

Thother xxij. ar for the moste parte x fote thicke, and xxv. abowght.

The heygthe of the greater sorte is xlij. fo.; of thother xvij. fote.

The heygthe of the roufe before the hyghe altare is lxxxxij. fote.

In the middes of the church, where the belles dyd hange, ar cv. fote.

The heygthe of the stepil at the fronte is lxxxx. fote.

Binham and Beeston, mentioned in the following letter, were two priories in Norfolk. The first was a cell to St. Albans, although the writer of this letter states the contrary. It is said to have been as old as the time of the conqueror: the last prior appears to have been John Albon. Beeston was founded about the beginning of the reign of Hen. III.; its last prior was Richard Hudson or Hodgeson.

XCII.

SIR RICHARD RICHE TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Harl. No. 604, fol. 67.]

Aftur my harty recommendacions, thes shalbe to render to yowe my most harty thanks for your good expedycion of my matter of Syon, for the wyche, on my faith, ye have and shall bynde me; for this and many other pleasures and gratuytes to me shewyd, I reken my self most bownden to owe to yowe my pore servyce (next to the king) duryng my lyff. My lorde, I entend to suppress Bynham before my retorne, which pretendyth hit self to be a sell to Seynt Albonyes, yf ye advertyse me not to the conterary. I have fynez and other matters of record levyed by them not namyng the abbott of Saynt Albanys. Also contynually they make leasez under ther owne seale, not namyng the abbott. Also I entend to suppress Beeston, which pretend them selffez to be fryers, which ys not true, but they ar chanons, and so apparellid, knowen, and taken. They consume the goodes and cattalles. I and other have sent to yowe a generall lettur of our procedynges in thes partyes.

And thus I besече Jhesu preserve yowe in honor and helth. Frome
Wood Rysing, this present xxixth daye of Marche.

Your owne assurydly,

RYCHARD RYCHE.

*To his ryght honerable
and singuler good lorde
the lorde privy seale.*

The next letter is from William Barlow, then bishop of St. David's, and (with others which follow) gives a curious picture of the state of Wales at the time of the dissolution of the monastic houses. An immense number of superstitious images and relics were during the present year confiscated and destroyed in all parts of the kingdom.

XCIII.

BISHOP BARLOW TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 117.]

After my right humble commendacions, the benevolente goodnes of your lordship towarde me, apperceaved both by your lordships lettres and by relacion of M. doctour Barnes concernyng soch sommes of moneye as I am yndetted to the kynges highnes favorably to be respited, though I can not in this nor in other your manyfold benefites condigly make recompensacion, yet the litle that I maye to the uttermost of my pore possibilitie my unfayned endeavour shall not fayle faythfully to perfourme. Concernynge your lordships lettres addressed for the taper of Haverforde West, yer the receyte of them I had done reformation and openly detected the abuse therof, all parties which before tyme repugned penitently reconcyled. But sythen I chaunced apou another taper of moch greater credyte and of more shamefull detestacion, called our ladyes taper of Cardigan,* which I have sente here to your lordship with convenyent instructyons of that develish

* There was at Cardigan a small priory of Benedictine monks, dependent on the abbey of Chertsey in Surrey, founded before 1291; the last prior was Thomas Hore.