS OF GODSTOW TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 228.]

Pleasithe hit your honour with my moste humble dewtye to be advertised, that where it hathe pleasyd your lordeship to be the

* I find no mention of this house in the Monasticon.

† The small house of the Austin friars at Northampton (founded in 1322) had been surrendered on the 28th of October. The prior was John Goodwyn.

‡ Combe abbey.