

graces most honorable counsell, concernyng manyfolde crymes, enormites, and high treason to your excellent maiesty, we beyng inwardely stryken with sorowe and hevynes four that our desertes shulde be suche that any jote of dewe obedience unto your grace (whom under God we do aguisse to be our supreme heed, our comfort and joye) shulde be notyd in us, seyng we be and ever have ben, as we trust in God, cleane frome any suche crymes and enormites, and therfor judging nothing to be so expedient and behovefull unto us as clerely to renounce all pretext of excuse or triall with your grace, by whiche we might percase in our default incurre your majesties high indignacion to our utter undoyng, do in moost humble wise and upon our knees with harte and mynde submytt ovr selves and our monasterye, with all the moveables and unmovables therof, unto your majesties accustomed grace and mercy, mekely desiryng the same to shewe your pitie and compassion upon us in suche godly wise that we maye deserve to contynewe (as we trust we have ben) your perpetuall orators and bedemen, and to contynewe utile membres of your commen wealth, to the high lawde and praise of allmightie God, and perpetuall merite and renowne of your excellent majestie, whom almightie God of his infinite grace preserve longe to endure.

Your humble and most obedient oratours and dayly bedesmen,
Thabbot and convent of Woburn.

Richard Cromwell, the nephew of Lord Cromwell, was one of the commissioners employed to visit Cambridgeshire and the monastic houses in the Fen district. The following letter leaves him at Ramsey. The date of the month would seem to show that this letter was written in 1538, when the 15th of October would be on a Tuesday.

LXIX.

RICHARD CROMWELL TO LORD CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton, Cleop. E. iv. fol. 204*.]

I have me most humbly commendyd unto your lordshipp, I

rode one Sondaye to Cambrige to my bedd, and the next mornyng was upe betymes, supposyng to have found at Elye Mr. Pollard and Mr. Williams, but they were departyd bifore my commyng, and so beyng at dynner at Somersham with the busshop of Elye I overtoke theym, at which tyme I openyd your pleasure unto them in every thyng. Your lordshipp, I thynke, shall shortely apparseyve the pryour of Elye to be of a frowarde sorte, by evydent tokens, as at our commyng home shalbe at large relatyde unto youe. At the makyng herof we hadd done nothyng at Ramseye, savyng that over nyght I comenyd with the abbot, whome I found conformable to every thyng as shalbe at this tyme put in ure, accordyng as your lordshipps will is. Assone as we have done at Ramseye we go to Peterborough, and frome thense to my house, and so home, the which I trust shalbe at the farthest one this daye come seyn days. Thus the blessyd Thrynytye preserve your lordshipps helth. From Ramseye, on Tewysday in the mornyng, beyng the xvth of Octobre.

Your lordshipps most bounden nephewe,

RICH. CRUMWELL.

The two next letters are from Hugh Latimer, bishop of Worcester, and relate chiefly to the religious matters and to the monastic houses towards the borders of Wales. They bear no date of year, but they must belong to the last months of 1536.

LXX.

BISHOP LATYMER TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Cotton. Cleop. E. iv. fol. 139.]

Ryght honorable, *salutem in Christo*, and, syr, when I was with your lordshype laste you were desyrows to kno where you myght have good monkes. I tellyd you of too with my lord of Westmyster, I colde natt then name them to you, butt now I can; the won ys callyd Goorson, the other Clarke, both bachelars of divinite, well lernyd, of ryght jugment, and very honeste men. The