

most noble good hartes desyre. From the monastery of Vale Royall, the xxijth. day of August.

Your lordscyps ever att commandment,
THOMAS LEGH.

To the right honerable and his singuler
good lord, my lord prevy seall, this be
delyvered.

In the following letter, which is imperfect at the beginning, the abbot of Vale Royal refuses to acknowledge the deed of surrender.

CXXI.

THE ABBOT OF VALE ROYAL TO CROMWELL.

[From MS. Harl. No. 604, fol. 62.]

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me and my brothren the kynges most graciouse and drade com-
myssion, wherein his graciouse plesure was that for the gratuytye
that his grace trusted in me and my brethren, that we wold clere-
lye of our own consentes surrendre into his graciouse handes our
monasterye, beyng of his most graciouse foundation, and whereof
your lordship is stuard. My good lorde, the truthe is, I nor my
said brethern have never consented to surrendre our monasterye,
nor yett doo, nor never will doo by our good willes, onles it shall
please the kynges grace to giff to us commandement so to doo,
whiche I can not perceve in the commyssion of maister Holcroft
so to bee. And if any informacyon be giffon unto his magestye,
or unto your good lordship, that we shulde consent to sur-
rendre, as is above sayd, I assure your good lordship, apon my
fidelitie and truthe, there was never non suche consent made by
me nor my brethren, nor no person nor persons had auctoritye so

to do in our names. Wherefore I humbly beseeche your good lordship, in whome is my single trust under God and the kynges magestye, to be meane for us unto his grace, so that we may contynewe in our sayd monasterye to pray for his most noble grace and your good lordship, whiche we shall dayly doo, accordyng to our bounden dutyties, duryng our lyves. I assure your lordshipe I am cumyng upwardes as fast as my sekenes will suffre me, to beseeche your lordshipe of charite to be good to our pouer monastery. I sende unto your lordshipe the bill indented made by me and my brethren, whiche in presence of worshipfull men I proffered to M. Holcroft, whiche to take he refused. And thus our Lord God preserve your lordshipe in good helthe. Writen at Lychefyld, the ix. day of Septembre, by your pouer bedeman,

JOHAN, abbot of Valerayall.

To the ryght honorable sir Thomas Cromewell, knyght, lord Cromewell, lord prevyse seall, and chieff secretarie to the kynges highenes.

We have next another letter of the chancellor Audley, which relates to the two houses of St. Osith's (mentioned before) and St. John's at Colchester. The latter was founded by Eudo Dapifer at the beginning of the twelfth century. The last abbot was John Beche, who was executed Dec. 1, 1539, for his opposition to the king's commands. His predecessor had suffered the same fate.

CXXII.

SIR THOMAS AUDLEY TO CROMWELL.

[From the State Papers, vol. i. p. 586.]

After my right harty comendations to your good lordship, with my most harty thanks for your last gentill letters, I am required by the erle of Oxford and master chauncelour to desire your good lordshipp, in all our names, to make our moost humble recommendations to the kynges mageste, and to render ouer most