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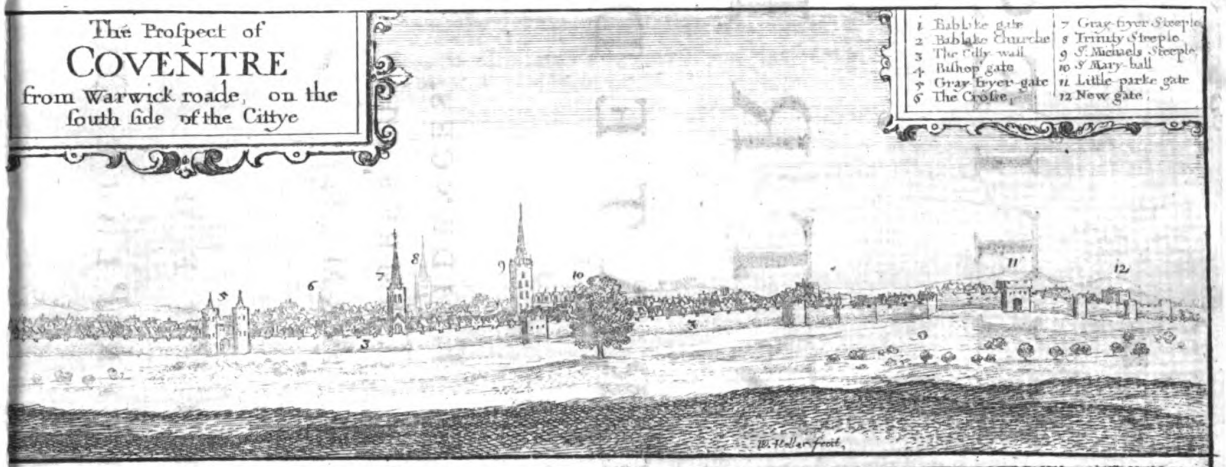
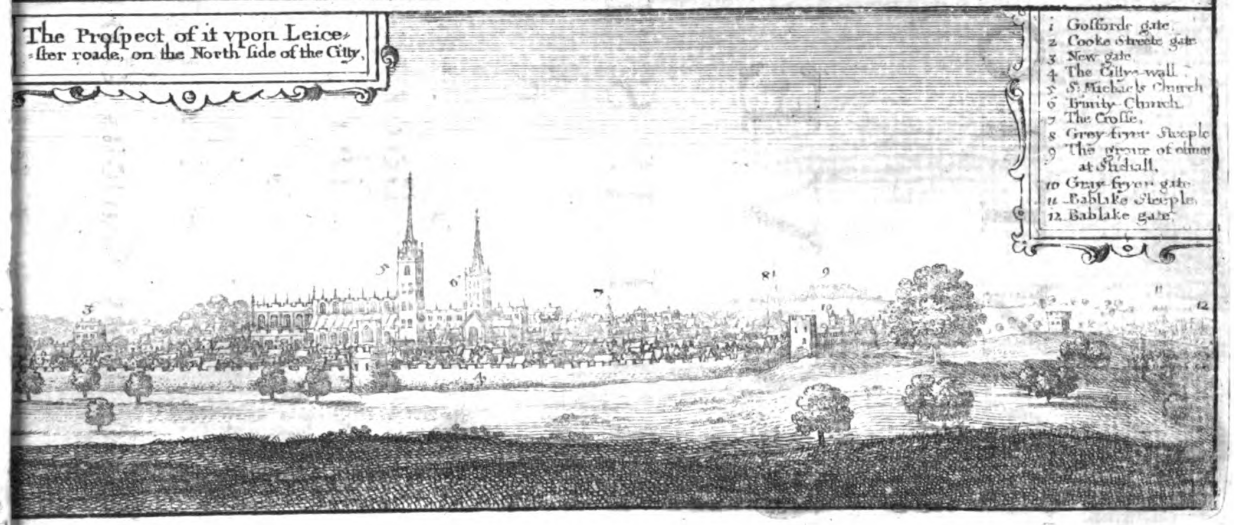

The Prospect of
COVENTRE
from Warwick roade, on the
south side of the Cittye
1 Bablake gate
2 Bablake Churche
3 The Cittye wall
4 Bishop gate
5 Gray fryer gate
6 The Crosse
7 Gray fryer Steeple
8 Trinity Steeple
9 St Michaels Steeple
10 St Mary hall
11 Little parke gate
12 New gate


The Prospect of it vpon Leicester roade, on the North side of the Citty.
1 Gosforde gate
2 Cooke street gate
3 New gate
4 The Cittye wall
5 St Michaels Church
6 Trinity Church
7 The Crosse
8 Grey friars Steeple
9 The grounde of elmes at Stydall
10 Gray friars gate
11 Bablake Steeple
12 Bablake gate

THE

ANTIQUITIES

OF

COVENTRE,

ILLUSTRATED.

FROM

RECORDS,	EVIDENCES,
LEIDGER-BOOKS,	TOMBES and
MANUSCRIPTS,	ARMES.
CHARTERS,	

BEAUTIFIED

With many Curious COPPER-PLATE CUTS.

By Sir WILLIAM DUGDALE,

CAREFULLY

Collected from His EDITION of the ANTIQUITIES of *WARWICKSHIRE*, Published in the Year, 1656.

COVENTRY:

Printed by J. JONES, facing the CROSS, M,DCC,LXV.

ADVERTISEMENT.

AT the first Publication in Numbers of my Edition of Sir WILLIAM DUGDALE'S ANTIQUITIES of *WARWICKSHIRE*, many Persons in *Coventry*, who did not chuse to make so large a Purchase as the whole *History* of *Warwickshire*, and could content themselves with the *Antiquities* and *History* of COVENTRY, made Application to me for the Numbers that related to that CITY only; but which Request I told them it was not in my Power to grant: Therefore to oblige many of my worthy Friends, I came to the Resolution of publishing this, The *History* and *Antiquities* of COVENTRY, which I have carefully collected from the Edition of Sir WILLIAM DUGDALE'S *History* and *Antiquities* of *Warwickshire*, published in the Year, 1656, in Hopes that the same will be well received.

I remain, with the utmost Gratitude to my Friends for all Favours,
Their most obliged, and very humble Servant,

JOHN JONES.

THE ANTIQUITIES OF COVENTRE, ILLUSTRATED.

COVENTRE is still a City of eminent Note, yet much short in Glory and Riches to what heretofore it hath been, as I shall shew anon: But for the Originall of its Name I can give no positive Reason; and therefore, whither the first Part thereof, *viz.* Coven was occasioned by some Covent of Religious Persons, antiently founded here, as some think; for there was a Monastery of Nuns long before the Priory, as I shall shortly manifest; or whither from this little Brook, [*Shirburn*] of which others conceive the true Name to be Cune, I will not stand to argue. Sure I am, that the last Sillable thereof, *viz.* Tre is British, and signifieth the same that *Villa* in Latine doth: From whence I conclude that the first Plantation here, hath been of very great Antiquity, though when, or by whom made I cannot expect to discover, having so little Light of Story to guide me through those elder Times. And as certain is it, that a great Part thereof, and probably the most antient, stood on the Bank without *Bishop-gate*, North-Westward of the City; for no less do the Foundations of much Building there discovered, and a Place yet called S. Nicholas Church-yard, testify.

But touching that Monastery of Nuns, all that I find is no more but this, *viz.* that in the Year of Christ 1016. *Canutus* K. of *Denmark*, and that infamous Traytor *Edricus* invading *Mercia* with an Army, burnt and wasted divers Towns in *Warwickshire*, at which Time the said House of Nuns, whereof St. *Osburg*, a Holy Virgin, had been sometime Abbess, was destroyed. What this *Osburg* was (I mean for her Parentage) or when she lived I have not seen: For *John Capgrave*, a learned Man, and diligent Searcher after our English Saints, makes no Mention of her: I shall therefore descend to K. *Edw.* the Conf. Time; about the Beginning whereof I find, that the Noble *Leofrick* Earl of *Mercia* founded a goodly Monastery for Monks in the Place, where the other stood; which Monastery was the chief Occasion of all the succeeding

Wealth

Wealth and Honour that accrued to *Coventre*, as I ſhall ſufficiently demonſtrate, when I come to treat in particular thereof: For of its Beginning, Growth, Riches, Greatneſs, Honour, and Diſſolution, I purpoſe to ſpeak at large; and therefore referring my Diſcourſe concerning the ſame, and all other the Religious Houſes, Churches, *&c.* here, to their proper Place, I will take Notice of what I find otherwiſe memorable touching this City. And becauſe this great Earl and his Counteſs, were the moſt eminent Benefactors that ever it had, I ſhall here make a brief Narrative of them, ſo far at leaſt as they had any Relation to this Place.

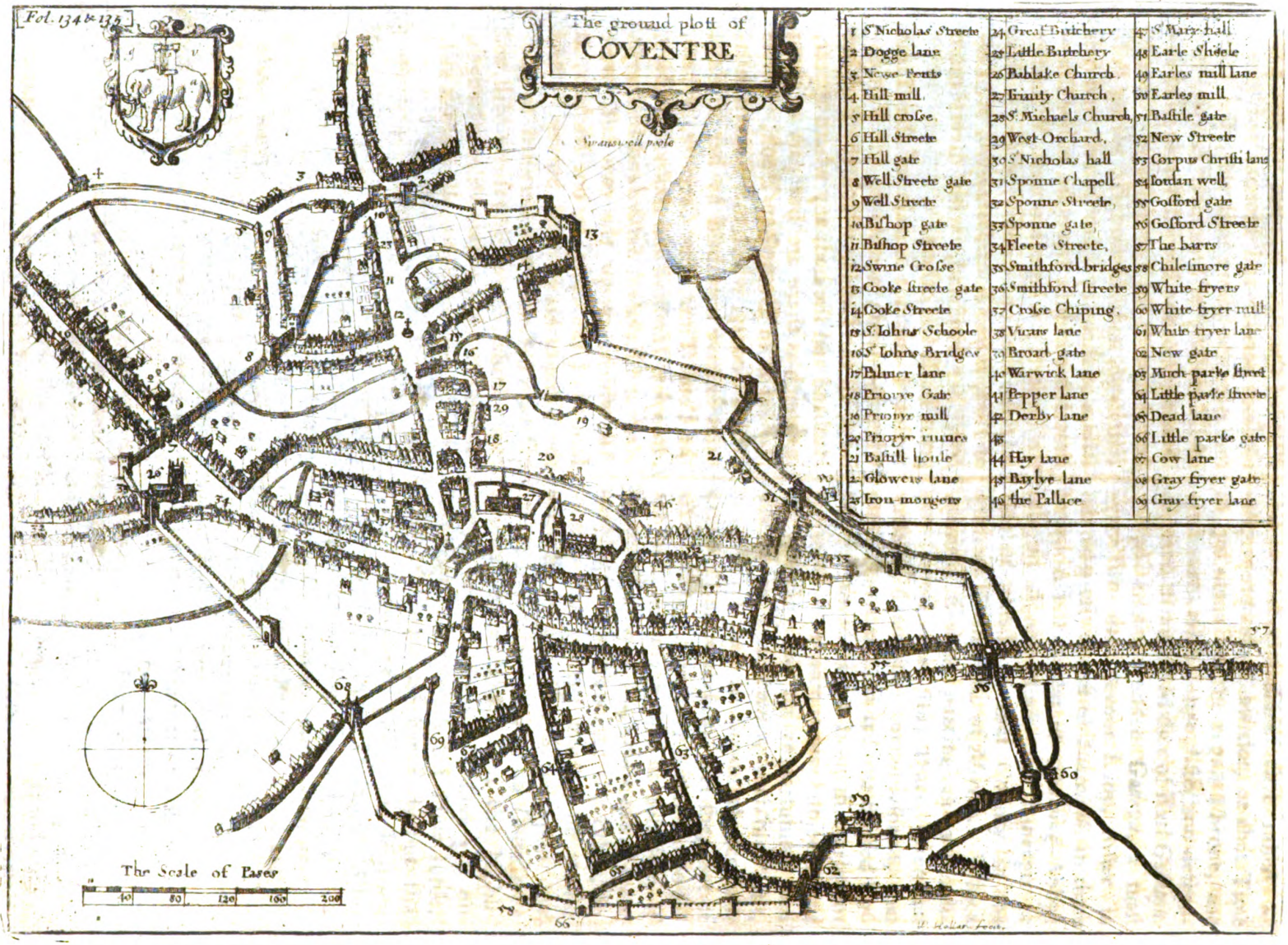
The firſt of his Progenitors, concerning whom I have any Hiſtoricall Authority, was *Leofrik* Earl of *Cheſter* in the Time of *Ethelbald* K. of *Mercia*, about 900 Years agoe; whoſe Deſcendants to to this our *Leofrik*, the Pedegree, which in this Diſcourſe I have inſerted, doth ſuccinctly point out. As to the Time of his Advancement unto the Earldom of *Mercia* (which contains the moſt of the Counties in this Midland Part of the Realm) I can ſay nothing. In the Days of K. *Ethelred* he was ſtiled *Leofricus Comes*, at large, which might be of *Cheſter*, onely by Deſcent from his Anceſtors. By K. *Canutus* he was made Capt. Generall of his Forces, *An.* 1018. and grew afterwards in high Favour with the ſaid K. In the Time of *Hardi Canutus* he was called *Merciorum Comes:* And though that in the Beginning of *Edw.* the Conf. Days he is ſtiled onely *Comes Hereforddienſium*; yet do I conceive that he had that Title attributed to him in ſuch Sort as *Edwyn*, his Granchild, had of *Comes Warwici* (as I ſhall hereafter ſhew) thoſe Counties being included within his *Mercian* Territories.

That his Power was very great in the Times wherein he lived, appears by theſe Inſtances: Firſt, that after the Death of *Cnut*, and great Debate who ſhould ſucceed him in the Kingdom, he, with the Barons on the North of **Thames**, advanced *Harold* ſirnamed *Harefoot*, Son to the ſaid *Cnut*, unto the Crown. And next, that *Hardi Canutus* being dead, he was one of the Chief that raiſed K. *Edw.* called the Confeſſor, at that Time in *Normandy*, to the regall Throne, and afterwards with intire Affection defended him from the Malice of Earl *Godwyn*.

This *Leofrik* wedded *Godeva*, a moſt beautifull and devout Lady, Siſter to one *Thorold*, Shiriff of *Lincolnſh.* in thoſe Days, and Founder of *Spalding*-Abby: As alſo of the Stock and Lineage of *Thorold* Shiriff of that County in the Time of *Kenulph* K. of *Mercia*. Which Counteſs *Godeva*, bearing an extraordinary Affection to this Place, often and earneſtly beſought her Huſband, that for the Love of God and the Bleſſed Virgin, he would free it from that grievous Servitude whereunto it was Subject: But he, rebuking her for importuning him in a Matter ſo inconſiſtent with his Profit, commanded that ſhe ſhould thenceforth forbear to move therein; yet ſhe, out of her Womaniſh Pertinacy continued to ſolicit him, inſomuch that he told her, if ſhe would ride on Horſeback naked from one End of the Town to the other, in the Sight of all the People, he would grant her Requeſt. Whereupon ſhe returned, *But will you give me Leave ſo to do?* And he replying, *Yes*; the Noble Lady, upon an appointed Day got on Horſeback naked, with her Hair looſe, ſo that it covered all her Body but the Legs, and thus performing the Journey return'd with Joy to her Huſband: Who thereupon granted to the Inhabitants a Charter of Freedom; which Immunity I rather conceive to have been a kind of Manumiſſion from ſome ſuch ſervile Tenure, whereby they then held what they had under this great Earl, than onely a Freedom from all Manner of Toll, except Horſes, as *Knighton* affirms: In Memory whereof the Picture of him and his ſaid Lady were ſet up in a South Window of *Trinity-Church* in this City, about K. *R.* 2. Time, and his Right Hand holding a Charter with theſe Words written thereon.

I Luriche for the Love of thee
Doe make Coventre Tol-free.

But



1	S. Nicholas Streete	24	Great Butchery	47	S. Mary hall
2	Dogge lane	25	Little Butchery	48	Earle Shiele
3	Newe Pents	26	Bablake Church	49	Earles mill lane
4	Hill mill	27	Trinity Church	50	Earles mill
5	Hill crosse	28	S. Michaels Church	51	Bastile gate
6	Hill Streete	29	West Orchard	52	New Streete
7	Hill gate	30	S. Nicholas hall	53	Corpus Christi lane
8	Well Streete gate	31	Sponne Chapell	54	Jordan well
9	Well Streete	32	Sponne Streete	55	Gosford gate
10	Bishop gate	33	Sponne gate	56	Gosford Streete
11	Bishop Streete	34	Fleete Streete	57	The barns
12	Swine Crosse	35	Smithford bridges	58	Chilesmore gate
13	Cooke streete gate	36	Smithford streete	59	White fryers
14	Cooke Streete	37	Crosse Chiping	60	White fryer mill
15	S. Johns Schoole	38	Vicars lane	61	White fryer lane
16	S. Johns Bridges	39	Broad gate	62	New gate
17	Palmer lane	40	Warwick lane	63	Much parke street
18	Priorye Gate	41	Pepper lane	64	Little parke streete
19	Priorye mill	42	Derby lane	65	Dead lane
20	Priorye ruines	43		66	Little parke gate
21	Bastill house	44	Hay lane	67	Cow lane
22	Glowers lane	45	Barlye lane	68	Gray fryer gate
23	Iron mongers	46	the Pallace	69	Gray fryer lane

But besides his Foundation and Endowment of the Monastery, here at *Coventre* before specified, of his proper Patrimony, was he a great Benefactor to divers other Religious-Houses, viz. *Leominster* in *Herefordsh.* *Wenlock* in *Shropsh.* S. *Werburghs*, and St. *John's* in *Chester*; *Worcester* and *Evesham*, both in *Worcestersh.* to all which he likewise gave divers rich Ornaments. To the Abby of *Burton* super *Trent* in *Staffordsh.* he also granted a large Part of *Austrey* in this County: And departing this Life in a good old Age, at his House in *Bromley*, 2 *Cal. Sept.* 1057. (13 *Edw.* Conf.) was honourably interred in the Monastery here at *Coventre* before-mentioned, unto which he bequeathed it, with a great Quantity of Gold and Silver. By some Authors he is called *Comes Leicestriæ*; but 'tis plain, by what I have already cited, that it should be *Cestriæ*.

And now before I proceed, I have a Word more to say of the noble Countess *Godeva*; which is, that besides her devout Advancement of that pious Work of his, in founding this magnificent Monastery (for my Author says it was *instigante uxore sua Godeva*) *omnem thesaurum* (saith another) *eidem Ecclesiæ contulit*, &c. She gave her whole Treasure thereto, and sent for skilfull Goldsmiths; who, with all the Gold and Silver she had, made Crosses, Images of Saints, and other curious Ornaments which she devoutly disposed thereto. Neither did her Zeal to Gods Service and Honour rest here; for, over and above all this, she built the Monastery of *Stow* near *Lincoln*, dedicating it to the Blessed Virgin; and endow'd it with the Lordships of *Newark*, *Flatburgh*, and *Martinewelle*, giving Possession of them by a fair Jewell, and rich Bracelets curiously wrought, as her Charter imports; whereunto were Witnesses K. *Edw.* the Conf. himself, *Aldred* Archb. of *York*, *Wlfwi* B. of *Dorchester*, E. *Leofrik*, her Husband, with divers more great Earls and others.

But I am not certain of the Time when she dyed; neither do the Particular of all the Lands, which the Earl her Husband and she had, any where appear, inasmuch as there are but part of them pointed at in **Domesday-Book**. Those in this County, which that Record mentions to have been held by her in *Edw.* the Conf. Time, were *Coventre*, *Alspath*, *Atherston*, *Hartshill* and *Ansley*, *Kineshury*, *Ansty* and *Folkshull*, *Salford* and *Bickmersh*. All which, except the two last, were fermed of the Conq. by one *Nicholas*, at the Time of his generall Survey. And of these *Coventre* was certified to contain 5 Hides, there being then a Mill, and Woods extending to two Miles in Length, with asmuch in Breadth, all valued at xi. l.

Leofricus

Leofricus Comes Leiceſtriæ tempore Ethelbaldi Regis Merciorum.

Algarus primus

Algarus ſecundus

Leofricus ſecundus

Leofwinus Comes

- Edwinus occiſus per Wallenſes.
- Normannus occiſus cum Edrico Streona.
- Leofricus Comes Mercio rum, fundator Abbatiæ Coventre, obiit an. 13. Conf.
  - Algarus Comes Merciorum, obiit 1059.
    - Algitha, 1. nupta Guitfrido Regi Wall. 2. Haraldo, (fil. Godwini Comitis) Regi Angl.
    - Edwinus C. Merc. occiſus ſuorum inſidiis 5. W. C.
    - Morkerus Co. Northumb. lob. in carcere 2 W. Ruſi.
    - Lucia, 1. nupta yvoni Talboys Comiti Andeg. 2 Rog. fil. Geroldi cogn. Romara.
      - Gulielmus de Rolmara Comes Linc. temp. H. 1.
      - Ranulphus cogn. de Bricaſard, conſobr. Ri. Co. Ceſt. poſt cujus mortem Comitat. Ceſtr. adeptus eſt.
        - Ranulphus, dictus de Gernoniis, Comes Ceſtriæ
          - Hugo, cognom. de Kevilioc, Co. Ceſtriæ
            - Ranulphus cogn. Blundevile, Co. Ceſtriæ; obiit. ſ. p.
            - Matilda, ux. Davidis Comitis Anguſ. & Huntend. cujus pars fuit totus Comitatus Ceſtriæ.
              - Ada ux. Henr. de Haſtings
              - Iſabella ux. Rob. de Brus
                - Henr. de Haſtings
                - Rob. de Brus Rex Scotiæ
              - Matilda ob. ſ. p.
              - Margar. ux. Alani de Galloway
              - Ioh. Co. Ceſtr. dedit ſuam H. 3. & ob. ſ. p.
                - Dervogil ux. Ioh. de Baliolo.
                - cognom. Scot, qui propartem Regi H.
                - Chriſtiana uxor Will. de Fortibus Comitis Albamarliæ 25.
            - Gallovidiæ, cujus pro totus Comitatus Ceſtriæ.
            - Mabilia ux. Will. de Albineio Comitis Arundeliæ
              - Will. Co. Arund. ob. ſ. p.
              - Hugo Co. Arund. ob. ſ. p.
              - Mabilia ux. Rob. de Tatſhall.
              - Iſab. uxor Ioh. fil. Alani.
              - Nichola ux. Rog. de Somery.
              - Cecilia ux. R de Montgle
            - Agnes ux. Ferrariis, Derbiæ.
            - Will. de Hawiſia uxor Rob. de Quincy, Comitis filii Sacri Comitis Winton.
  - Goditha, ſoror de Thoroldivice E. Comitis Linc.
  - .... -Ermenilda
    - ....-Matilda
      - Hugo Comes Ceſtriæ temp. temp. W. Conq.
        - Ricardus Co. Ceſtr. obiit ſ. p.
        - Otwellus periit naufragio, cum fratre.
        - Robertus Abbas S. Edm.
        - Geva. uxor Galf. Ridel.
    - Ricardus, ſepultus in Prioratu de Coventre.

To the before ſpecified *Leofrik* ſucceeded his Son *Algar*; but leaving his Story to another Work, as not ſo proper for this Place, all that I ſhall further ſay of him is, that he was not onely E. of *Cheſter*, after his Fathers Death, but likewiſe

wiſe of *Mercia*; and that departing this Life in *An.* 1059. he had Sepulture in the Monaſtery here at *Coventre*. Nor of his Iſſue will it be pertinent, for me to to ſay more, than that *Lucia*, (at the Length ſole Heir to her Father and Grandfather) had to her Third Huſband, *Ranulph* the third E. of *Cheſter* of that Name, who, by *Maud* his Mother, being alſo nearly allyed to the famous E. *Leofrik*, and this Marriage (as the Deſcent ſheweth) had Title fair enough to the Lands and Honour of her Grandfather, Father, and Brothers, had not the Conq. Sword diſpoſed thereof otherwiſe. But it ſeems, that though the ſame *Ranulph* was the next Heir in Blood likewiſe to *Hugh* (commonly called *Lupus*) E. of *Cheſter*, after the Deceaſe of Earl *Richard* without Iſſue, yet did he not obtain the Poſſeſſion of that Earldom (whereof this City was afterwards reputed Part) but by Purchaſe from King *H* 1. *viz.* giving up all the Inheritance of her the ſaid *Lucia*; and not onely ſo, but a round Summe of Money, which was not all payd of a good while after: For I find that in 5. *Steph. Ranulph.* Earl of *Cheſter*, his Son, was certified to be indebted to the King a Thouſand Pounds *de debito patris ſui, pro terra Hugonis Comitis*, as the Record expreſſeth.

Having thus ſtated the Succeſſion of this Earldom from the noble *Leofrik*, I ſhall paſs by the Story of thoſe Earls, and onely take Notice of what relates to them as touching this Place, where they had an eminent Seat, bearing the Name of a Caſtle in thoſe elder Times. Wherein I find, that *Ranulph* the firſt, before ſpecified, cauſed the Chappells of *Alleſley*, *Anſty*, *Shulton*, & *Wykin* (all Hamlets then within the Precincts of *Coventre*) to be built. And that *Ranulph* his Son, (commonly called *Gernons*), who was a Man of great Action in that turbulent Time of King *Stephens* Reign, taking Part with *Maud* the Empreſs, and her Son *Henry* Duke of *Normandy* (afterwards K. by the Name of *H.* 2.) to whom he was by Affinity near allyed (having wedded *Maud* Daughter of *Rob. Conſul*, E. of *Glouc.* one of the baſe Sons to K. *H.* 1. Brother by the Fathers Side to the ſaid Empreſs) being repuls't at *Lincoln*, haſted to his Caſtle here at *Coventre*; of which finding the K. Forces poſſeſt, he preſently rays'd a ſtrong Fort to beſiege them; whereof the K. being advertiſed, he made all the Speed he could to relieve it: But in that Attempt many of his Men were ſlain, and himſelf wounded, yet after a while having gotten more Strength, and adventuring again, he routed the Earl, who eſcap't not without divers Wounds.

Some great Injury had this Earl done, it ſeems, to *Walter Durdent* B. of *Cheſter*, for which he dyed Excommunicate: For it appears, that E. *Hugh*, his Son, with *Maud* his Counteſs, gave the Village of *Stivichale*, adjoyning to *Coventre*, with a Mill next to the Park, and ſome other Grounds thereabouts to the ſaid B. and his Succeſſors, for his Abſolution and the Health of his Soul in Recompence of that Damage. Which *Hugh*, being one of thoſe that roſe in Rebellion againſt K. *H.* 2. in 18. of his Reign, on the Part of young *Henry*, ſo animated his Tenants here at *Coventre*, that they took up Arms on his Behalf; for which they were put to Fine in 21. *H.* 2. But, that he was a munificent Friend to the Monks of this Place, what I have ſaid in my Story of the Priory will manifeſt. It ſeems, that the *Coventre*-Men, for their diſloyall Actions before pointed at, had their Libertyes ſeiſed on by the K. which were not fully reſtored to them till after the Death of the ſaid *Hugh*: For I find that in the 28. *H.* 2. they gave xx. Marks for the K. Confirmation of them.

To which Earl ſucceeded *Ranulph*, the laſt of that Name; whoſe Reſpects were ſo much to this Place, that he confirmed to his Burgeſſes here (for ſo in his Charter he ſtiles them) that they ſhould well and quietly hold all their Poſſeſſions in free Burgage as they did in his Fathers Time, or any of his Anceſtors. Granting likewiſe to them all ſuch Freedoms as the Burgeſſes of *Lincoln* enjoy'd; and pro-

prohibiting all his Conſtables and Officers from impleading them at the Court of his Caſtle; but that they ſhould have a **Portmote**, (*id eſt* a Town-Court) of their own, in which they might freely hold Plea of all Things to him the ſaid Earl or themſelves belonging: And chooſe ſome one Man among themſelves well ſkill'd in the Laws and Cuſtomes, who in his Stead ſhould be Judge over them, and dealing impartially might do him equal Right. And if any one ſhould happen to fall into the ſaid Earls Mercy, that he ſhould be amerc't by his Bayliff and Burgeſſes of the Court. And whatſoever Merchants they ſhould bring thither for the Advantage of the Town, that they might reſide peaceably there without being injur'd or unjuſtly impleaded. And if any Forrein Merchant ſhould deal unfittingly, he to make Satisfaction for it in the **Portmote**, in the Preſence of the Judge. To which Charter were Witneſſes *Roger*, Conſtable of *Cheſter*, *Rob. de Mohaut*, Steward, *Raph de Meiſnilwarin*, and divers others.

Hereunto alſo did K. *H.* 2. add his Confirmation; in which are theſe Particulars by Way of Enlargement, viz. that if any of them ſhould happen to make a Forfeit to the Earl, he ſhould be acquit thereof for xii. *d.* And if by the Teſtimony of his Neighbours he were not able to pay ſo much, they to qualify the Sum to the Meaſure of his Ability: As alſo that the ſaid Burgeſſes ſhould not be lyable to lend unto the ſaid Earl, or thoſe that belong to him any Rent, or Annuall Payment, but upon Condition that their Cattell might be in Safety. And laſtly, whoſoever ſhould come to inhabit there, that from the Day of his Beginning to build, for two Years following, to be free from all Payments whatſoever.

And in 2. *H.* 3. did this Earl procure a Charter from the K. for an yearly **Faire** here, to begin on the Feaſt-Day of the *Holy Trinity*, and to continue for 8. Days.

But dying without Iſſue, he left his 4. Siſters or their Children his Heirs, (as the Pedegree ſheweth) whereof *Mabel*, the 2. marryed to *Will. de Albany* E. of *Arundell*; who being dead before the E. her Brother, and ſo likewiſe *Will.* E. of *Arundell* her eldeſt Son; *Hugh de Albany* her ſecond Son (then Earl) came to ſhare in that great Inheritance; unto whom this Town of *Coventre* was in Partition aſſigned for his Capitall Seat. And of Kts. Fees, in this County, theſe; viz. *Henry de Haſtings* 2. *Will. de Hardreſhull* 1. In *Kingſbury* 1. in *Eccleſhale* Half one; in *Anſty* as much; in *Alleſpath* the 4. Part; in *Wykin* the 8. Part; and in *Pillerton* the 4. Part: But the Names of thoſe that then held them I forbear here to mention, having ſpecified them in the particular Places.

Which *Hugh* lived not above x. Years after: For on the Nones of May, 1243. (27. *H.* 3) he departed this Life, *Cum jam vix metas adoleſcentiæ pertranſiſſet* ſaith *M. Paris*, and was buryed in the Priory of *Wymundham* in *Norff.* of his Anceſtors Foundation; leaving a great Inheritance to his 4. Siſters, or their Deſcendants: Of which *Mabel* the eldeſt, marryed to *Rob. de Tatſhall*, *Iſabell* to *John Fitz-Alan*, *Nichola* to *Rog. Somery*, and *Cecily* to *Rog. Montalt*: So that in the next Year following, viz. 28. *H.* 3. Partition being made of the Poſſeſſions ſo deſcended to them, the ſame *Cecily* had the Caſtle and Mannour of *Riſing* in *Norff.* with our *Coventre*, and many other great Lordſhips for her Part.

Which *Rog. de Montalt* was one of the Earl of *Cheſter*'s Barons and Seneſchall of *Cheſter*; and in 30. *H* 3. had a Charter of **Free-Warren** granted to him in all his Demeſn Lands, dat. 26. *Martii.* But in 33. *H.* 3. I find, that *Geff. de Langley* (of whom I ſhall ſpeak in *Pinley*) had a great Suite with him for diverting the Stream of the River in *Coventre* out of its antient Courſe. In 34. *H.* 3. intending a Voyage to the Holy-Land, and wanting Money for his Support therein, he was furniſh't with a very large Summe by the Monks of *Coventre.* In Conſideration whereof he, with the before ſpecified *Cecily* his Wife,

of

of whose Inheritance this fair Lordship was, joyn'd together in the Sale of it; as also of the Advouson of St. *Mich.* Church, and all the Chappells thereto belonging unto the said Monks in Fee-Ferme. In which Sale were excepted to them and their Heirs, their Mannour-House at **Cheylesmore**, with the Park inclosed, and the Religious-House of *Friers-Minors*, situate neer the said Park; with free Liberty also to the said *Roger* and his Heirs, whensoever they should come in Person to *Coventre*, for Hunting and Hauking, within the Precincts of the said Mannour.

And likewise excepting the Homage and Services of *Gilbert de Segrave* in *Caloudon*, *Will. de Olney* in *Asthull*, *Vitalis de Folkeshull* in *Folkeshull*, *Walter D'eyvill* in *Whitley*, *Stoke*, and *Coventre*, *Rob. de Stoke* in *Stoke*, *Miles Gerbold* in *Whitley*, and *Hugh de Loges* in *Sow*, and their Heirs; with all Releifs, Eschaets, and other Duties in Respect of those Lands. And also excepting the Homage and Services of *Hugh Despencer* in *Lughtbrough*, *Raph Bracebrigge* in *Kynnesbury*, *Will. le Buteler* in *Eccleshall*, and *Folkeshull*, and their Heirs, *Rob. Tushet* in *Keresley*, and of *Wido fil. Roberti*; *James de Audely* in *Folkeshull*, and *Eccleshale*, *Walter de Langley* in *Wykin*, *Tho. le Ireys* in *Ansty*, *Tho. de Nevill* and *Walter de Coventre* in *Stoke*; *Gilb. de Preston*, *John le Pover*, and *Alexander D'eyvill* in *Tackley*, and their Heirs; with all Reliefs, Eschaets, &c. to the same Lands belonging: And all Military Services, Reliefs, &c. wheresoever, within the Realm of *England* belonging to the said Mannour of *Coventre*.

And excepting to all his Freeholders such Liberty as they had heretofore used to enjoy, either in the Woods or Mannour of *Coventre*, so that they should not be disturbed by the said Prior and Covent, or their Successors. Excepting likewise the Hospitall of *Sponne* for Lepers; as also that the said *Rog.* and *Cecily* and their Heirs whensoever they should come and reside there, might have sufficient Wood for Fewell, and to make into Charcoale for their own Use, without Wast, and for Pales to repair the inclosed Park, as often as need should require, by the Oversight and Delivery of the Foresters belonging to the said Prior and Covent. And that the Friers of *St. John*'s Hospitall in *Coventre*, should have in the Woods before-mentioned one Cart-Load every Week by Oversight of the said Foresters. Other Reservations there are, but these which I have mentioned are the most memorable.

In Consideration of all which the said Prior and Covent were to pay yearly unto the same *Rog.* and *Cecily* and their Heires, at the Mannour-House of *Cheylesmore* before mentioned, c.li. Sterling; viz. on the *Octaves* of St. *Andrew*, the *Octaves* of S. *Mary*, in March, the *Octaves* of S. *John* B. and the *Octaves* of S. *Michael*; and x. Marks Annually for the Nuns of *Polesworth*, at Easter and Michaelmass by even Portions, under the Penalty of x. li. and a Clause for Distress.

And besides a Fine levyed in the same 34. Year of *H.* 3. by the said *Roger* and *Cecily* for Warranty of the Premisses, so granted, did the said *Cecily* in her Widowhood, by her Deed of Release quit all her Interest in the said Mannour, according to the Tenor of the before specified Grant: As also in the Hospitall and Chappell of *Sponne* (sometime perteining to the Abby of *Basingwerk* in *Flintsh.* as her said Release imports).

The next Thing which falls out in Order of Time to be taken Notice of, in Relation to this Place, is, that here it was that those Persons elected for the Determination upon what Terms such as were disherited for their Activeness in that notable Rebellion against K. *H.* 3. should redeem their Lands, met, and resolv'd thereupon. Which Decree of theirs, is notwithstanding, called *Dictum de Kenilworth*, in regard it was then publish't in the K. Camp, at that famous Six Months Siege of the Castle (as in *Kenilworth* I have already intimated).

After this, viz. in 3. *E.* 1. upon the Extent of this Mannour after the Death of *Rob de Montalt*, Son to the before-mentioned *Roger*, the Mannour-House called

called *Cheylesmore*, with the Park and Mill in the Park, were valued at 5. Marks *per Annum*; the Rent of Assise belonging thereto 39 li. 09. s. 07. d. and the Perquisits of Court 6. s. 8 d. And in 13. *E.* 1. had the Burgesses and Inhabitants here, the K. Letters Pat. bearing Date 3. *Aug.* giving them Authority to take Toll of all vendible Commodities, that should be brought hither for the Space of 3. Years, from Michaelmas next ensuing, towards their Charge of Paying the Town, viz. for every Horse-Load of Corn, a Half-peny; for every Horse, Mare, Oxe, or Cow, a Half-peny; and likewise upon everyThing els, which for Brevities Sake I omit. But it seems, that xx. Years afterwards this Work of Paving was not fully done: For in 23. of the same K. Reign they had another Pat. to take Toll upon the like Commodities, and granted *Ballivis & probis hominibus de* Coventre; whereas the other was *Burgensibus & probis hominibus*; which shews that the Originall of their Bayliffs, was betwixt the 13. and 33. *E.* 1. though the very Time, when they were constituted, be not recorded.

After which, viz. in 9. *E.* 2. the Prior of *Coventre* and *Rob. de Montalt* were certified to be Lords of this Place, with its Members: Which *Rob.* (being Brother and Heir to *Roger*, Son to the last mentioned *Robert*) with *Emme* his Wife, in 1. *E.* 3. levyed a Fine of all their Interest here, by the Name of the Mannour of Cheylesmore with the Appurtenances, 96. li. 6. s. 8. d. yearly Rent, and the Services of the Prior of *Coventre*; thereby entayling the same upon the Heirs Male of his Body, and for want of such Issue on *Isabell* Q. of *England* (Mother to K. *E.* 3.) during her Life; and after her Decease on *John* of *Eltham*, Brother to the said King, and the Heirs of his Body, and for Lack of such Issue on the said K. *Edward* and his Heirs for ever: For setling whereof as abovesaid, he had the Kings License, dated at *Peterborough* 8. *April.*

Hitherto have I taken Notice of the most remarkable Passages touching *Coventre* in generall: But now that I am come to the vesting of *Cheylesmore* in the Royall Line, it will be most proper (I conceive) to observe what els is notable in Relation thereto, in Order of Time; reserving what I have further to say of *Coventre* in generall to be afterwards spoke by itself. First then, that the Situation of this Mannour is upon the Southern Side of the Town, the Map, to those that know not the Place will demonstrate: But as to the Antiquity of its Name can I say little, having not met with any Mention thereof till 34. *H.* 3. that *Rog. de Montalt* and *Cecily* his Wife do, in their Grant of *Coventre* to the Monks, except it by the Name of their Mansion, or Mannour-House of *Cheylesmore*: Yet, that the Seat, which the E. of *Chester* had in that very Place was much elder, is not to be doubted; in regard 'tis apparent, that their Castle (concerning the Siege whereof in K. *Steph.* Time by E. *Ran.* the second, I have already spoke) stood there. For in that ample Charter made by *Hugh Keviliok* E. of *Chester* to the Monks of *Coventre*, in *H.* 2. Time, in pointing out the Boundaryes, dividing the Earls Part and the Priors asunder; he traces the same from S. *Mich.* Church-Yard, and so, *juxta latam portam mei Castelli*, are his Words. Now, that this Gate he means was not far off *Cheylesmore*, the Place where it stood doth sufficiently testify; being at the End of that Passage now called Grey-Friar-Lane, entering into the great *High-Street*, and retayning the said Name of Broad-Gate to this Day. From which Testimony may also be observed, that the Circuit of the outer Ward to that Castle was of a large Extent, considering that it did reach so far North towards the Town.

Having said thus much as to its Situation, and Antiquity, I shall proceed with the Succession thereof; wherein I observe, that K. *E.* 3. having in the Parl. begun at *Westm.* on the Munday next after the Feast of S. *Matthew* the Apostle in xi. Year of his Reign, advanced *Edward* his eldest Son (commonly called the *Black Prince*) unto the Dukedom of *Corwall*,

did

did *(inter alia)* for his better Support of that Honour, by his Charter bearing Date 1 Oct. the same Year, settle upon him the Reversion of this Mannour, after the Decease of Q. *Isabel* before specified, (*John* of *Eltham* E. of *Cornwall*, Tenant in Remainder, being then dead without Issue) to hold to him the said D. and to the eldest Sons of him and his Heirs, Kings of *England*, Dukes of that Place successively, and not to be severed from the said Dukedom; upon the Death, or not Existency of such Dukes, to revert unto the Crown together therewith. Whereunto the said Q. *Isabel*, by her Letters Pat. dated 10. *Dec.* in the same Year, did signify her Assent; and in regard of her Estate therein, made Attourment.

After which, were there divers great Priviledges granted to this Place, viz. in 18. *E.* 3. that the Tenants to the said Q. should, during her Life, be free from *Pavage*, *Passage*, *Paage*, *Lestage*, *Stallage*, *Tallage*, *Carriage*, *Pesage*, *Pikage*, and *Terage*, throughout all the Kings Dominions: And that she should, within the Precincts thereof have Return of Writts, as also Felons Goods, Fines for Trespasses, and for Licences of Concord; Amerciaments, Redemptions, Issues forfeited, Year, Day and Wast, with divers other. And the next Year following did the same K. further grant to the before specified Q. during her Life, and to the said Prince, in Reversion, and his Heirs, a Court-Leet within this Mannour, with Power to hold Pleas of all such Things as usually were determined before the Justices of Assise for the County of *Warwick*: And likewise to have Return of Writts, Goods of Felons and Fugitives, within the Precincts thereof; with a Gaol for the safe Custody of Felons or other Transgressors.

And in 21. *E.* 3. had one *Will. le Galeys* License to found a *Chantry* here, consisting of three Priests; whereof one to be the Warden; and to build a Chappell there in Honour of the Blessed Virgin, with a convenient Mansion for them: As also to amortize thereunto five Mess. lying in *Coventre*. Which Priests were to celebrate Divine Service daily for the good Estate of the said K. *E.* 3. Q. *Isabell*, his Mother, *Edw.* Prince of *Wales*, and of the said *Will. le Galeys* during their Lives; and for the Health of their Souls afterwards; as also for the Souls of *Edward* late King of *England* (the K. Father) and of *John* late E. of *Cornwall* (his Brother) and all the faithfull deceased. After which, viz. in 50. *E.* 3. I find, that the said Prince gave 23. Mess. 6. Cottages, and 2. Gardens lying here in *Coventre*, which were Parcell of this his Mannour of *Cheylesmore*, unto the Abby of *Vale-Royall* in *Cheshire*, of *Cistere.* Monks, founded by the K. his Father in 11. of his Reign. And the same Year did he dye seized of this Mannour, leaving *Ric.* his Son and Heir 9. Years of Age and a Half (afterwards King, by the Name of *R.* 2.) in whose Days the Park here was not without Deer, it seems; for in 8. of his Reign, granting to one *Tho. de Quinton*, the Keepership of its Pasturage for 6. Years, paying c *s. per Annum* to his Exchequer, he reserv'd sufficient Grasse for them.

In which 8. Year, the Walls on the South Part of this City being not built, the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty thereof humbly besought the K. to give them Leave that they might go forward with that Work (concerning which I shall speak more fully anon) who thereupon granted License to them so to do; on Condition that they should include within their Walls his said Mannour-Place, standing within the Park of *Cheylesmore*, as the Record expresseth: Which Park was a woody Ground in those Times: For, in 11. *R.* 2. the K. assign'd *Ric. Clerk*, then Keeper thereof, to cause as much Underwood there to be cut down as would make 3000 Fagots, and with the Money arising by the Sale of them to repair the Pales. And in 9. *H.* 5. *Rob. Castell*, the K. Steward of this Mannour, was appointed to cause 12 Oaks within it, to be fallen for Repair of the House as also more Underwood to the Value of 40 l. for defray of such Charge as he should be at therein. After this, viz. in

16. *H.* 8. I find, that the K. made a Leaſe for 21. Years of this his Mannour, with the Herbage of the Park and Conyes there, to *Geffrey Whalley*, Prior of *Ulveſcroſt* in *Leiceſterſhire*, for 21 Years, for the Rent of 13. li.-09. s. 05 d. ob.

And in 3. *E.* 6. did that K. by his Letters Pat. bearing Date 19. *Julii*, grant it with the ſaid Park unto *John* E. of *Warwick* and his Heirs, as being Part of the Poſſeſſions annexed to the Dutchy of *Cornwall* (by Charter and not in Parliament) to hold *in Capite*. Which *John*, on the 12. of *Aug.* following, made a Leaſe of the Premiſſes unto the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty, of this City, for the Terme of 99. Years, to the Uſes and Intents following; viz. That they and their Succeſſors for the Relief of the Poor of the ſaid City, ſhould yearly take to Paſture in the ſaid Park, the Number of 80. Kyne or Heyfers, and 20. Geldings, of ſuch poor Inhabitants of the ſaid City and Suburbs, as ſhould not have elſwhere, nigh thereto, ſufficient Paſture; paying yearly for every Cow, or Heyfer 1. *d.* and for every Gelding 2. *d.* But after his Attainder, which hapned in 1. *Mariæ* (as in *Warwick* I have ſhew'd, the ſaid Mayor, Bayliffs and Commonalty, by the Mediation of *Rob.* E. of *Leic.* (Son to the ſaid *John*) obteyned a Grant thereof from Q. *Eliz.* to hold to them and their Succeſſors for ever, in Fee Ferme (the Rent reſerved being ix. li. *per Annum*) whereupon they covenanted with the ſaid Earl to obſerve and perform the Truſts before ſpecified, for the Behalf of the poor Inhabitants, as by an Indenture dated 4. *Apr.* 10. *Eliz.* appeareth.

HAVING now finiſhed my Diſcourſe of *Cheyleſmore*, I return to *Coventre* itſelf; of which the laſt obſervable Matter that I took Notice was, touching the Paving thereof in 33. *E.* 1. To the End therefore that it may appear by what Degrees it aſcended to that Beauty and Strength in the Walls and other Buildings of Note; as alſo to thoſe Priviledges which it now enjoyeth, I ſhall in Order of Time proceed to declare.

In 2. *E.* 3. the Monks of *Coventre*, with the Inhabitants thereof, obteyn'd a Pat. for taking Toll of all vendible Commodityes that ſhould be brought thither to ſell for ſix Years, towards their Charges of incloſing the ſame. And at the Requeſt of *John* of *Eltham* E. of *Cornwall* (who had an Eſtate in Reverſion in the Mannour of *Cheyleſmore*, as I have there declared) for two Years more after the End of thoſe ſix; upon Condition that the ſaid Earl ſhall not be charged towards building of the Gates: Which Pat. bears Date at *Leiceſter* 6. *Jan.* the ſame Year: The particular Proportions of Toll little differing from thoſe, which were aſſeſſed upon every Thing for Pavage, as is before intimated. After this, in the 5. Year of the ſaid K. the Inhabitants of this Town had Licenſe to erect a common **Conduit**, of xx. Foot long and x. Foot broad, in any of the Streets thereof, that they ſhould think fitteſt for their Conveniency and Benefit. And, within 2. Years following, for their better Encouragement in proſecuting their Affairs, obteyn'd a Grant to them, their Heirs and Succeſſors, of Freedom from *Toll*, *Pavage*, *Pontage*, and *Murage*, for all their Merchandize throughout the K. Dominions: In Conſideration whereof he received a Fine of Ten Marks from them. But it had not then the Reputation of a City, or a Borough; and the Record gives this Reaſon: *Eo quod in Quintisdecimis Regi Conceſſis non contribuit ultra ſummam c. marcarum.*

In this K. Reign it was, that *Coventre* grew up to a very flouriſhing Condition, as by what I have ſaid, and ſhall further ſhew, appeareth: For in 18. *E.* 3. at the Inſtance of Q. *Iſabel* (who had an Eſtate in *Cheyleſmore* for Life) as alſo in Conſideration that the Reverſion thereof was veſted in *Edw.* then Prince of *Wales*, D. of *Cornwall*, and *E.* of *Cheſter*, the K. by his Letters Pat. bearing Date 20. *Jan.* did make it a Corporation, conſiſting of a Mayor and Bayliffs, which the Inhabitants ſhould have Power to chooſe and make out of themſelves Yearly: Who, taking their Oath according to the accuſtomed Manner in the like Caſes, might

from

from thenceforth do all Things appertaining to those Offices. And that they, their Heirs and Successors for ever, should thenceforth also have Power to hold Plea, as well of Trespasses, Contracts, and Agreements, as of all other Things happning within the Town. And for the better Tranquility of the said Inhabitants, and of all Merchants repayring thither, the K. then granted, that from thenceforth there should be a *Common Seal*, by his Royall Direction, consisting of two Pieces, according to Custome, for Recognizances of Debts there, according to the Form of the Statutes-Merchant made and published: The greater Part whereof to remain in the Custody of the Major for the Time being, and the lesser in the Hands of a certain Clerk to be there deputed by the said K. his Heirs and Successors, according to the Tenure of the said Statutes. And that the said Major and Clerk from thenceforth should receive Recognizances of Debts according to the Tenor of those Statutes: As also to give in Charge, and commit them to due Execution. And lastly, that there should be a *Prison* made in that Part of the Town belonging to the said Q. for the chastizing of Malefactors there taken; whereof the Mayor and Bayliffs, for the Time being, to have alwaies the Custody and Charge.

The xii Persons that purchased these Liberties for *Coventre*, being *Nicholas Michell*, *Henry Dodenhale*, *Walter Whitweb*, *Roger Hunt*, *Will. Trymelei*, *Geffrey Freberne*, *John Rushall*, *Rob. Thymbler*, *Ric Kerseley*, *Will. Walsale*, *Maurice Norfolk*, and *Will. Wellyngbright*. Whereupon, about two Years after, they elected a Mayor, viz. *John Ward*; and after him continued the like yearly Choyce, as by the Catalogue of them, which I have at the End of my Discourse touching this City inserted, may appear. And in the Year 1355. 29 *E.* 3. did they begin to build the Walls (by Vertue of the K. License in 2. *E.* 3. before-mentioned) *Richard Stoke*, at that Time Mayor, laying the first Stone at the Gate, called **New-Gate**, where they began the Work: But whether they did vigorously proceed therein, I cannot say, rather supposing that they were restrained: For afterwards, when *Edw.* the Black Prince came to enjoy that Interest here, which was setled upon him by the Entail before-mentioned, having granted the same to the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty thereof, to hold in Fee-ferm (for so doth that Pat. dated at *Westm.* 20. *Nov.* 37 *E.* 3. import) he gave them License to enclose this *City* (by that Name it is there called) *with a Wall of Lime and Stone embattailed*, to hold to them, their Heirs and Successours, of him the before specified Prince, and his Heirs for ever. Whereupon, the next ensuing Year, these good Men of *Coventre*, considering with themselves the great Charge that would be required in thus fortifying the Town, obtained License (3 *Nov.*) from the K. to tax all the Tradesmen and Inhabitants thereof, according to their Estates and Faculties; and to collect all such Sums of Money as should be levyed for that Purpose. For effecting whereof accordingly, the Mayor and Bayliffs then being, with *Thomas de Nassyngton*, *Will. Wolfe*, and *Will. Corby*, were appointed Assessors: Out of which Tax were excepted the Lands and Goods of all Ecclesiastick Persons.

And to the End, that the great Charge, which they were to undergo in making these Walls, might be the better born amongst them, the K. being very desirous to further the Work, granted a Commission (dated 3 *Julii*, 40 of his Reign) unto the Mayor and Bayliffs then being, together with *Wil. Catesby*, *Nich. Michell*, *Will. Botoner*, *Ric. de Stoke*, *Henry de Dovedale*, and *John del Tofte*, giving them Power to levy and receive these Customs following, *viz.* Of every Tun of Wine 2 *s.* of every Quarter of Malt 4 *d.* of every Ox 4 *d.* of every Hog and Calf a Peny, and every Sheep a Farthing, sold in this Town for the Space of 5 Years then next ensuing, towards the alleviating their Charge. But this Assessment much pinching the Victuallers, about 4 Years after they made a grievous Complaint to the K. alledging, that they were almost undone by it. Whereupon, by his Pat. dated 14 *Febr.* 44. of his Reign, he revoked the former Commission; commanding nevertheless, that the Merchants and other rich Men should be taxed with

with the meaner Sort, according to their ſeveral Abilities towards the Support of that Coſt in building thoſe Walls.

That *Coventre* then flouriſh'd very much, may be diſcerned by ſo great and coſtly a Work as this of the Walls, Gates, and Towers ſtill remaining, and ſecond to none in *England*, appears to be: As alſo by that incomparable Structure of St. *Michael*'s Steeple, begun in *Ann.* 1373. 47 *E.* 3. *Henry Clerke* being Mayor, and finiſhed in *Ann.* 1395. 18. *R.* 2. the Year of *Richard Lichfeild*'s Mayoralty. Neither did it want any Advantage that by the K. Favour could well be had: For to the End that they might ſecurely enjoy all thoſe Liberties and Priviledges granted by K. *H.* 2. *H.* 3. *Edw.* 2. and *E.* 3. which are together contained in the Charters of 15 and 20of *E.* 3. K. *Ric.* 2. in 1 of his Reign, made them an ample Confirmation: And not onely ſo, but in the ſame Year did conſtitute *John Percy*, *Adam Botoner*, *Henry de Keel*, *Simon de Lichfeld*, *John de Herdwyke*, and *John Toſtes*, Juſtices for Conſervation of the Peace within the Town of *Coventre*, with Power to hear and determine Matters of Felony and Treſpaſs. And moreover, was out of his Princely Goodneſs ſo indulgent to them, that by his Pat. dated 4 *Maii*, 8 of his Reign, he ratified the Charter of Licenſe made by K. *Edw.* his Grandfather in 37. *E.* 3. for building and embattailing the Walls: And thereby granted them Liberty to dig as much Stone in his Park of *Cheyleſmore*, as ſhould ſuffice for ſo much of them as includes the Mannour-Houſe of *Cheyleſmore*, with the making of one Gate near the ſaid Park, adjoining to the Houſe of **Friers-Minors** (which is now called the **Gray-Friers-Gate**). And likewiſe, that towards the Support of that Charge, the Mayor and Bayliffs ſhould for the Space of 5 Years then next enſuing, have his Ferm of Sealing Woollen Cloaths here, to the Value of xxiiii *l.* Sterling.

And in 11 of his Reign, vouchſafed ſuch Freedome to the Mayors, after that Time to be elected there, that they ſhould not go before the Barons of his Exchequer for to take their Oathes: Neither that the Mayor, nor any of the Commonalty, ſhould from thenceforth be put to collect Tenths, Fifteens, or other Taxes out of the Compaſs of the Town. And in 15 of his Reign beſtow'd upon them as much Stone out of his Quarries in the Park at *Cheyleſmore*, as ſerved to build the Great Gate in **Spon-Street**, near his Chappel of **Babelake**. And laſtly, towards the End of his Reign, by the Aſſent and mature Deliberation with his Councel, (as the Words of his Charter import) did he grant and confirm to the ſaid Mayor, Bayliffs, *&c.* and their Succeſſours, that they might make Improvement and Commodity of all the Gates, Towers, Walls and Bridges about the Town; and of whatſoever Purpreſtures, as well in Lands as Waters, made or to be made; as alſo of all the Waſt Ground within the following Limits, *viz.* from *Jabets-Aſh* to the Mill called *Nalſyngtons-Milne*; and from thence to the Corner of the Stone Wall of *Cheyleſmore*-Park: And from thence by the Wall and Pale of the Park to *Baroneſwell*; and thence to the Houſe of *John atte Yate*, and ſo, leaving the Mannour and Park of *Cheyleſmore*, with the Church of the *Friers-Minors*, on the Left Hand, from thence to the Corner of *Crab-Tree-Feild*; and ſo under *Crab-Tree-Feild* by a certain Highway unto *Spon-Church*; thence to *Dudmanes-Well*; and thence to the Church and Church-yard of St. *Nich.* thence to *Botteſcroſſe*; thence to *Harnall-Quarelle*; thence to *Gosford-Green*, and *Jabets-Aſh* before-mentioned. All which was ſo given to them towards the Repair of their Walls, and Payment of the Fee-Ferm, and other Charges incident unto them.

By which Patent the Mayor, Recorder, and 4 of the moſt ſubſtantial Inhabitants, had Power to enquire of, hear, and determine all Cauſes and Complaints that might concern the Office of Juſtices of Peace, touching Labourers and Artificers; ſo that the Juſtices within the County of *Warwick* ſhould not intermeddle in this Town nor the Suburbs thereof in

in any of thoſe Caſes. And that they the ſaid Mayor, Bayliffs, *&c.* ſhould have the Benefit of all Fines, Iſſues, and Profits accruing by their ſaid Juſticeſhip, as fully as any of their Predeceſſours ever had; with all other Cuſtoms and Priviledges granted to them by the ſame K. Progenitors.

The next obſervable Paſſage relating to this City, is, that in 21 *R.* 2. the Liſts were here appointed and ſet, for deciding that Difference by Combat, which was betwixt *Henry* D. of *Heref.* and *John* D. of *Norf.* the K. himſelf being then preſent. The Coming of which Dukes accordingly, *viz.* the D. of *Hereford* from *Baginton*-Caſtle, and *Norfolk* from *Caludon*, I have in thoſe Places already toucht.

But in K. *H.* 4. Time, I find nothing memorable, excepting that the K. held a Parliament here in *Ann.* 1404. 6 of his Reign; the Place of that Convention being a great Chamber in the Priory. Whereunto, by Special Precept to the Shiriffs in their ſeveral Counties, no Lawyer, nor any Perſon ſkilled in the Laws, was to come: Which Parliament was ever ſince called *Parliamentum indoctorum:* And well it might be ſo; for theſe, taking into Conſideration the K. Supply with Money for Defence of the Realm, in reſpect of the then imminent Danger from the Scots, Welſh, *&c.* concluded to do it by diveſting the Church of its Temporal Poſſeſſions. Whereupon there grew a hot Conteſt betwixt the Clergy and Laity; the Kts. for the Shires alledging, that they had often ſerved the K. in Perſon againſt his Enemies, ſpent their Eſtates, and expoſed themſelves to manifold Perils, whil'ſt the Clergy ſate idle at Home, and ſtood him in no Stead. To whom the Archb. of *Cant.* anſwered, that the Clergy had aſſiſted as much as they; by giving Tenths as often as they gave Fifteens; and that their Tenants, for the Number of Fees they held, did perſonally ſerve in the Wars as well as theirs: And that, beſides all this, they were not wanting, Day nor Night, by Maſſes and Prayers to implore Gods Bleſſing for the K. and all that ſerved him. But the Speaker of the Commons (Sir *John Cheyne* by Name) with a ſtern Countenance ſaid, that he valued not the Prayers of the Church. Whereupon the Archb. replyed, that it might eaſily be ſeen what would become of the Kingdome, when devout Addreſſes to God, wherewith his Divine Majeſtie was pleaſed, were ſet ſo light by. Much ado there was; but to conclude, the worthy Archb. (viz. *Tho. Arundell*) ſtanding ſtoutly for the good of the Church, preſerv'd it at that Time from the Storm impending.

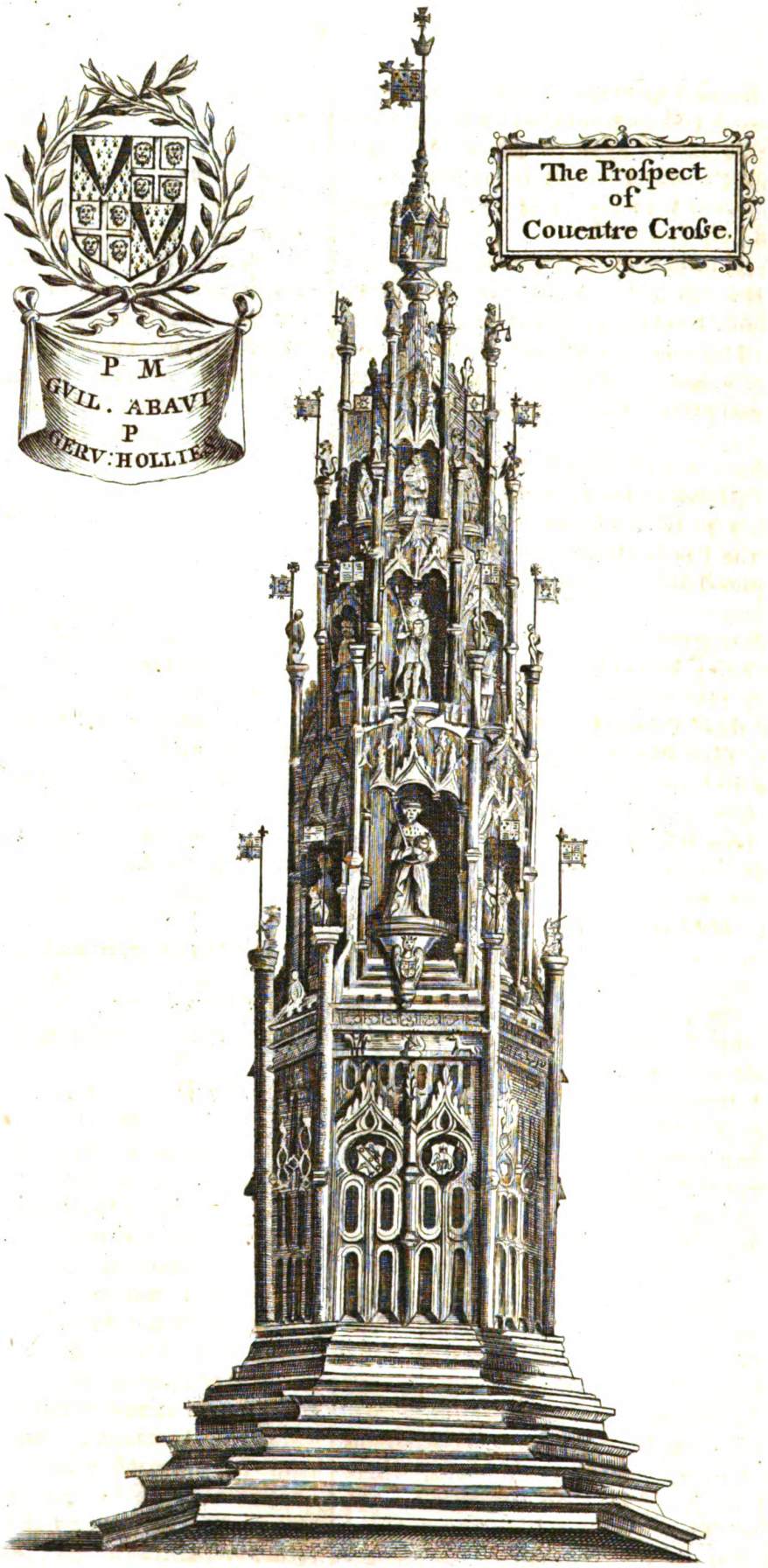
Coventre being thus grown to ſuch a height of Splendour by thoſe ſtrong and high Walls, with ſo many beautifull Gates, ſtately Turrets, and other eminent Buildings, as alſo by the Priviledges and Liberties granted thereto from ſo many Kings; and now of late honoured with the K. Preſence in his Parl. there held (as I have ſaid) raiſed no little Joy in the Hearts of its wealthy Merchants as may appear by what I am about to ſay, who ſhew'd themſelves no Niggards of their Riches there acquired, further to promote the Glory thereof: For in 6 *H.* 5. I find, that *John Leder*, and *John Eſterton*, both of *Coventre*, gave no leſs than 20 Meſſ. *John Preſton*, one Meſſ. and 20 *s.* Rent: And the ſaid *John Leder*, *Ric. Southam*, *Laurence Cook*, and *Will. Dilcock*, 25 Meſſ. 27 Acres of Land, and 13 *s.* Rent, all lying within the Precincts of *Coventre*, to the Mayor and Commonalty thereof, and their Succeſſours, towards the Support of ſuch Charges as they were like to undergo for the publick Affairs of this Place. And in 2 *H.* 6. *Will. Babington*, and *Will. Botoner*, taking into Conſideration the Charge in Repair of thoſe Walls, and other neceſſary Diſburſments for the general Advantage of this Corporation, beſtowed another Meſſuage on the ſaid Mayor and Commonalty and their Succeſſours for the Uſes aboveſaid. At which Time the ſaid K. confirm'd unto them the Charter of K. *Edw.* 3. for the Mayor and Bayliffs, with other their Liberties and Juriſdictions.

But above all their Favours vouchſafed

by former Kings, that of the ſame K. *H.* 6. in 30 of his Reign, muſt have Precedence: Which K. *ob ſpecialem & internam affectionem, quam erga Civitatem ſive Villam noſtram de* Coventre; *ac Majorem, Ballivos, & Communitatem ejuſdem Civitatis, ſive Villæ, gerimus*, &c.) for thoſe are the Words of his Charter) granted, that the ſaid City with the Villages and Hamlets of *Radford, Kereſley, Folkeſhull, Eccleſhale, Aneſty, Calwedon, Wykene, Henley, la Wode-End, Stoke, Byggyng, Whitteley, Pynley, Aſthull, Horewell, Harnhale* and *Whaberley*; as alſo Part of *Sow*, and that Part of *Styvichale* lying within the Liberties of *Coventre*; all which were within the Precincts of the County of *Warwick*, ſhould, from the Feaſt of St. *Nicholas*, (*viz.* 6 *Dec.*) next enſuing the Date of his ſaid Charter, be an entire County of itſelf, incorporate both in Deed and Name, diſtinct and altogether ſeparate from the ſaid County of *Warr.* for ever, and no Parcel of the ſame County; but from thenceforth called the County of the City of *Coventre* for ever. And that the Mayor and Bayliffs of the ſaid City ſhould thenceforth alſo for ever be elected at the ſame Time and Place, and according to the ſame Manner and Form as they had uſed to be in the Reign of K. *Edw.* 3. of famous Memory, by Vertue of his Letters Pat. or in the Time of any of the K. Progenitors. And that the Bayliffs of the ſaid City, from the Morrow after the Feaſt-Day of S. *Nic.* then next enſuing, ſhould be *Shiriffs* of the County of the ſaid City for ever: And yet nevertheleſs, that they ſhould ſtill execute the Office of Bayliffs according to the Form and Effect of the Franchiſes and Liberties granted by any of his ſaid Progenitors, and before that Time uſed. And that they which were to be Shiriffs of the ſaid City, as aforeſaid, ſhould in all future Times after they had that Office, take their Oaths before the Mayor for the Time being, and no other, and in the Guildhall of the ſaid City, and not elſwhere, according to due Form, for the juſt and faithfull Execution of that Office within the County of the ſaid City. And that the Mayor for the Time being, by his Letters Pat. under the Seal of his Office, ſhould forthwith certifie into the K. Court of Chancery the Names of ſuch Shiriffs ſo ſworn as aforeſaid: Which Shiriffs once every Month, upon the Tueſday, ſhould hold a Court for ever; executing all ſuch Power and Juriſdiction within their Liberties as other Shiriffs within their Bailywicks uſe to do; all Writs and Precepts, for the future, to be directed to them that had uſe to be directed to the Shiriffs of *Warwickſh.* and executed by them in Caſe the ſaid City and Hamlets had not been ſo made a County of itſelf. Which Shiriffs ſhould Annually make their Accounts in the Exchequer, before the Lord Treaſurer and Barons, or before the Barons, touching the Iſſues of their ſaid Office, or by their Atturneys.

And moreover, that the *Coroner* of the ſaid City, and his Succeſſors, ſhould thenceforth be Coroners of the County of the ſaid City for ever, and execute that Office in as ample Manner as any other Coroner within any County of the Realm had uſed to do. And that the ſaid Coroners for the Time being, ſhould be alſo Clerks for taking Recognizances of Debts there, according to the Form of the Statute for Merchants made and provided, the leſſer Part of the Seal for taking ſuch Recognizances to be alwaies in their Cuſtody.

And further, by the ſame Charter did the ſaid K. grant, that the Mayor and his Succeſſours within the ſaid City and Hamlets, ſhould exerciſe the Office of *Clerke of the Market* there; and levy and receive all Iſſues and Profits ariſing thereby, to the Uſe of them the ſaid Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty, of the ſaid City for ever: As alſo the Office of *Steward and Marſhall of the K. Houſhold.* And laſtly, that they the ſaid Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty, with all the Inhabitants of this City, ſhould be free from *Toll, Paſſage, Pontage, Murage*, and *Pavage*, for all their Goods and Merchandize throughout the whole Realm of *England* and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The Prospect
of
Couentre Crosse.

and *Ireland*, and enjoy whatſoever Priviledges and Franchiſes they or any of their Predeceſſours had uſed to do. Which ample Charter bears Date at *Weſtm.* 26 *Nov.* 30 of his Reign, and was confirm'd by K. *Edw.* 4.

Having thus ſhew'd by what Degrees *Coventre* arrived to this height of Greatneſs and Freedome, I will proceed with what I have further found relating thereto, in general: Whereof the firſt which is remarkable, was that Parl. in 38 *H.* 6. wherein *Ric.* D. of *York*, *Ric.* E. of *Saliſbury*, *Ric.* E. of *Warwick*, with *Edw.* E. of *March* (afterwards K. by the Name of *E.* 4.) and many others, were attainted; the Lords Houſe being then in the Chapter-Houſe of the Priory: Which Parliament by ſome of our Hiſt. is called *Parliamentum Diabolicum*, the Acts made in it being nulled by the ſucceeding Parl. Next, that in 7 *E.* 4. the K. and Qu. kept their Chriſtmaſs here: And in 9 *E.* 4. that *Ric. Widvile* E. *Rivers*, with *John* his Son, were Beheaded upon *Gosford-Green*, on the Eaſt Part of this City But how the ſame K. *Edw.* was afterwards foyled by the Lancaſtrians, and forc'd to fly beyond Sea, and of his Landing in *Holderneſſe*, *Ann.* 1470. 10. *E.* 4. I refer to the Relation of our Hiſtorians, and ſhall proſecute the mentioning of what elſe concerns this Place; which is, that the K. being alſo landed and advanced to *York*, *Ric.* E. of *Warwick* (then turn'd to the other Side) came hither from *London* upon Midlent Sunday, and brought with him Store of Ordnance, and other Warlike Proviſions, ſtaying here till after Palm-Sunday, within which Time K. *Edw.* came to *Leiceſter*, and thence to *Combe-Abbey*, and on the Morrow to *Coventre* Towns End: But finding that the E. of *Warwick* kept this City againſt him, he paſſed by, and lodging at *Warwick* that Night, marcht thence to *London*. After which it was not long ere he met with his Enemies near *Barnet*, and vanquiſht them, where the ſtout E. of *Warwick* loſt his Life: So that K. *Edw.* by this Victory, and that near *Tewkſbury* ſhortly after, having utterly ſubdued all his Oppoſers, came to *Coventre*; and remembering the Diſloyalty of theſe Citizens in adhering to the E. of *Warwick* againſt him, took the Sword from the Mayor (whoſe Name at that Time was *John Bett*) ſeizing their Liberties and Franchiſes; whereupon they gave 500 Marks Fine for the Reenjoyment of them, and render of the Sword. Touching which Sword, the firſt Mention that I find is, in 7 *R.* 2. *viz.* that it was then carryed after the Mayor (whoſe Name was *Janyn Deiſter*) but in 11 *R.* 2. before the Mayor, *ſcil. John Toſte*; and ſo, (for ought I have ſeen to the contrary) hath been ever ſince. About 4 Years after which Reconciliation ſo made with K. *E* 4. I find, that he came with his Q. to *Coventre*, and kept S. *George*'s Feaſt there (*Ann.* 1474. 14 *E.* 4.) the Prince having come before him, and received a Preſent of *C l.* and a Cup from the Citizens, at which Time he was one of the Godfathers to the Mayors Child.

The next Thing of Note, is that K. *H.* after that ſignal Victory at *Boſworth-Field*, where *R.* 3. was ſlain, came hither with his Army, and lodg'd at the Mayors-Houſe (by Name *Robert Onley*) whom he Knighted; at which Time the City preſented him with C*l.* and a Cup.

THE

CROSS.

I Now come to ſpeak of that ſtately Cross here, being one of the chief Things wherein this City moſt glories; which for Workmanſhip and Beauty is inferiour to none in *England*: The Building whereof was begun in *Ann.* 1541. 33 *H.* 8. and finiſhed in *Ann.* 1544. 36 *H.* 8. as by an old MS. *Chronol.* of the Mayors appeareth; but the Name of its Founder is now utterly loſt, for ought that theſe Citizens can tell of it. To the End therefore, that they may not ſtill continue ignorant of ſo eminent a Benefactor, I ſhall here, by the Help of that judicious Antiquary (my worthy Friend) *Gervaſe Hollies*, of *Grimeſby* in Com. *Linc.* Eſq;

Esq; revive his Memory. It was Sir *Will. Hollies*, Kt. sometime Lord-Mayor of *London*, and Son to *Thomas Holleys*, of *Stoke* near this City (as I have evidently found amongst the Registers in *Gildhall*; and not Son to *Will. Holleys*, of *London*, Baker, as *Stow* hath erroneously affirmed). Who bearing a Special Affection to this City, in regard he was born so near, gave Order for the Structure thereof, as the Words of his Testament (bearing Date 25 *Dec.* 33 *H.* 8.) which I have here inserted, do import.— *And furthermore, I give and bequeath unto the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of* Coventre, *and to the Commons of the same, CC*l. *Sterling, to the Intent and Purpose hereafter ensuing, that is to say, to make a new* Cross *within the said City: Whereof delivered in Hand to Mr.* Warren, *Draper of the said City, the* 24 *Day of* August *last, xx* l. *in Ready Money: And also more paid to Mr.* Over *by the Hands of* Salt *my Baylie of* Norall, 70 l. *in Ready Money; and so resteth unpaid Cx* l. *Sterling, which I will and desire my Executors see to be delivered and paid unto the said Mayor and Aldermen of* Coventre *aforesaid, to the Use and Intent aforesaid, within one Year after my Decease*, &c.

This Sir *William* was Father of Sir *Will. Hollyes*, of *Houghton* in the County of *Nott.* Kt. the Wonder of his Country for a great and setled Hospitality; and of so honest and honourable a Nature, that he is yet mentioned in those Parts by the Name of *good Sir William*. Which last-named Sir *Will.* was Great Grandfather to that learned Gent. before expreſt, as also to the present E. of *Clare*, *Ann.* 1638. And having thus taken Notice of his Munificence in erecting so noble a Monument, I hope the Mention of (*Eliz.*) his Ladies Charity, though the Poor of *London* were the Object thereof, will not be thought impertinent, considering that it is not elswhere taken Notice of. Which was, that by her Testament six Almshouses for six poor Men or Women should be built out of her Goods and Chattels; and Lands to the yearly Value of x *l.* be bought; out of which, Weekly, every one of the Alms-people should receive 7*d.* the Remainder to buy Coals to make them Fires; which was accordingly performed in St. *Helens* Parish by *Andrew Jud*, Alderman of *London*, and *Thomas Scopham* (her Brother) her Executors: Howbeit hitherto hath it not been publickly known that she was the Foundress, forasmuch as *Stow* and others do attribute the Work wholly to the same Sir *Andrew Jud*, passing by this pious Lady without any Memorial for the same.

In that Place where this Cross is now situate, there stood antiently another: Which having been set up in *Ann.* 1423. 2 *H.* 6. was taken down in *Ann.* 1510. (2 *H.* 8.) but for what Reason, I find not.

THE next most memorable Thing, in Order of Time, relating to this Place, is that Purchase by the City, made in 34. *H.* 8. from the Crown, of much Monastery-Land lying in and near thereto, *viz.* The great Orchard containing 8 Acres, and the little Orchard 2 Acres: One Rode lying within the Precincts of the Priory; a Pool called New-Pool, containing 1 Acre; a Mess. called the Mote-house, with divers Lands thereto belonging, a Wood called St. Cleres-Grove, with a Water-Mill, and divers particular Parcels of Land lying in *Radford*. Certain Mess. and Lands in *Bigging*, alias *Stoke-Bigging*, with a large Field called *Harnal Field*. Divers other Grounds called the *Stripe*, *Swanscroft*, *Parsons-Meadow*, *Marble-Field*, *Windmyll-Fields*, and Crownmote, The Mess. and Ferm of *Hawksbery*, and *Hawksbery-Grove*, with a certain Mannour-House there, moated about; as also a Number of particular Grounds lying in *Sow*, *Folkeshull*, and *Wykin*; together with the House of *Friers-Minors*, (commonly called the *Gray-Friers*) with its whole Site and Circuit. All which, and much more, that for Brevity I omit to to Particularize, were for the Sum of 1378 *l.* 10 *s.* granted to the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty, and their Successors, by the K. Letters Pat. dated 19 *Julii*,

Julii, 34 of his Reign, to be held *in Capite* by the xx Part of a Kts. Fee, and paying 7*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* yearly to the said K. his Heirs and Successors.

After which Time, *viz.* in 6 *E.* 6. that the Lands and Possessions of the *Gilds* and *Chantryes* came to be dispersst, they made the like Purchase from the Crown: For, in Consideration of the Sum of 1315*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* they had a Grant of whatsoever belong'd to *Corpus-Christi*, and the *Trinity Gilds:* As also to those *Chanteryes*, called *Mereton's*, *Forde's*, and *Pysford's Chanteryes* (alias *Forde's Almshouses*) and *Copston's Chantry:* Together with divers Lands lying in *Weston*, *Kinsbury*, *Alspath*, *Mereden*, and *Gallesby*, in the Counties of *Warw.* and *Leic.* pertaining to them. And likewise of *Shepey's*, *Haye's*, *Preston's*, *Allesley's*, *Percye's*, *Loginton's*, and *Cellet's Chantryes*; with Lands in *Gosford-Street*, &c. pertaining to the Chappel of St. *George:* And divers Rents belonging to the Priests of St. *Michaels*-Church; with Lands in *Starton*, given for the Maintenance of *Obits*.

But it was neither the Lustre of their beautifull Cross, nor all those large and easy Acquisitions, that did any whit balance the Loss this City sustained by the Ruine of that great and famous Monastery, and other the Religious Houses, &c. which had so lately preceded: For to so low an Ebbe did their Trading soon after grow, for want of such Concourse of People that numerously resorted thither before that fatal Dissolution, that many Thousands of the Inhabitants to seek better Livelyhoods, were constrain'd to forsake the City: Insomuch, as in 3 *E.* 6. it was represented unto the D. of *Somerset*, then Protector, by *John Hales*, a Person of great Note in those Daies, and whose Memory is still famous here, that there were not at that Time above 3000 Inhabitants, whereas within Memory there had been 15000.

To recompence which Decay of Trade, in 6 *E.* 6. they obtained a Charter for another **Faire** to be kept here Annually, beginning 21 *Oct.* and to continue two Daies after. But, after this Time, till 19 *Jac.* I find nothing else memorable that relates to this City in general, other than what I have already mentioned in my Discourse of *Cheylesmore*. Which King then granted them a most ample Confirmation of all their former Charters, Liberties, Privileges, Lands, and Rents. As also, that the House where they usually assemble for their City-Affairs should be called the **Councell-House** of the said City: And that those, who then were, or after that Time were to be elected thereunto, should be called **The Councell of the City**. And moreover, that the Mayor, Recorder, Bayliffs, and other Officers, should yearly be elected on their **Leet**-Day, to be held within a Month after Michaelmas by xxxi Persons, nominated of those who have formerly born the principal Offices in the City. And likewise, that there should be ten Aldermen in the ten Wards, as formerly had used to be: And that the Mayor, Recorder, and those ten Aldermen should be Justices of Peace within the same City and County thereof. As also, that the said xxxi Persons should have Power to tax themselves and all other the Inhabitants within the Walls of the said City, to the Charge of Repairing the said Walls; so as alwaies it discharge not those who of Right or Custome are liable thereto.

By which Pat. had they likewise a Grant of two new **Faires**; one to be held upon the first of *April*, and the other upon the 16th of *August*, with such Tolls as are taken in *Smythfield*, within the Suburbs of *London*. And that they should take Recognizances for the Peace, and good Behaviour, and for Appearance at the Sessions within the said City. And further, that they should have a second Councel consisting of 25 Persons, called the **Common-Councell** of the said City, to prepare the Affairs thereof for the Mayor and greater Councel: And to have the Government of such Orphans of Citizens of that City, and of their Estates, as shall be commended by their own Parents to the Tutelage of the Mayor and Aldermen thereof; in which Case the Corporation, to secure the Orphans Portions to whomsoever that trusts them,

and pay ſix Pounds *per Centum* for their Maintenance. And laſtly, that the ſaid Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty might have Liberty to purchaſe Lands in *Mortmayn* to the Value of 300 *l. per Annum*, to the general Behoof of the City, provided that ſuch Lands be not held *in Capite*, nor Kts. Service. Which Pat. bears Date 18 *Julii*, 19 *Jac.*

Having now done with what concerns the City in general, I will here ſubjoyn a Catalogue of the Mayors thereof.

An. 1347. (21 E. 3.)
John Ward
Will. Horn
Jordan Shepey (he built JORDAN-WELL)
Will. Luff
Nich. Michell
Ric. Freberne
John Hayton
Walt. Whitweb
Henry Dodenhale

X.

An. 1355. 29 E. 3.

Ric. Stoke
Nich. Michel
Henry Clerke
Will. Botoner
Will. Yarmouth
Ric. Stoke
Nich. Percy
Will. Botoner
Henry Clarke
Will. Botoner

XX.

Henry Clarke
Will. Botoner
Henry Dodenhale
Nich. Michell
John Tofte
John Papenham
James Benyngton
John Percy
Henry Clarke
Will. Botoner

XXX.

Adam Botoner
Will. Wolfe
John Papenham

An. 1377. 1 R. 2.

John Papenham
Jynan Swynnyſhed
Ric. Luff
Henry Kele
John Knight
Ric. Dodenhale
Janyn Deyſter

XL.

Adam Botoner
Ric. Clarke
Henry Kele
John Tofte
Henry Kele
Henry Kele
John Scarborought
John Liberde
John Northwode
John Croſſe

L.

Ric. Lichefeld
John Onley
Ric. Clarke
John Preſton
Geffrey Hampton
Will. Whitchurch

An. 1399. 1 H. 4.

Nich. Bodeley
Rob. Schepley
Joh. Foundur
John Smythier

LX.

John Alluſley
Will. Attulborough
John Botoner
John Wedon
Will. Bedforde
Will. Belgrave
John Goote
John Horneby

An. 1412. 1 H. 5.

Will. Dilcock
Ric. Southam

LXX.

Laurence Cooke
Rob. Schepeley
Will. Belgrave
John Onley
Adam Hayton
John Goote
John Leder

Ann. 1422. 1 H. 6.

John Eſturton
Henry Peyto
Tho. Wylgriſe

LXXX.

John Braytoſt
Ric. Joye
Giles Alſeley
John Briſchowe
Laur. Cooke
Tho. Paynell
Will. Dilcock
Will. Biſeld
Ric. Scharpe
John Michell

XC.

Iohn Everton
John Kinton
Will. Swanne
Will. Carver
John Eſex
John Warant
John Braytofte
Tho. Wylgriſe
Ric. Braytofte
Ric. Braytofte

C.

John Luſterley
Tho. Wirley
John Walgrave
Edm. Brogreve
Ric. Scharpe
Ric. Boys
Will. Braytofte
John Freman
Ric. a Wood
Ric. Clerke

CX.

Ric. Braytofte
Rob. Bradmedowe
Gye Whiſton
Will. Kempe
John Wylgriſe

Ann. 1460. 1 E. 4.

Edm. Brogreve
Will. Peere
Tho. Bradmedowe
John Draper
John Pynchbecke

CXX.

John Gauge
Ric. a Wood
Will. Dawes
Will. Sawnders
Will. Stafforde
John Bette
John Thrompton
Rob. Atturton
Ric. Braytoſt
Rob. Onley

CXXX.

Tho. Dowſe
John Symons
Rob. Burnel
Will. Marchall
Will. Shoore
Ric. Colyns
Henry Marler

Ann. 1483. 1 R. 3.

Will. Horſley
Henry Kebull

CXL.

Ann 1485. 1 H. 7.

Robert Onley
Ric. Cooke
Tho. Bayly
Tho. Baggot
Rob. Colmon
Ric. Leye
John Wyzgſton
Will. Rowley
Tho. Chyrchman

CL.

Rob. a Greene
John Paddelond
John Dove
Will. Fourde
Tho. Bonde
Will. Hapeting
John Haddon
Will. Pyſford
Ric. Jackſon
Ric. Coke

CLX.

Tho. Paddelond
John Dyddeſbery
Tho. Wardelowe
Rob. a Greene
Ric. Smyth
Ric. Marlowe
John Sawndars

Ann. 1509. 1 H. 8.

John Strong
Ric. Harſell
John Hardwyn

CLXX.

Tho. Growe
John Clarke

John

John Hownfere
Harre ——
Nich. Borwe
Tho. Warryn
John Bonde
Will. Whicam
Tho. Whitt
Yelins Nethermill

CLXXX.

Tho. Bunwell
Nich. Hemyng
Harre Walle
Ric. Herryng
Tho. Dod
Tho. Aſtellyn
Will. Dawſon (who dyed in the ſame Year, and Roger Whellys kept out his Mayoralty)
Ric. Riſſe
Will. Smethe
Hewe Lawtyn
Rog. Palmer

CXC.

Rob. Kyrvine
John Gett
Chriſtofer Wade
Will. Cottyne
Sym. Parkar
Tho. Gardener
Cottberd Joyner
Chriſtopher Warryn
John Sanders
Harre Woffyr

CC.

John Tallans

Ann. 1546. 1 E. 6.

John Hartford
James Rogers
Tho. Kewet
Will. Saunders
Ric. Nielyn
Edm. Dampport
Ric. Hurt

Ann. 1553. 1 M.

Will. Hyndam
Will. Norton

CCX.

Tho. Ryley
Rob. Colman
Tho. Wheatley.

Ann. 1558. 1 Eliz.

John Nethermell
Tho. Dudley
Tho. Kyrven
Ric. Smyth
Hugh Harvy
Iohn Tallans
Tho. Ryley

CCXX.

Will. Hopkyns
Edm. Brownel
Will. Smalwode
Henry Kyrven
John Hartford, *deprived of his Office for killing a Man, and in his ſtead*
John Sanders
Ric. Hawten
Tho. Nichells
Ric. Barker
Tho. Wight
Raufe Boonde

CCXXX.

Sym. Cotton
Tho. Niclyn
Raufe Joyner
Rob. Letherbarrowe
Edw. Barrowſe
Tho. Saunders
John Myles
Will. Wylkes
Gilb. Dyglen
Henry Bryers

CCXL.

Will. Eburne
Tho. Hill
John Richards
Henry Shewell
Ric. Smyth
Humfry Smalwood
Math. Richardſon
John Ryley
Will. Howcotte
Will. Walden

CCL.

Rob. Bedforde
Tho. Gravener
John Whitehead, who dyed before his Year expired, and in his ſtead
Henry Bryers
John Rogerſon
Roger Clarke
Ric. Smyth
Thomas Barker
Ric. Butler
Chriſtoph. Davenport

CCLX.

Ann. 1603. 1 Jac.

Ric. Page
Will. Wheat
Math. Collins
Henry Sewall
Humf. Wightwick
Will. Hancock
Sampſon Hopkins
Henry Smyth
Chriſtoph. Warren
John Herring
Henry Davenport

CCLXX.

John Barker
Will. Snell
Sam. Miles
Will. Sewall
Humfr. Smalwood
Henry Harwell
Iſaak Walden
John Pixley
Tho. Potter.
John Thomas

CCLXXX.

Franc. Robinſon

Ann. 1625. 1 Car.

Will. Burbage
Raph Walden
Ric. Clerke
Henry Million
John Clarke
Tho. Warde
Will. Jeſſon
Henry Kervin
Sim. Norton

CCXC.

John Barker
Edw. Owen
Tho. Baſnet
Godfrey Legg
Tho. Forreſt
John Rogerſon

Ann. 1640.

Sampſon Hopkins

Coming now to ſpeak of that great, and ſometime famous Monaſtery, called the **Priory of Coventre**, (of whoſe Founder I have already made Mention) which for the Antiquity of its Foundation, and ample Revenues, excelled all other in this County; I ſhall be bold, before I proceed in the particular Story thereof, to digreſs a little, and take a ſhort View of the Original and Increaſe of a Monaſtick Life; as alſo of the *Benedictine* Order, whereof this Monaſtery was.

That the Word *Monachus*, which is derived from the Greek Word Μόνος, ſignifieth ſuch a one as doth *ſolitariam vitam degere*, I need not ſtand to demonſtrate: But who it was that may be ſaid to have been abſolutely the firſt that begun this Courſe of Life, I find no direct Certainty. Divers aſcribe it to the Prophet *Samuell*; others to *Helias* and *Helyſeus*, that liv'd in poor Cottages and deſert Places near the River **Jordan**; and long after them S. *John* the *Baptiſt*: To whom may be added ſome of the Apoſtles, as alſo St. *Mark*, the Evang. and by their Example certain others, viz. *Paul* the Hermite, S. *Anthony*, S. *Hilarion*, S. *Baſil*, and S. *Hierome*: But of theſe *Paul* the Hermite was of greateſt Note, for his retired Living: Who, to avoyd that cruell Perſecution which raged under *Decius*, betook himſelf to the vaſt ſolitary Wilderneſs, where he lived 93 Years unknown to any. But in the Times of theſe Men they had no certain Rule:

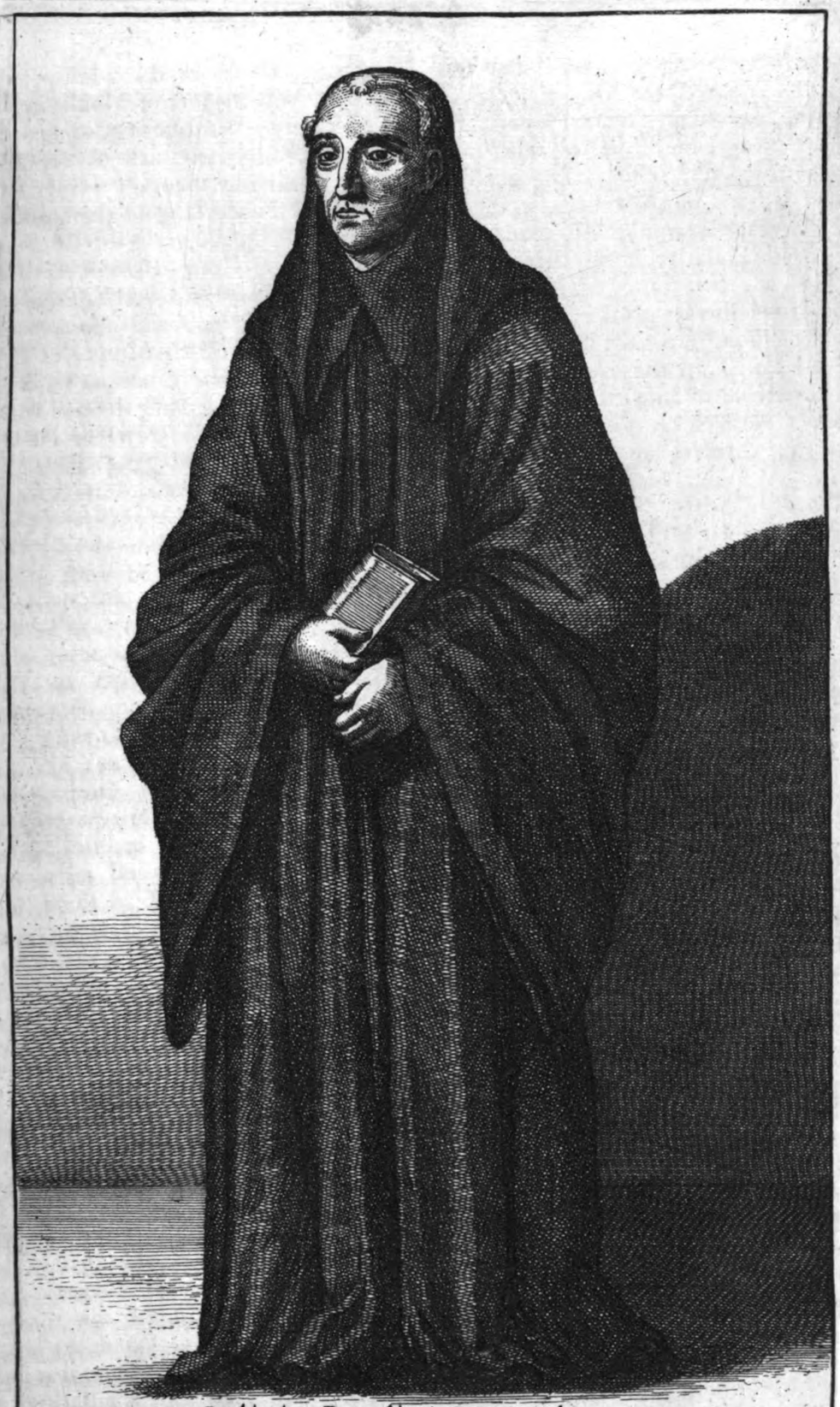
For

For every one being free, regulated himself as he saw best for his Spiritual Advantage, exercising devout Prayers, frequent Fastings, hard Studies, with mean and slender Diet, which they acquired by the Labour of their Hands, thereby giving great Examples of pious Living to all Posterity. So that S. *Anthony* is the first unto whom some do chiefly refer the Original of this Monastick Profession, in regard he first so wonderfully raised up the Desires of all to lead this Kind of Life; and instituted a Rule for Monks, as S. *Basil* did afterwards in **Greece**, and S. *Hilarion* in **Siria**. Which *Anthony* lived in the Desert of **Thebes** (a Part of **Egypt**) and there built a Monastery, where, with *Sarmatus*, *Amatus*, and *Macharius*, his Disciples, wholly exercising himself in devout Prayers, he fed upon nothing but Bread and Water; being so famous for his Holiness, that *Helena* the Mother of *Constantine*, commended herself and her Son by Letters to him, and dyed in the Wilderness in the Year of Christ CCCLX. aged 105 Years.

But about 166 Years after the Death of *Anthony*, one *Benedictus Nursinus*, born in **Umbria**, a Region of **Italy**, having long lived in much Solitude, at length came to **Sublacum**, an eminent Town of the Latins, distant from **Rome** near xl. Miles: And to avoyd Company, in regard many, for his Sanctity, resorted to him, shortly betook himself to **Cassinum**, a very antient Place in that Countrey; and there setling himself, gathered together the dispersit and singly wandring Monks into one Monastery, instituting certain Forms and Rules for their Observance: Howbeit, the first that gave Laws and Rules to Monks was *Basil*, Bishop of **Cesarea** in **Cappadocea**; who about the Year of Christ CCCLXIII. being very famous for his Learning and Piety, obliged such that should enter Orders to vow Poverty, Chastity, and Obedience to their Superiour. But *Benedict* assign'd to his Monks a special Kind of Habit, and appointed them a certain Form for Praying, slender Diet, and a new Rule of Abstinence: And that, except in Case of Sickness, they should wholly forbear Flesh. Which Sort of Monks increased exceedingly; yet differing in some Particulars from their first Rule, did in Time subdivide themselves into several Companies, according to their particular Fancies: Whence grew the *Cluniacenses*, *Camalduenses*, *Vallis-Umbrenses*, *Montolivetenses*, *Grandimontenses*, *Cistercienses*, *Silvestrenses*, *Celestines*, and *Heremitanes* of S. *Hierome*. Which Monks of S. *Benet*'s Rule, as their Tradition is, do wear a black Coat loose and divided down to their Heels, with a Cowl or Hood for their Head, that falling over their Shoulders is shorter than others use: And under all have a Woollen white Coat; as also a Hair Shirt, with Boots to the Knees; their Heads being shaved with a Razor below the Midst, by reason whereof the Top of the Head so shaved is called *Corona*.

And now that I am thus come to speak of their Shaving, it will not be amiss to shew upon what Occasion this Custome was taken up by the Monks. *Dum beatus Petrus Antiochiæ prædicaret* (saith my Author) whilst S. *Peter* preacht at **Antioch**, the Gentiles, by Way of contumely towards the Name of Christians, shaved the very Top of his Head, which afterwards was held a great Honour to the Religious, and those of the Clergy. But further of such Shaving see *P. Stellartius de coronis & tonsuris, lib.* 3. *cap.* 1. And here might I adde somewhat touching the Usage to the Monks of this Order in the Time of their Sickness, especially towards the Point of Death; as also of washing the Body, being dead, with the Ceremonies of Burial, were it proper for this Place: But I will conclude with inserting the Form of their Admission into the Monastery. *Ego frater A. promitto stabilitatem meam, & conversionem morum meorum, & obedientiam secundùm regulam S. Benedicti Abbatis, coram Deo & omnibus Sanctis ejus, in præsentia domini Abbatis N. ad monasteriam S. Mariæ Coventriæ:* And shall refer my Reader to *Clem. Reinerus* his *Apost. Bened. in Anglia*, for further Satisfaction in the Particulars of their Rule.

Touch-



Ordinis Benedictini Monachus.

Touching the Beginning of a Monastick Life here in *England*, if we look after the particular Persons, who in Times of Persecution fled to Woods, Caves, and Deserts for Preservation, it will be hard to point out the first that so retired themselves: But if we consider their first being gathered into any Covent, then certainly those of *Glastonbury* in *Somersetsh.* and *Bangor* in *Chesh.* will have the Preheminence; in the later whereof, as *Beda* testifieth, there were so great a Number, that being divided into 7 Parts, each having a several Ruler, every Part was no less in Number than 300, all which lived by the Labour of their Hands: Howbeit, these cannot be said (for ought I know) to have lived under any other Rule than the *Esseans* in Palestine, of whom *Polydore* speaketh. And therefore to come unto those Times that the Order of *Benedictine Monks* was first transplanted into *England*, we are not to look higher than *Austin* the Monk; who, about the Year of Christ 595. (as saith mine Author) was sent into *England* by Pope *Gregory*; whereupon Episcopal Sees were established in sundry Places, and Monasteries built for Monks observing the Rule of S. *Benedict*; so that shortly after there were none in *England* but of that Order, which first began to be exercised in the Abby of *Glastonbury*; whereas before that Time they lived after the Manner of the Egyptian Covents (saith he): And which was so famous in antient Time, especially through *England*, that before the Norman Conquest there was scarce a Monastery of any other, as I have specially observed.

Having thus pointed at the Original of a Monastick Life, and of this distinct Rule, I shall now go on with the Story of this particular Monastery. That Earl *Leofrike* was its Founder. I have formerly intimated. And now touching this great and famous Work, I will begin with the Observation made thereof by our most antient and authentick Historians——*Quod Monasterium*, saith *R. Hoveden*, speaking of this, *inter cætera bona opera, quæ in sua vitagessit ipse*, (meaning Earl *Leofrik*) *& uxor illius Dei cultrix, & S. Mariæ semper Virginis amatrix devota, nobilis Comitissa* Godiva, *de sui patrimonio à fundamentis construxerunt, & id terris sufficienter locupletaverunt, ornamentis variis ita ditaverunt, ut in nullo Monasterio totius Angliæ tanta copia auri, argenti, gemmarum, lapidumque pretiosorum inveniretur, quanta tunc temporis habebatur in illo.* Nay *Will. Malmesb.* addeth further, that it was enrich'd and beautified with so much Gold and Silver, that the Walls seemed too narrow to contain it; insomuch that *Rob. de Limesie*, B. of this Diocess in the Time of K. *W. Rufus*, scrap'd from one Beam that supported the Shrines, 500 Marks of Silver. And touching its Dedication and Number of Monks, takes this from an approved Writer: *Anno Domini MXLIII. constructum fuit Monasterium Coventrense à Memorandæ recordationis duce* Leurico, *& uxore ejus* Godiva; *dedicatumque eodem anno ab Archiepisc. Dorobernensi* Edzio, *quarto Non. Octob. post Pascha, Abbate* Lefwino *cum XXIIII monachis in eodem instituto.*

Here the noble Founders, before recited, were both buryed; yet not in the Church, as afterwards was frequent, but in the two Porches Of which excellent Lady it is recorded, that she bestowed all that vast Treasure, she had been storing up during her whole Life, upon this Place: And even at the Point of her Death gave a rich Chain of pretious Stones, directing it to be put about the Neck of the Blessed Virgins Image; so that those that came of Devotion thither should say as many Prayers as there were several Gems therein.

And for the Endowment thereof, did the said E. *Leofrik*, by the Advice and License of K. *Edw.* the Conf. and Pope *Alexander*, at the Dedication of the Church to the Honour of God, and his Blessed Mother; as also of S. *Peter* the Apostle, and the Holy Virgin S. *Osburg*, and *All-Saints*, give, besides the one Half of this Town, in which the said Monastery was situate, xxiiii Lordships for Maintenance of the Abbot and Monks there serving God, with Food and Raiment,

ment, viz. *Honynton*, *Newnham*, *Chadſhunt*, *Ichenton* (Epiſc.) *Olufton*, *Sutham*, *Greneburgh*, *Burthingbury*, *Merſton* upon *Avon*, *Herdwyk*, *Waſperton*, *Cheſterton*, *Sotham*, *Ruyton*, and the one Half of *Sow*, all in this County: *Merſton* in *Glocesterſh*. *Salwary* in *Worceſterſh*. *Eaton* upon *Dee in Cheſh*. *Kyldesby* and *Wynwik* in *Northamptonſh*. *Burbach*, *Barwell*, *Scraptoft*, and *Pakinton* in *Leiceſterſh*. with the Liberties of *Sac*, *Soc*, *Tol*, and *Theme*: Whereunto were Witneſſes the King himſelf, *Edzi* Archb. of *Cant*. *Aldred* B. of *Worceſter*, *Wolſy* B. of *Lich*. *Manni* Abbot of *Eveſham*, *Godwin* Abbot of *Winchcomb*, *Alfric* Abbot of *Perſhore*. Of Earls, *Godwyn*, *Harold*, *Siward*, and *Ordgar* of *Devenſh*. with *Alfward* of *Kynſarton*, *Waxen* of *Wotton*, and many other eminent Perſons. Which Charter was firſt confirmed by the ſaid K. *Edw*. who added theſe further Priviledges thereto, *viz*. That the Lands ſo given, as before is expreſt, ſhould be free from Taxes for ſetting forth Souldiers; as alſo for building of Bridges or Caſtles, and all Payments to the King, Biſhop, or any other Perſon. Next by Pope *Alexander*, who at that Time by his Apoſtolick Authority added, that it ſhould not be ſubject to any Dioceſan Biſhop, nor Judiciary Power, of what Order or Dignity ſoever: And that the Monks here ſerving God ſhould have Liberty to elect their Abbot out of themſelves, or any other Congregation where they pleaſed. Whoſe Bull bears Date in the Year from our Saviours Incarn. MXLIII. (1 *Edw*. Conf.) and afterwards by *Will*. the Conq. and other ſucceeding Kings.

By which great Immunities and Priviledges 'tis eaſy to be ſeen in what Glory this Monaſtery then ſtood: Nor can we doubt but that the People had it in very high Eſteem; conſidering that it was as well the Chief of all the Religious Houſes in theſe Parts, as the onely one of Monks in this County; and alſo honoured with an extraordinary Relick; *viz*. the Arm of the famous S. *Auguſtine*, Biſhop of **Hippo**, plac'd in a Silver Shrine, whereupon were graven theſe Letters: *Hoc brachium S. Auguſtini Egelnodus Archiep. rediens à Roma ad Papiam emit C. talentis argenti & talento auri.* But the particular Lands that were by the Conq. Survey recorded to belong thereto in this County, and certified under the Title of *Terra Eceleſiæ de Coventreu*, are not directly the ſame that be contain'd in the Foundation Charter, though more in Number; the Names whereof I will here onely recite; for, as I come to the ſeveral Places, I ſhall ſpeak at large of them. *Filunger*, *Graneberge*, *Surland*, *Dirbingerie*, *Bilveie*, *Condone*, *Cobintone*, *Sucham*, *Sowa*, *Ulchetone*, *Icetone*, *Edburberie*, *Herdewiche*, *Hunitone*, *Cedeleſhunt*, *Ceſtretone*, *Waſmertone*, *Neweham*, and *Radewei*: Howbeit in ſome of theſe they had not the whole Lordſhip.

Having thus manifeſted how amply it was endowed with Lands and Priviledges, the next Thing that I am to obſerve, is, how the Government thereof came into the Biſhops Hands, which hapned in the Time of K. *Will. Rufus*, in this Sort.

Shortly after the Norman Conqueſt, there was one *Peter* conſecrated B. of this Dioceſs (then including *Cheſter* as well as *Coventre* and *Lichfield*) in whoſe Time *Lamfrank* Archb. of *Cant*. held a Synod at *London*, wherein it was decreed, that Epiſcopal Seats ſhould not be in petty Towns: By Vertue whereof this was removed from *Lichfield* to *Cheſter*. To which *Peter* (who dyed and was buryed at *Cheſter*) ſucceeded *Rob. de Limeſy* (of whom I have formerly made Mention) which *R*. upon the Death of *Lewynus* Abbot of *Coventre*, obtain'd from the K. the Cuſtody of this Monaſtery; and, by the Authority of a Bull from Pope *Paſchal* the Firſt, removed his Seat from *Cheſter* hither. Hereupon the B. ſetling at *Coventre*, and having the Government of this Monaſtery (as I have ſaid) the Name of Abbot became thenceforth utterly ſuppreſt and extinct, in regard that the Epiſcopal Dignity therein overtopt it: So that the ſucceeding Priors (for ſo were they called which had the Rule) were but as Subſtitutes to the Biſhops in whom the

the Abbacy virtually was. But this B. was neither a Friend to the Monaſtery nor to the Monks, as it ſeems: For, beſides his ſcraping ſo much Silver from one Beam, as I have already intimated he ſuffered the Buildings to decay for want of Repairs, pill'd the Church of many rich Ornaments; and as for the Monks, he kept them to poor and miſerable Commons, not regarding their regular Living, nor any Thing that might advance Learning among them; to the End, that being thus brought low, and in Ignorance, their Thoughts ſhould not ſoar ſo high as to conſider the Redreſs of theſe his ſo great Injuries.

Of the other Biſhops which ſucceſſively reſided here at *Coventre* (this being their Cathedral as well as *Lichfeld*) I ſhall onely recite the Names, their Stories being already written by *Godwyn*, viz. *Rob. de Peche*, *Rog. de Clinton*, *Walter Durdent*, *Ric. Peche*, and *Gerard de Puella*; all which in their ſeveral Times ſucceſſively, did ſtile themſelves *Coventriæ Epiſcopi* onely; and had a fair Palace at the North-Eaſt Corner of S. *Michael*'s Church-yard, being very near to the Monaſtery. But the firſt who bore the Name, and had the Office of Prior here, was one *Lawrence*, of whom I find frequent Mention in K. *Steph.* and *H.* 2. Reigns; whoſe Succeſſors I ſhall inſert elſwhere; and therefore will now proceed with the Relation of ſuch memorable Paſſages as concern this Monaſtery, and of the further Enlargement or Diminution of its Poſſeſſions, according as they hapned in Order of Time.

In which Progreſs the firſt Thing I find obſervable, is, that in 7 *Steph.* the Times being then turbulent, *Rob. Marmion* (whoſe Seat was the Caſtle of *Tamworth*) being a Man potent in Arms, and a great Adverſary to the E. of *Cheſter*, poſſeſt himſelf thereof, turn'd out the Monks, and fortified the Church with the Buildings belonging therunto, making deep Trenches in the Fields adjacent; which he ſo covered, that they could not be ſeen, to the End that they might be an Impediment to an Enemy whenſoever any Approach ſhould be made: But it ſo hapned, that as he ſallyed out with ſome Forces upon the E. of *Cheſter*'s drawing near; and not remembring whereabouts thoſe Places had been digg'd, he fell with his Horſe into one of them himſelf; and by that Means, being ſurprized by a common Souldier, had his Head preſently cut off: Whoſe Deſtruction in that Kind is by our Hiſtorians obſerved to have been as a juſt Judgement of God for prophaning this ſacred Place.

After this, *viz.* in 15 *Steph.* I find, that the Monks of *Coventre* granted unto thoſe of *Daventre* in *Northamptonſh.* the Church of *Aſhby*, with 3 Yard Land thereto belonging; and the Church of *Haddon*, with two Yard Land, excepting the Tithes and ſuch other Benefits which were due to the Church of *Winwyk* (whereof it ſeems theſe were originally Members): In Conſideration whereof, the Monks of *Daventre* were to pay Yearly to this Monaſtery 1 Pound of Incenſe before the Feaſt of the *Nat.* of our Lord. Which Grant was made in the Time of Prior *Laurence*, and begot much Love and mutual Affection from theſe Religious Houſes to each other: For ſhortly after was there an Agreement made betwixt them, that if any Monk of *Coventre* ſhould be, by the Conſent of his Prior and Covent ſent to *Daventre*, out of their great Affection to that Houſe, he ought to be freely received, and reſide there in that regular Way, as if he were one of the ſame Covent, untill he ſhould be recalled by the Pr. of *Cov.* and in Caſe he did depart this Life during ſuch his Abode there, all Solemnities to be perform'd for him as for a Monk of *Dav.* And the like were they of *Cov.* to perform to thoſe of *Dav.* touching ſuch as ſhould be ſent thither from *Dav.* And that if any of either Covent did happen to dy elſwhere, one Prieſt of each Monaſtery (his Death being known) ſhould celebrate 3 Maſſes for him, his Service with *Placebo* and *Dirige* to be alſo perform'd in the Covent, with the Corrody belonging to a Monk for that Day, and his Name regiſtred in the Martyrologe.

And

And when any of the Priors of either Monaſtery ſhould dy, a *Trentall* to be ſung in the other Covent over & above the Services before recited. And moreover every Year a *Maſs of the Holy Ghoſt* to be celebrated, as well for the Living in each Monaſtery, as for the Dead. And laſtly, that in all Things, both Spiritual and Temporal, where each might aſſiſt other, they ſhould effectually afford their Aid.

About this Time was it, that *Ranulph*, ſirnamed *Gernons*, E. of *Cheſter*, bearing a great Reſpect to theſe Monks, gave them Liberty to have 2 Carts going to and fro twice every Day, except Feſtivals, into his Woods about *Coventre*, to fetch thence whatſoever they might need, in order to the Repair of their Buildings, Fuel for their Fire, or Trowſe for their Hedges. And being fully aſſured that the Chappel of S. *Mich.* here in *Cov.* and all the reſt within the Town and without, with the Tithes, Oblations, and Rights to them belonging, ſituate within his Fee, did juſtly belong to them, he made them his Charter of Recognition, and confirm'd them to this Monaſtery for the Health of his Soul, as alſo for the Souls of his Father, Mother, and all his Progenitors. After which, *viz.* in 12 *H.* 2. upon Return of the Certificats touching Kts. Fees, the Prior of this Houſe ſignified that he had 7. and a third Part, with two Fifths and a Tenth, *de veteri Feoffamento*; and as much in Demeſn as countervail'd ten Kts. Fees.

And in 29 *H.* 2. was there an Exchange of Land made betwixt theſe Monks and *Hugh Keviliok*, the ſucceeding Earl; for Licence thereof they gave xx Marks to the King. About which Time the ſaid E. granted to them a free and ample Charter, as well of Protection as Confirmation of their Poſſeſſions; forbidding all his Tenants from hindring their Market, or medling ought therein without the good Liking of the Monks. And to the End that Poſterity ſhould not be ignorant which were the Metes and Bounds betwixt both their Fees, that is to ſay, of the Priors Part and Earls Part, he by the ſame Charter fully deſcribes them, including the Lands of the ſaid Monaſtery within theſe following Limits, *viz.* beginning at St. *Mich.* Churchyard, and from thence directly going to the *Broad-gate* of his own Caſtle, leaving the Houſes of *Will. de Repyndon*, and *Will.* the Son of *Ric. Forthwy* (Tenants to the Monaſtery) on the North Part, and the E. Fee on the South: And ſo paſſing down to the River of *Smythesford*, and from thence aſcending the Brook to the Mill of *Ger le Vinter* of *Hull* and *Radeford* even unto *Cundealm* (modo *Coundon*) and ſo coaſting aſide betwixt the Grounds of *Rob. Scot* of *Ailewardſiche* near *Blakemore*, being the Lands of *R. Beaufiz* and *Anketill Locard* on the one Part, and the E. Wood called *Haſelwood* on the other Part; and thence by the Brook of *Endemere* to the High-way leading from the midſt of *Harnall* near to *Stoke*, as far as the *Gibbet*, and thence deſcending by *Biſſeleie* to the Brook called *Goſeford*; and ſo along that Brook and the Ditch, hard to the Land of *Will. Hakun*, and thence to the Walls of the ſaid Monaſtery.

To which *Hugh* ſucceeded *Ranulph*, ſirnamed *Blundevill*, in the ſaid Earldom of *Cheſter*, and Seignory here; who ratified to theſe Monks the Recognition and Confirmation made by E. *Ran.* his Grandfather of the Chappell of the S. *Mich.* and all the reſt; *viz. Anſty*, *Shilton*, *Wykin*, *Bilney*, *Whitley*, *Pinley*, *Stoke*, *Stichall*, *Eccleſhall*, *Folkeſhull*, *Kareſley*, *Whaberley*, *Sponne*, and *Biſſeleie* within his Fee, in all which he ſolemnly inveſted them on the Feaſt-day of S. *Abdon* and *Sennes*, in the Month of July, 3. R. 1. by his Gold Ring, which with his ſaid Charter he offred upon the Altar. To which Chappell of St. *Mich.* he likewiſe conferred the Tithe of all his Lands and Poſſeſſions, here in *Coventre*; and that under the Penalty of a Curſe upon his Officers, Servants and Heirs, in caſe they ſhould not make due Payment of them accordingly. And beſides this did he give to the ſaid Monks in Exchange for one Cart of thoſe two, which E. *Ran.* his Grandfather, by his Charter granted them

them to have going too and fro in his Woods for neceſſary *Houſebote*, *Firebote*, and *Heybote*, (as I have formerly ſignified) 280. Acres of Land, being Part of his Wood and Waſt in *Eccleſhale* and *Kerſley*, according to 25 Foot the Perch, (the Metes & Bounds whereof are in this his Charter perfectly ſet forth). Which Waſt he gave them Liberty to incloſe, reduce into Tillage, or otherwiſe to uſe for their beſt Commodity.

But I now come to that ſad Misfortune which befell theſe Monks about this Time; the Story whereof is briefly thus. *Hugh Novant*, a Norman by Birth, having been brought up to Learning in the Univerſity of *Oxford*, and conſecrated Biſhop of this Dioces towards the later End of *H.* 2. Raign; at the ſame Time that he had the Biſhoprick confer'd upon him by the K. had he alſo a Grant of the Priory in ſuch Sort as *Rog. de Clinton* his Predeceſſor enjoy'd it; *viz.* in Demeſn with the Barony, wherein he received Homage of the Freeholders, and found the Monks all Neceſſaries according to his own Pleaſure: But during the Life of the ſaid King *Henry*, did he not poſſeſs what was ſo granted to him. Whereupon he came to K. *Ric.* 1. (his Son and Succeſſor) and purchas't a Confirmation of his Fathers Grant: And beſides all this, obteyn'd a render of the Houſe by *Moyſes*, the then Prior at *Reding*, in the Preſence of *Baldwin*, Archbiſhop of *Cant.* the Biſhops of *London* and *Rocheſter*, and many other Perſons of Note. After which the ſaid B. holding a Synod in the Church of this Monaſtery, wherein ſome Things were agitated tending much to the Prejudice of the Monks, as it ſhould ſeem, though the Particulars are not recorded, he ſo much incens't the Monks that they ruſh't in upon him, and with a Croſs of that Church broke his Head: Whereupon Complaint being preſently made to *Will.* B. of *Ely*, Chancelour of *England*, and at that Time not onely the Popes Legate, but Governor of the Realm in the Abſence of K. *Rich.* then on his Journey to the Holy-Land, that the Monks had ſhed his Blood even before the Altar; he forthwith decreed that they ſhould be expelled, and ſecular Canons plac't in their room: Which Judgment the proud B. ſoon put in Execution; and by ſtrong Hand turning them out, did, to juſtify himſelf therein, forthwith diſpatch Letters to *Rome*, whereunto he had got the Hands of other Biſhops, ſignifying, that the Monks of *Coventre* had deſerted their Rule, and were contaminated with ſecular Polutions; thereupon petitioning his Holyneſs that he might have the free Diſpoſall of that Monaſtery. Unto which Letters the Pope gave no preſent Anſwer, expecting to have heard what the Monks could ſay for themſelves: But they, being much impoveriſh't by the Biſhop's Oppreſſions (for he was then a potent Man, having the Cuſtody of the Countyes of *Warr.* and *Leic.* committed to his Charge for ſeverall Years of King *Rich.* Reign) were not able to ſend to *Rome* in their own Defence; ſo that the B. had his Deſires fulfill'd, the poor Monks being ſcattered up and down to ſeek their Fortune in the World. In which baniſh't Condition they continued during the whole Life of that B. who lying upon his Death-bed at *Bec.* in *Normandy*, in the laſt Year of K. *Ric.* Reign, became ſo ſenſible of his great Iniquities; and in particular of the Injuries done to theſe Monks, that he deplored the ſame with abundant Sighs and Teares; earneſtly deſiring that Prayers and Interceſſions ſhould be made unto God for him. And not then knowing how to make other Satisfaction than to end his Dayes in their Habite, with great Mourning beſought the Abbot of *Bec.* that for the Love of God, and Shame of the Devill, he would vouchſafe to grant him the Habite of a Monk, to the End that he might have them to be his Patrons in the World to come, whom he had ſo perſecuted in this. Which being accordingly fulfill'd, he diſpoſed all his Gold and Silver, Jewels and Plate, to Houſes of Religion, and unto the Poor; and by Way of Satisfaction for his manifold Tranſgreſſions condemn'd himſelf

to

to the Pains of Purgatory *usq; in diem Judicii cruciandus*, and so dyed.

At which Time there was Resident in the Court of **Rome**, one *Thomas*, a Monk of *Coventre*; who being expell'd with the rest, was studious to obtain a Restitution of this Monastery to its former Condition; and therefore waited all Opportunities, though through Want he was often forc't to beg his Bread: And when News was brought of the Bishops Death, being then in good Hopes to be heard, he exhibited his Petition to Pope *Innocent* the Third (then newly created and sitting with his Cardinalls in the Consistory); which so soon as his Holiness had read, in an angry Mood he bad the Monk withdraw, telling him, that other Petitions to the same Purpose had been exhibited to *Clement* and *Celestine*, his Predecessors, but rejected, and therefore his Expectations were vain. Unto which the Monk with bitter Tears replyed: *Holy Father! my Petition is just and altogether honest, and therefore my Expectation is not vain; for I expect your Death, as I have one your Predecessors for there shall one succeed you who will hear my Petition to Purpose.* But the Pope, taking Notice of these Expressions from the poor Monk, and much wondring at them, said to the Cardinals, *Hear you not what this Divell hath spoken? scil. I expect your Death as I have done your Predecessors*; immediately turn'd to him and said, *Brother, by S. Peter, thou shalt not here expect my Death, for thy Petition is granted*; and forthwith before he went to Dinner, directed his Letters Mandatory to *Hubert* Archbishop of *Canterb.* that upon Sight of them he should presently go to the Church of *Coventre*, and thence put forth the Clerks, and reinvest the Monks: Which the said Archb. did accordingly xv. Kal. Feb. 1198. (*ult. R.* 1.) And because *Moyses* the Prior was dead in the Time of their Banishment, he constituted in his Stead one *Joybert*, a Norman, who for his eminent Wisdom in worldly Affaires, had the Government also of *Daventre*, *Wenloc*, and *Bermundsey* committed to him. Which *Joybert* was no sooner entred upon his Charge, but he speedily, with the Consent of the Monks elected *Geffrey Muschamp*, Archdeacon of *Cliveland*, to be B. as being a Man from whom they expected nothing but fair Regard.

The Monks therefore thus re-establish't took into Consideration the Conveniencies of their House and all other Securities that might tend to their Advantage, as appears by what I shall Instance: For in 5. *Joh.* they procured an Alteration; of the **Market**, but how the Record expresses not; in Consideration whereof they gave a Fine of 5. Marks to the King. And the next ensuing Year did they obtain the **K.** speciall Letters of Protection for themselves, their Tenants, and all their Possessions: As also such a Priviledge, that they should not be impleaded for any of their Lands except before the K. himself, or his Chief Justice, for which they gave 2 Palfreys. The like Charter of Protection had they in 11. *E.* 3. and, besides another, of sundry Priviledges, viz. *Sok*, *Sak*, *Tol*, *Them*, *Infangenthef*, *Hamsocne*, *Forstal*, *Blodwithe*, *Fithwithe*, *Wardwite*, and *Mundbriche:* And that they and all their Tenants, except those which held by Knights Service more than Half a Kts. Fee, should be quit of Murder, Robbery, Suit to the County or Hundred-Courts, Ayd to the Shiriff, View of Frank-plege, and Repair of the K. Castles or Pooles. In Consideration of which Favours they payd to the K. a Fine of 60. Marks; towards the raysing whereof they had Aid of their *Coventre*-Burgers. In the same Year had they a Grant of an yearly **Faire** to last for 8 Days, beginning on the Day of S. *Leodigarius* the Martyr, which falls out *Oct.* 2. And in 16. *H.* 3. did *Geffrey*, the then Prior, purchase of *Gerard de Allespath* Half a Hide of Land in *Old Fillongley* to the Use of this Monastery.

Touching such extraordinary Charges whereunto they were subject in this K. Time, I find, that in 13. *H.* 3. they gave a Fine to be exempt from sending Souldiers in Person for the Expedition then beyond

beyond Sea; and to have Power for levying Scutage of their Tenants for ten Kts. Fees, which they held of the King *in Capite*, viz. 3. Marks *pro quolibet scuto* towards that Service. As also in 18. *H.* 3. a Fine of 25 Marks, that they might not send Souldiers to the Kings Army in **Wales**. In 20. *H.* 3. they answered xx. Marks for 8 Kts. Fees *de veteri Feoffamento*, upon Collection of the Aid for marrying of *Isabell* the Kings Sister to the Rom. Emp. In 26. xv. Marks, by Way of Aid, upon the K. Transfretation into **Gascoyn**. In 29 10. li. for x. Kts. Fees, upon the Aid for Marriage of the Kings eldest Daughter. Towards their better Support of which Burthens they had the K. Letters of Recommendation to all their Tenants, for the receiving Aid from them; which bear Date in *Octob.* 33. of his Reign.

But, it seems, that these Taxes fell thus heavy upon them, before they had in any reasonable Measure recovered themselves out of the low Condition wherein they had been cast by the Oppression of *Hugh Novant*, the B. before-mentioned: For I find, that in the Time of Prior *Roger* (who died about the 32. of this King's Reign) there being a great League of Friendship betwixt the Monks of this Monastery, and the Canons of *Derley*, in *Derbysh.* these of *Coventre* represented their miserable Condition unto those of *Derley*, not only with very lamentable Expressions, but with Tears; protesting, that their Wants were so great, that the whole Covent was like to be dispersed, except they had present Succour; and therefore humbly besought the Canons of *Derley*, that they would vouchsafe to receive some of them into their Monastery, there to have Subsistence for a while, *quousq; oriens ex alto, miseratio altissimi, nostro fœliciùs illuxerit occidenti*, are their Words. Of which great Good-will, that had been for a long Time before, betwixt these two Religious Houses, I find this Testimony, that by Way of mutuall Curtesies, the Monks of *Coventre* used to send unto them of *Derley* Needles and Sope; and they of *Derley* to these Saddles and Riding-Furniture.

But after this they received, as well from the King as others, divers great Favours and Benefits for the Advantage of their Monastery: For in 34. *H.* 3. it was, that they obtey'n'd in Fee-Farme from *Rog. de Montalt* and *Cecily* his Wife, all their Interest in the Mannour of *Coventre*, with the Advouson of the Church of S. *Mich.* and the Chappells thereunto belonging; excepting their Capitall Seat called *Cheylesmore*, and the Park, with the House of *Friers-Minors*; and the Homage and Services of their Freeholders, whose Names I have particularly exprest already in my Discourse of the said *Roger*. And in 41. *H.* 3. had they the Kings Charter of **Free-Warren** in all their Demesn Lands of *Coventre*, *Cundulme*, *Sow*, *Wylenhale*, *Frankton*, *Merston*, and *Herdwyke*, *Sutham*, *Olethon*, *Offechurch*, *Wasperton*, *Honyton* and *Packwood*, with divers other Places in this County and *Leicestershire*. As also in 44. *H.* 3. an Appropriation of S. *Michaels* Church before-mentioned, with all the Chappells thereunto belonging, viz. *Austy*, *Shulton*, *Wykin*, *Stoke*, *Bilney*, *Sow*, *Stichall*, *Folkeshull* and *Sponne*; and of *Trinity*-Church with it's Chappells; the Chappell of S. *John*, with the Hospitall; the Churches of *Corley* and *Allespath*; the Church of *Herdwyke*, and it's Chappells, with Archidiaconall Jurisdiction there: The Church of *Packwood*, with Archid. Jurisdiction also; and likewise the whole Tythes arising in their Demesn Lands, whersoever. In 46. *H.* 3. the like Appropriation for *Offechurch*. And in 51. *H.* 3. a Confirmation of their Foundation Charter by E. *Leofrik*, with the Bull of *Pope Alexander* the First: As also a further Grant of Freedom from doing Suite to the County or Hundred-Courts, and to the Shiriffs-Turn: And that they should have a Coroner within the Town of *Coventre* that might answer before the Justices Itinerant for whatsoever concern'd that Office: And moreover a *Merchants-Gild*, with all Priviledges thereto belonging, and that they, their Tenants, nor their Goods should be distreyned

treyned for any Debt not properly their own, or for which they were Suretyes.

And after this, ere long, suffering great Losses by Reason of such Excursions as young *Montfort* and his fellow Rebells in *Kenilworth*-Castle, or the Kings Army, during the six Months Siege thereof, did make, had they the Kings Letters-Pat. recommending their Wants to all their Tenants, and desiring them that they would so contribute to their Relief, as that they might expect Recompense at God's Hand, and Thanks from him. And in 5. E. 1. License to inclose certain wast Grounds neer *Coventre*, which *(inter alia)* were granted to them in Fee-Ferme by *Roger de Montalt* and *Cecily* his Wife. So that the State wherein this Monastery stood, about those Times, was thus represented by a speciall Inquisition taken shortly after; *viz.* that, consisting of black Monks, it had therein a Cathedrall Church: And that the Prior and his Covent, together with the Chapter of *Litchfield*, did elect the Bishop, these having the first Voice: That the Prior, here, was also Lord of this Town, a Moytie whereof, with the whole Barony, he held of the K. *in Capite*, by the Service of 2 Kts. Fees in the Army: And had a Weekly Mercate on the Fryday; and a Faire every Year, enduring 8. Days, with a Coroner, and Free-warren in all his Demesn-Lands: Which Moytie he held as freely as Earl *Leofrik* did the same of K. *Edward* the Conf. And that he the said Prior with his Tenants, being priviledg'd of Murther, had Gallows, Pillory, Tumbrell, Assise of Bread and Beere; as also Fealty of his Burgers, and Appearances at his Court twice in the Year; for all which the Charters of K. H. 3. and divers other his Progenitors were then exhibited.

And moreover, that he held the other Moytie, called the Earls Part; with the Out-Wood, wherein the Inhabitants claymed Common of Pasture for all Manner of Cattell, and other Commoning in the Woods belonging to the Abby of *Stoneley*, of the Heirs of *Roger de Montalt*, by the Service of cx. Marks *per Annum*, according as in the Fine levyed betwixt the said *Roger* and *Cecily* his Wife, and the said Prior and Covent is more at large conteined: Which Heirs held it of the K. as of the Fee of *Chester*. In which Half the said Prior had once in the Year, a Faire lasting six Days, about the Feast of the holy *Trinity*; with Gallows, Pillory, Tumbrell, Assize of Bread and Beere; and Fealty of all the Burgers; as also two Appearances yearly at his Court. By which Inquisit. likewise appeareth, that the whole Town was then exempt from *Toll*, excepting for Horses, whereof the Burgers were onely freed; but that the said Burgers had *Toll* of Horses for their own Tenants there inhabiting: And that the same Prior had three Mills here, with the Ponds thereto belonging; and two Pools in Demesn. All which Immunities and Priviledges were in 13. E. 1. pleaded by the Monks; who then likewise manifested, that they had Time out of Mind enjoyed two great Courts every Year in this Place; and Weyfs: And that the Priors Bayliff used ever to go along with the K. Bayliff to execute all such Precepts as concern'd the Crown: As also, that the Town of *Coventre* answered for xii. having Free-Warren *Infangthef*, Assise of Bread and Beer, Mercate, and Faire, with all Thing belonging thereto: Pillory, Tumbrell, and a Coroner of their own: And that they were quit of Murther, Robbery, Suite to the County or Hundred-Courts, Ayd to the Shiriff, *&c.*

Touching the Mercate they had here, it was kept in that Part of the Town called the Priors Half, as it seems; where still it continues, that being the Place peculiar thereunto: For in *E.* 2. Time, upon a Suite commenced by the Prior against one *Will. Graumpe* and others, for selling divers Wares in *Erle-Street* every Week upon the Friday in their Houses and Shops; who pleaded, that they did so by Vertue of the Charter antiently granted to them from the Earl of *Chester*; in which was contein'd, that they should enjoy as ample Liberties as th

the Burgeſſes of *Lincoln*; and added, that the ſaid Earl had in his Time a Faire in that Street, and ſo likewiſe his Heires, till ſuch Time as the before-mentioned *Roger de Montalt* and *Cecily* his Wife demiſed that Street to the Predeceſſors of the ſaid Prior; Judgment was given for the Prior with lx. li. Damages; and Command that they ſhould not ſell their Commodities any where upon the Friday, but in the Priors Part. But in *E.* 3. Time, after the Poſſeſſion of *Cheyleſmore*, came to the Hands of Q. *Iſabell*, there grew ſome Diſpute touching the Extent of the Priors Part; ſo that, by an Indenture tripartite, bearing Date 29. *E.* 3. made betwixt the ſaid Q. with the Mayor and Commonalty on the one Part, and the Prior and Covent on the other, the Diviſion betwixt their ſaid Parts was by Metes and Bounds there deſcribed, in Manner following, *viz.* beginning at the Stones or Pillars near the Croſs of S. *John Bapt.* Hoſpitall, including Northwards all *Biſhop-Street*; and ſo all along towards the Common-Quarry, neer the Garden of *Ric. Buckmore*; and thence ſtreight on, taking in all S. *Nicholas-Street*, even to the High-Way leading unto *Radford*; and ſo through the Midſt of *Radford* to *Broad-Oak* towards the Eaſt; and thence to *Whittemore*, environing that Mannour; and ſo to *Blakemore*, and *Cuenetford*; and thence turning aſide by a little Brook running from *Endemere* towards *Coventre* into *Swanneſwell*-Pool: And from that Pool by a Hedge and Ditch of the Priory, neer to the Gate called *Derugate* to *Erleſmylne*; and thence on the Back-ſide of *Erleſ-Orchard*, including the Biſhops-Palace, and ſo to the Wall of the Priory Well-yard, and along by the Gate of the Monaſtery to the Corner of *Trinity*-Church-Yard, where the Butchers uſe to be; and from that Corner directly along by the Weſt Gate of the Priory, and the Gueſt-Stable-Wall to the running River; and ſo thwarting the Brook, excluding S. *John*'s Hoſpitall and the Bake-houſe belonging thereto, unto the Croſs or Pillars before-mentioned. So that whatſoever is included within thoſe Bounds was the Priors Part, and all the reſt the Earles Part.

Divers other Covenants are contain'd in the ſaid tripartite Indenture, whereof the Friday Market for Cattell and Timber, is one of the principall, which was agreed to be kept in *Biſhop-Street*, and *Cook-Street*, as it had wont to be; but that the ſaid Prior and his Succeſſors ſhould take no *Toll*, except for Horſes onely: And that the Sale of all other vendible Commodities whatſoever, in this Town, ſhould be by the ordering of the Mayor and Commonalty, and their Succeſſors for ever.

As for the ſeverall Meſſuages and Lands purchaſed by the Monks of ſundry Freeholders within the Precincts of *Coventre*, as alſo in their other Lordſhips, in *E.* 2. Time and afterwards, I ſhall decline the particular Mention of them, in regard, that there is not any Thing very notable to be obſerved, either of the Perſons from whom they were acquired, or of the Lands themſelves.

The next Thing that, in Order of Time, I meet with, which may be reckoned worthy of Note in relation to this Monaſtery, is, that the Clergy, and People of the Archdeaconry of *Coventre* did in *Anno* 1410. (12. *H.* 4.) make an humble Repreſentation to *John Keterich* B. of this Dioces, that the Memory of the Holy Virgin S. *Oſburg* (unto whom this Monaſtery was ſpecially dedicated) grew famous for many Miracles in thoſe Dayes; for as much as divers weak and infirm People, which came to her Tombe, ſituate in the Priory-Church, and there and elſwhere imploring her Prayers and Merits, had been reſtored to bodily Health and Soundneſs; and therefore did petition the ſame Biſhop, that her Birth-Day might be ſolemnized, and the ſaid Virgin reverenced in Hymnes and Pſalmes, with other devout Suffrages. Whereupon the B. cauſed a Synod of the Clergy of this Archdeaconry to be convened in the ſaid Church the 13. of *Octob.* in the ſame Year; wherein it was determined, that her ſaid Birth-Day ſhould be ſolemnized and kept, as a double Feſtivall throughout the whole Archdeaconry every Year for ever, and in

as compleat a Manner as the Feast of the Churche's Dedication.

But I now come to that fatall Survey in 26. *H.* 8. the Forerunner of its Dissolution; wherein I shall not descend to Particulars, but only represent what the yearly Revenew thereof was then certified to be, *viz.* 731. li. 19. s.-05. d. Out of which the Fee-Ferme Rent to the Crown, reserved by *Rog. de Montalt* (as I have shewed) with all other Pensions and Annuall Payments amounting to 249.li. 05s. 09d. being deducted, the clear Remainder was 499li. 07. s. 04 d. *per Annum.* Amongst which Deductions I find that 14. li. 13. s. ii. d. *per Annum,* was reckoned for Bread, Beer, and two Messes of Meat daily, *viz.* as much as would suffice for two Monks, and allowed to the Poor of S. *John's* Hospitall (within this City) upon the first Foundation thereof. And 06. li. 13. s. 04. d. in Money, Bread, Wine, and other Victuall distributed to poor People on *Maunday-Thursday,* yearly, at the Washing of their Feet. And also 12. li. 11 s. 04. d. for the yearly Maintenance of poor Scholars in the said Monastrey. And 26s. 8d. for to keep the Anniversary of E. *Leofrik* the Founder, and of the Countess *Godeva* his Wife. At the Time of which Survey *Henry* Marq. *Dorset* was High Steward, and had 04 li. *per Annum* Pension; and *Will. Gevyns,* Receiver-Generall, who had 10. li. *per Annum* Annuity.

But behold the Instability of these terrestriall Things; what the pious Founder, and all other its worthy Benefactors had, with great Zeal to Gods Glory, so cheerfully given and bestowed on the Structure, Endowment, and adorning of this sometime famous Monastery; and that with such heavy Imprecations and Curses upon any that should take away or diminish ought thereof, as the Charters before cited do manifest: Against which Violators of the Church its Patrimony, the Representative Body of this Realm had also, so often, *in terrorem,* pronounc't solemn Curses in open Parliament, as whosoever shall cast his Eye upon our Statutes and publique Hist. may discern; was subverted, torn away, and scattered in 30. of King *H.* 8. Raign, after it had stood near 500 Years, the Glory of all these Parts: At which Time the very Church itself, though a most beautifull Cathedrall, and the Mother-Church of this City, scap't not the rude Hands of the Destroyers; but was pull'd in Pieces and reduc't to Rubbish. For the Countenance of which sad Act, the then Prior and Covent, seeing the Fate of some others that refus'd, was no less than to be hang'd up at their Gates, were brought to make Surrender of the same into the Hands of Commissioners for the Kings Use, as appears by their publique Instrument under Seal, bearing Date 15. *Jan.* in the Year abovesaid, with all the Names of those that subscrib'd thereunto, which I have here subjoyned, with their severall yearly *Pensions* that were granted to them during Life.

Thomas Camswell Prior,	Rob. Wyldy
Ric. Bernaculus sub-Pr.	Tho. Chamburs
Winsfrius Cellarar.	Nich. Bromyche
Will. Waters	Will. Foster
Joh. Reston	Joh. Howlee
Joh. Evans	Will. Bouchere

Thomæ Camswell, Priori ibid	133.li.06s.-08.
Ric. Barnacle Monacho ibid	13.--06.--08.
Tho. Wynter Monacho ibid	06.--13.--04.
Rob. Wylde Monacho ibid	16.--06.--08.
Tho. Leke Monacho ibid	06.- 00---00
Humfr. Colar Monacho ibid	05.--06.--08.
Joh. Ecculsal Monacho ibid	05.--06.--08.
Joh. Evans Monacho ibid	05.--06.--08.
Tho. Chamburs Monacho ibid	06.--13.--04.
Nich. Brenynth Monacho ibid	05.--06.--08.
Will Foster Monacho ibid	05.--06.--08.

Priores de Coventre.

Lefwinus Anno. 1043.
Laurentius, obiit 4. Cal. Feb. Anno. 1179. (25. H. 2.)
Moyses, obiit 17. Cal. Aug. Anno 1198. (10. R. 1.
Joibertus, obiit 18. Cal. Julii 1216. (18. Joh.)
Galfridus, electus 16. Cal. Aug. 1216.
Rogerus, 32. H. 3.
Willielmus, 33. H. 3.
Henr. Irrevs, 13. Cal. Maii. 1342.
Will. de Dunstaple. 7 Cal. Sept. 1349.
Will. de Grenburgh 10. Cal. Aug. 1361.
Jac. de Horton . . . Oct. 1391.
Rog. Cotton. 7. Aug. 1396.
Ric. Crosby 10. Maii 1399.
Ric. Nottingham 11. Maii 1437.
Tho. Derram obiit 14. Apr. 21. E. 4.
Ric. Shaw. 14. H. 7.
Will. Polesworth. penult. Febr. 1500.
Tho. Wiford 26. H. 8.
Tho. Camswell 30. H. 8.

Which

Which Priors had Place in Parliament amongst the Barons of this Realm, as appears by all the Writts of Summons in every Kings Raign.

The Succession of the particular Mannours, which belong'd to this Religious House, I have pointed at, as they lye in my Way: All therefore that I now have further to do in relation unto it, is to observe what became of the Site thereof; wherein I find, that K. *H.* 8. by his Pat. dated 28 *Julii*, 37. of his Reign granted it to *John Combes*, Gent. an *Rich. Stansfield*, and their Heirs, with divers Mess. Gardens, Mills, *&c.* thereto belonging, to hold in Free Burgage: From whom it came afterwards to *John Hales*, as it seemes: For I find, that in 15. *Eliz.* he dyed seised thereof, leaving *John* his Nephew, (*viz.* Son to his Brother *Christopher*) his Heir: But none of that Family do now enjoy it.

Chantryes in, and adjoyning to, the Priory.

Leicester's Chantry.

THIS *Chantry* was founded in 2 E. 3. as appears by the Covenants for Ordination thereof made betwixt *Henry* the then Prior, and *Rob. de Leicester*, and *Will. de Leicester*, Canons of *Lichfield*; whereby the said Prior doth undertake for himself and his Successors to find two secular Priests to sing Mass daily in that Cathedrall at the Altar of the holy *Trinity*, the *blessed Virgin*, K. *Edward* the Confessor, *Edmund* Archb. of *Canterbury*, and *All-Saints*, standing in the Body of the said Church; for the good Estate of the same Church, and for the Soul of the before specified Prior; as also for the Souls of *Henry* and *Letice*, Father and Mother of the said Prior; *Robert* and *Will. de Leicester* above mentioned, *Geffrey* and *Elene* their Father and Mother; and of their Brethren and Sisters. And likewise for the Souls of Sir *Will. de Bereford*, Frere *Hugh de Rothwell*, *Walt. de Langton*, and *Roger Northburg*, then Bishop of *Coventre* and *Lichfield*. But of this *Chantry*, all that I find more is, that upon the Survey taken in 26. H. 8. it was certified, that *Thomas Jackson* and *William Pawden*, were then the Priests belonging thereto, each of which had a Stipend of 4. li. *per Annum* payd by the Prior, and were removable at his Pleasure.

Copston's Chantry.

THIS *Chantry*, adjoining to the Wall of the Priory, was founded by *Will. Copston* in 19. E. 1. the Revenue of it, in 26. H. 8. being xi. li. viii. s. ii. d. *per Annum*, over and above Reprises; and *Anthony Molineux*, Dr. of Divinity, then Warden thereof. It seems, that upon the Dissolution of the Monastery in 30. H. 8. it was translated into S. *Michaell's* Church; for there I find it in 37. H. 8. and of the clear yearly Value of xi. li. vii. s. ii. d. ob. above all Reprises.

The next particular whereof I come to speak, is the two large and beautifull Churches, dedicated the one to S. *Michaell*, the other to the holy *Trinity*; both which heretofore stood within the same Cimetery with the Priory Church.

S. Michaell's Church.

OF this, the first Mention that I find, is in K. *Stephen's* Time; for then did *Ranulph*, E. of *Chester* render it to the Monks of *Coventre*, by the Name of the Chappell of S. *Michaell*, being satisfied by the Testimony of divers Persons, as well Clergy as Laytie, that it was their Right. Which Act of his, E. *Hugh* his Son and Successor confirmed. Hereunto also did E. *Ranulph*, the last of that Name, give the Tythe of his Lands and Rents in *Coventre* for the Health of his Soul, and of his Ancestors Souls; commanding all his Officers, upon Pain of a grievous Curse to make due Payment

ment of them accordingly. What Colour of Right the Bishop had in the Advouson thereof I find not; but it seemes that a Claime he made thereto; so that in 32. H. 3. the Prior and he came to an Agreement: Whereupon the said Prior, to purchase the Bps. Interest, parted with the perpetuall Patronage of the Churches of *Ruyton* and *Bobenhull*, then setling them upon the Cathedrall of *Lichfield*, whereof since that Time they have been Prebends. By which Accord it was concluded, that after the Deceases o each of those Priests, then Incumbents of the particular Chappells belonging thereto, the Monks should provide secular Priests, and other fit Ministers to serve in the said Chappells, and to allow them competent Maintenance. And, that to the Vicaridge of S. *Michall* should, by the Bishops Officiall and the Archdeacon, and two other discreet Men, on the Priors Part chosen and sworn, be assigned, out of the Fruits of the said Church, the Value of xxiv Marks *per Annum*.

And moreover that the Prior and Covent should pay, out of the Fruits thereof to the Archdeacon of *Coventre*, for his *Procurations*, four Marks. And because that the Cathedrall of *Lichfield*, had of antient Time used to have xxx. Marks yearly out of the Profits of this Church, it was by the same Agreement further concluded, that the same Summe should be payd yearly thereto for the Time to come, at the Feasts of S. *Michaell* and Easter, by even Portions out of the Rectory of *Southam*. the (Patronage whereof belong'd to the said Monks). Which Accord bears Date at *Warwick* 3. *Kal. Julii Anno* 1248. (32. *H.* 3.) But in 44. *H.* 3. this Church was appropriated to the Monks; and in *Anno* 1291. 19. *E.* 1. with its Chappells, valued at 50. Marks; and the Vicaridge at 8. Marks and a Half.

The tall and beautifull Steeple, which, for its excellent Workmanship, and Height, is inferior to none in *England*, was more than xxii. Years in Building; being begun in *Anno* 1373. 47. *E.* 3. and finished *Anno* 1395. 18. *R.* 2. But I find, that in 12. *H.* 6. there was a new Work begun upon this Church, yet what in particular I cannot directly say: Howbeit, by the Fashion of the Building, do I conceive, that the whole Body of the Church, or the greatest Part thereof, was then built in that Form we now behold it.

In 26. *H.* 8. the Vicaridge, before expreſt, was rated at 65 li. 10. s. 06. *per Annum*, out of which being then Annually paid 02. li.-15. s. 04. d. to the Archdeacon of *Coventre* for *Procurations* and *Synodals*: To the Prior of *Coventre* for an yearly Pension c. s. and to the Dean and Chapter of *Lichfield* 33. s. 04 d. the clear Value amounted to 56.-li. 00-s. 10. d.

Patroni Vicariæ.	Incumbentes.
Prior. & Conv. de Coventre.	*Magr. Will. de Billeslege* 6. *Non. Martii* 1296.
	Joh. de Kent Diac. 7. *Id. Junii* 1323.
	Will. del Peek Pbr. 15. *Cal. Sept.* 1361.
	Rob. de Wentbrigg. Pbr. 14 *Cal. Dec.* 1362.
	Thom. de Stanley Pbr. 1388.
	Joh. de Lodelawe Pbr. 1388.
	Thom. Stanley Pbr. 7. *Oct.* 1395.
	Thom. de Tutterbury Cap. 6. *Febr.* 1402.
	Joh. Wakering Cap. 9. *Martii* 1402.
	Will. Glym 29. *Julii* 1409.
	Rob. Threſk Cap. 10. *Jan.* 1418.
Prior. & Conv. de Coventre.	*Ric. Leiet leg. D.* 19. *Nov.* 1419.
	Joh. Heyworth, in decret. Baccalar. 10. *Dec.* 1431.
	Will. Glym, 22 *Jan.* 1436.
	Tho. Worſhop, alias Cheſterfield, in decr. bacc. 19. *Jun.* 1441.
	Tho. Egmond, art. medicinæq; Dr. 23. *Oct.* 1457.
	Margr. Joh. Veyſy leg. Dr. 26. *Apr.* 1507.
	D. Georg. 6. *Maii.* 1520.
D. Rex, ratione advoc. ejusd. per Geo. Com. Hunt. & Fr. Haſtings, fil. & hær. dicti Com. (per Pr. & Conv. de Cov. iisdem dat.) ſibi conceſs.	*Arth. Dudley Cler. Capellanus D. Regis* 6. *Febr* 1537.
	Jo. Ramridg Cler. 7. *Febr.*

Pr.

Pr. & Conv. de Coventre.
Edw. 6. Rex. Angl.

1538.
Hugo Symon, sacræ Theol. bacc. 17. *Martii* 1552.
Will. Ireland Cleric. 22. *Sept.* 1577.

Eliz. Regina.

Jacobus Rex.

Will. Hinton Cler. S. Theo. Bacc. 26 *Mar.* 1583.
Sam. Buggs cler. S. Theol. bacc. 4. *Nov.* 1623.

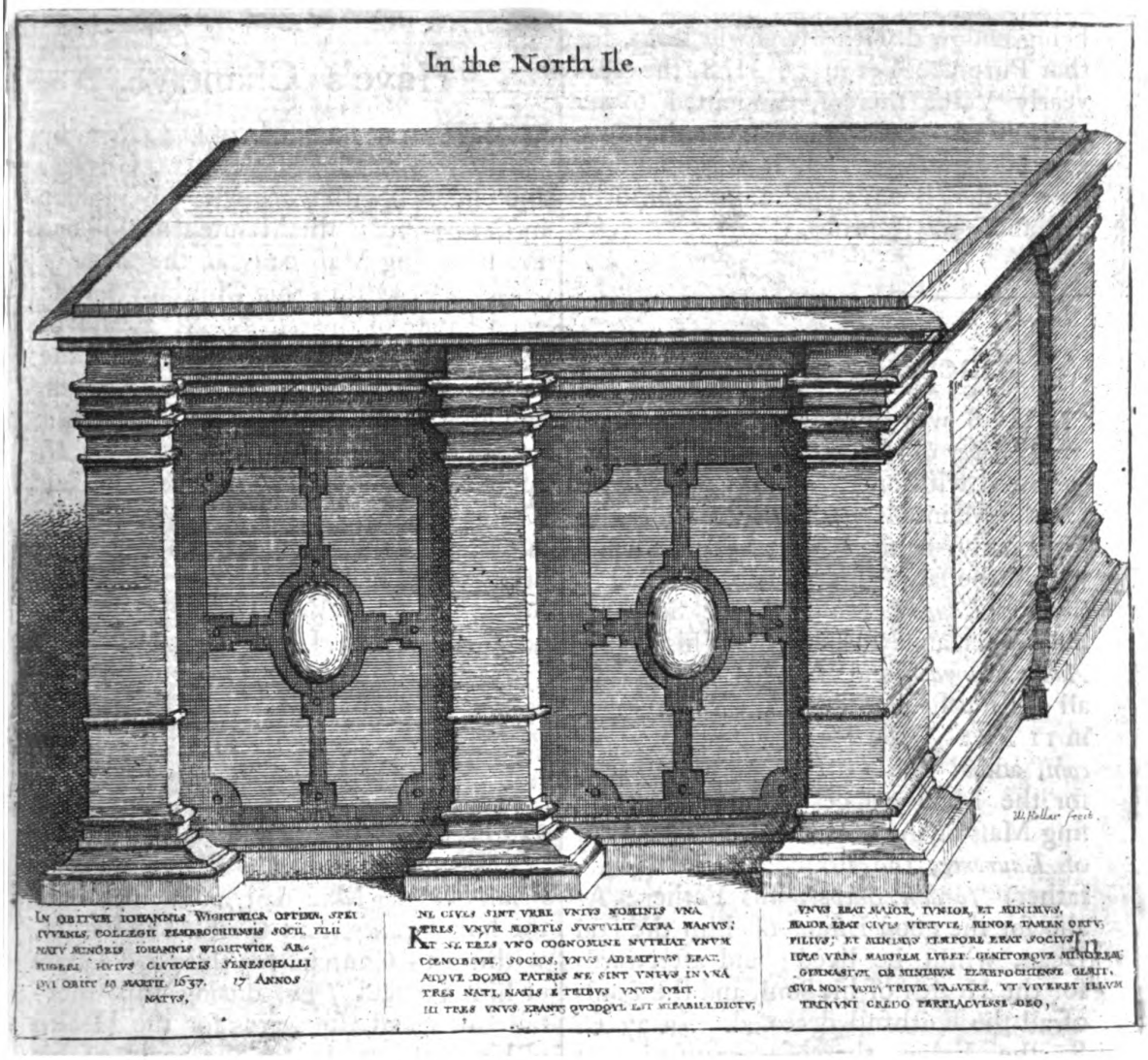
Monumentall Inſcriptions in this Church.

In **Drapers Chappell**, upon a plain raiſed Monument.

Hic jacet Julianus Nethermyll proſtratus
Quondam Major huius Civitatis, qui obiit
xi. die menſis Aprilis anno Domini M. D.
xxxix. & Johana uxor eius, quorum
Animabus propitietur Deus, Amen.

In **Mercers Chappell**, on a fair Monument, whereupon are the Statues of a Man in Armour and his two Wives.

Orate pro anima Elizabethe Swillington, nuper uxoris
Radulphi Swillington attornati generalis Domini regis Henrici
Octavi, Recordatoris Civitatis Coventrie, uxoris Thome
Esser armigeri: Que quidem Elizabetha obiit.....



In this Church of St. *Mich.* were divers Chantries, founded by ſeverall Perſons, and endowed with Lands or ſome yearly Revenue, for the Maintenance of one or more Prieſts, daily to ſing Maſs for the Souls of the Donors, or ſuch whom they did appoint.

Merynton's Chantry.

THIS was founded by *Hugh de Merynton* in 17 *E.* 2. and conſiſted of two Prieſts, to ſing Maſs daily for the Health of his Soul, and of *Agnes* his Wife: As alſo for the Souls of his Anceſtors and all the Faithfull deceaſed; being endow'd with 8l. yearly Rent, for that Purpoſe: Yet in 26 H. 8. the clear yearly Value thereof, amounted to no more than an C. s. but upon the Survey taken in 37 *H.* 8. it was found to be worth 7. l. 09. s.-04. d. *per An.* over and above all Repriſes.

Shepey's Chantry.

THIS was founded by *Laurence Shepey* of *Coventre*, in 4 *E.* 3. & endowed with one Meſs, and two Shops, for the Maintenance of a Prieſt to ſing Maſs daily, at the Altar of St. *Laurence*, within the ſame Church; for the Soul of the ſaid *Laurence*; and of the Souls of his Father and Mother; *Maud* his Wife; *Adam Stanydelf* and *Alice* his Wife, with all the Faithfull deceaſed. Whereunto, in 11 *R.* 2. *John Shepey*, Dean of *Lincoln*, added the Gift of one more Meſs. for the Maintenance of two Prieſts to ſing Maſs at the ſaid Altar, for the Soul of *Laurence*, the Founder (his Grandfather) *Jordan Shepey*, his Father: As alſo for the good Eſtate of him the ſaid Dean, whilſt he lived; and afterwards for the Health of his Soul, and the Souls of all the Faithfull deceaſed. In 37 *H.* 8. the Value thereof, certified at 59. s.-07 d. *per An.* was allowed by the laſt Prior of *Coventre* to the Curat of *Sow*, in Augmentation of his Salary; in regard that the ſmall Tythes of *Sow*, that were all he had for his Maintenance, were then worth but ſix Pounds *per An.*

After this, *viz.* in 45 *E.* 3. *Iohn de Burgh*, Prieſt, *Will. Liberd*, *Iohn de Pountfreit*, *Ranulph*, *Palmer*, and *Thomas Yelvertoſt*, gave two Meſs. with the Appurtenances here in *Coventre*, for the Maintenance of a Prieſt to ſing Maſs daily at the Altar of the bleſſed Virgin, within this Church, for the Souls of *Henry Dilcock*, and *Margery* his Wife, *Robert de Watton* and *Maud* his Wife; and of *Will. de Shepey* and *Alice* his Wife.

Haye's Chantry.

THIS was founded in 12. *R.* 2. by *Henry del Hay* of *Coventre*, Girdler; and endow'd with three Meſs. lying here in *Coventre*, for the Maintenance of one Prieſt to ſing Maſs daily at the Altar of *All-Saints*, within this Church; for the good Eſtate of the ſaid K. *R.* 2. and of Q. *Anne* his Conſort; as alſo of him the ſaid *Henry*, during their naturall Lives, and afterwards for the Health of their Souls. The Revenue whereof in 37 *H.* 8. being certified at 21 .s.-07. d. *per An.* over and above Repriſes, was by the laſt Prior of *Coventre* given to the Vicar of *Folkeſhull* in Augmentation of his living, whereof the Value then extended to no more then 03. l.-18 s. *per An.*

Preſton's Chantry.

THIS was founded by *John Preſton* of *Coventre* in 13 *H.* 4. for two Prieſts to ſing Maſs daily at the Altars of the holy *Trinity*, and the bleſſed Virgin, within this Church, for the good Eſtate of him the ſaid *John*, during this mortall Life; and afterwards for the Health of his Soul; as alſo for the Souls of his Parents and Benefactors, and all the Faith-

Faithfull deceaſed; and endowed with ſix Meſs. and one Shop, with a Chamber over it, ſituat here in *Coventre*. All which in 26 H. 8. were valued at 05. l: 09. s. *per An.* over and above Repriſes. But in 37 H. 8. at no more then 04. l. 06. s. 11. d. *per An.*

Croſſes Chantry.

IN 13 *H.* 4. *John Scarburgh, Philip Baron, Laurence Coke,* and *Thomas Henryes,* gave 5. Meſs. and 04. l. 06. s. 06. d. Rent. *per An.* lying here in *Coventre,* to the Mayor and Commonalty of this City, and their Succeſſors for ever, to find a certain Prieſt to ſing Maſs daily, at the Altar of St. *Katherine* within the ſaid Church, for the good Eſtate of the ſame K. *Henry,* during this Life; and for his Soul after his Departure hence: As alſo for the Soul of *John Croſſe,* late Merchant of *Coventre,* and the Souls of all the Faithfull deceaſed: But when this Chantry was diſſolved or altered, I find not.

Pyſeford's Chantry.

THIS was founded by one *Will. Pyſeford,* and endowed with Lands, for to find one Prieſt to ſing Maſs daily within this Church; and to maintain ſix poor Men and their Wives, ſuch as had been honeſt Houſe-holders, and were fallen to decay, within the City; *viz.* 07. d. *ob.* a Week to every Couple, to pray for the Souls of the ſaid *William* and his Parents for ever: Howbeit, the certain Time of its Foundation I have not ſeen; but the Lands and Tenements thereunto belonging, being, by the Survey taken in 37 *H.* 8. valued at 26. l. 09. s. *per An.* the Prieſt had out of it 6. l. yearly for his Salary; the Reſidue being for the Maintenance of the before ſpecified poor People, and Diſcharge of other Payments concerning the ſaid Lands and Chantry.

The Taylor's and Sherman's Chantry.

OF this Chantryes Foundation, I find nothing: But in the Survey of 26 H. 8. it was certified to be of the clear yearly Value of 02. l. 16. s. 6. *d. ob. per An.* over and above all Repriſes.

Tate's Chantry.

HEREOF, all that I have met with, is onely, that there was an yearly Stipend of Cvi. s. viii. d. payd to a Chantry-Prieſt, ſinging Maſs daily in this Church of St. *Mich.* by the Company of Dyers in the City of *London.*

Marler's Chantry.

IT doth not very clearly appear, that this Chantry was in St. *Mich.* Church: But in regard that there be Circumſtances, which make it probable, I have fixt it ſo. It was founded by one *Ric. Marler,* as his laſt Will doth manifeſt; by which he aſſigned certain Rents to be yearly received by the Wardens of this City, for the Time being, to find a Prieſt to ſing daily Maſs in a Chappell, built over the Grave of him the ſaid *Richard,* for the Health of his Soul and all Chriſten-Souls; and to keep divine Service in the Quire; whoſe Stipend was nine Marks *per An.* But the Foundation of it, is of no Antiquity; for there were no more than two Chantry-Prieſts ſucceſſively belonging thereto; *viz. Henry Marler,* and *Ric. Branker;* which *Ric.* was living in 37 H. 8.

Trinity Church.

OF this, the firſt Mention I find, is of it's Appropriation to the Priory in 44 H. 3. In *An.* 1291. 19 *E.* 1. it was valued

valued at xx. Marks, and the Vicaridge at two Marks: But in 26 *H.* 8. the said Vicaridge was rated at 33. l. 1. s. 6. d. *ob. per An.* out of which issued a *Pension* of C. s. to the Prior; xvi. s. in *Procurations* and *Synodals*; and to the Church-wardens, for a Quit-Rent, yearly, for the Vicaridge-House xx. s. so that the clear yearly Value, deducting the Reprises, amounted to xxvi. l. v. s. vi. d.

Patroni Vicariæ.	Incumbentes.
Prior & Conv. de Coventre.	*Henr. de Harenhale* 10. *Cal. Apr.* 1298.
	Joh. de Holland 2. *Non. Sept.* 1334.
	Joh. Greneburgh Cler. 4. *Id. Jan.* 1346
	Egid. Fillilod Cap. Non. Sept. 1349.
	Will. Swet Pbr. 8. *Maii* 1380.
	Joh. de Amcotes Pbr. 12. *Martii* 1381.
	Will. Gamell Pbr. 16. *Oct.* 1383.
Ric. Humfrey domicellus.	*Nich. Crosby Cap.* 15. *Jan.* 1421.
	Joh. Meneley Pbr. 20. *Dec.* 1443.
Pr. & Conv. de Coventre.	*Tho. Orton in decr. bacc. an.* 1508.
	Nich. Darington S. Theol. bacc. 23. *Jan.* 1527.
Dom. Rex.	*Will. Benet Cler.* 5. *Nov.* 1546.
Domina Regina.	*Geo. Brooche in art. Mag.* 8. *Ang.* 1554.
	Geo. Cheston 6. *Apr.* 1568.
	Antb. Fletcher Cler. 4. *Maii* 1576.
	Humf. Fenne Cler. 21 *Febr.* 1577.
	Ric. Eaton Cler. 12. *Jan.* 1590.
Jacobus Rex.	*Tho. Cooper S. Theol. bacc.* 8. *Maii* 1604.
	Sam. Gibson Cler. 2. *Jan.* 1610.
	Joh. Staresmore in art. Mag. 15. *Maii* 1618.
	Sam. Buggs S. Theol. bacc. 20. *Junii* 1626.

Monumental Inscriptions in this Church.

On the South Wall of the Quire.

EPITAPHIUM DOCTORIS HOLLANDI A SEIPSO CONFECTUM qui obiit 9. die Februarii 1636. Et 85. ætatis suæ.

NEMO habet hic, nemon? hospes salveto, Philemon
Holland hâc recubat ritè repostus humo:
Si quæras ratio quænam sit nominis, hæc est,
Totus terra fui, terraque totus ero:
At redivivus morte tuâ servabor Jësu,
Una fides votis hæc est via sola salutis,
Hâc spe fretus ego, culpâ, pœnâque solatus,
Jamque renatus, & inde novo conspectus amictu,
Cætu in Sanctorum post redimitus ero.
Claudicat incessu senior mea Musa, vides ne?
Claudatur capulo mecum simul ipsa: valeto.
Valedictio
Ad liberos & nepotes superstites.
Dantque omnes unâ dudum de stirpe creati
Henrice ah! septem de fratribus une superstes;
O ephanici fratris Gulielmi nuper adempti
Et mihi (bis puero) nutricis, Anna, Maria
Cumque tuis Angelis Elizabeta; valete.

Gulielmus filius sexto-genitus, Chirurgus Conventrensis hic etiam jacet sepultus 1632. ætatis suæ 40. Henricus filius & hæres civis Londinensis P. 54. ætatis suæ 1647.

On the same South Wall.

Carmen in obitum charissimi Johannis Whithed, quondam prætoris hujus civitatis dignissimi.

ROMA Numam jactat decorat Lacedemona priscam
Iussa Therapneus jura Lycurgus agens
Non minor est nobis, præciso stamine vitæ
Qui jacet hic clausus lumine cassus humo
Virtutis cursu constans athleta Jehovæ
O quam longè aberat subdola Græca fides
Mortuus ante diem, proh sævo funere raptus
Tempore Præturæ mortuus ante diem
Tempore Præturæ tribus & plus partibus anni
Officio functus scandet in astra poli.

On a Grave-Stone, near the same Wall.

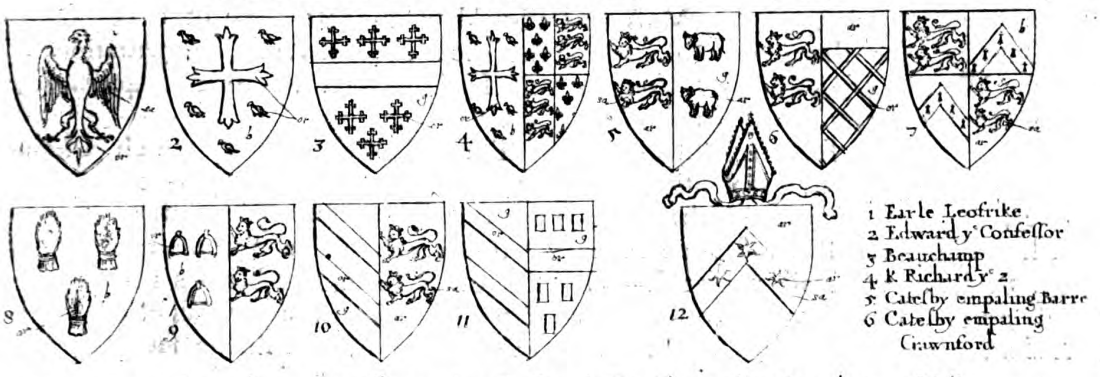
HÆC ANNA CLARIS. NUPER CONIUX DOCTORIS Hollandi, filia fuit Gulielmi Bot alias Peyton, quon-

dam

dam de Perry-hall in Com. Staff. armig.

HIC Recubat dilecta Philemonis uxor Holandi,
Anna, pudicitiæ non ulli laude secunda,
Quadraginta octoque annos quæ nupta marito,
Septem illi pueros enixa est, tresque puellas,
Lactavitque omnes, genitrix eadem est pia nutrix;
Septuaginta duos vitæ numeraverat annos;
Lætatis, crebros morbi cum passa labores,
Omnibus, & defuncta mali, in pace quievit
Quodque unum potui, supremi pignus amoris
Filius hoc dedit Henricus ad carmina marmor.
Sancta vixit,
Sancta obiit
In festo omnium Sanctorum:
In cœlum Sanctorum transmigravit 1627.
In resurrectione Sanctorum resurget.

Coventre
Armes in the Windows of Trinity Church,



1 Earle Leofrike
2 Edward y Confessor
3 Beauchamp
4 K Richard y 2
5 Catesby empaling Barre
6 Catesby empaling Grawnford
7 Catesby quartering Lodbrok
8 Earle of Chester
9 Percefry empaling Catesby
10 Fitzwith empaling Catesby
11 Fitzwith empaling Beauchamp of Holt
12 [These are all gone]

Percye's Chantry.

THIS, being the antientest Chantry of any that were founded in *Trinity* Church, was endow'd in 23 *E.* 3. by *Nich. Percy, John de Fylingley,* and *Henry Mollyng,* with six Mess. one Shop, six Acres of Land and 40. s. Rent, lying in *Coventre,* for the Maintenance of one Priest to sing Mass dayly at the Altar of *All-Saints,* for the good Estate of the said *Nich.* and *Beatrice* his Wife; and of *John Percy,* Priest, whilst they should live in this World; and for their Souls after their Departure hence: As also for the Souls of *John Percy,* and *Peter Percy*; and of the Father and Mother of the said *Nicholas,* with all the Faithfull deceased. But afterwards was there another Priest added thereto, towards whose Maintenance in 9 *H.* 4. *Will. Botoner, John Egeston* the Elder, and *John Drye* of *Coventre,* Priest, gave one Mess. and 24. Acres of Land lying in this City. The Value of all which, was in 26 *H.* 8. certified to be 10. l. 10. s. *per An.* over and above Reprises: But upon the Survey taken in 37 *H.* 8. 11. l.-19 s.-08. d.

The Chantry of the Holy Cross.

THIS was founded in 30 *E.* 3. by *Will. de Davyntre, Henry Molling, Rob. le Spenser, Gilb. de Peek, Ric. de Fillyngley, Iohn Luk, Ric. de Godeswowes, Ric. de Northampton, Geffrey de Peek, Iohn le Baxtere, Henry de Whitemore, Adam de Kereslleye,* and *Ric. Teynton* of *Coventre,* for two Priests to sing Mass dayly at the Altar of the *Holy Cross,* in this Church, for the good Estate of K. *Edw.* the 3. and of *Isabell,* Q. of *Engl.* his Mother; Q. *Philipa* his Consort, and of all their Children. As also for the good Estate of the said *Will. Henry,* and the rest aforementioned: And likewise of all the Brethren and Sisters of the Fraternity of the *Holy Cross* of *Coventre,* whilst they lived, and

and for their Souls after their deceaſe: And for the Souls of all the ſaid K. Progenitors; and of the Anceſtors of the ſaid *Will. de Davyntre, &c.* For the Maintenance of which two Prieſts, they gave 7. Meſs. 14. Shops, and ſix Acres of Land, lying in this City.

Lodyngton's Chantry.

THIS was founded in 16 *R.* 2. by *Will. Haynton*, and *John Bromcote*, Prieſts; for one Prieſt to ſing Maſs in this Church, for the good Eſtate of *Alice* the Widow of *Roger de Lodynton*; and for her Soul after her Departure out of this World: And for the Soul of the ſaid *Roger de Lodington*, his Father and Mother, and of all the Faithfull deceaſed. The clear Revenue whereof in 37 *H.* 8. being certified at 02. l.--00-03. d. *per An.* was allowed to the Vicar of *Exhall*, in Augmentation of his Living; the ſmall Tythes belonging thereto, extending to no more than 03. l.-06.s. 08. d. *per An.*

Corpus-Chriſti Chantry.

ALL that I find of this *Chantry*, is that the Prior of *Coventre* preſented three Prieſts unto it ſucceſſively in *E.* 3. Time: But when it was founded, by whom, or how diſſolved, I cannot ſay.

Alleſley's Chantry.

THIS was founded by one *Will. de Alleſley*, in *E.* 1. Time; for one Prieſt to ſing Maſs daily, at the Altar of S. *Thomas* the Martyr, in a Chappell near adjoyning to the Church-porch; the clear yearly Value of all the Rents belonging thereto, over and above Repriſes, being, in 26 *H.* 8. certified at 04. l.-17. s. but in 37 *H.* 8. at 04. l. 08. s.-06. d.

Cellet's Chantry.

THIS was founded by one *Will. Cellet* in *E.* 3. Time; for one Prieſt to ſing Maſs dayly for the Soul of the ſaid *Will.* and his Parents: But I find no more than one onely Prieſt preſented to it by the Prior of *Coventre*; *ſcil.* 4. *Cal. Oct.* 1356. And, that in 37 *H.* 8. the clear yearly Value thereof being certified at 03. l.-04. d.-*ob. per An.* was allow'd by the laſt Prior of *Coventre* to the Vicar of *Stoke*, in Augmentation of his Living, then worth but 40. s. *per An.*

The Diſſolution of all which Chantryes, was by Act of Parl. in 1 *E.* 6. as the Printed Statutes do manifeſt.

In the next Place I come to ſpeak of the other Religious-Houſes within this City; as alſo of the particular Gilds or Fraternities diſperſt in the ſeverall Parts thereof. All which I ſhall take in Order, according to their Antiquities.

St. John's Hoſpitall.

THIS was firſt founded by *Laurence*, Prior of *Coventre*, and his Covent about the Beginning of *H.* 2. Time, at the Requeſt of *Edmund* then Archdeacon of *Coventre*, *ad ſuſceptionem pauperum & infirmorum*, as the Words of the Grant import; which *Edm.* procured a Confirmation thereof from *Ric.* Archb. of *Cant.* (*T. Becket*'s Succeſſor) and was at Charge of the Buildings. In *An.* 1221. (5 *H.* 3.) Pope *Honorius* the 3. by his Bull dated at Lateran 15. *Cal. Junii*, granted unto the Friers of this Hoſpitall a ſpeciall Protection as to their Perſons and Poſſeſſions; and by Name for their Land at *Smercote* (in *Bedworth*-Pariſh) which, as 'tis like, was given them at the Foundation of their Houſe.

The firſt of their other Benefactors, whereof our publick Records do take Notice

Notice, were *Rog. de Montalt* and *Cecilie* his Wife; who, in 33 *H.* 3. upon their Grant of the Mannour of *Coventre* to the Monks in Fee-ferme (whereof I have formerly ſpoke) reſerved a Cart Load of Wood every Week out of the Woods belonging to *Coventre*, to be delivered by the Foreſters of the Pr. and Covent, for the Time being, unto the Friers of this Hoſpitall. After which they obtain'd of K. *H.* 3. Letters of Protection, bearing Date 24. *Julii*, 45 *H.* 3. extending the ſame likewiſe to ſuch their Meſſengers as they ſhould imploy and ſend abroad to receive Almes for their Behoof: Who in that Pat. recommended their Condition to be ſo far tendred by all they ſhould ſo repair unto, as they might expect to be rewarded from God, and have Thanks of him. As alſo ſeverall Bulls from *P. Urban* the 4. and 5. of Immunities from all ſecular Exactions. And by other Benefactors had, as followeth; *viz.* 4. Meſs. 2. Acres and a Half of Wood, and 20. s. Rent, lying in *Coventre* and *Bedworth*, given by *Bernard de Arley*, 1 *E.* 3. Twenty Acres of Land 1. Rood of Medow, and 30. s. Rent, in *Stonley*, *Harnale*, and *Coventre*, by *Nich. Crumpe* of *Coventre*, 2 *E.* 3. Three Meſs. 6. Acres of Land, and Half an Acre of Medow, lying in *Coventre* and *Corley*, by *Ric. Southam*, Prieſt. And 5. more Meſs. lying in *Coventre*, by *Henry Page* of *Welleſborough*, 15 *E.* 3. Four Meſs. and 11. s. Rent in *Coventre*, by *John de Filungley*, Prieſt, 21 *E.* 3. One Meſs. in *Coventre*, by *John de Melton*, Prieſt, *John Smyth*, Hoſyer, and *Tho. Marchall* 6 *R.* 2. Four Meſs. 5. Shops and 12. d. Rent in *Coventre*, by *Hugh de Geydon*, Vicar of *Merton*, and *Will. Suwett*, Parſon of *Southam*, 9 *R.* 2. Four Meſs. 40. Acres of Land, and 20.s. Rent in *Coventre*, with two Acres of Wood in *Bedworth*. As alſo five Meſs. twelve Cotages and eight Shops, in *Coventre* likewiſe, given by the ſaid *Will. Suwett*, and *Hugh Geydon*, in 16 *R.* 2. And beſides all this, an Allowance in Bread, Beer, and two Meſſes of Meat, as much as was ſufficient for two Monks, every Day, given by the Monks of *Coventre* to them at the Foundation of this Hoſpitall.

Other Lands and Rents they had, as is evident by the Survey, taken in 26 *H.* 8. but when, or by whom beſtowed I have not ſeen; the Value of all being then certified to extend unto 99. l.-13. s.-06. d. *per An.* Out of which I will onely inſtance ſuch of their Repriſes as are moſt obſervable; *viz.* 33. s.-04. d. yearly to the Mayor and Chamberleyns of this City, towards the Repair of the Walls: 26. s. *per An.* in Bread and Beer given to poor People at the Gate of the Hoſpitall, by the Ordinance and Foundation thereof: 60. s. yearly in renewing of 20. Beds, for Entertainment of poor and weak People; as alſo of Strangers: 16. l. *per An.* for the Stipend of three Prieſts ſerving there, *viz.* 05. l. 06. s.-08. a-piece. All which, with the other Deductions not mentioned, amounting to 32. l.-10. s. 04. d. *per An.* leave the clear yearly Value, as it was at that Time certified, 67. l.-03. s.-02. d.

But this Hoſpitall (with moſt elſe of the ſame Kind) being diſſolved in the Parl. of 37 *H.* 8. was, by the ſaid K. Letters Pat. dated 23 *Julii* the ſame Year, with all the Lands and Poſſeſſions thereunto belonging, granted unto *John Hales*, Gent. and his Heirs; which *John*, being an active Man in thoſe Days and Clerk of the Hamper (an Office then of no ſmall Benefit) and having accumulated a great Eſtate in Monaſtery and Chantry-Lands, reſolved to erect a laſting Monument to his Memory (for he had neither Child nor Wife) and thereupon, deſigning the Foundation of a Free-School here, and that the King ſhould have the Honour thereof, (for which Reſpect he had no little Favour in his Purchaſes, as I have credibly heard) obtaind Licence for the amortizing of Lands thereto, of CC. Marks *per An.* Value, converting the Buildings to that Uſe; on the Front whereof is this following Inſcription.

SCHOLA

SCHOLA REGIS HENRICI OCTAVI A JOHANNE HALES Armigero fundata, in qua bonis literis imbuantur pueri, usque ad consummationem sæculi in Christi gloriam, & Ecclesiæ ædificationem.

Howbeit, till the 15 of Q. *Eliz.* Reign, (which was the Year wherein he dyed) this School, so by him begun to be founded, was not certainly endowed But then did his Executors, *viz. Thomas Docura* of *Offeley* in Com. *Hertf.* Esq. and *Bartholomew Hales* of *Snytterfeld* in this County of *War.* Gent. in Accomplishment of the Trust reposed in them by the said *John*, by their Deed dated 5 *Martii*, convey and assure unto the Mayor, Bayliffs and Commonalty of this City, the Site of the said Hospitall and Lands thereto appertaining, with divers Mess. Gardens, *&c.* lying also in *Coventre*, and belonging to the late dissolved Priories of *Coventre* and *Kenilworth*; together with certain Mills, called the *White Frier-Mill, Bastile-Mill,* and *Hill-Mill*; to the Intent, that, out of the Profits of the Premisses, the Sum of xx. l. yearly should be payd to an able Schoolmaster for to teach Grammar in the said School; and x. *l.* to an Usher, (the Schoolmaster having for his Habitation the Mansion-House wherein the late Master of the said Hospitall did dwell, and the Usher another House, within the Site of the said Hospitall.) Lii. s. *per An.* to a Musique-Master, for to teach at three convenient Times in every Week so many of the Schollars of the same School, to Sing, as should be willing to learn: And to a Bayliff to gather up the said Rents, and see the Houses kept in Reparations xxvi. s. viii. d. yearly; the Residue to be imployed in repayring of the same Houses, and the Overplus to augment the Living of the said School-master and Usher.

The Gray-Friers.

THE Place where this *quondam* Religious House stood, is very well known to all that have observed any Thing of *Coventre*; in Regard the Spire-Steeple, which was Part thereof, is yet standing, giving Occasion unto Strangers that pass through the Town, to think that there is still a Church in that Place. But before I descend to speak in particular of this Friery, it will be proper, (I conceive) to say something of their Order, in generall; and next of their Propagation in this Kingdom.

First therefore, as to their Originall, we shall find, that St. *Francis* (a Person famous for his strict and holy Life) was the Man from whom this Order sprung; whose Birth-Place (being of a noble Extraction) is said to have been at Assise in Umbria (a Province of Italy). And that, in the very Time of his Youth, betaking himself to divine Studies, no Whit regarding the transitory Pleasures of this present World, he afterwards neglected his Patrimony, which was not small, wore a Coul and Hair-Shirt, went bare-foot, and macerated himself with frequent Watches and Fastings. As also, to the Intent that he might make Choice of voluntary Poverty, he resolved to enjoy nothing as his own, no not so much as Food for his Body, otherwise than what he received in Almes from good People. And moreover, if he had any Thing left, after a slender Refreshment, he ever bestow'd it on the Poor, reserving nothing for the Morrow. That, in the Night Time, he always slept in his Cloaths, lying down upon a Matt, having no Pillow for his Head but a Stone: And thus, going barefoot with an Evangelique Preparation, did embrace an Apostolique Life, preaching upon Sundays and Festivalls in Parish-Churches; which

which did so much the more work upon the Hearts of his Auditory, by how much he was a Stranger to all carnall Desires. The Statutes of which Order, to this Day observed, together with some other strict Rules, he presented to Pope *Innocent* the Third: Which, together with the Circumstances of his Reception, and their Confirmation, I shall for Brevity pass by; and the rather for that they are at large set forth by my Author, and confirm'd by the said Pope, in the Year of Christ 1207. (9. *Ioh.*)

To this Relation I shall briefly adde what a later Author hath of him, *viz.* that when he first betook himself to this regular Life, he wore Shoos and a Lethern Girdle; but revolving in his Mind, that our blessed Saviour gave Command to his Apostles, that they should not have two Coats, nor any Purse, he put on a single Coat of plain Wool, girt himself with a Cord, and went barefoot. And at the length, that he might live an Anchorite, betook himself to the *Apenine*-Mountains, and in **Averne** (at the Foot of them) continued in great Solitude; where devoting himself wholy to divine Contemplations, he branded his Body with the Marks of our Lords Passion, and called those *Minors* which he chose, from the first, to be his Companions in that Rule, as a manifest Token of his Humility; to the End that they, being mindfull of that slender Appellation, should be free from all Pride, which is oft times the Companion of Sanctity.

His Rule being confirmed by *Honorius* the third; and two Years after, *viz.* *An.* 1229. *Gregory* the ix. canonizing him for a Saint, no humane Institution increased so much as this, in a short Time, did: For they were soon spread over the whole Christian World; *Terram repleverunt* saith *Math. Westm.* In Towns and Cities they dwelt by tens and seavens in a Covent; and possessing nothing, but meerly living by the Gospell, in Food and Rayment they manifested their voluntary Poverty; and going barefoot, girt with a knotty Cord, gave the greatestExample of Humility imaginable.

Touching their first comming into *England*, I find it was in *An.* 1224. 8 *H.* 3. *viz.* two Years before the Death of S. *Francis:* But how well the Monks lik't of it, let us hear one of them speak, *An.* 1224. *Oh dolor! O plus quam dolor! O pestis truculenta! Fratres Minores venerunt in Angliam.* For which grievous Complaint I need not look further, as to the Reason, than *Math. Westm.* who modestly gives this Character of them. They were diligent Instruments for the Pope in all his Affairs (saith he) sometimes as Messengers or Legats; sometimes in gathering up Taxes, alwaies sedulous for his Advantage; neither were they slack in Preaching, signing with the Cross, and assisting the Sick in making of their Testaments; which Imployment did not a little hinder the Monks, both in Point of Profit and Power.

I come now to speak of their fixing here, in *Coventre.* That they had not any Charter of Foundation for this House; nor indeed any formall Grant in Writing of the Place whereon it stood, is no Wonder; considering that, being not endow'd with Lands, they wholly liv'd on the Charity of others (as we see those beyond Sea do at this Day, going constantly by Couples with Wallets on their Shoulders to receive Almes). And as for their Habitation here, with the Church, 'tis certain that the Structure of both was wholy made at the Cost of good People; so great a Respect did the World in those Days bear towards them, by Reason of their devout and austere Lives. For it appears, that in *An.* 1234. 19 *H.* 3. *Raph Fitz-Nicholas*, then Shiriff of *Warwickshire* in his Accompt makesMention of Shingles allow'd by the K. for covering their Oratory here, and delivered out of the Woods at *Kenilworth*, for that Purpose; which, being but xi. Years after their first coming into *England*, doth argue clearly, that then was the Time they first setled in *Coventre*; the Ground whereon this House was built, being allow'd unto them by *Ranulph* the last of that Name, Earl of *Chester*, out of his Mannour of *Cheylesmore*

more, as is evident. And therefore upon the Grant of *Coventre*, made in Fee-Ferme to the Monks by *Roger de Montalt* and *Cecilie* his Wife, 34 H. 3. it, together with the Mannour-House and Park of *Cheylesmore* were reserved to the said *Roger* and *Cecily*, and their Heirs.

It seems that these Friers had afterwards also many good Benefactors: For so fair a Church as that hath been, by View of the Steeple yet standing, could not be built without very great Cost. But that the same Structure was made in *E.* 3. Time, I am induced to believe; partly from the Form of its Fabrick; and partly because I find, that *Edw.* Prince of *Wales*, (commonly called the *Black-Prince*) by his Charter bearing Date 14. *Dec.* 32 *E.* 3. gave Leave to these Friers (of whom, as the same Grant expresses he was Patron) for to take so much Stone out of his Quarry in the Park of *Cheylesmore*, as they should have Occasion to use about their Buildings and Walls. And likewise Liberty to have a Postern, from their Mansion into his Park, to carry out any of their Covent that should be diseased, so that they were not to go further than the said Quarry: The Key of which Dore to be alwaies kept by the Warden of the same Friers, or his Substitute; and no other to pass that Way but such as were Sick.

And as I am of Opinion that then was the Time of its Building; so do I imagine, that some of the *Hastings* were good Benefactors thereto, in regard that divers of them lay buried in a Chappell of the same Church, called *Hasting's* Chappell, and some in the very Habite of *Friers-Minors*, so great an Esteem had they of this Order. Wherefore, to fortify my Conjecture, I have here added a very notable Memoriall touching those honourable Persons of that Family, who lye here interred.

En la Chapelle de lez Freres-Menours de Coventre, appelle Hastinges-Chapelle est une fenestre en la Northe parte oue vne scucheon des Armes de Hastinges, la second partie de d'or & de cinople, ove vne Lyon de gules rampant. La tierce d'azure ove troys garbs de Cumyn d'or enceinter de gules en milieu d'icelle. En vne fenestre en le Est est lez Armes de Hastinges, de Cantelow, & de Valence. En l'autre fenestre en le Est est lez Armes de Hastings & d'azure a. 6. lionceux d'argent, & de la Spensere.

Item en vne autre fenestre, en base, est lez Armes de Hastinges & de Huntingfeld, cestasavoir d'or ove vne fesse de gules & trois torteux d'argent. En le second est Hastings, & argent deux barrs de geules ove vne label de Valence. En le tierce est lez Armes de Hastings. En le quart est de gules ove vne Egle d'argent, du quel son bill est d'or.

Et la sont enterres deux chivaliers, cestasavoir Monsr. Henry de Hastings, & Johan la file de Monsr. Guiliam de Cantelow, & soer a S. Thomas de Hereford l'evesque. Et proschein lui gist la dit Johan, ove lez Armes de Hastings & Cantelow. L'autre chivalier est oue l'Armes de Hastings enseint ovesque lez Armes de Valence, son nome estoit Johan de Hastings. Et proschein lui gist dame Isabel de Valence ovesque lez Armes de Hastings. Et joust la dit Isabel, gist dame Johan de Huntingfeld, file a Monsr. John de Hastings & Isabel de Valence en vne gowne powdre dez Armes de Hastings, & d'or fesse de gules; & en son mantel par dessus celle est, est d'argent a deux fesses de gules, & sur sez manches dez Armes de Valence. Et est vne pillew desoubs son test, ur quel sont lez Armes de Hastings & Huntingfeld, quatrefoitz; cestasavoir d'or a vne manche de gules, & d'or a vne fesse de gules & 3. torteux d'argent.

En le table estoit escrit, Dominus Henricus de Hastings cum Domina Johanna consorte sua, filia Domini Willielmi de Cantilupe, & soror sancti Thomæ Herefordensis; & dominus Johannes de Hastings filius eorundem, cum domina Isabella consorte sua, filia domini Willielmi de Valence Comitis Pembrochiæ & Wexford, sepultus in habitu fratrum Minorum. Johannes obiit 9. Martii 1312. et Isabella 3. Oct. 1305. Ad cujus dextram jacet domina Johanna de Huntingfeld filia prædictorum Johannis et Isabella.

Robertus de Shotesbroke armiger strenuissimus, et ejusdem domini Henrici quondam vexillator, et postea Senescballus. Et

Minorita.

Et ibi jacent Johannes, Edmundus, et Henricus filii domini Willielmi de Haſtings, filii D. Johannis de Haſtings. Et Joh. Huntingfeld, filius Will. de Huntingfeld et D. Johannæ conſortis ſuæ.

That this Order of Friers was very much eſteem'd and reverenced by all Sorts of People, is evident enough. For whoſoever ſhall take Notice of ſuch Bequeſts, as by the Teſtaments of moſt Men and Women were made in antient Time, may find, that as they ſeldome neglected to give more or leſs to one or other Religious Houſe of this Rule; ſo if they were Perſons of Quality, they did frequently make Choice of their Sepulture in them, as I ſhall have Occaſion to ſhew in ſome Part of this Work. Neither was it the leaſt Pollicy of theſe Friers to obtain from great Perſons ſuch a Diſpoſall of their Bodies, conſidering how they were imployed and truſted in making their Teſtaments (as I have already ſhewed:) For where ever they ſped in that Kind, they were ſure to have a good Legacy from the Teſtator, and not without Hope, by ſo fair an Example, to obtain no leſs Advantage from his Poſterity: So that *Tho. de Walſingham*, ſpeaking of the Buriall of Q. *Elianor's* Heart in the Church of the *Friers-Minors* at *London*, did not without Cauſe, complain of them in theſe Words.

—— *Qui* (meaning the ſaid Friers) *ſicuti et cuncti fratres reliquorum Ordinum, aliquid de corporibus quorumcunque potentium morientium ſibimet vendicabant, more canum cadaveribus aſſiſtentium, ubi quiſque ſuam particulam avidè conſumendam expectat?* You ſee he writes ſomewhat paſſionatly of the poor Friers: But conſider that he was himſelf a Monk, and the Reaſon may eaſily be diſcerned.

Before the Suppreſſion of the Monaſteries, this City was very famous for the *Pageants* that were play'd therein, upon *Corpus-Chriſti*-Day; which occaſioning very great Confluence of People thither from far and near, was of no ſmall Benefit thereto; which *Pageants* being acted with mighty State and Reverence by the Friers of this Houſe, had Theaters for the ſeveraſl Scenes, very large and high, placed upon Wheels, and drawn to all the eminent Parts of the City, for the better Advantage of Spectators: And contain'd the Story of the Old and New Teſtament, compoſed in the old Engliſh Rithme, as appeareth by an antient *MS.* intituled *Ludus Corporis Chriſti*, or *Ludus Coventriæ*.

I have been told by ſome old People, who in their younger Years were Eye-Witneſſes of theſe *Pageants* ſo acted, that the yearly Confluence of People to ſee that Shew was extraordinary great, and yielded no ſmall Advantage to this City.

The next Thing whereof I am to take Notice, in relation to this Friery, is K. H. 8. Survey, in 26. of his Reign: At which Time it did appear, that they had no Lands or Tenements; nor other Poſſeſſions ſpirituall or temporall, but onely a Liberty in the Countrey to receive the Charity of good People. This being ſo, I expect that ſome may demand why it was not diſſolved in 27 *H.* 8. when the leſſer Houſes went to wrack. Whereunto I anſwer, that the Act for that Purpoſe, extendeth onely unto *Monks*, *Channons*, and *Nuns*; but if it be aſkt, why theſe were then ſo ſheltred from the firſt Storm; the Reaſon, I think, is apparent; *viz.* there was nothing to be got by their Ruin, foraſmuch as they had no Endowment of Lands, *&c.* though God was as much diſhonoured by the lewd Lives of the Friers for Want of good Government (as the Preamble of that Act imports, in Caſe it ſay true) as by any other whoſe Houſes were certified to be of leſs Value then C C. *l. per An.* which Favour we ſee give theſe poor Friers Liberty to breath here awhile longer in Expectation of their Ruin; *viz.* till 30 H. 8. that all the great Houſes were diſſolved; they being then forc'd to ſubſcribe an Inſtrument, whereunto their Common-Seal is affixt; and in which the Error of that regular Courſe they had practiſed, is confeſt; whereby they ſurrendred this Houſe into the ſaid K. Hands, as the Copy whereof (being not ordinary, and therefore here inſerted) doth manifeſt.

For

For as moche as wee the Warden and Freers of the House of Saynt *Frances* in Coventre, commonly callyd the *Grey-Freers* in Coventre, in the County of Warwick, doo profoundly consider, that the perfection of Christian livinge dothe nott consist in dume Ceremonies, werynge of a grey coot, disgeasinge our selle aftur straunge fassions, do Kynge, noddynge, and beckyng, in gurdyng our selves wythe a gurdle fulle of knotts and other like Papisticall Ceremonies, wherein we hade ben mooste principally practised ond missyd in tymes paste: but the very tru waye to plese God, and to live a tru Christian mon wytheout all ypocrisie, and fayned discimulation is sinceerly declared unto us by our Mr. Christe his Evangelists and Apostelles; being myndyd hereaftur to followe the same, conformynge our self unto the will and plesnre of our Supreme hedde under God in erthe, the Kynges Majestie; and not to folowe hensefoyth the superstitius traditions of ony forinsecall potentate or peere: wythe mutuall assent and consent doo submitt our selves unto the mercy of owre seide Soveryng Lord. And wythe like mutuall assent and consent do surrendre and yelde up into the hondes of the same, all our seide House of Saynt *Frances* in the Cite of Coventre commonly callyd the *Grey-Freers* in Coventre, wythe alle the londs tenements, gardens, medows, waters, pondiards, fedings, pastures, comens, Rents, reversions; and alle other our interest ryghtes or titles appertaining unto the same. Mooste humbly beseechinge his mooste noble Grace to dispose of us, and of the same, as beste shall stonde wythe his mooste gracious pleasure. And further frely to graunte unto every on of us his license under wretyng and Seealle to chaunge our habitts into secular fashion; and to receve suche maner of livinges as other secular Priests commonly be preferred unto. And we all faithfully shall pray unto Almighty God long to preserve his mooste noble Grace wythe increse of moche felicite and honor. And in witnes of alle and singuler the premisses, wee the seide Warden and Covent of the *Grey-Freeres* in Coventre, to thes presences have putte our Covent Seealle the sivithe day of October in the therty-the yere of the raynge of our mooste Soveraynge Lord King *Henry* the eyghte.

Per me Johannem Stafford Gardian.
Per me Thomam Maller.
Per me Thomam Sanderson.
Per me Johannem Abell.
Per me Johannem Woode.
Per me Rogerum Lilly.
Per me Thomam Aukock.
Per me Matheum Walker.
Per me Robartum Walker.
Per me Thomam Bangsit.
Per me Willielmum Gosnelle.

Which said House or Site, was in 34 H. 8. granted by the K. (*inter alia*) to the Mayor, Bayliffs and Commonalty of this City and their Successors for ever.

NEAR unto the Ruins of this Friery, is there an Hospitall (now called the *Gray-Frier-Hospitall*, in respect of its Situation) touching the Foundation whereof, and its successive Benefactors, I shall not need to say any Thing more, then what the Inscription upon the Walls, there, do declare.

May the 4. *An.* 1529. *Mr.* William Fourd *of this City, Merchant of the Staple, founded this Almehouse, for five Men and one Woman; and gave to each of them five Pence a Week for their Maintenance. Afterwards Mr.* William Pisford, *his Executor, gave other Lands, and appointed six Men and their Wives to be placed therein, and each Couple to have Seaven-pence Half-peny a Week. But Mr.* William Wigston, *having Power from both of them, to alter, adde, or diminish their Wills;*

Wills; for the better ordering of the said House, did ordain, that there should be but five Men, and their Wives, and a Nurse; and each Couple to have Seven-pence Half-peny a Week, and the Nurse the same.

In the seventh Year of King James, *the Lands given to this Hospitall, were questioned as concealed from the Crown; and were again purchased by the City; who have ever since maintained the charitable Uses, with a great Addition out of the Chamber of the City.*

In the Year 1621. *the City added another Man and Woman at their own Charge; so that there is now six Couple, besides the Nurse; each Couple being allow'd Two Shillings weekly, and the Nurse One Shilling a Week, although there be not any Advance of the Rent to the City. Mr.* Simon Norton, *Alderman of this City, gave towards the Maintenance of one Man and Woman in this Hospitall, for which the City doth allow Two Shillings a Week also, as the rest have; so that there is now seaven Couple, and a Nurse in this Hospitall.*

The White Friers.

ON the South-east Part of this City stood the *Friers-Carmelites*, commonly called the *White-Friers*, another Sort of Mendicants. The first Institution of which Order, as divers Authors affirm, having been *Elias* the Prophet, at Mount-Carmell in Syria, where, living a retired Life in the Service of God, he gave Example unto many devout Anachorites to repair thither for Solitude; but these being dispersi over the whole Mountain, in private Cells, were at Length by *Almeric* Bishop of Antioch, reduced into one Covent; at which Time they elected out of themselves a Superior, and first began the Foundation of a Monastery, where the Chappell of the Blessed Virgin stood; *viz.* near the Fountain of *Helias*. Howbeit, the Observance of this Life began not till the Days of Pope *Alexander* the third, about the Year 1170. Nor till the Time of *Innocent* 3. near 40. Years after, had they any direct Order, that *Albert* B. of Hierusalem prescribed unto them (thus living in the Wilderness) a Form out of St. *Basills* Rule, and a parti-coloured Mantle of White and Red, such as one as *Helyas* the Prophet antiently used; which afterwards *Honorius* iii. altered; conceiving it not to be so proper; and in sted of the Party-Colour, appointed that it should be all White, calling the Covent of these Freres *the Family of the Blessed Virgin*; in Regard the white Colour, being least spotted, doth best accord with Virginity.

But the first Mention that I find of their propagating in this Realm, is in *An.* 1250. 34 H. 3. at which Time Sir *John de Vescy* of *Alnwike* in *Northumberland* (a great Baron in those Days) returning from the Holy Land, brought into England this Order of Friers, and built for them a Monastery at *Holme* in *Northumberland*) then a desert Place, and not unlike to Mount-Carmell before-mentioned. Yet here in *Coventre* they setled not till *An.* 1342. 16 *E.* 3. that Sir *John Poultney*, Kt (4. Times Lord Mayor of *London*) erected this House for them; whose Armes cut in Stone are still extant over the Gates thereof.

With Lands they had no Endowment; but, as the *Grey-Friers*, before spoken of, lived on the Charity of good People; which was not slender; so high an Opinion had the Strictness of their Rule and Austerity of their Lives obtained; there being few Persons of Quality, residing within many Miles, that by their Testaments gave not liberally to them, as by that of the Lord *Basset* of *Drayton*, in 7 *R.* 2. appeareth, whereby they had no less then a Legacy of CCC *l.*

Further mention, after which Time, I find not, till 1 H. 5. that the K. granted Licence to *Will. Botener* of *Withibroke*, to give unto them a Piece of Ground, lying here in *Coventre*, containing 141. Foot in Length, and 45. in Breadth, for the Enlargement of their Habitation; in Consideration whereof they were to celebrate the Anniversary of *John Percy* and *Alice* his Wife, deceased. But shortly after the Foundation of this Religious House, was there one *William*,

a Frere thereof, who became very famous for his Learning, and was commonly called *Guilhelmus Coventre*; of whom *Balæus* in his sixth Century, *Pag.* 461. maketh large Mention, and of the Works that he wrote; whereunto I refer my Reader.

In 22 H. 7. did Sir *Thom. Poultney*, of *Misterton*, Kt. (lineall Heir to the before specified Sir *John*) by his Testament, bearing Date 3. *Apr.* bequeath his Body to be buried in the Chancell here; appointing, that at his Funerall 24. Torches, each having his Armes upon them, should be born by xxiiii. poor Men, every one having a Gown with the *Libberds-Head* behind and before.

Upon the Survey taken in 26 H. 8. it was found, that there were certain Burgages in *Coventre*, belonging to these Friers, which yielded 03.*l*-06.*s*.-08.d. *per An.* Rent. And that the Oblations in the Chappel of our Lady, did, one Year with another, amount to 05.*l*.-18.*s*. *per An. In toto* 09.*l*.-04.*s*.-08.*d*. Out of which Burgages there being yearly payd xx. *s*. unto *Mereton's-Chantry* in the Church of St. *Michaell*; and to the Heirs of *Rob. Norwood*, 2. *s*. *per An.* as a Rent for the Land upon which their Church was built; with Money for Murage annually; and other Payments, amounting in all to xxxi.*s*. the clear Value of all that belong'd to them extended to 07.*l*.-13.*s*.-08.*d*. *per Annum*. But the Dissolution of them hapned not till 30. H. 8. that all the poor Mendicants followed the Example of greater Monasteries in making Surrender of their Houses. At which Time, by their Instrument bearing Date 1 *Oct.* 30. H. 8. they gave up this to the King; where unto these Names were subscribed.

Hugo Burnby.	*Joh. Hurst.*
Thom. Fyscher.	*Ric. Cowper.*
Ric. Wodcoke.	*Will. Madder.*
Thom. Vicars.	*Joh. Newbold.*
Will. Walkar.	*Joh. Elyson.*
Will. Harryson.	*Ric. Cowper.*
Joh. Pasty.	*Will. Kynge.*

No Pension being allow'd to any of them.

After which this House, with all tent belong'd thereunto, excepting the R of xx. s. *per Annum*, due to *Merton's Chantry*, before-mentioned, was (*inter alia*) by the Kings Letters Pat. dated 27. *Aug.* 36. *H.* 8. granted to Sir *Raph Sadler*, Knight, and his Heirs, to hold in Burgage; which Sir *Raph* sold it to *John Hales* (of whom I have spoke in S. *John's* Hospitall;) who made it his Habitation, as it seems: For by his last Will and Testament, dated 17. *Dec.* 15. *Eliz.* appointing it to be sold, here there calls it by the Name of *Hales-Place, alias White-Friers* in *Coventre*. This was that *John*, whom the learned *Leland* called *Hales* with the Club-Foot; which Lameness and Deformity was occasioned (as I have heard) by a Wound with a Dagger, that casually, in running, fell forth of the Sheath into the Dirt; so that as he stept forward, the Sole of his Foot did hit upon the Point thereof. He dyed 5. *Cal.* Jan. *Anno* 1572. (15. *Eliz.*) and was buried in the Church of S. *Peters the Poor* in Broad-Street, *London*, as his Epitaph in *Stow's* Survey, which I have here inserted, imports.

Dominus Johannes Hales, *à pueritiâ literis deditus, excellenti ingenio, docilitate, memoriâ, studio, & industria singulari: adjunctâ linguarum, disciplinarum, juris, Antiquitatis, rerum divinarum atq; humanarum magna & multiplici doctrina instructissimus. Evasit innocentiâ, integritate, gravitate, constantiâ, fide, pietate, religione: gravissimæ etiam ægrotationis, & rerum difficilium diuturnâ perpessione; & in patientia ornatissimus fuit. Vitæ honestissimè sanctissiméq; actæ diem supremum* 5. *Cal. Jan.* 1572. *clausit animæ & corporis. Reliquiæ hoc loco sitæ sunt.*

But notwithstanding the before-specified Appointment, it was not accordingly sold: For *John Hales*, Esq. descended from *Christopher* his eldest Brother, now enjoys it as his Heir. At the Death of the before specified *John*, the Church was compleatly standing, as appears by that Inquis. but it continued not long after; for about.... *Eliz.* Mr. *Edward*

Boughton

Carmelita,

Boughton, obteyning the Materials, built his House at *Causton* therewith.

The Gilds.

THE next Thing that I am to take Notice of, is the severall *Gilds* or Fraternities founded in this City, wherewith I will now go on in their Order; observing by the Way, that *Gild* proceedeth from the Saxon Word ȝeld and ȝild, which signifieth Money; because that such, as were either for Charity, Religion or Merchandize Sake associated, did cast their Moneys, Goods, yea, and sometimes Lands together, for the publique Support of their own common Charge. These had their annuall Feasts and neighbourlike Meetings: Which Custome as Sir H. *Spelman* observes, was very antiently used by the *Franks*, *Longobards*, and other Nations; and is still continued by the *Germans*, who call the frequent yearly Banquets of the Country People, made at their common Charge, *Gilden*. As to the direct Time when these had a first Beginning in *England*, there is nothing of Certainty to be found, for as much as they were in use long before any formall Licenses were granted unto them for such Meetings, or for conferring Lands or Rent towards the Support of their publique Expences in what Sort soever, as by what I have observ'd in *Stratford super Avon*, will appear.

The first and most antient of the *Gilds*, here in *Coventre*, was founded in 14. *E.* 3. at which Time the King granted License to the *Coventre-Men*, that they should have a *Merchants-Gild*, and a Fraternity of Brethren and Sisters of the same, in this Town; with a Master or Warden thereof to be chosen out of the same Fraternity; and that they might make *Chantryes*, bestow Almes, do other Works of Piety, and constitute Ordinances touching the same, with all apperteining thereto. And in 17 *E.* 3. by another Pat. dated 25. *Maii*, did give Leave unto *John Holland*, Priest, *John Lemman*, *Thomas Porter*, *Ric. de Stoke*, *Peter de Stoke*, and *Will. Welnesburgh*, that they should enter into a Fraternity, and make a *Gild*, consisting of themselves, and such others who were content to joyn with them, to the Honour of *S. John Baptist*. As also to purchase certain Lands, Tenements and Rents, to the Value of xx. l. *per Annum*, lying within the Liberties of *Coventre*, for the founding of a *Chantry* of six Priests to sing Mass every Day in the Churches of the Holy *Trinity*, and *S. Michael* in *Coventre* aforesaid, for the Soules of the Kings Progenitors; and for the good Estate of the King; Q. *Isabell* his Mother, Q. *Philippa* his Consort, and their Children: As also of *Walter de Chesthunt*, and *Will. de Belgrave*, during their Lives here on Earth; and for their Soules after their Departure hence; and for the good Estate of the said *John*, *John*, *Thomas*, *Rich. Peter*, and *Will.* and the rest of the said *Gild*, with their Benefactors: And likewise for their Souls, and for the Souls of *John* of *Eltham*, late E. of *Cornwall*, and of all the Faithfull deceased.

Which *Gild*, being so founded as aforesaid; within two Years after the same K. *Edward*, at the Request of Q. *Isabell* his Mother, granted License unto her, to give and assigne thereunto, a Parcell of Land with the Appurtenances situat in *Coventre*, and called by the Name of *Babbelake*, containing cxvii. Foot in Length, and xl. Foot in Breadth, to build thereupon a certain Chappell, to the Honour of our blessed Saviour and S. *John Baptist*, for two Priests, to sing Mass daily for the good Estate of the said K. *Edward*, Q. *Isabell* his Mother, Q. *Philippa* his Consort, *Edward* Prince of *Wales*, and of the Brethren and Benefactors of the same *Gild*, whil'st they lived in this World; and for their Soules after their Departure hence: As also for the Soul of *John* of *Eltham*, E. of *Cornwall*, and the Souls of the said Brethren and Benefactors, with all the Faithfull deceased. Which Chappell was finisht within the Compass of 5. Years, as it seems

ſeems by the Dedication thereof, 6 *Non. Maii An.* 1350. 24. *E.* 3.

The Trinity Gild.

IN 38. *E.* 3. *Henry de Kele*, and *Tho. Orme* of *Coventre*, founded another *Gild* to the Honour of the Holy *Trinity*, having Licenſe to purchaſe Lands, within the Liberties of *Coventre*, of x. Marks yearly Value, for the Maintenance of two Prieſts to ſing Maſs daily in *Trinity* Church, for the good Eſtate of the K. Q. *Philippa* his Conſort, and their Children; and after their Departure out of this World, for the Health of their Souls; as alſo for the Souls of all the Brethren and Siſters of the ſame, and their Benefactors for ever. Which *Gild*, being in 16. *R.* 2. united to that of *S. John Baptiſt* before mentioned, was, upon that Conjunction, and afterwards to bear the Name of the *Gild* of the Holy *Trinity*, our *Lady*, and *S. John Bapt.* the Fraternity thereof, having then Licenſe to purchaſe Lands for the Maintenance of ix. Prieſts to ſing Maſs dayly in the ſaid Chappell of *Babbelake*, for the good Eſtate of the K. and Q. as alſo of his Uncles, *viz.* the Dukes of *Aquitane*, and *Lanc. York*, and *Glouc.* with their Children: So that preſently it began to be endowed with Lands, *Richard Clarke*, *Richard Dodenhale*, *Simon de Langham*, of *Coventre*, *John Stiward*, *Roland Danet*, and *Henry atte Hey*, Mercer, giving 2. Meſs. and 24s. Rent in *Coventre*; and *John Percy*, with divers others, 140. 1. Mill, 92. Acres of Land, 1. Acre of Meadow, 1. Acre of Wood, 20l.-17-01d.-ob. Rent, and the Rent of 2. Hens yearly thereunto; the Brethren whereof *in Anno* 1399. (1 H. 4.) had Licenſe from the Biſhop, for celebrating Divine Service in the ſaid Chappell, ſo that the Mother-Church might not receive Prejudice thereby.

More Addition of Lands alſo do I find hereunto, *viz.* in 10. H. 4. of 1. Meſs. in *Coventre*, given by *Will. Broke*, Parſon of *Lodbrok*, *John Broke*, his Brother, and *John Barbour* of *Biſhops Ichington*. And in 6. H. 5. of 4. Meſs. one Tofte, one Garden, and xi. Acres of Land, with the Appurtenances, by *John Preſton*, and *Will. Whitchurch*, Merchants of *Coventre*; and of Lands to the Value of 50l. *per Annum*, by *Henry Smyth*, Eſquire, and others in 23. *H.* 7.

S. Katherine's Gild.

ANOTHER *Gild*, do I find, that *Tho. de Ichynton*, *Nich. Pake*, *Will. de Tutebury*, *Will. de Overton*, Clark, *Peter Percy*, *Ric. de Darkere*, *Sim. Wareyn*, *John Vincent* and *John de Pakynton*, gave a Fine to the K. for Licenſe to Found in 17. *E.* 3. to the Honour of S. *Katherin:* But this, as it ſeemes, was united to thoſe of the Holy *Trinity*, our *Lady*, and S. *John Bapt.* whereunto belonged a Fair and ſtately Structure for their Feaſts and Meetings, called S. *Mary-Hall*, ſituat oppoſit to S. *Michael*-Church on the South Part; and built about the Beginning of *H.* 6. Time, as may appear by the Form of its Fabrick, and other Teſtimonyes: The Windows whereof are adorn'd with ſundry beautifull Portraitures and Armes; that towards the North, of ſeverall K. in their Surcotes, whoſe Names placed under them, are as followeth; *Rex Will. Conqueſtor. Rex. Rich. Conqueſtor. Rex egregius Henricus quintus. Rex magnimus Henricus quartus. Conſtantinus Anglicus, Imperator Chriſtianiſſimus. Rex Arthurus, Conqueſtor inclitus. Rex illuſtris Henricus tertius. Rex . . . . . Henricus ſextus.*

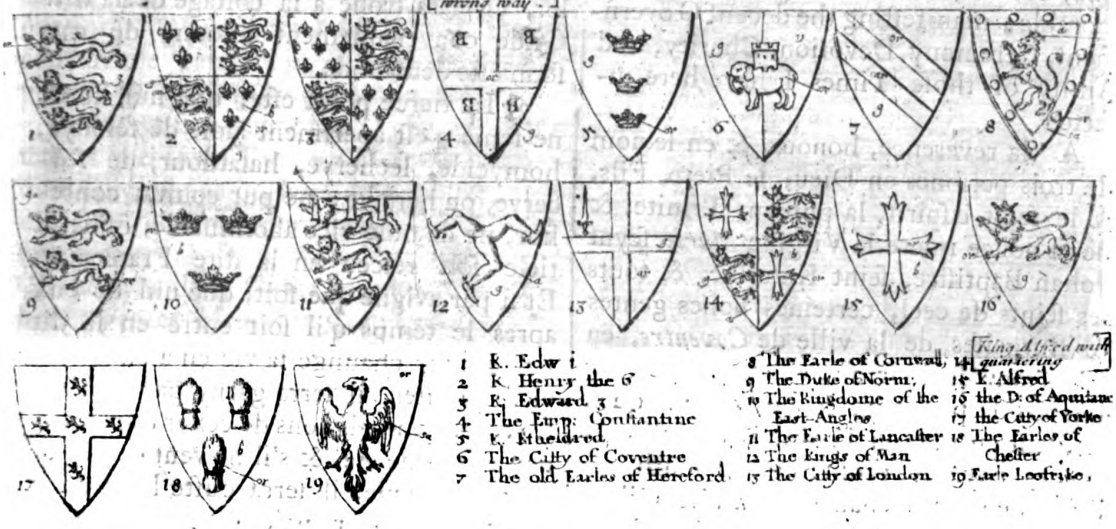
In the upper Part of which Window, are theſe Armes.

And

Coventre

Armes in the great window at the Vpper end of S. Mary-hall.

[these Bs are the wrong way]



1 K. Edw i
2 K. Henry the 6
3 K. Edward 3
4 The Emp: Constantine
5 K. Ethelbred
6 The Citty of Coventre
7 The old Earles of Hereford
8 The Earle of Cornwall,
9 The Duke of Norm:
10 The Kingdome of the East-Angles
11 The Earle of Lancaster
12 The Kings of Man
13 The Citty of London
14 [King Alfred with quartering] K. Alfred
15 the D: of Aquitane
17 the Citty of Yorke
18 The Earles of Chester
19 Earle Leofriko,

Armes in other Windows there

1 The Citty of Canterbury
2
3 Humphry Duke of Glocester
4 John Duke of Bedford
5 S. Willm Babington.
6 Savile.
7 Whitington empaling Fitz-warin,

And in those towards the East and West, of divers eminent Persons that were admitted of this Fraternity; amongst whom I have made Choise of these here placed, to shew the Magnificence and State, antiently of our English Nobility; which, through the Favour of that learned, and truly noble Gentleman *Charles Nevill*, Esquire, now Vice-Provost of *Kings-Coll.* in *Cambridge* (whose lineall Ancesters most of them be) are out of his speciall Honour to their Memory, and singular Affection to Antiquities, thus, in the Formalitie of their Habits, lively represented.

The Ordinances or Statutes of which *Gild*, for as much as they are very memorable; manifesting the decent Government, Ceremony, Devotion, Charity, and Amity of those Times I have here inserted.

A [a] la reverence, honour, & en le nom de trois persones en Dieu, le Piere, Fils, & le seint Espirit, la puissant Trinite, & de sa douce miere la Virgine *Marie*, seynt Johan Baptistre, seint Katerine, & touts les seints de ceel, certeines bones gentes & Burgeises de la ville de *Coventre*, en salvacione de lour almes, ount ordeignes une Gilde pur eux, & pur aultres quex voillent entrier en la dite Gilde, & certeynes poyntes profitables, desouth escriptes en mayntenance de la dite Gilde.

1. La primier point est que les Friers & Soers de la dite Gilde troveront & averont tresses Chapeleyns sages covenables & de honeste & chaste vie; & soient yci eslus par les soveraynes de la cele Fraternite pur lier, prier & chauntier pur toutz les frers & soers de la dite Gilde, & pur touts le bien-faitours a ycele. Et que chescun iour soit la office en lour chapel pur icele ordeigne; ceste asavoir, *Matynes*, *Messes*, *Vespres*, & *Complin* chaunte per Note; & apres *complin* un Antym per Note de la virgine *Marie*, oue cync serges de cere ardaunts devaunt la ymage de la dit Virgine: de queles Chapeleynes chanterount chascun iour certeynes *Messes*; ceste asavoir Messes de iour par Note; une Messe de la Seint *Trinite*, une de *nostre Dame*, une Messe de S. *John Baptistre*, une Messe de S. *Katerine*, & une Messe de *Requiem*, ensemblement ove aultres Messes come partient a eux a faires.

2. La second point este, que si ascun prosd'home de la dite fraternite qeu soun poair ad este bien voillaunt al estat de ycele, par fieu, euwe, roborie, ou par ascune aultre aveynture de secle, que ne soit my de sa foly demesme, chiece en poverte; le sovereyne de la compaignye, & ses compaignons luy apresteront une porcion d'argent de la dite fraternite pur marchaunder & profiter, sur la surete qu'il peut fair sauns riens prende de gain. Et si ascun tiel soit enfebly per malady ou vean lesse que mesmes ne peut travailler, yl serra troue a la costage de la dite Gilde convenablement solounc de que soun este demaunde.

3. La tierce point este, que nul home ne feme q'est apertment alose de felonye, homycide, lecherye, hasardour, de sorcerye, ou heresye; ne pur comun contekur, ne de nule vice abominable, que nul tiele soit resceu en la dite Fraternite. Et si par avigne que soit, que nul de eux apres le temps q'il soit entre en la dit Fraternite, chaunge sa vie en ascunes des vices susdites, il serra garny par la Mestre & ses compaignons de cesser & retourner a sa bone vie, & s'il ne veut cessier de sa malveyse vie, il serra ouste hors de la dite fraternite a tous iours.

4. Le quart point est, que en chescun an soint faits quatres sollemnites, ceste-asavoir le feste de la seynt *Trinite*, la *Assumption nostre Dame*, seint *John Baptistre* & *S. Kateryn* pur les freres & soers queux sount en ville, & de ces queux voillent venir de pais, solempnement a la reverence avantdit.

5. Le quint poynt este, que en chescun an soit fait quatres Anniversaryes, pur touts les almes des Friers & Soers de la dit compaigne a Dieu comendes, & pur touts les biens fessours de ycele.

6. Le sysme pointe este, que chescun Friere d'eux en tous places quant lieu & temps demande, parlera & procura a la dite fraternite l'amyte & la bounte q'il peut bonement faire, par quey l'estate de cele compaigne le meultes peut acrestre, & estre mainteine, & chescun d'eux avera autre parfitement de coer & naturelment ferra pur aultre par reason del alliauns de cele Fraternite; Et que nule home de cele Fraternite ne soyt si feel de soy bauder de malefaire, contekier ne nule poynt de contek, ne d'aultre male mayntenance par resone de Mayntenance de la dite compaygne sur la peyne de voyder le compaigne pur touts iours.

7. Le septiesme point este, que touts les Chappelleyns queux chauntount pur la dite Fraternite, soient charges par lour serement, qua a quele temps que ascun

Frere

Frere ou Soer de la dite fraternite, si bie n hors de ville en quele place git ou dedeins, devie, que chescun, des dits Chapeleins chaunteront pur l'alme de celuy a Dieu commende par noum de son Baptisme par un an apres si mort continuelment.

8. Le vtisme poynt este, que a quel temps que ascun Freres ou Soers de la dite Gilde deins ou hors de ville, ou outre le mare, & le Mestre de la Gilde eut soit garny al ferra assembler touts les Chapeleyns de la Gylde, Clerks & autres bones gentes de la dite Fraternite queux ferrount *Dirige* per Note solempnement; & la iour prochein suant Messe per Note a la Chapel de S. *John Babbelake*, & offerount illeoques en mesme la manoir q'est affaire pur celuy que devie en ville. Et que le Bedeman alera par tote la ville a prier pur l'alme a les costages de la ditte Gilde.

9. Item ordeigne este, que si ascun Frere ou Soer devie en poverte; & n'ad my de ses biens propre, dount estre ensevely que devire, soiet il ensevely honorablement come il appiert a une Frere & Soer ac les costages de la Gylde.

Hæc est ordinatio & regula facta & constituta per assensum totius Fraternitatis Gyldæ *S. Trinitatis*, *S. Mariæ*, *S. Johannis*, & *S. Katherinæ*, pro Capellanis ejusdem Gildæ faciendis; ac pro sanitate corporis ac animæ valdè utilis.

Imprimis, quod omnes presbyteri, & singuli ad Ordinationes pro eisdem faciendi, corporaliter prestabunt Sacramentum quatinus in eis est jur. edit. & edend.

Item ordinatum est, quod Custos chori Capellæ de *Babbelake*, & omnes Presbyteri ejusdem, omnes & singuli benè & honestè se gerant, & tonsurati, vestes deferent statui suo congruentes. Ipsi quoq; presbyteri, omnes & singuli, Missas & alia Divina obsequia cotidie in capella prædicta, impedimento cessante, legitimè celebrabunt. Et in singulis Missis rogabunt specialiter pro Fratribus & Sororibus Gildæ predictæ, vivis & defunctis, & pro omnibus benefactoribus ejusdem: Quolibetq; die *Matutina*, *alta Missa*, *Vespere*, & *Completorium* in choro dictæ Capellæ, cum Nota, debent decantari.

Et post Matutinas, & horas cantandi, ut prædicitur, *Missa de beata Virgine* quolibet die debet celebrari ad Altare ejusdem Virginis cotidie, cum Nota, de uno sacerdote ad eandem deputato per ordinationem custodis chori, nisi fuerint impediti per obitum alicujus Fratris aut Sororis; in & festis ejusdem Virginis & per octabas ejusdem cum acciderint. Ad quam quidem Missam celebrandam, ut præmittitur, Clericus qui pro tempore fuerit Capellæ prædictæ pulsabit campanam pro eadem Missa ordinata, per spacium ultimæ horæ in choro cantata, & eodem tempore fiat.

Et in quolibet die fiat *Missa matutinalis de S. Trinitate*. Et in qualibet die fiat *Missa de Jo. Baptista*; una *Missa de S. Katerina*; & una *Missa* de *Requiem*, pro defunctis; simul cum omnibus aliis Missis, & aliis divinis officiis secundùm ordinationem suam inde faciendum. Et in qualibet die Dominica aspersio aquæ benedictæ cum Nota decantabitur.

Item ordinatum est, quod omnes presbyteri ibidem existant, nisi aliquis eorum legitimè fuerit impeditus, & per Custodem licentiatus. Et quod nullus presbyter se absentet ab aliqua Missa, *Matutinis horis*, *Vesperis*, *Completorio*, cum Nota decantata; nec ab aliqua alia divina operatione in Capella prædicta facienda, nisi legitimè fuerit impeditus, & per Custodem Capellæ prædictæ licentiatus.

Item ordinatum est, quod nullus Presbyter ibidem moram trahens, utetur commune taberna, neq; se absentet extra hospitium suum noctanter, nisi fuerit per rationabilem causam, sciente Custode prædicto.

Item ordinatum est, quod in qualibet die, post *Completorium*, fiant quinq; cerei ardentes coram imagine Virginis *Mariæ* in Capella prædicta, dum una Antiphona, viz. *Salve Regina*, per Notam praedictam decantabitur. Et quod omnes Presbyteri ibidem existant, nisi aliquis eorum fuerit impeditus, vel per Custodem licentiatus. Et in qualibet die Parasceve, postquam Corpus Christi in Sepulchro positum fuerit

rit, unum cereum ardentem coram sepulchro perficiatur, & dum sacrum Corpus Domini ibidem permaneat.

Item ordinatum est, quod quandocunq; aliquis frater, vel aliqua soror Gildae praedictae ab hac luce migraverit, quod Custos qui pro tempore fuerit Capellae praedictae, & caeteri Presbyteri Gildae qui in alio loco celebrabunt; & quilibet eorum per se scribet, vel facient aut faciet scribere nomen baptismi defuncti super tabulas supra Altaria inde ordinata. Et quod omnes & singuli Presbyteri Gildae Praedictae, pro anima illius defuncti celebrent, & habeant in sua memoria per unum annum integrum post obitum suum. Et quod quilibet Sacerdos Gildae praedictae, postquam *Confiteor* & *Misereatur* dicantur, revertat ad populum, dicens. *Orate specialiter pro statu omnium fratrum & sororum Gildæ S. Trinitatis, S. Mariæ, S. Johannis, & S. Katerinæ Coventriæ, & pro animabus defunctorum illius, & omnium aliorum, & pro omibus eidem Gildæ benefactoribus Pater noster cum salutatione de virgine Maria.*

Pro quibus verò Ordinationibus & constitutionibus superiùs nominatis, benè & fideliter observandis tenendis & continuandis, praedicti Magistri Gildae praedictae persolvent annuatim cuilibet Capellano, ad Capellam praedictam morantem, pro salario suo dum benè & honestè se gerat octo marcas sex sol. & octo denar.

Item habebunt duos campos viz. illum campum quondam *Lalleford*, & *Howelsfield*, in recompensationem laborum suorum.

Et insuper ordinatum est, quod hostiae Capellae beatae *Mariæ de Monte*, in cimiterio *S. Michaelis* fient apertae quolibet die festo, ab *hora Matutina* usq; ad finem *altæ* Missae in Ecclesia *S. Michaelis*, Et in diebus ferialibus, à tempore *Matutinarum* usq; ad finen *Missæ* B. *Mariæ* in Ecclesia praedicta. Et quando aliquis Presbyter ibidem celebrârit, fiat campana pulsata qualibet die ad quamcunq; celebrationem *Missarum* cujuscunq; Presbyteri cum acciderit. Et quod ad horas *Vesperarum*, hostiæ sint apertæ durante hora *Vesperarum* in Ecclesia parochiali.

The Oath.

YE shall be good and true, and each of you shall be good and true to the Master of the Gild **of the holy** Trinitie, our Lady, S. John, and S. Katherine **of** Coventre, **and to all the Brethren and Sisters of the same** Gild: **And all the good Rules and Ordinances by the said Master and his Brethren afore this Time made, and hereafter to be made, and your Days of Payment truly for to keep to your Power, so God you help and all Saints.**

Petition.

MAister we beseech you at the reverence of the holy Trinity, **that you will vouchsafe to receive us to be Brethren of this Place with you.**

Nay so great a Reputation had this Fraternity far and neer, that K. *H.* 4. and K. *H.* 6. with divers of the principall Nobility, Bishops, and other eminent Persons, thought it no dishonour to be admitted thereof, as by this ensuing Catalogue, where many more are registred, may be seen.

Hæc sunt nomina fratrum & sororum Gildæ S. Trinit. S. Mariae, S. Johan: Bapt. & S. Katherinae Coventriae, *viva & mortua subscripta.*

Henricus quartus Rex Angl. Henr. Princeps Walliæ. Henr. Bewfort Episcp. Wint. Henr. sextus Rex Angl. & Franc. Henr. Frowyk de London & Alicia mater ejus. Henr. Comes Warwici, & Cecilia ux. ejus. D. Joh. Botourt miles, & Jocosa ux. ejus. D. Joh. Rex Castelli & Legionis, D. Lanc. & D. Constancia regina Castell, & Leg. Ducissa Lanc. recepti fuerunt in Fraternitatem Gildæ die Sab. prox. ante festum S. Lucae Evang. anno regni Regis R. 2. post Conq. Angliae, secundo. D. Joh. de Arundell & D. Alianora consors sua recepti fuerunt in Gildam 4. die mensis Nov. Anno D. 1379. *Joh. Beauchamp. & Johanna ux. ejus. Joh. Drax Serjaunt de Armis. D. Joh. Holland Dux de Exon. & D. Isabella Ducissa. Joh. Holland miles & D. Eliz. ux. ejus. Joh. filius & frater Regum,*

Dux

Dux Redfordiæ, Comes de Richemund & de Kendale & Constabularius Angliæ. Isabella Comitissa Warwici, Katerina Ducissa Lanc. D. Ric. Comes Arundell, & ux. ejus.

Die Merc. prox. post festum annunc. S. Mariae Anno M. CCCLXXVI.

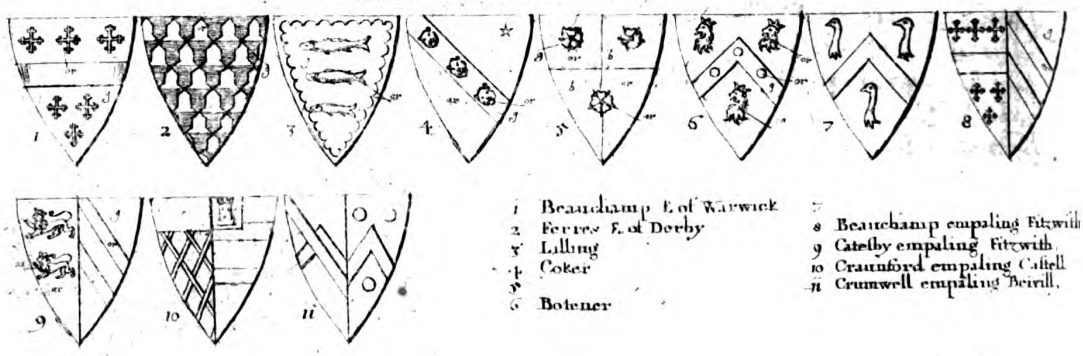
D. Reg. de Clarindon miles, filius excell. Domini nostri Principis Walliae. D. Rob. Stretton Episc. Lich. D. Regin. Grey dominus de Ruthyn & de Wayesford. Tho. Beauchamp miles, & ux. Tho. Arundell Archiep. Cant. Henr. de Ardern. miles, D. Job. Clinton miles et ux. ejus. D. Tho. Lancastriae, filius illustr. Regis H. 4. locum-tenens Hiberniae. Will. de Burgh. Justic. Domini Regis, et Margar. ux. ejus. D. Will. la Zouch miles et Eliz. ux. ejus. D. Umfridus filius illustr. Regis H. 4. Dux Glouc. D. Humfr. Comes Staffordiae, with a Multitude more from all Parts.

And it is observed, that the annnall Master of this *Gild*, was he that had been Mayor the Year before; who, during his Continuance in that Office, sate next to the Mayor in all publique Meetings. The Oath of which Master I have likewise here inserted.

I shall be good and true to the Brethren and Sistern of the Trinity-Gild, S. Mary, S. John, and S. Katherine of Coventre; and all lawfull points and Ordinances of this place, afore this time ordeyned truly to kepe to my power; and in especiall all the ordinances that been or shall be the generall days ordayned, truly kepe and observe. Also I shall truly receive, and true accompt yeild, as well of my receipts, as of all other things that longen to the Master of this Gild; and the arrerage of my accompt, if any be, truly pay or I depart from my accompt; and all other things truly doe that longen to the office of the said Master; So help me God and all Saints. Also I shall once before Candlemas next coming, with 6. or 4. Brethren of this Yield, oversee all the tenements of the same Yeld.

Upon the Survey taken in 26 *H.* 8. it appears, that Mr. *Rob. Glesmond*, being then Warden of this Colledge of *Babbelake* (for by that Name it was then called) had viii *l. per Ann.* Stipend; and that there were 7 Priests more, which had iiii*l.* xiii*s.* iiii*d. per Ann.* a-peice for their Salary. But in 37 *H.* 8. upon the Survey then taken, I find, that the Revenue of all the Lands belonging to the said *Gild* amounted to Cxi*l.* xiii*s.* 8*d.* out of which *(inter alia)* was then paid 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d. per Ann.* to a certain Priest called the Warden of the Chappel of *Babbelake:* And to eight other Priests celebrating Divine Service there, 37*l.* 6*s.* 8*d. per Ann.* To the Master of a Grammar-School there 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d. per Ann.* To two Clerks singing there 8*l. per Ann.* To two Boys also singing there 2*l. per Ann.* To divers poor Men which had formerly been Brethren of the said *Gild* 10*l.* in Money according to the antient Use. To *Tho. Gregory* Clerk-Controuler of the same *Gild*, 6*l. per Ann.* And every Priest having likewise a Chamber within the Precinct of the same *Babbelake*, worth 4*s. per Ann.* a-peice.

Bablake
In the Church these Armes



Bond's Almes-Houses.

HERE was moreover within this Place of *Babbelake* an Almes-House founded by one *Thomas Bond* (a rich Merchant of *Coventre)* wherein, at the Time of the said Survey, were ten poor Men and one Woman kept, to pray for the Souls of the said *Tho. Bond*, his Grandfather, Father, and all Christian Souls: All which were at that Time maintained at the Charge of *Tho. Bond*, Grandchild to the said *Thomas*, by whose last Will the said Almes-House was to have been built, and such Poor maintained, with a Priest; and to that End, certain Lands put in Feoffees Hands, of 49*l.* 11*s.* 7*d. per Ann.* Value: Out of which was paid to those poor People every Saturday 6*s.* 8*d.* which amounted to 17*l.* 6*s.* 8*d. per Ann.* To the Priest celebrating Divine Service, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d. per Ann.* and 20*s.* for a Gown. *In toto* 14*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

For 38 Yards of black Cloth, to make Gowns for the said poor Men *per Ann.* 3*l.* 16*s.* 0*d.* In Alms given to the Poor yearly, 13*s.* 4*d.* For 20 Load of Wood yearly for the said poor People 1*l.* 3*s.* 4*d. per Ann.* For the Bayliffs Fee, 2*l. per Ann. In toto* xliii*l.* viii*s.* xi*d. ob.*

But this being dissolved by Act of Parl. (as all other *Chantryes, Gilds,* and the like Fraternities were) in 1 *E.* 6. (I mean what belong'd to the *Gild*) was by the K. Letters Pat. dated 12 *Dec.* 2 *E.* 6. granted unto the Bayliffs and Commonalty of this City, and their Successors, to hold in Burgage by the Service of 1 *d. per Ann.*

Touching which Almes-House, I shall further adde, in Memorial of the said *Tho. Bond*, and other its Benefactors, the Inscription upon the Walls thereof.

This Hospitall was founded A. D. 1506. by Mr Tho. Bond, Draper, sometime Mayor and Alderman of this City, for ten men and one woman: who gave certein lands for maynteinance thereof, which his son John Bond continued during his life. But Tho. the son of John, claimed those lands as his own; whereupon the City sued him in Chancery, and had a Decree against him, which cost them a great sum of money for certein lands valued then at 20l. per Ann. In the seventh year of K. James, the said lands were questioned as concealed from the Crown: which lands and tenements the City were enforc't againe to purchase of the K. to their very great cost and expences. Notwithstanding, the Citty have continued the charitable uses as formerly: And as the lands have been improved, so hath the maintenance of the old men been bettered, and each mans place is now worth eleven pounds by the year.

Mr. Sim. Norton, Draper, Mayor and Alderman of this City, An. D. 1641. gave 300 marks for and towards the Maynteinance of one man, and one boy

boy, in this Hospitall of Babbelake, and one man and woman in Gray-Friers-Hospitall; which man and boy are accordingly placed in this House; and the Citty at their own charge makes their Maynteinance equall with the rest of the Hospitall-men and boys.

In the year 1560. this Hospitall for Boys was first erected in the place where now it is, being a House of the Cittyes; and was for some years mainteyned by the Citty, and the charity of well disposed people, of Cittizens and Strangers, till Mr Wheatly in An. 1566. setled some lands towards the Maynteinance thereof; and other Benefactors since have given, in all, with his gift, about 96 l. per Ann. Which being not sufficient to maynteine xxi Boyes, and a Nurse, and place them out Apprentices, the Citty doth make up the rest, being above 40 l. a year, one year with another.

Corpus-Christi-Gild. } In Mill-Lane.

THIS *Gild* was founded in 22 *E.* 3. by *Rob. Chaundos*, *John de Wynwik*, Clerk, *John de Wyndsore*, *John de Weston*, *Tho. Chaloner*, *Will. Prest*, *Henry de Bussebу*, *Nich. le Hunt*, *John Prest*, *Will. de Teynton*, *Gilb. de Paltency*, *John Russell*, Sen. *Ric. le Gonere*, *John de Busheley*, *Rog. de Tuwe*, *Nich. Floutere*, *Ric. Coupere*, *Peter Percy*, and *Nich. Pake*, in Honour of the Body and Blood of our blessed Saviour, for one Priest to sing Mass daily for the good Estate of the same King *E.* and of the said *Rob. John*, *&c.* above specified, during their Lives in this World, and for their Souls afterwards, as also of all the Faithfull deceased. Unto which, *John Scardeburgh* of *Coventre*, *John Wedon*, and divers others, granted 29 Mess. and a Half, 8 Acres of Land, and 18 *d.* yearly Rent, all lying in *Coventre*, in 15 *R.* 2. The Lands and Tenements belonging whereunto, were, by the Survey taken in 37 *H.* 8. certified to be yearly worth 36 *l.* 10 *s.* 8 *d.* Out of which was annually paid to 4 Priests performing Divine Service in the Churches of the Holy *Trinity* and S. *Mich. viz.* to each of them 4 *l.* a peice. *In toto* 16 *l.* To poor People, such as had formerly been of this Fraternity, C *s. per Ann.* And in *obits* yearly, C *s*

Of this *Gild* was Prince *Edw.* a Brother, being so admitted 18 *E.* 4. as he was also of *Trinity-Gild* before mentioned.

Sheremen and Taylors Gild. } adjoining to *Gosford-Gate* in S. *George* his Chappel, as is said.

THERE was yet one *Gild* more, *viz.* of the *Sheremen* and *Taylors*, founded (it seems) in *R.* 2. Time, to the Honour of *Christs Nativity*. Which K. gave them License to purchase Lands in this City, of 8 Marks *per Ann.* Value, to find a Priest to sing Mass every Day, for the Souls of the Founders thereof, and all the Faithfull deceased. Whereunto K. *H.* 6. in 17 of his Reign, added his License for their purchasing of more Lands to the Value of x Marks *per Ann.* and that they should choose 4 Men of their Fraternity, yearly, at the Feast of the *Nativity* of our Lord, to be Masters or Governours of the same; and to have a Common Seal; as also Power to plead in any of the Kings Courts as a Body Corporate.

From which *Gilds* or Fraternities there is no Doubt but divers Companies in the Cities and Corporations through *England*, took their first Patterns for obtaining such Priviledges and Immunities as at this Day they enjoy.

And now that these Citizens had thus associated themselves into the several Fraternities before mentioned, they began to have an Opinion, that if any more such *Gilds* were allowed in this Place, they might receive some Inconvenience thereby: And therefore, in 1 *H.* 5. procured a Declaratory Patent from the K. that thenceforth there should not be any new *Gild* erected. But the young People, *viz.* Journeymen of several Trades, observing what merry Meetings and Feasts their Masters had, by being of those Fraternities, and that they themselves wanted the

the like Pleasure; did of their own Accord assemble together in several Places of the City, and especially in S. *George*'s Chappel near *Gosford*-Gate; which occasioned the Mayor and his Brethren, in 3 *H.* 6. to complain thereof to the King; alledging, that the said Journeymen, in these their unlawfull Meetings, called themselves S. *George* his *Gild*, to the Intent that they might maintain and abet one another in Quarrels; and for their better Conjunction had made Choyse of a Master, with Clerks and Officers, to the great Contempt of the K. Authority, Prejudice of the other *Gilds* (*viz.* the Holy *Trin.* and *Corp. Christi*) and Disturbance of the City. Whereupon the K. directed his Writ to the Mayor and Justices, with the Bayliffs of this City, commanding them by Proclamation to prohibite any more such Meetings.

HAVING thus taken Notice of all that is, or hath been within the Walls, which is worth Observation, I come to the Suburbs, where I find nothing considerable but the Chappel or Hospital of *Sponne*, on the West Part of this City. This Hospital was founded in *H.* 2. Time by *Hugh Keveliok*, E. of *Chester*; who, having a certain Knight of his Houshold, called *Will. de Auney*, a Leper, gave in pure Alms for the Health of his Soul, and the Souls of his Ancestors, his Chappel here at *Sponne*, with the Site thereof; and Half a Carucat of Land thereto belonging, for the Maintenance of such Lepers as should happen to be in the Town of *Coventre*. In which Chappel was antiently one Priest at least, to celebrate Divine Service for the Living and the Dead. And with him had also wont to be certain Brethren and Sisters, together with the Lepers, praying to God for the good Estate of all their Benefactors.

But this Hospital, upon the Grant of the Mannour of *Coventre* to the Monks, in 34 *H.* 3. by *Rog. de Montalt* and *Cecily* his Wife, was (*inter alia*) reserved to the said *Roger* and *Cecily*, and their Heirs; which *Cecily* had *Coventre* by Inheritance from those Earls. And in the Release made to the said Monks of the Premisses, by her the said *Cecily*, in her Widowhood, is said to have been sometime belonging to the Abby of *Basingwerk* in *Flintsh.* But clear it is, that the Monks shortly after appropriated it to their own Use, though they held it not so very long: For I find, that it came at length to the Crown, together with the Mannour of *Cheylesmore*; and therein continued till 14 *E.* 4. But then did the K. pass it away to the Canons of *Studley* in this County, and their Successors, by the Name of *Libera Capella S. Mariæ Magd. apud Sponne juxta Coventre*, with lal the Lands, Tenements, *&c.* thereto belonging, in pure Alms, to pray for the good Estate of him the said K. and of Q. *Eliz.* his Consort, *Edw.* his eldest Son, Pr. of *Wales*, D. of *Cornwall*, *&c.* during their natural Lives, and for their Souls afterwards. As also for the Soul of *Ric.* late D. of *York* (the said K. Father) and all his Progenitors.

The Arch - Deaconry of Coventre.

AND now before I leave this City, I may not omit to observe, that so much of *Warwicksh.* as is within the Diocess of *Cov.* and *Lich.* is called the *Arch-deaconry* of *Coventry*, by Reason that the Bishops for a long Time seating themselves in *Staffordsh.* have constantly assigned some eminent and grave Divine to reside here, to superintend the Clergy of these Parts in their Stead; who hath made his Visitations Annually according to antient Custome for that Purpose, and been stiled the *Arch-deacon* of *Coventre*. As for the Title of *Arch-deacon*, it is of no less Antiquity than the primitive Times of Christianity; the Use then being, that the Deacons did elect out of themselves, one whom they knew to be most eminent for his Industry, and gave him that Title: Howbeit of late Years, he

he who was more grave and prudent than the reſt, hath commonly been advanced to that Place. But before I proceed to ſpeak of the particular *Arch-deacons* here, it will not be amiſs to ſay ſomething in a more ſpecial Manner of the Office; foraſmuch as what hath appertain'd thereto, is not very commonly known. I ſhall therefore tranſcribe the Subſtance of what I have met with, from a very good Authority and no leſs antient than *H.* 8. Time.

Inſtructions for my Lord Privey-Seall concerning the Biſhop of Lincolne, **and his Archd. touching the Biſhop his demand of** *Preſtations.*

What apperteynith to th' office of an Arch-deacon, and whereupon his revenewſe, and what heretofore hath thereunto appertayned.

Procurations. *Fines of Teſtaments.*
Sinodals. *Vacations of Benefices.*
Peter-pens. *Inſtallations of Abbots.*
Penſions or Indemnities.

PROCURATIONS **be dewe for viſitation. Th' arch-deacon is bownde yerely to viſite all his Arch-deaconry thoroweoute; then to enquire of all crimes and miſgovernance of the people, as well the Clergie as the lafee, by Church wardens and other; and to reforme whatſoever they finde otherwiſe then well, other committede haynouſly againſt the Lawes of God, or th' ordinance of the Prince for a quiet Common-wele, diſſonant to Gods lawes, to Mans-lawes, and politique order of the worlde; to reforme the ſame, other by godly perſuaſion and good advice, by commination, or by paynes and penalties, according to the humility and umble ſubjection of the offender, and repentans of his offens. For this his viſitation he hath Procurations.**

Sinodales.

SINODALLS *be dewe for the ſame kept at Eſter by th' Arch-deacon, or his officers; calling together the Parſons, the Vicars, and Pariſh Prieſts, diligently enquiring if every of the ſame doe and have done their dewties accordingly to the Lawes of God, Lawes of the Prince eſtabliſhed, and th' ordinance of the Churche accuſtomede; and have godely and diligently miniſteredè all Sacraments and Sacramentals to their pariſhioners at Eſter then paſt, and ſoe the yere before. For this kinde of Viſitation* Sinodals *be dewe to the Arch-deacon wiche the Biſhope wolde now in any wiſe have, becauſe of a* Decretale *that ſaith,* quod Epiſcopo debentur Sinodalia, *and for that Text. Now wolde the Biſhope turne from his* Peter-pens, *calling them* Preſtations *or* Penſions, *and wolde have them now dewe for* Sinodalls, *wiche the Arch-deacons have had and enjoyed this* 3. 6. 8. *hundrethe yeres, without let, interruption, or contradiction of any Biſhope. My* Sinodals *be not xix l. by yere, and yet muſt I give to my Official* 5 *marks fee yerely, and as much to my Regiſter, and alſo bere their coſts yearly in riding to the ſene,* 4 *or* 5*l. ſo have not I xl. clear for my* Sinodals. *But put the caſe that theſe* Sinodals *were the Biſhops, yet wherefore ſhould I be bounde to gather his* Sinodals; *or why ſhould I give* 20 *nobles fee to my officers to ſerve him, and to be his Collector.* Dicat Apollo.

Peter-pens.

ALL *Arch-deacons of England gathered* Peter-pens *of every Fyer-houſhold within every pariſh one penye, which were granted eight hundred yeres paſt by K.* Hyvo *and aftir confyrmed by* Inas, *then by* Offa Rex Marchiorum, *by* Arnulphus, *and other moe ſo following, and by K.* John *for his time. Aftir ſome antique Authors they were granted for a yerely Preſt, or a perpetuall yerely ſubſidy.* Epiſcopo Romano præſtabantur in ſubſidium, *ſaith divers Authors. Others ſay they were given to a Scole in* Rome, *to the mayntenance of Inglifh Scolars there, as* Fabian *and* Guido, *with other: But now th' Arch-deacons, after thes pens gathered, paid the ſame in part or all to the Collector of* Rome, *ſaving the Arch-deacon of* Lincolne *and* Sarum; *theſe*

payd the pens gathered to the Bishop, the B. payd to the Collector, and had his acquittance by the name of Peter-pens. *Th' Arch-deacons had their acquittance of the B. by the name of* Prestation-*money; so the B. of* Lincolne *payd, but he gathered none: Th' Arch-decon gathered and payd, not to the Collector, but only to the B. Soe finally, seing the B. never gathered* Peter-pens, *and yet payd them to the Collectors every yere, and th' Arch-decons gathered them yerely, and payd none to the Collector, but only to the B. what should the B. his demaunde other be then for* Peter-pens.

To prove that this worde Prestation *is very* Peter-pens, *hit is to manifestly declared in the B. of* Rome *his own lawe, in an Epistle-decretall send* Episcopo Cantuar. & suffraganeis suis. *The B. of* Lincolne, *is one of his Suffragans, and perchance it was ment for him that was then B. of* Lincolne, *if he were as nigh scrapyng as the B. that now ys at this present time.* Textus est in capitulo de Censibus, *in the Decretals,* ea quæ de avaritia verba sunt hæc. Ne gravetis parochias & ecclesia. vestras propter visitationem beati Petris cum fecerit is collectam denariorum, Glossator Bernardus, *one of the B. of* Rome *his Secretaryes, expoundeth* hoc verbum Collectam. Collecta, inquit, est præstatio quædam, quam Angliei solvunt ecclesiæ Romanæ, & debet esse moderata, &c. *Soe the* Prestations *is taken for* Peter-pens *in the B. of* Rome *his own law.*

Pensions or Indemnityes.

BE *these, when a Church is improprede to an Abbeye or College, then the Arch-deacon for ever lesyth his Induction-money; and in recompence of that, he shall have yerely out of the said Benefice soe improperede xii d. or ii s. for an yerely pension, more or lesse, as hit is agreed at the tyme of the impropriation. And this money is callid* Pensions, *or* Indemnityes: *And like as the Arch-decon* conservatur indempnis, *by this his yerely pension payd in the liew of the Induction, even soe* Episcopus conservatur indempnis, *and hath a like* Pension *for his indemnitye in the liew of his Institution, which he likewise calleth his* Pension.

The first that I meet with, who was honoured with this Office of *Arch-deacon,* is *Ric. Peche*, Son of *Rob. Peche,* B. of *Coventre,* in *H.* 1. Time, and advanc'd to be *Arch-deacon* by his said Father: Which *Ric.* afterwards became B. also of *Cov.* in *H.* 2. Time, upon the Decease of *Walt. Durdent*; but being a very devout Man, and Founder of the Monastery of S. *Thomas* near *Stafford,* when he grew aged he left his Bishoprick, and took upon him the Habit of a *Canon-Regular* in that Religious House, where he departed this Life, and was buryed.

The next, though not his immediate Successor that I find, was a Man, who became afterwards very eminent, *viz. Will. de Kilkenny,* being afterwards for a Time Chancelour of *England,* and also B. of *Ely. Homo egregiâ corporis formâ præditus; facundus, prudens, & legum municipalium admodum peritus,* saith *Godwyn.* He dyed on the Feast-Day of S. *Mathew* the Apostle, *An.* 1256. 4 *H.* 3. being then in Spain Embassadour; but his Heart he appointed to be buryed in *Ely.*

His immediate Successor, as I believe, for he was *Arch-deacon* in 3 *Joh.* was a Man extraordinary famous for his Learning, and a great Divine, whose Memory is yet very pretious in our Universities, *viz. Alexander de Hales*; a Catalogue of whose learned Works are to be seen *in Balæus de Script. Britannicis.*

This *Alex.* in his Age became a Frier at the *Corde-liers* in Paris; where, departing this Life, he was buryed near the Steps ascending to the Quire; and hath over his Grave a Monument of black Marble, about 2 Foot in Height from the Ground, with this Inscription engraven upon it.

R. P.
ALEXANDRI DE ALES,
Doctoris irrefragabilis, quondam
Sanctorum Thomæ Aquinatis, &
Bona-

Bonaventuræ preceptoris
Epitaphium.

Clauditur hoc ſaxo ſamam ſortitus abundè
Gloria Doctorum, decus & flos Philoſophorum,
Auctor Scriptorum vir Alexander variorum,
Norma modernorum: fons veri, lux aliorum,
Inclitus Anglorum fuit Archilevita; ſed horum
Spretor cunctorum frater collega Minorum
Factus egenorum, ſit Doctor primus eorum.
Obiit A. D. 1245. *Calend Septembris* 12.
Si quis honos meritis, ſi quis virtute coluntur,
Hunc animo præfer, hunc venerare Patrem.

As for his Succeſſors, I dare not undertake to exhibit a perfect Catalogue of them: Yet of ſuch for whom any good Authority hath appeared to me, I have added their Names.

Patroni.	Archidiac. Coventriæ.
	Hugo de Mariſco, Cler. 5 *Id Julii,* 1349.
	Will. Croſſe, 3 *Non. Oct.* 1351.
	Joh. de Pipe, Pbr. 11 *Cal. Oct.* 1358.
	Will. Lambe, Pbr. poſt reſign. Will. Bermyngham, 1 *Dec.* 1369.
	Rob. Stretton, 5 *Cal. Jan.* 1369.
	Rob. de Oxton, Cler. 20 *Junii,* 1408.
	Rob. Eſple, Art. Magr. poſt mortem Joh. Heyworth, 22 *Maii,* 1433.
	Rog. Wall. Cler. penult. Junii, 1442.
	Joh. Blythe, ſcolar. Univerſit Pariſ. per reſign. Rad. Colingwood, 2 *Oct.* 1510.
Rob. Co. Leic. hac vice patronus.	*Will. James, S. Theol. Profeſſor, poſt mortem Tho. Lewes,* 27 *Aug.* 1577.
Will. Awbrey, L. Dr. & Arth. Aly, in Art. Magr. hac vice.	*Will. Hinton, S. Theol. Bac.* 4 *Nov.* 1584.
Epiſc. Cov. & Lich.	*Sam. Brooke, S. Theol. Profeſſor,* 13 *Maii,* 1635.
	Rad Brownrigge, S. Theol. Profeſſor, 29 *Sept.* 1631.

Upon the Survey [k] made in 26 *H.* 8. this Dignity was certified to be worth xlv. *l.* ix *s.* *per Ann. viz.* in *Penſions, Procurations,* and *Sinodals.*

Out of the Deanry of	*Coventre,* 9 *l.* 12 *s.* 4 *d.*	*per Ann.*
	Marton, 10 *l* 11 *s.* 0 *d.*	
	Stonley, 11 *l.* 00 *s.* 2 *d.*	
	Arden, 14 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.*	

And as the ſeveral Particulars, whereof I have already ſpoke, have added no ſmall Honour to this City, ſo is it alſo famous for having been the Birth-Place to one of our moſt eminent Hiſtorians; of whom I ſhall here repeat what *Balæus* ſpeaketh.

Gualterus Coventrienſis *immortali vir dignus memoriâ, in eadem celebri Warwicenſis comitatus urbe, & natus, & educatus, ab honeſtis illic civibus originem duxit. Operam bonis literis ſedulam admodum Oxonii impendebat, ubi gratiſſimum fuit optimarum diſciplinarum emporium. Illuſtria ejus acta accuratè, ſed ſparſim, à diligentiſſimo* Lelando, *chartis præcipue hiſtoricis, commendata ſunt. Eo etenim teſte, hiſtoriam eſt magno aggreſſus animo, quam etiam inchoatam ab origine Britannorum, ad ſua tempora, Ann. viz. Dom.* 1226. *majoribus animis deduxit. Secutus eſt autem hos potiſſimùm authores Anglos,* Galfridum Monumetenſem, Rog. Hovedenum, & Henr. Huntingdonium; *ita tamen ut multa addiderit non ſine fide, quæ nuſpiam apud illos leguntur. Unum certè defuit homini, alios qui claro: nam quamquam fide, & lucido ordine nuſquam, jacundiâ tamen ſæpiuſculè deſtitutus erat. Quod non authoris, ſed ætatis potius vitium fuit. Unde compoſuit* Gualterus.

Chron. Britann. *Lib.* 1.
Anglo-Sax. Chron. *Lib.* 1.
Annales Angl. *Lib.* 1.

Et alia quædam edidit, ut ex honeſtis atque Chriſtianis ſtudiis, apud poſteritatem ſemper ejus viveret nomen. Vixit varia componens & ſcribens, regnantibus Joanne & Henrico *tertio illius filio, Anglorum regibus.*

F I N I S

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