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ARCHBISHOP WARHAM'S LETTERS.

(FROM H. M. STATE PAPER OFFICE.)

THE following Letters, now for the first time published entire, may serve to throw light on the history of a man who owes more of his eminence to the friendship of Erasmus, and the reputed jealousy of Cardinal Wolsey, than to the capability and vigour with which he played his part in a stirring and momentous time.

William Warham was educated successively at Winchester, and New College in Oxford. Devoting himself to the study of the law, he practised in the Court of Arches, was made Master of the Rolls February 13, 1494-5, Keeper of the Great Seal August 11, 1502, and Lord Chancellor in the following January. When that idlest of all political vaudevilles—Peterkin Warbeck—(idle but for its possible tragical ending in “bloody noses and cracked crowns”) was being played out, Warham was despatched with others into Flanders on a mission of remonstrance; with small success on the first occasion, with so much satisfaction to himself and his employers on the second, that on the death of Archbishop Dean in 1504, Warham was nominated his successor in the See of Canterbury. His enthronization feast on that occasion is celebrated as the very pattern of sumptuousness and good eating even in those days, when as yet dyspepsia was not, and men's appetites were upon the same scale as those of the Homeric heroes. In 1515 he resigned, or, as some say (trusting too much to that lying varlet Polydore Vergil), was compelled to

give up the Chancellorship to his more popular rival Cardinal Wolsey. The Legatine authority of the latter brought him more than once into collision with the Archbishop in ecclesiastical causes, of which traces will be found in the following Letters.<sup>1</sup> He died two years after his more eminent and successful rival, August 23, 1532, leaving the Duke of Norfolk one of his executors.

Our readers will search in vain among the letters for any confirmation of the ridiculous anecdote retailed by Polydore Vergil, tracing to an undue familiarity on the part of Warham, and the application of the term "brother" in one of his letters to the Cardinal, a violent outbreak of Wolsey's animosity. On the contrary, these letters are as grimly civil as any letters can be. One of them, and one only (No. 22), affords some indication of that crabbedness which has concentrated in popular estimation round Warham's name and fame. His correspondence with Erasmus shows him in somewhat more lively colours. He could unbend his gaunt dignity with this prince of Latin humorists in puns and jokes suited to the walls of Lambeth. In one of his letters to the Archbishop, Erasmus complains that there was in his time a set of "fellows of such vinegar aspect," who could not tolerate laughter in a respectable quarter; or suffer anything but gravity beneath lawn-sleeves and ermine. "Why (says Erasmus to him on one occasion<sup>2</sup>) should it be considered derogatory for men in high positions in the State if they refresh their minds with a joke, when fatigued with the cares of office? Jupiter himself, the 'father of gods and men,' laughs in Hesiod." A sentiment so illiberal is fit only for the mouths of unenlightened monks or ascetical friars. And although from the correspondence which is here published we should not be apt to accuse Warham of the sin of punning, or being extra-officially funny, we are tempted to

<sup>1</sup> See No. 8.

<sup>2</sup> XII. 57.

lay before our readers the following extract from one of his letters to Erasmus, which shows that he could occasionally unbend and follow the suggestion of his eminent contemporary. It is addressed to Erasmus, at that time suffering from his old complaint, a fit of the stone. "My dear Erasmus, what have you to do with rocks and stones in that small frame of yours? Or what is to be built on that rock? [An unarchiepiscopal and somewhat profane allusion to the words of the New Testament.] You are not going to erect magnificent houses, or anything of the sort, I imagine. Since then *calculi* are not to your taste [Erasmus was not a first-rate accountant], get rid of your superfluous load as soon as you can. Pay money to have those stones removed, as I am daily paying money to have stones removed to my buildings [at Otford]." And more in the same strain, which whoso wishes to follow to the close, may find in the collection of Erasmus's Letters (Lond. fol. 1642).

Before closing these remarks, however, we are tempted to extract a passage from one of Erasmus's letters to Warham, to show the terms on which they lived. The latter might have exclaimed, in the words of Sir John, "I am not only witty myself, but the cause of wit in other men." And the genuine humour of Erasmus may well be contrasted with the somewhat forced conceits of his dignified correspondent. The Archbishop, it seems, had sent him a horse, not unlike to that which carried Sterne's Eugenius. No doubt, like other Archbishops, Warham had had experience of many curates and their needs, and, in a fit of abstraction apparently, to which great men and archbishops are liable, had sent Erasmus a curate's horse. Our witty Rotterodamite never having heard of our English proverb, thus writes to acknowledge the gift:—"I have received a horse from you, not so handsome as virtuous [our readers will

remember the eulogy of Rosinante]; he is free from all the mortal sins, save gluttony and incorrigible laziness (*gula et acedia*). He has all the virtues of a good confessor,—pious, prudent, humble, modest, sober, chaste, and quiet; he bites nobody; he never kicks. I suspect there has been some roguery, and another horse has been sent me in the stead of what you intended. I have given no directions to my groom; only if a handsomer and better one comes, he may change the saddle and bridle.” The result of this witty appeal, like many other equally interesting things, is lost in oblivion; either there was no record repository in those days, or such letters and documents were exchanged for some more valuable consideration.

1. ARCHBISHOP WARHAM TO THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM  
[EDWARD STAFFORD].

(Regrets that the Duke cannot come on Tuesday next, but has put off his visit till after Whitsuntide: must at that time be at Maidstone, to reform the College there. Would not for five hundred marks that *the matter intended* should take none effect.)

My singular good lorde, in my mooste hertie wise, I recomende me to your good lordeship. Ascertynyng the same that I have receved yo<sup>r</sup> kynde and loving lettres writen the seconde day of this instant moneth, by the which I perceve that by suche infortune that yo<sup>r</sup> Lordeship writeth of, ye may not be at Otforde on Tuesday next commyng, wherof I am right sorry, and specially of suche infortune as shuld put yo<sup>r</sup> good lordeship to any bodily payne or displeasir. And wher as yo<sup>r</sup> lordeship writeth that ye have differred this journey til aft<sup>r</sup> Whitsontide for the cause aforesaid, my lorde, I would be as glad as any man to see yo<sup>r</sup> good lordeship at my power lodging at Otforde, at any tyme at yo<sup>r</sup> lordeshippe's pleasir; but so it is that I have appointed the next day<sup>1</sup> aft<sup>r</sup> the Nativitie of Sancte (*sic*) of Baptiste next commyng, to remove from hens to Maideston, for diverse and many causes concernyng the reformation

<sup>1</sup> June 25th.

of the college ther, and also for other causes concernyng the reformation of certeyne religiose places within my diocese, for whose apparence I have sent oute citations, which I can not conveniently revoke. Wherfor thies premisses considered, I hertily beseche yo<sup>r</sup> good lordeship that I may understand yo<sup>r</sup> pleasir and mynde at what tyme it may please yo<sup>r</sup> lordeship to take the peyne to be at my power place at Otforde. My lorde, I had levyr lose v<sup>e</sup> marke than the matir that is intended shuld take none effecte, for diverse and many considerations which wer to long to write. Almighty God knoweth best my mynde in this behalve, which ever preserve yo<sup>r</sup> good Lordeship. At Otforde, the thirde day of Juing, [1519?]

Ever yo<sup>r</sup> owne

WILL<sup>A</sup>M CANTAR.

*Indorsed*: To my lorde of Bukkingham is good lordeship.

## 2. FROM THE SAME TO CARDINAL WOLSEY.

(On the coming of the Emperor Charles V., and his entertainment at Canterbury.)

After moost humble comendations I thank yo<sup>r</sup> good grace as hertly as I can, that it hath pleaced the same to advertise me of the established and certayne determination of the temporours maiestie for his repaire to the Kinges moost noble grace, and of the Kinges grace giefte for the meting of the temporoure at Cauntrebury, and for the deducting of his Maieste to Wychester. My Lord, I am verey muche bownd to yo<sup>r</sup> good grace for the manifold tokyns of greate favors and kindnes, whiche I fynd dayly more and more encesse in yo<sup>r</sup> grace towards me, for whiche, if I were able to do yo<sup>r</sup> grace pleasure agayne, I were far unkynd if I wold not bee very diligent, redy, and glad to do it. And sory I am that I can not bee at Cauntrebury, to gyve yo<sup>r</sup> grace attendance, and do my duety acordingly at yo<sup>r</sup> gracs comyng thither, whiche I assuer yo<sup>r</sup> grace I wold not failed to have doen, if I had not been diseased now of late, whereof I am not yet holy deliverd. Notw<sup>t</sup>standing I trust in Good, that by that tyme that I have doen my duety to the Kinge grace at my power house at Otford, I shalbe able furthw<sup>t</sup>

to jorney to Cauntrebury spedily, there to receyve the Kinges grace and themporour in my Cathedral church. If there bee any thyng in thoes parties apperteynyng to me, whiche may bee to yo<sup>r</sup> gracis pleasire, I desire yo<sup>r</sup> grace to use it as ye wold yo<sup>r</sup> owne. From Otford, the xviii<sup>th</sup> day of May [1522].

At your good grace comaundement,

WILL<sup>A</sup>M CANTUAR.

*Indorsed*: To the moost Reverende father in God, and my singular good Lord, my Lord Cardinal of York and legate de latere good grace.

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### 3. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Of the committal of a priest named Bradshaw, for pulling down certain writings and seals set up in the abbey of Boxley, by order of the Pope, against "the ill opinions of Martin Luther.")

Pleace it yo<sup>r</sup> good grace to understand that a certaine preest, called S<sup>r</sup> Adam Bradshawe, whom I send now unto yo<sup>r</sup> good Lordship, was put into prison at Maidestone for his great presumption in pulling downe and breking of suche writings and seales as were set up at thabbey of Boxley against the yl opinions of Martine Luther. Whiche preest, being thus in prison, hath writen and caused to bee cast into the highe strete at Maidestone verie sedicous billes against the Kinges grace moost honorable counsail and other estates of this realme (as I am informed). And because his offense in that behalve is of more weyght than the pulling downe and breking of the said writings and seales, I send him to your grace to bee ordered ferther as ye shall think good. I understand that the keper of my prison at Maidestone hath deliverd the said sedicous billes to S<sup>r</sup> Henrie Gilford, by the whiche billes yo<sup>r</sup> grace may more specially perceyve the said preestes malicious and sedicious mynde. As toching the pulling downe and breking of the said writings and seales which were set up at the popis holines comaundement and by yo<sup>r</sup> grace auctorite and under my seale, it may pleace yo<sup>r</sup> lordship to punisse him therefor, if he escape the other dainger, or els it may please yo<sup>r</sup> grace to remitt him to bee punished by me. This preest hath been

diverse tymes before this in prison, bothe at Cales and in other places of this realme, whiche also now at his last taking hath hurt one other preest and put him in dainger of his lif. I have examned this preest in al thes matiers, whiche in effect wol confesse nothing to me, but referreth himself to the bylles, and said he wold aunswere to thaim when he myght see thaim ; and he denieth the pulling downe of the said writinges and seales, whiche matier, at my going to Caunterburie, when I com to Maidestone I wol more ripely examine, and send yo<sup>r</sup> good grace more knowlege thereof. At my manor of Otford, the xvj<sup>th</sup> day of Juny [1522].

At yo<sup>r</sup> gracis commaundement,

WILL<sup>A</sup>M CANTUAR.

*Addressed :* To the mooste reverende father in Godde, and my singuler good lord, my lord cardinal and legate a latcre is good lordships.

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#### 4. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Protesting against stabling the King's horses in the monastery of Christchurch.)

Pleace it yo<sup>r</sup> moost honorable grace to understand that I hiresay by reoport, that a servaunt of the Kinges grace is come to Canturbery at the commaundement of the Kinges Counsell (as he saith) to have stabilling for the Kinges horses, to be kept at lyvery w<sup>t</sup>in the monastery of my Church of Canturbery, shewing no letters of the Kinges grace, or other writinges declaring the said commaundement. Suer I am that the Kinges hieghnes and yo<sup>r</sup> grace, well enformed of the great charges that the said monastery hath ben and moost daily be put unto, wolbe well contented to spare the same frome any suche maner extraordinary charges. For the said monastery hath been so burdend w<sup>t</sup> receyving and intertaynyng bothe of the Kinges graces moost noble ambasitors and other princes, and of other honorable personages passing by that way, beside the Kinges grace and thEmperor's late being ther, besyde also fynding of men to war, above gret subsidies and great loneyes, that if suche charges or other lyke shuld contynue, the same mought after



be utterly decayed, which I wold be very lothe to see in my tyme. And I trust verely that yo<sup>r</sup> grace, for the gret devotion that yo<sup>r</sup> grace oweth to Christes Church and to the blessed matir<sup>1</sup> Sainct Thomas, wolbe contented of yo<sup>r</sup> goodnes to putt some remedy that noo suche newe charges be enduced; but wilbe so gracious to yo<sup>r</sup> religiouse bedemen there, as to discharge thayme therof, specially wher the said monastery standyth far of frome the Kinges grace contynuall abode, to kepe any lyvery of horse commodiously for the Kinges grace use; and also bicause it was never seen hertofor that any suche lyvery hathe been kept in the said monastery by the Kinges graces dayes or any of his noble progenitors. I beseche God to send yo<sup>r</sup> grace as good helthe and as gret honor in yo<sup>r</sup> jorney, boothe going and commyng, as yo<sup>r</sup> hart can desier, and as I trust verely yo<sup>r</sup> grace shall have, seing yo<sup>r</sup> entent is so good and so godly. At Otford, the fyveth day of July [1522].

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces commaundement,  
WILL<sup>M</sup> CANTUAR.

*Indorsed*: To the moost Reverende father in God, and my very singuler good lord, my lord Cardinall of Yorke and legat de latere his good grace.

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5. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Thanks the Cardinal for the friendly spirit in which he has received the present the Archbishop had sent him, as well as for the costly jewel the Cardinal had sent to the shrine of St. Thomas. Has received by Dr. Sampson the Lutheran books, and the MSS. of Wicliffe, containing no less dangerous and pestilent heresy. Will examine them at Otford, and the day after his return to Lambeth (April 11th), will consult with the Cardinal. Rejoices that England has so orthodox a sovereign as Henry VIII.)

Reverendissime in Christo Pater et Domine, Domine mi colendissime, debitam commendationem vestræ reverendissimæ paternitatis literas humanitatis plenas libenter accepi legique libentissime, quæ me profecto maxima affecere voluptate. Quod autem dignatur Reverendissima Dominatio vestra munusculum meum, ad eandem jamdudum transmissum, (quod certe perexiguum neque tanto patre satis dignum extiterat), tam benigne

<sup>1</sup> Sic in orig.

acceptare tantopereque laudare, gratias eidem obinde ago et habeo immensas. Summopere enim cupiebam (quod item nunc cupio) ut Reverendissima Dominatio vestra meum potius erga eandem animum, perpetuo illi dedicatum, quam rem ipsam saltem tam exilem æstimare acceptareque velit. Quantum autem ad jocale illud preciosissimum per venerabilem virum dominum doctorem Sampson, vestræ Reverendissimæ Dominationis capellanum, jam ad hanc ecclesiam meam Cantuariensem missum et ibidem decenter ac honorifice oblatum attinet, tam piam tamque sanctam ejusdem Reverendissimæ Dominationis vestræ in optimum maximumque Deum, ac gloriosum ejus martyrem divum Thomam, in hac parte devotionem, nemo profecto est qui non plurima laude prosequatur atque vehementer extollat; pro quo quidem tanto tamque munifico munere preciosissimoque thesauro indubie sperandum est ab ipso omnipotenti Deo præfatoque ejus martyre (quod omnem terrenam retributionem exsuperat) vestræ Reverendissimæ Dominationi copiosissime retribuendum fore. Ego vero et confratres mei, Prior et commo-nachi ecclesiæ meæ, pro vestra Reverendissima paternitate, ob singularem ejusdem in hac re benevolentiam, summamque liberalitatem, continuas perpetuasque apud Altissimum preces effundemus. Quod enim ad ipsa Lutheriana damnatissima opera attinet, accepi per dictum dominum doctorem quosdam libellos, quos diligentissime et legere et notare curabo; et ut diligentius id fiat, me quam primum ad Otfordiam conferam, ubi quosdam codices Joannis Wyclife, non minoris malitiæ ac hæresis, quam Lutherianæ hæreses sint, examinare sedulo studebo; quo facto, ad Lametham erga decimum diem instantis mensis me recipiam, et sequenti die vestram Reverendissimam Dominationem (uti debeo) visitabo. Et quicquid in iis rebus mea opera efficere possit, vestra Dominatio Reverendissima me paratissimum habebit. Non mediocriter profecto Anglis duntaxat, verum etiam universæ religioni Christianæ, merito congratulandum est, quod Deus talem, tam pium, tam sanctum tamque catholicum Principem, qualis serenissima Regia Majestas sit, hac tempestate nobis adversus damnatissimos ecclesiæ hostes atque hæreticos, quasi e cælo missum concesserit. Quod si sua Majestas ab ecclesia Christi (quod absit) deficeret, non parva toti reipublicæ Christianæ jactura immineret. Cætera taceo donec (Deo volente) cum Reverendissima paternitate vestra coram

liberius conferre licebit. Ex ecclesia mea Cantuariense, tertio Aprilis, [1522.]

Ejusdem Reverendissimæ paternitatis vestræ

Obsequentissimus deditissimusque,

WILHELMUS CANTUARIENSIS.

*Addressed:* Reverendissimo in Christo Patri et Domino, Domino Thomæ, miseratione divina tituli Sanctæ Cecilie Sacrosanctæ Romanæ Ecclesiæ presbytero cardinali, Eboracensi Archiepiscopo, Angliæ Primati, et Apostolicæ Sedis a latere Legato, . . . Angliæ Cancellario, tanquam Domino meo.

*Indorsed:* William, Archbusshop of Canterbury, thankinge Cardynall Wolsey for a Jewell, verye Ryche, sent to be offred to St Thomas of Canterburye, &c.

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#### 6. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Sends to the Cardinal, Sir Henry, the parson of Sevenoaks; who has used "unfitting language of his Grace." Hopes Wolsey will be "good, gracious, and piteous" to the poor man, and not commit him to prison.)

Pleace it your grace, I have sent unto the same oone Sir Henry, parochie prieste of Sevenocke, which (as it is surmised) hath used unfitting langage of your grace, otherwise then semyd hym to do. Upon communication hadd w<sup>t</sup> hym, I perceived hym well willing to come unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace, to geve attendaunce oone the same for his excuse, which trustythe that yo<sup>r</sup> grace wolbe good graciouse and pituouse to hym, seing he is so well willing to come to yo<sup>r</sup> grace; he is a pow<sup>r</sup> prieste, and pitie it is, my lord, that he shuld be extreamely entreatyd w<sup>t</sup>all or comytted to prison; he is unhable to susteyne or beare any great charge or coste, and I doubt not but if it might lyke yo<sup>r</sup> grace to be graciouse lord unto hym nowe, he wilbe at all tymes the rediar to owe unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace his service. As towching the matier that yo<sup>r</sup> grace and I had communication, concernyng Tonebrige on Monday next ensueing, I entend, by Godes grace, ther to bee, and as I shall spede, so I will ascerteyne yo<sup>r</sup> grace. At Otford, the xxij day of June.

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces commaundment,

WILLIAM CANTUAR.

Please your grace. I have sent unto the same con. Mr Henry  
 parore, parore of Edborne, who (as it is furnished)  
 hath used reviling language of your grace otherwise  
 expressing hym to do. Upon whiche had yo<sup>r</sup> grace  
 provided hym well willing to remit unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace to give  
 attendance con the same for his excuse, whiche trusteth  
 that yo<sup>r</sup> grace wolbe good, gracious & pitiful to hym  
 being he is so well willing to come to yo<sup>r</sup> grace, he  
 is a par<sup>o</sup> priest, and pith it is my lord that he shuld be  
 extremely entreatyd w<sup>th</sup> all or comytted to prison, he  
 is unable to susteyne or beare any great charge  
 or cost. and I doubt not but if it might like yo<sup>r</sup> grace  
 to be gracious to hym, he wolbe at all  
 tymes the readier to come unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace the more. As  
 touching the matter that yo<sup>r</sup> grace and I had fortoke  
 concerning Donbrige, on monday next ensuing I  
 entend by gods grace ther to be, and as I shall speake  
 of I will aske hym yo<sup>r</sup> grace. At Oxford the xxij<sup>th</sup>  
 day of June

At yo<sup>r</sup> grace Comaunders  
 Written Cantuar

I have most Reverend father in god our  
 my service I require good benediction  
 that I shall be able to requite as I have  
 the good service.

*Indorsed*: To the most reverend father in God, and my verey singular good Lord, my lord Cardinall of Yorke, legate de latere, his good grace.

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7. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Marvels not a little that he had not received the King's letters, as others had done, in time convenient, demanding a levy of fifty persons, "sufficiently harnessed to do the King's grace service in his wars." All able persons had been already taken up by other men, and it was not for his poor honesty "to send forth upon haste unable persons and other men's leavings.")

Pleace it yo<sup>r</sup> good grace to understand that this xxii<sup>th</sup> day of Aprile, in the evenynge, sitting at my supper, I receyved the Kinges grace moost honorable letters, dated at Richemount, the ix<sup>th</sup> day of the said moneth, by whiche I am commaunded to send to Grenewiche fyfty hable persons sufficiently harnessed, to do the Kinges grace service in his warres, by the last day of this moneth of Aprile. My Lord, I mervale not a litelle what it shuld meane, that the Kinges grace said letters were not deliverd unto me in tyme conveniente, as other menn receyved the Kinges grace letters directed unto thaim; and righte sory I am that I can not accomplisse the Kinges grace pleasir conteyned in the said letters, bireason of the late receyvyng of thoes letters, and for lakke of tyme sufficient. Suche hable persons as were nyghe unto me hereaboughte bee taken up alreedy by other men, whiche I was contented to permitte and suffer, seing that I had no letters or other commaundemente from the Kinges grace on that behalf, and to send furthe upoun hast unnable persons and other mennys levinges I think it shuld not stand best w<sup>t</sup> my power honeste. And now to send to farther places, as to Cauntrebury, Charring, or thoes quarters, for chosing and preparing of the said fyfty persons, I suppose my labors and costes in that behalf shuld bee voide and in vayne, forasmuche as it is not possible for me to send thaim to Grenewiche by the day appointed. Wherefor I beseche yo<sup>r</sup> grace of yo<sup>r</sup> greate goodnes, the premisses considered, to bee meanes to the Kinges noble grace, that his highnes take no displeasire w<sup>t</sup> me for that I can not throughe lakke of tyme prepare and send furthe the

said fyfty persons to bee at Grenewiche at the day appointed. Whereby yo<sup>r</sup> good grace shal ever bynd me to bee at yo<sup>r</sup> commaundement. And in caas it shalbe the Kinges grace please to appointe me a sufficient tyme and a longer day to prepare, and send furth the said number (His graces please knowen) I wol not faile to do my duety in that behalve accordingly. Writen at my Manor of Otford, the xxii<sup>th</sup> day of Aprile, [1522?]

At your graces commandement,

WILL<sup>A</sup>M CANTUAR.

*Indorsed*: To the moost Reverend father in God, and my verey singulier good lord, my Lord Cardinall of York and Legate de Latere is grace.

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8. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME,

(*Regrets that he cannot be at Lambeth "tomorrow next," according to the King's pleasure. Has no provision there. Will be there however by Friday or Saturday next.*)

Please it yo<sup>r</sup> grace to undrestand that this present day, beeing the xiiii<sup>th</sup> day of this instant moneth, I have receved yo<sup>r</sup> loving lettres, wherein yo<sup>r</sup> grace writeth that for certeyn urgent and greate causes, it is the Kinges graces pleasir and yours that I shuld be at Lamehith tomorowe next. My singular good Lorde, there is no subject of the Kinges grace that wold be gladder to accomlishe his Highnes commaundement and yo<sup>r</sup> graces pleasir than I to my litle power wold be; howbeit, considering that my horses be at liverey at Charring, and that I have certeyne provision made, aswel at Canterbury as at Charring, and also that I have no provision made for me at Lamehith ayenst my commyng thider, I see not howe it is possible or convenient for me to be at Lamehith in so hasty spede, and namely myne age considered and distance of place. Albeit I shal make as good and spedy diligence as I conveniently can to be ther by Friday or Saturday next, to give attendance on the Kinges Highnes and yo<sup>r</sup> grace accordingly. I humbly besече yo<sup>r</sup> grace to thinke no slaknes in me; and so I trust that thorough yo<sup>r</sup> graces loving information the Kinges Highnes wil take no displeasir anempst me, bicause I can comm no soner to

Lamehith than is before ; for if I cowde possibly be ther rather, I wold not faile so to be. At Maidestone, the xiiii<sup>th</sup> day of Marche, [1523?]

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces commaundement,

WILLIAM CANTUAR.

*Indorsed* : To the moste reverend fadre in God, and my sing'lar good Lord my lord Cardinal of Yorkes grace, Legate a latere.

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9. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(The proceedings against Master Rawlyns, Warden of Merton College in Oxford.)

Place it yo<sup>r</sup> good grace to understand that, acording to yo<sup>r</sup> graces mynde and pleacire, I have made abbreviat of the depositions of the fealowship of Merton college, concernyng maister Rawlyns<sup>1</sup> cause, whiche I send now unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace w<sup>t</sup> the originall depositions. The hole matier resteth upponn trialle of v. articles :—ferst, is whether maister Rawlyns hath been intolerable in the said college ; secunde, whether he hath been unprofutable to the same ; third, whether he hath diminished the state of that college in thinges moveable or immoveable ; fourthe, whether he hath duely observed the exercise of lernyng there ; fyveth, whether he hath diminissed the nombre of the fealows of the same. And in all the said articles maney of the said felowshipps, ten in number, have deposed against maister Rawlyns, and have shewed diverse and manifold reasons and causes to every article why they have so deposed, as it may evidently appere unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace, by the said abbreviat, not varienge from the originall, but in brevyng of the matier. In the whiche abbreviat at thende of depositions, in every article, a summe is set, shortly comprising the contentes in the same. And in like wise bee orderd the depositions of such as doeth that in thaim is, to excuse master Rawlyns in the said articles, which so deposing bee fyve in number. But after thair depositions no summe is set, bicause the moost part of thaim is but as a summe in it self. It may please yo<sup>r</sup> good grace, at yo<sup>r</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Richard Rawlyns was elected Warden of Merton College, Oxford, December 19, 1508, and deprived of the same office, September 19, 1521.

leisure, to se and ponder al the said depositions, as yo<sup>r</sup> grace shall think it best, and moost expedient. At my mano<sup>r</sup> of Croidon, the xxviii<sup>th</sup> day of Marche, [1521.]

At your gravis commaundement,

WILL<sup>A</sup>M CANTUAR.

*Indorsed*: To the moost Reverende father in God, and my special good Lord, my Lord Cardinale of York and Legate de latere is good grace.

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#### 10. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Has called the clergy together of his peculiars and the parts adjoining, and has exhorted them to set a good example in complying with the King's demand for a subsidy. Finds but "small towardness" in them: such as be connected with conventual foundations are very sore and grumbling, because "of such houses as be now newly suppressed." Advises forbearance, as it is not good policy "to broach too many matters of displeasure at once.")

Pleace it yo<sup>r</sup> grace to understande that now of late I called before me, by vertue of the Kinges graces most honorable letters, the clergie of a good parte of my peculiars, and some other deaneryes nigh adyonyng unto me. In whome when (aft<sup>r</sup> the reding of the preamble of the Kinges graces instructions, and aft<sup>r</sup> all other exhortations that I could devise and speke unto thaym), I found but small towardnes to thentent that they shuld not be example to other to refuse and denye the graunte required, and for the respecte of the hollynes of this tyme of Easter, in which it was not convenient to bynd thayme to attendaunce frome thaire cures, I have geven thayme a farther day, the Thursday in the Easter weke.

I have hadd communication w<sup>t</sup> the most parte of the hedges of religiose houses, possessioners w<sup>in</sup> Kent, whiche have aunswerd by mouthe, that by reason of povertie they be not able to contribute as they be required. Notw<sup>t</sup>standing inasmoch as they hadd conventes annexed unto thayme, w<sup>t</sup>out whome they thowght they might not make any resolute aunswer in that behalfe, they desired respite, to have communication w<sup>t</sup> thair brethren, whiche I have graunted thayme, advising thayme to loke more depely and more substancially on the matier, and to



make a better aunswer in avoiding of farther daunger. I assure yo<sup>r</sup> grace that suche as be of the religion of suche howses as be nowe newly suppressed, grudgeth sore therat, whether it wer better or no to spare the proceding farther therin tyll this greate matier of the kinges grace be ended. I referr it to yo<sup>r</sup> grace, albeyt it hath been thowght good policye, in tymes past, not to broche to many matiers of displeasur at ons.

My chancello<sup>r</sup> hath been in other places of Kent to practise w<sup>t</sup> the clergy for ther graunte; and what he hath found therin, this berar, my servaunte, William Potken, which was present w<sup>t</sup> hym in every place, may at large enforme yo<sup>r</sup> grace, if it shall please the same to geve hym audience, to whom I desier yo<sup>r</sup> grace to geve credence in this behalfe. I have nowe written to yo<sup>r</sup> grace concernyng bothe the spiritualtie and temporaltie of such thinges as be don already. If I wer present w<sup>t</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> grace, I could shewe no more as yet, as I shall further hire and see, so in this matier I shall advertise yo<sup>r</sup> grace from tyme to tyme. At Otford, the xij<sup>th</sup> day of Aprile, [1528.]

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces commaundment,

WILL<sup>A</sup>M CANTUAR.

*Indorsed*: To the most Reverend father in God, and my verey singuler good lord, my Lord Cardinall of Yorke and legate de latere his good grace.

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## 11. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Complains that he is disquieted in his jurisdiction by the Cardinal's officers, contrary to law: begs that Wolsey will look to this, as he has often promised to take away no part of the jurisdiction of the Archbishop, who thinks that this is done without the Cardinal's cognizance.)

Place it your most honorable grace to understand that your Officers, as Doctor Dolman w<sup>t</sup> other, very busiely inquietith me and my jurisdiction, specially of my courte of Audience of causes, apperteynyng to me in the right of my church, bireason of the legacy graunted to the same, thorowgh their inhibitions calling almaner of causes out of my handes and of my said court, being their at the sute of parteis, or of mere office, or of promotion of any party. And so at length, the same contynued, my jurisdiction of my audience shuld be extincted. Wherein,

as far as my pow<sup>r</sup> lernyng serveth me, I am grevid otherwise than the lawe wold, as I doubt not but that other lerned in the lawe woll affirme, if they be required, and woll speke indifferently according to thair lernyng.

It hath pleased your grace to say unto me dyverse tymes heretofore that ye wold take away no parte of the jurisdiction of my church of Canturbery. And I thinke verely that this is attempted w<sup>t</sup>out your graces mynd and knowlege, and that your grace is and wolbe so good and favorable as to suffer me and my church to enjoy our lawfull rightes accordingly, and that your grace woll commaund your said Officers to w<sup>d</sup>rawe the said attemptates, or at the leste to commaund thaym no farther to procede in thoes same, tyll I may attende on your grace and make ferther sute unto you therin presently, which shalbe the nexte terme, by the grace of our Lorde. Which, if it may please your good grace to do at this my pow<sup>r</sup> requeste, I shall thinke meselfe moche bound to the same in that behalve, as I am many other wayes, For which God rewarde your grace wher I am not able. And if ther be any service or pleasur that I can do to your grace, it shalbe ready at your commaundment. At Otforde, the xxvj<sup>th</sup> day of February, [1519?]

At your graces commaundment,

WILL<sup>M</sup> CANTUAR.

*Indorsed*: To the moste Reverend father in God, and my very singular good lorde, my lord Cardinall of Yorke, legate de latere, his good grace.

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## 12. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(In commendation of Master Doctor Tunstall, "a man of good learning, virtue, and sadness," just appointed to the See of London.)

In my moost humble and moost hertie wise I commende me to yo<sup>r</sup> good grace. And where I am informed that it hath pleased the Kinges moost noble grace to name to the bisshopriche of London maister Cutbert Tunstall, maister of the Rolles, at yo<sup>r</sup> graxis speciall commendation, furtheraunce, and promotion, I thank yo<sup>r</sup> good grace therefor, as hertly as I can; and in my power opinion yo<sup>r</sup> grace could not have owed yo<sup>r</sup> favor

in that behalfe more honorably and lawdably than to the said maister Tunstall, being a man of so good lernyng, vertue, and sadnes, whiche shalbe righte mete and convenient to entertaine ambassadors and other noble straungers at that notable and honorable citie, in the absence of the Kingis moost noble grace, if it shall than fortune yo<sup>r</sup> good grace to bee also absent. And in promoting suche a man to that dignite yo<sup>r</sup> grace hath doen that thing that I doubt not shalbe to the Kinges grace greate pleasire continually, whereby yo<sup>r</sup> grace shalle purchase manifold thankes of his noble grace. And I, whiche am many weyes bownd unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace alredy, am now muche more bound unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace for yo<sup>r</sup> said favors shewed to the said maister Tunstall, in recompensing of the whiche, if there were any thing in my power wherin I myght or could do yo<sup>r</sup> grace plesir, suerly I wold bee right glad to do it. But where I can none other thing doo for yo<sup>r</sup> good grace, but pray for the preservation of the same, yo<sup>r</sup> grace shal not faile to have me yo<sup>r</sup> continuall orator, and the said maister Tunstall yo<sup>r</sup> faithfull servant and Bedeman during his life (I doubt not). Finally, it is marvelows greate pleasir and comfort to se the Kinges moost noble grace (whiche is singulierly lerned himself) to bestowe his greate promotions to very well lerned men. At my power house of Otford, the xix<sup>th</sup> day of January, [1522.]

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces commaundement,

WILLIAM CANTUAR.

*Indorsed*: To the moost Reverende father in God, and my singulier good lord, my lord Cardinall of York and legat a latere is good grace.

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13. FROM THE SAME AND HIS FELLOW-COMMISSIONERS TO  
CARDINAL WOLSEY.

(Difficulty of collecting the loan in the county of Kent.)

Please it yo<sup>r</sup> grace, so it is suche persons as have landes or goddes vnder xx<sup>d</sup> downewardes, wer never yet assembled befor the Kinges grace Comissioners, and such persons of whome the more parte hath but litle substaunce, be more apte to make more busynes then men of greater substaunce woll. And in as

moch as the said persons of small substaunce be farr moo in nomeber than the other sorteis bee, which indescrete multitude it shalbe verey hard to ordre, bicause multitudes comonly be more ruled after thaire own selfe wilfulnes than after good reason or discretion, and some woll fall in to fumes, and so fallen woll not be ruled by other persons, nether can or woll well rule or ordre thaymselves, we desier yo<sup>r</sup> grace to know yo<sup>r</sup> mynd and pleasure, whether ye shall thinke it best to assemble thaym, whome if we shuld call befor us, we suppose we shall have moche busynes w<sup>t</sup> thayme, and litle profecte shall ensue therof to the Kinges hieghnes.

. Item, the Kinges graces said subjectes dwellith far aparte, and the number of theym is greate. Some of theym having skante money to bring theymselves to Canterbury or other places wher we haue appoincted to sitt, will sore grudge to labo<sup>r</sup>, so farr leiving thair husbanndry. And whether it shall stand w<sup>t</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> graces pleasur that the Kinges graces Comissioners, which have devided theymselves in to diverse hundredes, shall or no sitte by vertue of the Kinges graces comission (whiche they have now in the said hundredes to theym allotted, and call befor theym such persons as be under the some of xx<sup>li</sup>, as is abovesaid, we pray yo<sup>r</sup> grace that we may knowe yo<sup>r</sup> graces advise and counsaill. And in caas it shalbe yo<sup>r</sup> graces pleasure, that the said comissioners may sitte as is beforesaid, thesaid greate nombre shall assemble in diverse places, and not to gether, in avoyding ther greate expenses, coostes, and charges. And the rather it shall please yo<sup>r</sup> grace to ascerteyne us of yo<sup>r</sup> graces pleasur, the soner and better this matier shalbe handled.

Finally, the comon fame and brute of theis parteis is that the Kinges Hieghnes hath remytted the paymentes of such somes of money as wer demaunded of the Kinges graces subjectes of the Citie of London, which fame and brute, as it is thowght, hath doon litle good here.

Item, we have sent unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace the coopy of suche our lettres as we have sent unto the Kinges hieghnes. At Cant<sup>r</sup>-bery, the third day of May, [1525?]

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces comaundment,

WILLIAM CANTUAR,	THOMAS BOLEYN,
T. LORD COBHAM,	HENRY GULDEFORD.

*Indorsed:* To the most Reverend father in God, and our verey singuler good Lord, Lord Cardinall of Yorke and Legate de Latere his good grace.

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14. FROM ARCHBISHOP WARHAM TO CARDINAL WOLSEY.

(Will do his best to induce the clergy to contribute a sixth to the King's use; sees however there is as great untowardness in this behalf in the clergy as in the laity; rather more. Is hardly pressed for money himself, as his farmers cannot obtain his rents, and he has already paid, upon privy seals, 2500 marks, for which he has not been reimbursed. Hopes that the same favour which has been extended to his fellow-commissioners in Kent, will be granted to himself.)

Place it yo<sup>r</sup> grace to understand that I have received yo<sup>r</sup> kynde letters, written at Hampton Courte, the v<sup>th</sup> day of this present moneth; by the which I perceve that wher the Kinges grace hertofore demaunded of the clergy the thirde parte of their revenues, his highnes wilbe nowe contented to have the vj<sup>th</sup> parte of the said revenues: in the which mater yo<sup>r</sup> grace desireth to knowe myne opinion. My Lord, except I mought perceve som towardenes in the clergy for making of this graunte, it shuld be hard for me to shewe myne opinion therin. Howbeit by suche communication as I have had lately with diverse religiose persons to whom the Kinges graces letters were directed for this cause, and also by their aunswers delivered to me in writing, which aunswers, aft<sup>r</sup> my returne to Otford, I shal send to yo<sup>r</sup> grace, I perceve more intowardenes than towardenes in this behalve, and like wise in other the clergy. Notw<sup>t</sup>standing I shalbe glad to induce theym to graunte the said vj<sup>th</sup> parte as-muche as I can, and to doo al other thinges according to the teno<sup>r</sup> of yo<sup>r</sup> graces said letters.

My lorde, I thinke yo<sup>r</sup> graces opinion in the premisses to be good, if the religiose men and the clergy wold be induced to condescend to the same. Wherto that they may inclyne, I shal use al meanes possible after my pouer wytte. Howbeit I see not but that ther is as grete intowardenes in the said religiose men and clergy as in the temporaltie, and rather more, and specially religiose men which (as they sayeth) have solde their plate and jowelles, and som have layed their landes to morgage, and some

have solde the landes of the churche, clerely allegeth mervailose grete povertie.

As touching yo<sup>r</sup> graces writing for payeng of my parte to the Kinges grace at this tyme: My Lord, for the service that I owe to his grace, I would be as glad (as any subject of his highnes, as I have alwayes be,) to helpe his grace at this tyme with that summe that I might conveniently ber, though it wer gretely to my peyne; howbeit, considering the charges of the keping of my howse, and the payeng alredy of the loone money, amounting to the summe of m<sup>l</sup>m<sup>l</sup> and v<sup>c</sup> markes, for the repayment wherof I have certeyn private seales, whereby I was promised to be repayed long befor this tyme, and as yet am not payed; considering also the reparations of places and landes belonging to my churche, which would fall downe if the same wer not furthwith repaired, and also other grete charges to me necessarily belonging, besides the money graunted by the last convocation, which money by me to be payed ammounted to no litle summe; and also considering the charges that I have had in tymes past, and nowe have by reason of the Kinges graces commissions concernyng temporal causes; and that at now my beeing in these parties, my Receivo<sup>r</sup>s cowde receive of my firmars for my dimid yeres rent due at East<sup>r</sup> last no mor money but xxij<sup>h</sup>, which firmars allegeth grete povertie, affirming that they be not able to pay to the Kinges grace the money graunted at the last parliament:<sup>1</sup> it is very harde for me nowe at this time to pay the said demaunde. Albeit, as long as I have money, I shalbe contented to departe to his grace asmuche as I may, and more. Please it yo<sup>r</sup> grace to knowe that her is grete exclamation in al this cuntrey, aswel amonges the spiritualtie as the temporaltie, of very muche povertie and charistie of money. Wher yo<sup>r</sup> grace writeth that the Kinges grace trusteth that I wilbe contented to pay the hole summe of money by me to be payed, mentioned in his graces lettres to me addressed: my lorde, I assur yo<sup>r</sup> grace that as toching any graunte of any summe of money by me to be payed, I received no letters from the Kinges grace, but I received diverse letters from his highnes, directed to diverse religiose persons of this my dioces, which letters I have delivered accordingly; and what summe was put on myne hed yo<sup>r</sup> grace best knoweth, howbeit I am not perfectly remembred therof.

<sup>1</sup> A.D. 1523.

Wher yo<sup>r</sup> grace writeth that I shuld the rather pay at this tyme because I shalbe repayed by Michaelmas next of that money which I last avaunced to the Kinges grace by wey of loone, my lord, the said money was promised to be repayed to me at Candilmas last, which as yet I have not receved. Howbeit, if I had x<sup>m</sup> li. of money, I wold be as glad to make loone thereof to the Kinges grace at this tyme, w<sup>t</sup> as good a wil and mynde as any man living wold doo.

My lord, wher it hath pleased the Kinges good grace of his singular grete goodenes to remitte to his commissioners and other his graces temporal subjects of this his countie of Kent, which have made already graunte half the summes of money at the first sitting demaunded, as by his graces newe instructions it appereth; I trust, and so humbly beseche yo<sup>r</sup> grace to be mediato<sup>r</sup> for me to his highnes, that in consideration of my charges and peynes in his graces causes, susteyned by his graces commaundment, I for my parte may be in no worse condition than any of his graces said commissioners or subjects be; howbeit, as I have before written, I shalbe glad to doo that that may lye in litle power for th'accomplishing of his graces high pleasir. At Maydeston, the vij<sup>th</sup> day of May, [1525.]

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces commaundment,

WILL<sup>A</sup>M CANTUAR.

*Indorsed*: To the moste reverend fadre in God, and my veray singular good lord, my lord cardinal of Yorke and legate de latere his good grace.

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15. WARHAM AND HIS FELLOW-COMMISSIONERS TO  
HENRY VIII.

(Commending the liberal spirit of the inhabitants of Kent, who had "kindly, freely, and willingly offered their bodies, lives, and goods," to serve the King. They consider themselves more bound to this, not only as he is "a loving, kind, and valiant Prince," but as he takes himself to have been born in Kent, and consequently has shown special favours to that county.)

Pleace it yo<sup>r</sup> noble grace to understand that we and other yo<sup>r</sup> gracs Commissioners, to the nomeber of lxxx or therabowghts, assembled at yo<sup>r</sup> Citie of Canterbury the second and

third dayes of this monith of May, Wher appered befor us at the said dayes, thinhabitaunts of diverse hundreds of this shire of Kent, to whom we shewed yo<sup>r</sup> gracs hiegh pleasor, according to your gracs commission, and other yo<sup>r</sup> gracs honorable lres to theym directed; and to write unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace all our communications, exhortations, and other sayings, it shuld be very tediousse to yo<sup>r</sup> grace to rede; Not w<sup>t</sup>standing, finally, all yo<sup>r</sup> said subjects kindly, frely, and willingly offerd ther bodies, lyves, and gudds, to serve yo<sup>r</sup> grace as far as ther bodies, lyves, and gudds will extend, as yo<sup>r</sup> trewe, liege, and naturall subjects oweth to doo; And if ther pow<sup>r</sup> and substaunce wer as good as ther willes, they wold depart w<sup>t</sup> every thing that yo<sup>r</sup> grace wold demaund of theym. It was said emongs them that yo<sup>r</sup> grace did take great displeasor ayenst theym, which thing they takith hevely and sorowfully, humble beseching yo<sup>r</sup> grace to take no ferther displeasor ayenst theym, thowgh at the first demaund they made difficultie, ffor they thowght it better so to do, then expressely to promesse any certaine Somme to yo<sup>r</sup> grace, and when yo<sup>r</sup> grace having nede of the same, they shuld not be able to pay and satisfy according to ther promesse, w<sup>ch</sup> thing mought cause yo<sup>r</sup> grace to tak more displeasor w<sup>t</sup> theym, then for thair first refusall. And all thoes yo<sup>r</sup> subjects' w<sup>ch</sup> we have already called befor us, knoweth right well that yo<sup>r</sup> grace take yo<sup>r</sup> selfe as born in Kent, and alwayes have born yo<sup>r</sup> gracs special favors to the same. Wherfor they thinkkith theymselves the more bound to serve yo<sup>r</sup> grace with ther bodies, lives and gudds, and so in ther most humble wise they besechith yo<sup>r</sup> hieghnes to accepte theym, notw<sup>t</sup>standing any enformation made to the contrary, w<sup>ch</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> said subjects desiere us to certify yo<sup>r</sup> grace of this ther mynd and offertures, wishing that they hadd now asmoche goodds as ever they hadd in ther lives, and then yo<sup>r</sup> grace shuld right well perceive howe liberally they wold contribute to yo<sup>r</sup> grace, ffor they say openly ther be no subjects leving that have a more loving, mor kind, and mor valiant Prince then they have of yo<sup>r</sup> grace; and so in thair most humble wise they besechith yo<sup>r</sup> grace to contynue the same. And this ther offertures and answers proceded only of theymselves, and not by enducyng of us or any other yo<sup>r</sup> gracs commissioners, ffor we shewed theym we hadd no such Instructions to admytt ther offertures, albeyt we shewed theym that we wold certifye yo<sup>r</sup> grace of thair good



mynds, trusting verely that yo<sup>r</sup> grace will accept the same lovingly and thankfully, notw<sup>t</sup>standing they sayth that in all the premisses they be contented to be ordred by yo<sup>r</sup> gracs charitable conscience, singuler wisdom and goodnes. And seing theys their loving aunswers, we permitted theym to departe untill yo<sup>r</sup> gracs farther pleasur may be knowen in this behalfe. Finally, we did rede to theym the minute of theis o<sup>r</sup> lres, and also deliverd the same minute to theym in place wher we dyd sytt in commission, which, aft<sup>r</sup> that they w<sup>t</sup> good deliberations had reden it, they furthw<sup>t</sup> redeliverd to us ayen, saying that they wer therw<sup>t</sup> contented, which ordre we used to thentent they should not thinke that we do certify yo<sup>r</sup> grace otherwise than they have sayd to us. It is a common fame and brute in theis parteis that yo<sup>r</sup> grace hath remitted the payments of such Sommes of mony as wer demaunded of yo<sup>r</sup> gracs subjects of yo<sup>r</sup> citie of London, w<sup>ch</sup> fame and brute (as it is thowght) hath don but litle good her, [1525].

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16. FROM ARCHBISHOP WARHAM TO WILLIAM WHETNAL  
AND OTHERS.

(Appointing a certain day for them to certify to him the feelings of the inhabitants as to a proposal for founding a grammar-school at Tunbridge.)

I commende me to you; and where at my late beeing at Tunbrige I required you and other thinhabitanter of the same towne and of other places ny adiocynnyng, to be here before me this day, to shewe you and their myndes in writing whethir ye and they shuld thinke it more expedient to have a free Scole of grammer founded at Tunbrige, for xl scolers, mennys children of those parties, and they afterward tobe promoted to Oxford, having exhibition for their fyndyng at scole there, orelles to have the contynuance of the prioury there, as it hath be used in tymes past; so it is that a good multitude of the said towne, according to the said appointement, hath be here with me this present day, shewing aswel by mowthe as by writing, that they thinke it more expedient to have the continuation of the said monastery, w<sup>t</sup> the priour and his convent, thanne to have a grammer scole; and they have presented a booke of diverse persons names, their neybour, in a grete nombre, which, as they saieth, be of like mynde in that behalve.

And considering that ye were assigned to be here this day w<sup>t</sup> me in like wise, to make aunswer of yo<sup>r</sup> opinion and mynde in this mater, with the names of asmany as be of like mynde as ye be of, I gretely mervaile that ye comme not hider to shewe yo<sup>r</sup> aunswer therein accordingly. Wherefore I requir you to be here w<sup>t</sup> me on Monday next, by ix of the klok before noone, to make and ley in yo<sup>r</sup> aunswere in this behalve, as ye shal thinke good, w<sup>t</sup> the namys of asmany other persons as be of yo<sup>r</sup> opinion and mynde in the same mater: to thentent that I may certify my Lord Cardinal thereof accordingly; and yo<sup>r</sup> myndes knowen I shalbe glad that suche order and wey may be taken in this mater as ye shal thinke may best stand with the pleasire of God and the common weale of thinhabitantes of that cuntrey, nowe beeing and which hereafter shalbe; and in case ye can not thus certify me by Monday next, then I requir you to certify me of yo<sup>r</sup> mynde, and of others of like myndes, at Maidestonne, on Sancte Thomas day next commyng. If ye had made yo<sup>r</sup> aunswer herein, I mought have certified my said Lord Cardinal thereof furthw<sup>t</sup>, howbeit by yo<sup>r</sup> delay I am compelled to differre the said certificat. At Otford, the last day of Juny [1525].

WILLIAM CANTUAR.

*Addressed:* To my right welbeloved William Whetnal, William Waller, and Henry Fane, and to every of theym.

*Indorsed:* Thinhabytauntes of Tunbridge had rather theyre Pryory stode still than to have a schole for xl children, to be sent thence to Oxford.

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17. FROM THE SAME TO CARDINAL WOLSEY.

(The state of feeling among the inhabitants of Tunbridge, at the suppression of the Priory there, and the proposal to found a free school.)

Pleace it yo<sup>r</sup> grace to understand, that upon sight of yo<sup>r</sup> late letters, I wrote immediately to certeyne substantial persons of Tunbrige and therabouts, to be advertised by theym, what murmur or brutes were made there concernyng the prioury there, and if any suche were, the same tobe diligently suppressed. Whereupon this morenyng I have receved aunswere

that there is none other rumour or communication there, but only that thinhabitanter of that towne, and others ny adioynnyng to the same, had leuyr to have the said place not suppressed than the contrary, if it might so stand with the Kinges Highnes pleasir and yo<sup>r</sup> graces; whereunto they referreth their desires and myndes in that behalve. Howbeit reaporthe is made, that one Henry Fane and one or ij other persons, lately beeing in variance and suyte with the late Priour, wold be glad to have the said priory suppressed, for fere lest if the Priour shuld be restored, the said plee shuld contynue. And therefore, as it is sayd, if any rumo<sup>r</sup> be in this mater, it ryseth by the said Henry Fane and his adherentes. As toching the parochial prieste of Cranebroke, the trouthe is, that this mater was publissed by hym, to have the advyses of thinhabitanter of Cranebroke, by the desir of theym of Tunbrige, bicause this mater concerneth aswel the commoditie of bothe places as the hole cuntrey, and exhibition of their children at scole; and for this consideration they of Tunbrige required the myndes and counseile of theym of Cranebroke, for excluding of variance betwene theym. Wherein they of Cranebroke be of like mynde and desire as they of Tunbrige, submitting theym selves therein holely to the Kinge's graces pleasir and yours. I assure yo<sup>r</sup> grace that if any suche rumour had be, I beeing so nye to suche places, doubte not but by some of my frendes thereabouts, I shuld rather have herd of it than other folkes beeing at London. And whethir it be better to have the said inhabitantes upon light persons, bettere suspected of making of murmours and brutes, or not, I remitte that to yo<sup>r</sup> graces singular wisdom. For if thies men shuld be suspected w<sup>t</sup>oute a reasonable and sufficient ground, it might be occasion to cause theym to grudge, where they nothing grudged or murmured before. At Otford, the third Day of July, [1525?]

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces commaundement,

WILL<sup>A</sup>M CANTUAR.

*Addressed:* To the most reverend fadre in God, and my very singular good lord, my Lord Cardinal of Yorke and Legate de latere is good grace.

## 18. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(The Archbishop's Mint in the Palace at Canterbury.)

Place it your good grace, so it is I am enformed, that ther be newe ordynaunces of late made, aswell concernyng the Kinges graces Mynte in his Towre of London, as other Myntes in other places of this his graces Realme in times passed used and contynued, for the comon and usuall curse of the Kinges graces coyne from hensforth. Fforasmoch as I doubte not but that your grace well knowithe, that by the grauntes of dyverse kinges, the Kinges graces noble progenitors, I and my predecessors, Archiebishops of Canturbery, have alwayes hadd in the palace of Canturbery a mynte for coynage, to the grete commoditie and ease of the Kinges graces subjectes w<sup>t</sup>in this countie of Kent and otherwise, to thentent that I wold gladly that my said mynte shuld in like maner and forme be ordred according to the said newe ordynaunces, I beseche yo<sup>r</sup> good grace to shewe and declare yo<sup>r</sup> graces ferther pleasur and mynde in this behalf, to my servaunt, Ewyn Tomson, this berar, kepar of my said mynte. Uppon knowlege wherof, I have commaunded hym to folowe the same in every thing accordingly. In good faithe, my lord, I desire not this for any grete profecte or advauntaige, that I shall have by this coynage, but only for the ease of suche the Kinges graces subjects as may more commodiously reasorte to Canturbery then to the Tower. At Knoll, the xvij<sup>th</sup> day of November [1528].

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces commaundement,

WILL<sup>AM</sup> CANTUAR.

*Indorsed*: To the moost Reverende father in God, and my very singuler good lorde, my lorde Cardinall of Yorke and legate de latere his good grace.

## 19. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Bespeaking his favour for Owen Tomson, the Master of his Mint at Canterbury, in his suit with one Robert Trappys, a goldsmith, of London.)

Place it yo<sup>r</sup> grace to understand that where one Owen Tomson, which hath for the space of vj yeres occupied my Mynte

at Cantrebury, sueth to yo<sup>r</sup> grace tobe his good and graciose lord in a mater of variance depending betwene hym and one Robert Trappys, goldsmith, of London, which, as I am informed, surmiseth that his servaunt delivered to the said Tomson certen bolen tobe coigned, ammounting to a greate summe, and thereupon hath or intendeth to have the said Tomson condemned in London, contrary to right and good conscience, by reason that he is of greate power and substance, as it is sayd; truly I nevyr cowde perceve but that the said Tomson hath dealed wel and truely in al matiers betwene hym and me; and greate piety it were that he shuld be put to any wrong, or be oppressed by might or power. Wherefore, in moste humble wise I beseche yo<sup>r</sup> grace tobe good and graciose lorde to hym in his reasonable and rightuose sueties to yo<sup>r</sup> grace, the rather for this my humble instance and power petition. Whereby it is tobe trusted that yo<sup>r</sup> grace shal doo a right meritoriose and charitable acte, bynding hym tobe yo<sup>r</sup> perpetual bedesman. At Otford, the xxij<sup>th</sup> Day of Aprile.

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces commaundement,

WILL<sup>M</sup> CANTUAR.

*Addressed:* To the moste Reverend fadre in God, and my very singular good lorde, my Lorde Cardinal of Yorke and Legate de latere is good grace.

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20. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Respecting his Mint at Canterbury.)

Pleace it yo<sup>r</sup> grace to understand that aswel by my brother the Prior of my church of Christeschurch which was lately with yo<sup>r</sup> grace, as by the kepar of my Mynte at Canterbury, this berar, named Ewyn Tomson, I am informed, that of yo<sup>r</sup> singular goodenes it hath pleaced yo<sup>r</sup> grace to be favorably mynded towards me and my said churche, for the contynuance of my said mynte, according to the grauntes of the Kinges graces most noble progenitours, and by his highnes lettres patentes confirmed. For the which yo<sup>r</sup> graces most loving favours in my most humile and hertiest wise I thanke yo<sup>r</sup> grace, and

where for the spedyer accomplishment of this thing yo<sup>r</sup> grace commaunded my sayd servaunt, this berar, to repayr to Robert Amadas,<sup>1</sup> whose advise and counceile is that I shuld sue to the Kinges grace for the obteynyng of a bill tobe signed with his graces hand, after the tenour of this bill herein closed. Howbeit I thought it not convenient for me to move his highnes therein untill I may first understand yo<sup>r</sup> graces farther mynde and pleasir in the same. For if yo<sup>r</sup> grace be contented to have suche a bill signed by the Kinges highnes for yo<sup>r</sup> Myntes at Yorke and Duresme, that knowen, if yo<sup>r</sup> grace wil so advise me, I shal sue to the Kinges grace for a like bille for my Mynte at Canterbury. In this matier, I humbly beseche yo<sup>r</sup> grace I may have knowlege of your pleasir by this berar. At Knolle, the third Day of Decembre, [1528 ?]

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces commaundement,

WILL<sup>A</sup>M CANTUAR.

*Addressed:* To the most Reverend father in God and my very singular good lord, my lorde Cardinal of Yorke and legate de latere is good grace.

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21. FROM THE SAME TO LORD ROCHFORD AND OTHERS OF  
THE COUNCIL.

(Giving a detailed account of his interview with Deputies from the Commons of Kent, who "desired to have their loan-money again.")

In my hartie wise I commende me to you, lykewise thanking you for many kyndenes, and for the peynes taken in the cause of William Cheke, my baily of the Bailywike of Croidon, in whiche cause I have lately receivyd lettres from the Lady of Norfolk, in which she writeth that she supposith I will be at Lamhith shortly, albeyt I entende the contrarie, for I have many thinges to be donne in thoes partes. Wherefore, inasmoche as she and I be no indifferent judges in this behalf because the matier concernyth me for my officer, and hyr for her servautes, I pray you to take peynes to ende yt. I desier nothing but right and justice, according to the Kinges graces lawes, ffor in caas this deyd shuld not be punisshede officers

<sup>1</sup> The King's goldsmith.

woll be lowthe to serve the Kinges graces writes, specially when they be layde and watched for to the peryll of theyr lives, as the said William was, (as I am enformyd,) watched for twisse or thrisse. My Lady of Norffolke is very good, and I have bene likewise to hir, but she excusith hir servauntes holy by hir lettres, and regardith litle the matier.

Also I advertise you, that one Sher' Thursday last, I was secretly informyd, that a gret nombre of yomen of the countrey woll shortely com to me, to desier me to be a meane for thaym to the Kinges grace, to have thair loone money agayne. Wheruppon I sent the discrettest of my house to stopp all such as I thought wold be advised by me, that they shuld in nowise appere in suche assembles, wherby I suppose a good nombre of the substanciall yomen of this countrey w<sup>d</sup> drew thaymselves and apperyd not. Nevertheles, on tuesday in the Esterweke laste, came to my maner at Knoll<sup>1</sup> a multitude of yomen of the countrey, to the nombre of one hundreth as it was supposed by thaym that sawe thaym, and they so assemblyd toguyther, I sent downe unto them to know the cause of thair assembly; wherunto they aunswered it was to speke w<sup>t</sup> me. I than sent word unto thaym, that I wold be contented to hyre theyr matier by relation of v or vj of the discrettest of theym, for to speke w<sup>t</sup> the hole multytude I thought it shuld do rather harme than good. When the said vj persones wer commen byfore me, I demaundyd of theym what was the cause of thair commyng in suche multitude, and what they entendyd. They made aunswer that they and theyr neighbors at home being poore and nedy desyeryd me to be a meane to the Kinges grace to have thair loone money, affirmyng that they caused the grete nombre of thair neyghbors which had lyke cause to com, to tary at home, and cam but ij or iij of a paroch, bycause they wold make no gret multitude to the discontentation of the Kinges moost noble grace. And than I said to thayme that they had not chosen the best tyme to speke in this mater, consyderyng the gret charges that the Kinges grace hath hadd lately, and ferther was lyke to susteyne, if it shuld

<sup>1</sup> Knole, in Sevenoaks, was purchased by Bouchier of Lord Say and Sele, 34 Hen. VI. It continued to be a residence of the Archbishops till Cranmer resigned it, with other palaces, to the Crown, 29 Hen. VIII. The King frequently visited Warham at Knole. It is now the seat of the Dowager Countess of Amherst.

fortune his grace to entre in to warrys, which yet hangyd (as far as I know) in doubtte. And ferther I requiryd of theym to shew who wer they that counsellyd or moved thaim at that tyme so to assemble; and they aunswerd forsothe, povertie only, affirmyng that many of thaim, and specyally of thair naybors that tarryd at home, lackyd bothe mete and money; and sayd ferther uppon thair othe, that no creature lyving counsellyd thaim in this behalf, but their own myndes, one complaynyng to an other of theyr poverties. Albeyt I was enformed that some usyd the office of somners in that behalf, of whom I wold have made inquisition, or this tyme which I have refrayned to do hitherto, bycause I wold gyve noo maner occasionne to incense the yncertayne and wavering braynes of the said multitude. For commonly in a multitude the more parte lack both wytt and discretion, and yet the same more part wold take upon theym to rule the wisor. Over this I rehersyd unto thaim that abought two yeres passed they made a lyke assembly, and came to me in lyke maner, and for the same cause of the loone money, w<sup>t</sup> the which unlauffull assembly the Kinges grace was than not a lytle displeasyd, and howe the Kinges grace and his moost honorable counsell wold take this new assemble I shewyd thaim I could not tell. They aunswerd that they trustyd verely that the Kinges grace wold take noo displeasure for the asking of the said loone, inasmoch as they wer his true subjectes and wold lyve and dye in his cause, trustyng that the Kinges grace wold have pietie and compassion uppon theyr poverties. Than I askyd thaim why they came to me for this matier rather than to other of the commissioners. They aunswered, bycause I was one of the chief of the commissioners, and one that chiefly practysed the loone w<sup>t</sup> thaim that so assemblyd. And theruppon they humbly beseched me to be meane to declar thair povertie to the Kinges grace, and to speke for the having agayne of thair loone. Fynally, I shewyd that if they absteynyng from suche unlawfull assembles, wold make thair petytyon discretely in .writing, I wold be contentyd to offer yt up to the Kinges grace w<sup>t</sup> the furtheraunce of my good worde, for I saide to thaim that apou thair wordes I wold make no relation or suyt for thaim to the Kinges grace, lest percas I shuld say more or lesse in thair cause than they wold be contentyd w<sup>t</sup>all. Wherunto they aunswerd that they had lytle wyt to make suche a supplication,



and also could gete no man that wold write for thaym in this cause, seing it concernyth the Kinges highnes. For they had desyeryd diverse to do yt for thaym, which hadd refusyd. And therfor they desyryd that som of my folkes might helpe to forme theyr sayd supplication. But I sayd unto thaym, that I wold not be of thair counsell in that behalf, neyther any of myne shuld wryt therin. And at all this communication wer present, Sir Edward Wotton, Knight, Maister Thomas Willughby, sergiaunt at the lawe, and Richard Clement, of the mote, Esquier. And so this company departyd contentyd w<sup>t</sup> myne aunswer as far as I could perceyve. Albeyt I was enformyd that some lewde person emonge thaym spake unfytting wordes after they had been in the town and drunke theyr fill. And whether they woll come any more, or bring any supplication, or what fether they woll doo, I can not tell; desyryng you to have yo<sup>r</sup> advise what aunswer I shall best make unto thaym, if they or any other shall come unto me for the said matier. I have been enformyd that diverse hard and thretnyng wordes have bene spokene by diverse of thaym whiche wer afore me, ayenst thaym which promysed to come w<sup>t</sup> thaym and disapointyd thaym. But I trust in god ther shall no such thing fortune in thes partes. I have this by fayre wordes aunswerd and partely contentyd two assembles which have comen unto me in this matier, thinkyng verely that by fayre wordes and jentyll interteynyng they woll be better ordred than by rigorouse meanys. At Otford, the xxij<sup>th</sup> day of Aprile, [1526 ?]

YO<sup>r</sup> WILL<sup>A</sup>M CANTUAR.

*Addressed:* To my Lorde viscount Rochforde, and to Sir Henry Goldford, Knyght, Comptrollo<sup>r</sup> of the Kinges graces moost honorable house, and to eche of theym.

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22. THOMAS BENNET TO CARDINAL WOLSEY.

(The Archbishop declines to lend his litter for the use of the Lord Legate any further than Canterbury.)

Pleas it yo<sup>r</sup> grace to be advertised that this day, the xxvij<sup>th</sup> of September, at v. of the clocke after none, I delivered yo<sup>r</sup> graces lettres to my lorde of Cantorburie, whiche is content to

send hys lytter to Dover for my Lorde Legate,<sup>1</sup> and so to conducte hym to Cantorburie, and will in noo wyse lende the seid lytter any ferther, for he seithe he may goo ne ryde hymself, and to be with owte oon at hys nede he will not. And thus Thū preserve yo<sup>r</sup> grace. At Cantorbury, the foreseid day and houre; yo<sup>r</sup> most humble chaplen and servaunt,

[1528.]

THOMAS BENET.

*Addressed* : To my Lorde Legates grace.

*Indorsed* : Doctor Benet, of the xxvij day of September.

## 23. FROM THE SAME TO THE SAME.

(Introducing to Wolsey the celebrated "Nun of Kent," Elizabeth Barton.)

Pleace it yo<sup>r</sup> grace. So it is that Elizabeth Barton, being a Religiose woman, professed in Sainct Sepulchres in Cant<sup>r</sup>bery, whiche hadd all the visions at our lady of Courtopscet, a very well disposyd and vertuose woman (as I am enformyd by hir susters), is very desierouse to speke w<sup>t</sup> yo<sup>r</sup> grace personally. What she hathe to say, or whether it be good or yll, I do not know; but she hathe desyeryd me to write unto yo<sup>r</sup> grace, and to desier the same (as I do) that she may come to yo<sup>r</sup> graces presence. . Whom when your grace have herde, ye may ordre as shall pleace the same. For I assure yo<sup>r</sup> grace she hathe made very importune sute to me to be a meane to your grace that she may speke w<sup>t</sup> you. At Cant<sup>r</sup>bery, the first day of October, [1528 ?]

At yo<sup>r</sup> graces commaundement,

WILL<sup>A</sup>M CANTUAR.

*Addressed* : To the moost Reverende father in god, and my very singular good lord, my Lorde Cardinall of Yorke, legate de latere, his good grace.

The letters speak for themselves and need little illustration. They have a double value for Kentish men;

<sup>1</sup> Campejus, then coming over to preside at the trial for the King's divorce.

first, as the correspondence of one of their Archbishops, a right famous man in his better days of Henry VII., before he was eclipsed by Wolsey; and secondly, for their local interest.

Otford, from which several of them are dated, the favourite residence of the Archbishop, was rebuilt by him on his quarrel with the citizens of Canterbury, at the enormous cost of £33,000. It pleased Henry VIII. to cast an eye of favour on the place, which was resigned by Cranmer to his Majesty in 1537.

The College of Maidstone, originally the parish church of St. Mary of Maidstone, created into a college by Archbishop Courtenay, was parted with by Archbishop Cranmer to Henry on the same terms and at the same time. It is now part of the estate of Lord Romney. Charring, spoken of at p. 16, followed the same fate as Maidstone and Otford. It was part of the most ancient possessions of the Church of Canterbury. Eventually it passed into the hands of the Whelers. An account of its remains at the beginning of the last century is given by Hasted. (*Hist. of Kent*, iii. 213, n.) It may be needful to state that the Chronology of the letters has been determined by internal evidence alone.

Of the persons mentioned in these letters, William Whetnal, at p. 32, was of Hextalls, in East Peckham; William Waller, of Groombridge, a collateral ancestor of the poet; Henry Fane, of Hadlow, of the lineage of the celebrated Treasurer of Charles I.'s time. Sir Edward Wotton, at p. 39, was of the Wottons of Bocton Malherbe; Richard Clement, of the Mote, in Ightham; Serjeant Willoughby, made Chief Justice, 29 Hen. VIII., was of Bore Place, in Chiddingstone.

We shall print an ancient survey of Otford in a future number.