

Cousyn, treuly; ffor hit shulde be to me to greet mervaille, yf it so were. For God knoweth that, yf a cas felle, that touched my worship, or the contrarye, as muche as were possible, I durste right well disclose hit unto yow, as for truste of trouthe and secretness, as muche as to any personne liffyng. And, treuly, I can not remembre me, that ever I wrote to yow any thing that shulde cause my saide lorde of Warrewyk to be thus displesed towards my personne; but in writyng, worde, and dede [I have] geven cause the contrary, at all tymes; ever desiring yow to be the mene, that I might stand under the favour of his goode lordship. Also, Cousyn, my lorde of Warrewik is appointed to have the King in gouvernaunce; the manere and fourme I can not certiffie yow.

XX.

A LETTER FROM R. B., A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DUKE OF BEDFORD, EXCUSING HIMSELF FROM COMING TO PARHAM ON THE GROUND OF IMPORTANT BUSINESS CON- CERNING THE DUKE HIS MASTER.

THREE personages are named in this letter, the Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, Sir John Salvayne, and Fulthrop. The Duke of Bedford was Regent of France from the death of Henry the Fifth (1422) until his own death (1435), and Sir John Salvayne died in 1432. Therefore this letter was written between the years 1422 and 1432. The writer, R. B., who was a member of the Council of the Duke of Bedford, I conceive to have been Richard Bokenland, Treasurer of Calais, a strong adherent of that prince, and one of his executors. I find that Robert the sixth Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, a distinguished captain in the French wars, was at this time owner of Parham in Suffolk, and he is twice mentioned by Hall in connection and close association with the Duke of Bedford and Sir John Salvayne.* I think, therefore, that it

* Hall, pp. 121 and 163.

may be assumed, that it was to him the letter was written. Parham in Suffolk was erected in 1547 into a barony in favour of a descendant of Robert Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, who took the title of Lord Willoughby of Parham. Parham was the family seat until the end of the 17th century, when the property was sold to John Currance or Corrance, esq. of Rendlesham, whose descendant is the present owner. A Sir John Fulthorpe is also mentioned by Hall^a as having been with the Duke, Lord Willoughby, and Sir John Salvayne, at the siege of Lagny near Paris (11 H. VI.). Sir John Salvayne was the second son of Sir Gerard Salvayne of Herswell and North Duffield, county Durham, and he died 19th of January, 1432. The family of Salvin still flourishes in the county palatine of Durham. What the matters were affecting the Duke of Bedford and Sir John Salvayne, to which the letter refers, cannot now, it may be fairly presumed, be ascertained.

My right worshipfull lorde and noble lorde, I recommend me unto youre goode lordeshipp, with my trewe hert and service. And please yow to understande, that I have received your worshipfull letters, by the bringer herof. By the which letters ye wol me to be with yow, at Parham, the xxii day of Cristenmasse, for a certaine matter touching Sir John Salvayn, as in youre said letters is more plainly expressed. Touching the which youre desire, like it youre Lordeshippe to wite, that my lorde of Bedford, Regent of the Reaume of Fraunce, hath late yeven in commandement by his letters to his counssail in this lande, and soo to me amongs other of his servants here, that we shulde mete to gederes atte London, upon ffridaye nexte after the date of this letter, for certaines chargeable matiers conserving [concerning?] his high and noble astate. Atte which tyme I muste of verraye necessitee be ther present with other of my saide lorde is [his] counssaile, after his commandement. And also hit standeth soo that Fulthrop, withouten whom the saide matiers might not procede to an effectual conclusion, is not here present, soo that I may not fulfill youre entencion, as to be with yow at the saide xxij day, like as my desire were in that and in all other to obbey youre commandement. Wherefore I besече youre goode lordeshippe to

^a Hall, p. 163.

have me excused as of my commyng to Parham at this tyme, considering the forsaid causes. And that it like you, my lorde, for the greet truste that the said Sir John Salvayn hathe in youre goode lordeshipp, that ye wol appointe suche of your counssail as yow liketh to be here atte the begynnyng of this terme, with soufficeant powaire and instruccion, for to conclude the saide matiere, with Godd's grace. Atte which tyme I suppos Fulthrop wolbe here, and I truste to God that we shall soo demene us in that mater, as youre lordeshipp shalbe plesed, as ferre as longeth to the partie of Sir John Salvayne, etc.

R. B.

XXI.

A LETTER FROM J. B. TO THE OFFICER HOLDING THE SUBSIDY OF THE WOOLS (PROBABLY) AT CALAIS.

I judge this letter to have been written by John Duke of Bedford, Regent of France, and during the early part of the reign of Henry VI. I have no means of more accurately determining its date.

TRUSTY and welbiloved, We greet you often tymes well. And for as much as Richard Bokeland, tresorer of Caley, ys assigned to receive by youre handes, [out] of the remenn; [remainder] of the subside of the wolles c^{ll}., for money which he lent to the Kinge: We wolle and praye yow, that ye see he be paied, and content of the seid some, in the haste that ye may goodly—receiving of hym a toale [*tale* ?] thereof, for youre discharge. And Gode have youe in his keping. Writen, etc.

J. B.