vertue and avauncement of Godes worde; also considerynge the pyteous favour voyde of rygour, and mercye abhorrynge cruelte, which your hyghnes hath used towarde other of your subgettes fallen into soche lyke heresyas, as have submytted theym selves humbly unto your grace; I have made sute by all meanes possyble freely withowt mocyon of any man to come and present my selfe afore your highnes fet, to submytt my selfe unto your mercyfull pleasure, besechyng your gracyous pardone. Also as ferre forthe as I have knowlege in all thinges to acertayne your grace unfaynedly whatsoever your hyghnes shall vouchesave to demaunde of me, your unworthy subgett and oratour,

WILLIAM BARLO.

The next letter relates to one of the fathers of the reformation, Hugh Latimer, and his sturdy opponent Hubberdin. Stowe gives an account of Latimer's preaching at Bristol in 1534, the date of the present letter. He was active in detecting the practices of the Maid of Kent, and was, in the year following that in which this letter was written, made Bishop of Worcester. At the time of his preaching at Bristol he was looked upon with some disfavour; on the 2nd October, 1533, he had been forbidden to preach at London. Foxe describes Hubberdin as "an old divine of Oxford, a right painted Pharisey, and a great straier abroad in al quarters of the realme to deface and impeache the springyng of Gods holy gossell." It appears that at this time the zealous papistry of Hubberdin was as distasteful to the government as the bold doctrines of Latimer. It would seem that Hubberdin had touched too nearly upon the question of the King's supremacy.

The abbey of St. Augustine in Bristol appears to have been founded early in the twelfth century; its church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is now the cathedral. William Burton is stated, in the *Monasticon*, to have been made abbot on the 9th of September, 1534. He, with eighteen of his monks, subscribed to the King's supremacy, and we may therefore suppose that he was one of the moderate party.

IV.

COMMISSIONERS AT BRISTOL TO SECRETARY CROMWELL.

[MS. Cotton. Cleopat. E. iv. fol. 56.]

In my moste humble wyse, with dew recommendacyons as apertayneth, advertysynge your masterschype that I recevyd your letter the Saterdag vth day of Julii, at vj. of the cloke at nyghte,

commaundyng me by vertu of the same in the kynges name to electe and chose fyve or vj. oneste men to assyste and helpe me in all cawsys consernynge the behavyng as well of Latomer as of Huberdyn, and ther prechyns, and spesally what wordes Hyberdyn schold have consernynge the kynges hyze magesty. And accordynge to thys commaundmente immediatly I electyd and chose the reverend lord abbot of Saynt Augustynes by Brystow, Johan Cabull, Thomas Broke, Richard Tunell, late mayres of the seyd towne of Brystow, and Thomas a Bowen, gentyllman. So electe and chosyn wee concludyd to sytt Sunday the vj. day of Julii at after none at a place callyd Saynte Jamys, and then and there apperyd before us as well of the spyrytuallte as of the temporalte, to whome wee declared and rede the commysyson wherfore they wher callyd, and so gave them inyonceyon at a day to sertefy the kynges hyznes and hys moste honorable counsell what Latomer had prechyd, wherby thys the kynges towne of Brystow rune in infamy, dyscorde, stryfe, and debate. And lyke charge we gave them to sertefy us what Huberdyn had prechyd consernynge the kynges hyznes, or any worde that myzte sounde to the kynges hygh dysplesure, in any plase or places, as they at ther perell wood aunser. And upon whych inyonceyon, bothe of the spyrytualte and of the temporalty browzte before us and sertyfyed, as by ther sertyfycattes more at large schall appere. And farder to advertyse your masterschype the very truthe, accordynge to our dewtys and your commaundment, what we do know in thys matters, we sertefy yow by the relacyons of many onest and credable persons, that the seyd Latomer came to Brystow and preched there the second Sondag in Lente laste paste ij. sermons, on in Saynte Nycholas chyrche afore none, and another yn the Blake Fryers at after none, and the Monday nexte folowynge he preched the thyrd sermone yn Saynte Thomas chyrche, yn the whych sermondes he prechyd dyvers sysmatyke and yronymous opinions : as yn hell to be no fyer sensyble ; the sowles that be yn purgatory to have no nede of our prayers, but rather to pray for us ; no sayntes to be honoryd ;

no pylgrymage to be usyd; our blessyd lady to be a synner; as hyt hathe ben reportyd and taken by the herers; but for my selfe I never hard hym preche yn Brystow, for I was then syk, but by reson of hys iij. sermondes dyvers of the kynges subyectes wythyn thys the kynges seyde towne, as manyfestely hathe apperyd hytherto, ys to be feryd be sore ynfectyd in the same, inso-moche grete stryfe and debate ys amonge the kynges subyectes here, and that amonge all maner of sortes of pepyll from the hyste to the loweste wythyn the same towne. And so dyd contynu from the foresayde second Sonday yn Lent unto Ester nexte ensuyng, and yet dothe contynu, at which tyme of Ester Huberdyn came to Brystow and preched yn Sainte Thomas Chyrche at after none on Ester eve, and at Saynte Nycholas Chyrche before none on Ester day, and there prechyd sharply agenste Latomers artycules, provenynge them be auctorytes as well by the Olde as the New Testamentes sysmatyke and yrronyous. And whereas yt was very yll from the seyde seconde Sonday yn Lente tyll Ester then nexte ensuyng, yt hathe ben wors sens Ester; for many that favoryd Latomer and hys new maner of prechyng, and other many that favoryd Hyberdyne yn hys olde maner of prechyng, bothe the seyde partes hathe ben more ardente now sens Ester then they were before. Wherefore, as to our symple resons, wythowte the kynges moste noble grace provyde sume convenyante remedy, muche more ynconvenyens ys lyke to ensu. Also, that same Sonday on Gylberte Cogan came to the howse of the Grey Fryers* in Brystow, and sayd to the warde of the same howse that he schoulde be ware what he scholde wryte and testyfy, for there schoulde cume iij. c. that showlde testefy the contrary, as the seyde warden shewyd hyt manyfestely before all the commys-syoners. On Fryday the xjth day of Julij, Johan Drews wyth others browzte yn before us syttyng yn commys-syon a boke of

* Little is known of the history of the house of the Grey Friars (or Franciscans) in Bristol, and there is no list of priors. It was founded some time before 1234.

many names, and iij. artycles comprisyd yn the same boke, where apperyth every mans confessyon. That boke so resevyd, callyd before us on Thomas Butteler, examyned hym what he had herde Hyberdyn preche yn Saynt Thomas Chyrche; he answeyrd, that a number of erytykes were yn Brystow, and from that nombre he browgte hyt to xx^{ti} or xxx^{ti} erytykes, acordynge to the fyrste artycull. After Thomas Walker was demandyd what he had herd of Hyberdyn yn the same sayde chyrche; he confessed that the sayd Hyberdyn sayd there was xx^{ti} or xxx^{ti} erytykes, acordynge to the fyrste artycull, and he sayd he hard hym say no more, and yet hys name ys to the second and the thyrde artyculles. Also another man came before us, and sayd that Huberdyn schowlde say that all Brystow was knaves and erytykes. John Drws persevyng every man to be examyned thys by hym selfe, knewe very well ther confessyons wolde nothyng agre wyth the artycles yn ther seyde boke, wherefor he desyeryd that every man schowld brynge yn hys confessyon by wrytynge, and for as moche as yt was over longe and tedyows, as well to the commysseyoners as to the partys, we condessendyd to reseve there bylles, whych bylles and bokes, as well of the spyrytualte as of the temporalte, which your mastershype shall reseve of thys berer, wyth our dayly servys and prayer to preserve your longe lyfe and good to the plesure of God and your moste harteste desyer. And Almy3ty God preserve owre moste redouptyd soveraynge lorde moste ryall person, bothe bodely and gostely longe to endure. A.M.E.N.

Per me, WILLIELMUM BURTON, abbatem monasterii divi Augustini.

Bye me, JOHN CALLE.

THOMAS BROKE.

Per me, RYCHARD TENELL.

THOMAS ABOWEN.

By me, JOHAN BARTHOLOMEW.