

THE FRIAR-PREACHERS, OR BLACK
FRIARS, OF CANTERBURY.

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THE Order of Friar-Preachers, or Black Friars, known in later times as Dominicans, entered England in the year 1221. A band of thirteen religious, sent from the General Chapter held in May, at Bologna, passing through Canterbury, reached London Aug. 10th, and thence went on to Oxford. At Canterbury, by the command of Stephen Langton the Archbishop, Gilbert de Fresnoy, their head or prior, delivered the first sermon amongst the English, in a church, where the Archbishop had himself purposed to preach. The excellence of this discourse, and the religious bearing of the Friars, secured for them Langton's lasting friendship.¹ Not until fifteen years later, however, did they obtain a settlement in Canterbury. In the meantime, they had fixed themselves in many other parts of England, and had even advanced into Ireland and Scotland. At last, by the favour of the king, and co-operation of Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, afterwards canonized, they were admitted into the great metropolitan city. A troop of some twenty Friars settled there in the year 1236, having acquired a dwelling, with some land, on the banks of the river Stour. Here, according to custom, they fitted up an oratory, for mass and the divine office, whilst they preached in the neighbouring country. They soon set about building their church and dwelling in due conventual form, Henry III being their patron and founder. The church was nineteen years in progress, and the other buildings were not finished until four or five years later. The Friars relied entirely on the free-will gifts of the people for the maintenance of their foundation.

¹ Nic. Trivet, *Annales*.

Henry III, on March the 10th, 1236-7, for the weal of his soul and the souls of his ancestors and heirs, granted to the Friar-Preachers of Canterbury an island, in the river, lying between land which had been Master Richard de Mepham's and that which had been Eleanor Fitz Joldwin's on the east, and other land which had been William de Burry's and the stone-house that had been John Slure's on the west: to be held of the crown in free, pure, and perpetual almoign.¹ It is probable that these bounding lands, and the house, had already passed into the possession of the Friars, and that they had been granted to them at a low rent by Archbishop Edmund, being part of the Church possessions. Queen Eleanor of Provence made the first royal gift, on record, towards the convent-buildings. On June 17th, 1237, she gave the Friars thirty marks (£20) for the work of their church.² Henry III defrayed the greater part of their building expenses, out of the royal exchequer, as the following mandates for payments bear witness:—

In 1237, Dec. 1st, thirty marks were paid to the twenty-two Friars for their works.³ In 1238, about May 11th, forty marks were borrowed out of the queen's purse for the occasion.⁴ In 1239, May 21st, twenty marks for the work of the church;⁵ and June 30th, £20 in aid of constructing the houses.⁶ In 1240, Jan. 10th, thirty marks; Jan. 17th, thirty marks; June 7th, thirty marks; and July 18th, twenty marks; all four sums for the work of the church.⁷ In 1241, May 5th, thirty marks, in aid of the works.⁸ In 1242, Jan. 21st, £20 for the works; April 25th, twenty marks for the fabric of the church; and May 1st, thirty marks, also for the works of the church,⁹ of which twenty marks were paid to the Friars on the same day.¹⁰ In 1243, Nov. 30th, £20 for completing the works of the church.¹¹ In 1244, Jan. 23rd, £10 for making two spiral staircases in the church; and May 7th, thirty marks, for buying and preparing timber for the church.¹² In 1245, Dec. 19th, forty marks for necessary works.¹³ In 1246, May 12th, for the fabric of

¹ *Cart.* 21 Hen. III, m. 6.

³ *Ibid.*, 22 Hen. III, m. 2.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 23 Hen. III, m. 14.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 24 Hen. III, m. 8, 11, 24.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 26 Hen. III, p. 1 m. 4, 11.

¹¹ *Rot. Liberat.* 28 Hen. III, m. 18.

¹³ *Rot. Liberat.* 30 Hen. III, m. 21.

² *Rot. Liberat.* 21 Hen. III, m. 8.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 22 Hen. III, m. 10.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 23 Hen. III, m. 10.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 25 Hen. III, m. 10.

¹⁰ *Ewit. Scao. Pasoh.* 26 Hen. III, m. 1.

¹² *Ibid.*, m. 11, 16.

the church.¹ In 1247, March 15th, ten marks for paying debts on the work of the church.² In 1248, Jan. 1st, a gift of twenty marks.³ In 1249, July 19th, thirty marks for the fabric of the church.⁴ In 1250, Nov. 6th, £20 for the same.⁵ In 1253, April 24th, forty marks to pay debts.⁶ In 1256, Sept. 25th, 100s. for the glass windows of the church.⁷ In 1259, Nov. 13th, £20 for paying the expenses of building the cooking-kitchen and the wall next to it.⁸ And in 1260, June 26th, 100s. for the works.⁹

Moreover, Henry III caused the Friars to set apart £32 for buildings of theirs to be erected in honour of his patron, St. Edward the King. On Oct. 15th, 1258, he acknowledged the debt to them for that amount, and promised payment within a month from the following Easter.¹⁰ But pressed by necessity, the Friars, through the intercession of Simon de Montford, Earl of Leicester, and of Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, obtained an order, Nov. 12th, directed to the officials of the royal treasury, for immediate payment.¹¹

Nor was the king satisfied with bestowing money, as he also gave timber for the buildings: April 11th, 1241, twenty oaks (*quercus*) for the construction of the church,¹² which, on the 15th, he charged the Sheriff of Kent to carry free from Bickspik Wood to Canterbury;¹³ June 17th, 1244, six good oaks (*bona fusta*) out of Wanberg Forest, with all their escheats, also for the church;¹⁴ and May 18th, 1271, ten oaks (*quercus*) for timber, out of the forest of *Kingeswode*, in Essex, with their escheats, for some repairs of the buildings.¹⁵

On Jan. 18th, 1238-9, Henry III gave £20 out of the royal treasury, for the maintenance of the religious.¹⁶ Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, made them a regular allowance of firewood; and when he departed out of the country, the keepers of the temporalities had a royal mandate, Jan. 11th, 1240-1, to continue the usual supply.¹⁷ And

¹ *Rot. Liberat.*, 30 Hen. III, m. 10.

² *Ibid.*, 31 Hen. III, m. 10.

³ *Ibid.*, 32 Hen. III, m. 13.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 33 Hen. III, m. 4.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 35 Hen. III, m. 18.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 37 Hen. III, m. 6.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 40 Hen. III, m. 3.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 44 Hen. III, m. 10.

⁹ *Ibid.*, m. 6.

¹⁰ *Rot. Pat.*, 42 Hen. III, m. 2.

¹¹ *Rot. Liberat.*, 43 Hen. III, m. 8.

¹² *Rot. Claus.*, 25 Hen. III, m. 11.

¹³ *Rot. Liberat.*, 25 Hen. III, m. 12.

¹⁴ *Rot. Claus.*, 28 Hen. III, m. 7.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 55 Hen. III, m. 5.

¹⁶ *Rot. Liberat.*, 23 Hen. III, m. 21.

¹⁷ *Rot. Claus.*, 25 Hen. III, m. 16.

the king, April 11th, 1241, gave three oaks (*robora*) for fuel, to be taken where they would be for the Friars' greater utility, out of the archiepiscopal territories.¹

A royal precept dated Feb. 25th, 1246-7, ordered the bailiffs of Canterbury (by whose inquisition it had been returned that it might be done without detriment) to allow the Friars to close a street near them, which formed the way to the mill belonging to St. Augustin's Abbey, and in place of it to make another road beyond a certain plot, which he had caused Stephen, parson of Hadlinges, to purchase with the royal money.²

Amongst those who bestowed land on the Friars was John de Stokwell, a citizen, who gave them a plot or area for enlarging their court. This plot was subject to the yearly rent of 4d. to St. Augustin's Monastery: Henry III requested the monks to remit the service, but June 25th, 1253, he ordered the sheriff of Kent, in case the monks refused, to find an equal rent for them in another part of the city, so that the Friars might be quit of the charge.³ To requite their benefactor, the Friars obtained of the king, Oct. 2nd, 1256, that John de Stokwell should be free of all tallage of the city for three years from the ensuing festival of All Saints.⁴

When the inquisitions were taken, in pursuance of the general commission dated Oct. 11th, 1274, to inquire into encroachments on the revenues and rights of the crown, etc., it was found, in 1275, that these Friars had enlarged their island, and made a *purpresture* on the bank to the injury and hindrance of the king's mills, blocked up and changed the common way by which the people were accustomed to go to the water, and enclosed some land on the river-bank ten perches long and nearly six feet broad.⁵ The Friars had certainly acted legally as to the road, and probably also as to island and land, for no proceedings were taken against them.

In 1293, they formed a quay or wharf on the river,

¹ *Rot. Claus.*, 25 Hen. III, m. 11.

³ *Rot. Liberat.*, 37 Hen. III, m. 2.

⁵ *Rot. Hundr.*, 3 Edw. I, m. 2.

² *Ibid.*, 31 Hen. III, m. 11.

⁴ *Rot. Pat.*, 40 Hen. III, m. 2.

towards making which Edward I, July 23rd, gave them twelve oaks (*quercus*) for piles, out of the archiepiscopal wood of *Northden* in *Blen*', the Archiepiscopal See being then vacant.¹

In compliance with a royal writ of June 2nd, 1294, an inquisition was taken, on the 11th, before the bailiffs of the city, to find, if, without detriment to the crown, the king's licence might be given for Master Nicholas de Honyngton to assign to the Friars a messuage which was held immediately of the heirs of Letitia, daughter of James de Porta, by the annual service of 8s. 9d. and two rent-hens, and was valued at 13s. 4d. a-year. The return was favourable, but on the part of the crown the written and sealed assent of the heirs was required.² No licence appears on record.

In 1294, the Friars and the Monks of Christchurch came to a composition about divers houses and lands within their precincts held of the latter.³ The armorial bearings of this Priory were, Az. on a plain cross Arg. the letters *Æ Æ* in old English characters (being the arms of the Priory of Christchurch) between four mitres labelled Or. The Monks of Christchurch, at the first settlement of the Friars here, were the patrons and protectors of them.⁴

The churchyard was enlarged, in 1299, by the addition of some land 150 ft. long and 120 ft. broad. This land, valued in all issues at 12d. a-year, and free of services, was assigned to them by Thomas (parson of) Chartham, the inquisition (by writ of May 28th) being taken before the bailiffs of the city, June 5th,⁵ and the mortmain licence for the grant being given on the 8th following.⁶

Twenty years later, two additions were made to the

¹ *Rot. Claus.*, 21 Edw. I, m. 5.

² *Inquis. post mortem*, 22 Edw. I, no. 135. Jurors; John Holte, Hen. Daniel, John Andreu, Will. Stoyl, Walt. Cissor (Taylor), James Auncel, Edm. de Tyerne, Steph. Hanekyn, Rich. clerk of Westgate, Pet. de Doure, Will. le Marscal, and Hen. de Plukele.

³ Somner's *Antiquities of Canterbury*, by Battely, pt. 1, p. 58.

⁴ Hasted's *Kent*, vol. iv. p. 448.

⁵ *Inquis. post mortem*, 27 Edw. I, no. 81. Jurors: John Holte, John Andreu, James Auncel, Edm. de Tyerne, Will. Stoyl, Simon le Letherkervere, Will. le Tylour, Rog. de Appledre, Pet. de Dover, Steph. Hanekyn, Gilbert atte Wexhouse, and Hen. le Webbe.

⁶ *Rot. Pat.*, 27 Edw. I, m. 22.

homestead. On Jan. 1st, 1318-19, Edward II granted a void plot of land, 54 ft. long and 20 ft. broad, and on the same day conceded the royal licence for Simon Batelot of Canterbury to assign to the Friars another plot, 54 ft. long and 25 ft. broad, for that purpose.¹ In the inquisition touching these plots taken at Canterbury, June 9th previous (by two writs of May 8th), it was found that the former plot was never of any value, and the latter brought in 1d. a-year in all issues to the crown.²

Another increase of the homestead was made in 1338, by the addition of a messuage which was assigned to the Friars by William le Frenshe and John atte Brome of Canterbury. According to the inquisition taken at Canterbury, Feb. 26th, 1337-8, by writ of the 12th, the messuage was held of the archbishop, by service of 15d. a-year for all services, and was worth 6s. 8d. over and above the rent.³ The mortmain licence was given April 15th following,⁴ for which the Friars paid the fine of one mark.⁵

Shortly after this time they had a plot of land (built on) containing 1*a.* 1*p.* for enlarging their homestead, and they acquired it of Isabel widow of Thomas Poldre, and the heirs of Simon Bertelot. This was done in contravention of the statute of mortmain, and the land would have been forfeited to the crown, if the king had not graciously made a free grant of it, which he did, June 8th, 1355, on the condition that the Friars should be all the more strongly bound to pray for the souls of his progenitors and for his soul when he passed out of the present life.⁶

Henry IV, Sept. 17th, 1412, confirmed the royal grant of the island made in March, 1236-7.⁷

Thus was founded the Priory of the Friar-Preachers of

¹ *Rot. Pat.*, 12 Edw. II, p. 1, m. 4.

² *Inquis. ad quod dampn.* 11 Edw. II, no. 77. Jurors: Peter de Bolengier, Rob. le Taillur, Ralph le Pysynggs, Anselm Partrick, Rich. de Soles, John Braunche, John de Wencheape, Walt. le Marescal, Thos. de Ripple, John de Castri, Haymo atte Hethe, and Walt. Stel.

³ *Inquis. ad quod dampn.* 12 Edw. III, no. 20. Jurors: Andr. le Flaoner, John le Bourne, Rog. de Wy, Tho. de Lenne, Hen. Ferour, John de Bisshopesgate, Rob. de Lincoln, John de Wy, Tho. Kyriell, Steph. Parson, Edm. le Spicer, and Tho. le Coupere.

⁴ *Rot. Pat.*, 12 Edw. III, p. 1, m. 15. ⁵ *Rot. Fin.*, 12 Edw. III, m. 15 in ched.

⁶ *Rot. Pat.*, 29 Edw. III, p. 2, m. 21. ⁷ *Rot. Pat.*, 13 Hen. IV, p. 2, m. 2.

Canterbury. The extent of the land was about 5a. 7p.; and as the site and precincts were extra-parochial and out of the civil jurisdiction of the city, the limits are well known and defined. At the beginning of the present century, this district is described as bounded, on the E. by King's Street from the corner of Browning's Lane to the Waterlock near Orange Street; on the S.E. by the passage which leads from the said Waterlock, across the river towards St. Peter's Street; on the W. by St. Peter's churchyard; and on the N.W. by the garden of S. E. Brydges, Esq., and the lower end of St. Peter's Lane to Abbot's Mill.¹ A valuable drawing made by Thomas Langdon, Sept. 30th, 1595, when the conventual buildings were still uninjured, gives a very accurate and interesting idea of them. The convent was approached by three gates. One which was private faced the street by St. Alphage's church, and led to the priory-dwelling. The second was by the Waterlock. The third and principal one in St. Peter's Street was built, as it appears, not long before 30 Edward III (1356). In that year these Friars, by deed, passed over to the hospital of Estbridge a place, shops, and garden lying towards the west and north, "inter novam portam nostram et introitum ad ecclesiam nostram in parochia sancti Petri," elsewhere described as lying "in parochia sancti Petri Civitatis Cant. inter gardinum et mansionem fratrum prædicatorum Cant. versus north et west, et quandam venellam vocatam Brekyepotes Lane versus east." It was beautifully constructed of squared flint, ornamented with carved stonework, and over the middle was a niche in which stood the figure of the patron saint: it was pulled down in the year 1787. The *Friars' Way* from this gate passed over the river by a bridge of three arches, and joining the road from the Waterlock Gate, continued along *the waie to the church*. The church, without tower or belfry, but with nave, aisles, and choir, under one unbroken roof, was entered by a porch from the west end. It stood on the east side of the river, and formed the south side of the cloistral quadrangle. The *Church yarde* lay south of the

¹ Hasted, *History of Kent*, vol. iv. p. 448.

church. The other three sides of the *Fryars' Closter* were completed by their dwelling and offices, the refectory, kitchen and outbuildings being on the west along the bank of the river. From the east side the chapter-room projected. On the island was a large edifice, with outbuildings, which probably was that erected by Henry III in honour of St. Edward. Some building bridged over the river with three arches between the main buildings, and the island still presents a fine and picturesque ruin.¹

Many incidental occurrences illustrate the history of this Priory. Down to the time of the Dissolution, numerous persons of the city or neighbourhood of Canterbury, by gift or bequest, bestowed some alms, or desired to be buried within the precincts, for the sake of the Friars' suffrages after death. Most of these gifts are too insignificant for notice here, but some are not devoid of considerable interest.

Richard, bishop of Chichester, who died April 3rd, 1253, and was canonized in 1262, bequeathed to the Friar-Preachers at Canterbury, the prophet *Hosea* glosed, and 20s.²

Henry, second son of Edward I and queen Eleanor of Castile, who seems to have been always a weakly child, had, in the summer of 1273, a sharp sickness, from which he never entirely recovered. During the following year, probably with the hope of restoring his health, he was taken, with his sister Eleanor, on a gentle pilgrimage to Canterbury, and between July 4th and Aug. 8th visited all the usual stations of prayer within the city. On Aug. 2nd, the little pilgrims went to the church of the Friar-Preachers, and made an offering of 3d. there. Prince Henry died Oct. 20th, 1274, when he was seven years old.³

When Edward I was preparing for his expedition, in 1277, against Llewellyn ap Griffin, prince of Wales, he required the bailiffs and citizens of Canterbury to find, furnish, and send twelve horsemen. The bailiffs called on the monks of Christchurch to aid in the charge; but the monks

¹ Battely's *Somner*, Hasted, etc.

² Nicolas' *Testamenta Vetusta*, vol. ii. p. 761.

³ Comp. de expens. hosp. d'ni Henr. filii regis, sororis sue, etc. 2, 3 Edw. I. Also Comp. de expens. d'ni Henr. et familie sue, 1, 2 Edw. I.

answered that they would not do so without the assent of the king and their archbishop, as the kings of England had founded their church in free and perpetual alms. Thereupon William Childham, bailiff, and many commons of the city, assembled in the churchyard of the Friar-Preachers, and in revenge began to organize a furious riot against the monks. But by the mild persuasions of the archbishop, Robert de Kilwardby, the citizens were pacified, and their fierce attempt was timely suppressed.¹

Edward I was at Canterbury, Aug. 14th, 1289, on his return from abroad. On the 16th, he gave the Friar-Preachers here 50s. for three days' food, and also paid 15d. for a cart and three horses to convey from Dover to this city a Friar called Robert de Chelenford, who had received some serious injury.² This king, being here, on July 24th, 1293, gave to the Friars six beeches for fuel, out of Bockholt wood belonging to the archbishopric, *sede vacante*.³ He came again to Canterbury, June 1st, 1297, and bestowed 31s., for three days' food, by the hand of a Friar named James de Grave;⁴ also in Feb., 1299-1300, and on the 24th, gave 28s., through Friar Robert de Faversham for the same purpose.⁵ In June, 1302, he gave an alms of 36s., through Robert de Faversham, on the 17th, for three days' food, and 20s. 8d., through James de Grave, on the 25th, for two days' food.⁶

Mary, daughter of Edward I, and princess-nun of Amesbury, made a pilgrimage to Canterbury, in May, 1302, and amongst other offerings, on the 27th or 28th, gave an alms of 10s. to the Friar-Preachers, for a pittance.⁷

Isabel of France, queen of Edward II, Feb. 23rd, 1313-4, made an offering of a cloth of gold at the high altar of this church.⁸

Edward II, at Canterbury, March 5th, 1319-20, gave 10s.

¹ Batteley's *Somner*, pt. 1, page 58.

² *Rot. Elemos. Reg.*, 17-18 Edw. I.

³ *Rot. Olaus.*, 21 Edw. I, m. 5.

⁴ *Lib. Garderobe*, 25 Edw. I: Additional MSS. of Brit. Mus. cod. 7965.

⁵ *Lib. quotidian. contrarot. Garder.*, 28 Edw. I. ⁶ *Rot. Gard.*, 30 Edw. I.

⁷ *Rot. Gard.* (oblationes Mariæ fil. regis) 30 Edw. I.

⁸ *Lib. Expensar. Regine*, 7 Edw. II.

to the [30] Friar-Preachers for one day's food ;¹ and the same sum, May 29th, 1326, for one day's food.²

In his journeys made between Feb. 23rd, 1334-5, and March 26th following, Edward III gave alms to many communities of Friars for food, and amongst them 16s. 4d. to the Friar-Preachers of Canterbury.³ Also he gave, Jan. 18th, 1336-7, a groat to each of the thirty-four Friar-Preachers here.⁴

William de Clinton, Earl of Huntingdon, by will dated August 23rd, 1354, at Preston near Sandwich, and proved Sept. 9th following, bequeathed five marks to the Friar-Preachers here.⁵

Elizabeth de Burgh, Lady Clare, third daughter of Gilbert de Clare, last Earl of Gloucester and Hertford, by Joan of Acres, daughter of Edward I, by will dated Sept. 25th, 1360, bequeathed £6 to the three orders of Friars in Canterbury. She died Nov. 4th following.⁶

Sir Edmund Hawte, knt., was buried here.

Bennet, daughter of John Shelving, and wife of Sir Edmund Hawte (afterwards married to Sir William Wendall, knt.) desired to be buried here with her first husband, temp. Edward III.⁷

Friar Richard Bourne, of this convent, had concession from the master-general of the Order, June 5th, 1392, that he should not be removed hence, except in case of crime or grave scandal, and that he should be relieved of the common services of the community ; and every concession made to him by his convent was ratified.⁸

Richard Fitz Alan, fourteenth Earl of Arundel, and Earl of Surrey, by will dated March 4th, 1392-3, ordered that the houses of Friars, especially at Arundel, but also those at Lewes, Chichester, Winchester, Canterbury, Guildford, and London, should be looked after, by advice of his executors, as they were bound to pray for the souls of his father and

¹ *Rot. Gard.*, 13 Edw. II : Addit. MSS. cod. 17362.

² *Rot. Gard.*, de partic. expens. forinsec. 19 Edw. II.

³ ⁴ *Lib. Gard.*, de annis 3, 9, 10, 11 Edw. III. : *Bibl. Cotton.*, Nero C. VIII.

⁵ *Placita coram Baron. de Scacc.*, Mich. 33 Edw. III, ro. 20.

⁶ Nichols' *Royal Wills*, p. 23.

⁷ Hasted.

⁸ Ex registro Mag. Gen. Ord. Romæ asservato.

mother and wife, that God by His great mercy, and the passion which He suffered for them and for all Christians, might have mercy on all three, and on him when he passed out of the world. The Earl was beheaded, Sept. 21st, 1397, for high treason.¹

Doubtless, the annual provincial chapter for the government of the Friars' Province of England was repeatedly celebrated at Canterbury. Thorne has recorded the ceremonial which attended the assemblage of 1394, in his *Chronica, De rebus gestis Abbatum Sancti Augustini Cantuarie*:²—

“Anno sequenti videlicet M.CCC. XCIV. * Eodem anno die Assumptionis beatae virginis cum paucis diebus sequentibus fratres predicatorum celebrarunt capitulum suum provinciale *Cantuarie*, & ipso die Assumptionis processionaliter intraverunt ecclesiam istam, & per chorum & corpora Sanctorum incidentes ad ecclesiam sanctae Trinitatis se diverterunt; ubi dicto sermone in vulgari ad eorum habitaculum redierunt. Hos semper sequebatur Prior ecclesiae antedictae pontificalibus decenter insignitus, quem archidiaconus *Cantuariensis* non segniter indumentis ecclesiasticis co-opertus sinistravit. Missa vero à praefato Priore more suo inter eos celebrata cum abbate ab eisdem diligenter prius requisito festa mandibilia in papilionibus, caricis & palliis deauratis ecclesiae praedictae co-opertis, & per pluvias & ventorum rabies dissutis, delaceratis, & particulatim abruptis idem praelati pariter tenuerunt. Istos primo die videlicet Assumptionis quem Dominica dies venustabat archiepiscopus licet absens decentissime. Diem sequentem Abbas & Prior antedicti suis epulis & presentia ipsos jocundissime repleverunt in expensis abbatis x. li. Et die tertia de benevolencia dominorum patriae eciam in habundancia gustarunt. Unde praedicti fratres tanta beneficia & honores à duabus istis ecclesiis tam honorifice consecuti, beneficia spiritualia sic concesserunt, ut, videlicet, quilibet sacerdos dictorum fratrum in hoc regno consistens pro quolibet monacho utriusque ecclesiae de illorum communi assensu vj. missas pro illorum felici prosperitate tenetur & obligatur quam cito poterit celebrare.”²

At the end of the year 1395, when Friar William Boscumbe, Sac. Theol. Mag., was Prior here, the master-general of the Order, Dec. 30th, gave him a formal obedience to pro-

¹ Nichols' *Royal Wills*, p. 135.

² Twysden's *X Scriptorum*, col. 2197. In 1394, the Assumption fell on a Saturday.

tect and defend a certain friar, who was carrying his letters for restoring some Friars to the magisterial grade; and he also commissioned him to hold an inquiry into complaints made against Friar John de Ping, Prior of the Black-friars of London, for some breaches of his rule, and to remove him, if the testimony of six trustworthy Friars of London went against him.¹

The master-general of the Order, Oct. 18th, 1398, transferred Friar Richard Lawsefield from the convent of Ipswich, and affiliating him to Canterbury, made him a conventual here.²

John Ropere, of the parish of St. Dunstan without the suburbs of Canterbury, by will dated June 8th, 1401, and proved April 1st, 1402, bequeathed £5 to the Friar-Preachers of Canterbury. The testator was an ancestor of the Lords Teynham.³ *Joan Knowght*, daughter and heir of Henry Knowght, by will dated June 1st, 1459, directed her body to be buried in the church of these Friars.⁴ *Anne Baker*, of St. Alphage's parish, in 1464, willed to be buried in the church here.⁵ *Thomas Baker*, of the same parish, in 1473, willed to be buried here.⁶ *John Whittill*, in 1479, to be buried in the churchyard.⁷ *William*, son of *Thomas Peny*, was buried in the cloister.⁸ *Thomas Peny*, of St. Alphage, in 1482, ordered his body to be buried in the cloister of this house, near to William his son.⁹ *John Sloden*, brother of the Hospital of St. John Baptist, by his will in 1481, ordered his body to be buried in the churchyard of these Friars.¹⁰ *Richard Tylle*, of Selling, Dec. 17th, 1485, bequeathed 20s. to the Friar-Preachers here.¹¹ *John Nashe*, of St. Alphage, by will made in 1486, was buried in the church.¹² Weever records the burials of Robert and Bennet Browne, esqrs., without date.¹³

In 1505, Friar Robert Shroggs, of this Convent, made a pilgrimage to Rome, and May 19th, was received into the

¹ *Ex registro Mag. Gen. Ordinis.* Friar John de Ping, or Deping, was not deposed. He was appointed Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, in Ireland, July 11th, 1397, and died Feb. 4th, 1398-9.

² *Ibid.*

³ Nicolas, *Test. Vet.*, vol. i. p. 155.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 291.

⁵ 6 7 8 9 10 Hasted.

¹¹ Nicolas, *Test. Vet.*, vol. i. p. 384.

¹² Hasted.

¹³ *Funerall Monuments* (1631), p. 238.

Hospital of the English there, *in forma nobilitium*, or as one paying his own expenses.¹

Alice Elleryngton, by will in 1512, was buried in the churchyard.² *Henry Hatche*, of Faversham, May 6th, 1533, left a legacy of five marks to the house of Black-friars in Canterbury.

The parish clerks of the city held in this Priory a Guild or Fraternity, commonly called the Brotherhood of Saint Nicholas, as appears from the following legacy of one *Richard Cram*, sometime of this city, who, by his will dated in 1490, gave to the Fraternity of St. Nicholas kept by the Parish Clerks of Canterbury in the House of the Friar-Preachers of Canterbury, 6s. 8d.⁴

Also *John Whytlok*, of St. Alphage, gave by his will in 1503, "to the brodered of Seynt Nicholas holden in the Blake Frerys, yn Canterbury, the p'ich clarkys to bere him to church, viz. St. Alphage, and that he be set yn their bed[e] roll, 10s."⁶

When the Reformation was set on foot in England, the Prior of the Black-friars of Canterbury stood up firmly against Archbishop Cranmer, and opposed him in his own city. In 1535, Cranmer preached two sermons, in his cathedral, against the authority of the Pope, and his "so called divine laws, and sacred canons," and in favour of the royal supremacy. Thereupon the Prior publicly maintained the cause of the Pope and the infallibility of the Church; for which he was cited to appear before the Archbishop. Cranmer wrote to the king, Aug. 26th, 1536, detailing the matter in his own manner, and complaining of the Prior:—

"At my first exa'iation of hy', which was bifore Christmas, he said y^t he p'ched not agaynst me, nor y^t I had p'ched any thyng amis, but now he sayth y^t I p'ched amisse in veray many thyngs, & y^t he purposely p'ched agaynst me. And this he reporteth openly, by which words I am m'velously sclawndered in thies parties. And for this cause, I besech yo^r grace y^t I may not haue the iugement of yo^r cause, for so moch as he taketh me for a partie, but y^t yo^r

¹ Records of the English College at Rome: *Collectanea Typographica*, vol. v. p. 62.

² Hasted. ³ Nicolas, *Test. Vet.*, vol. ii. p. 661. ⁴ Battely's *Sommer*. ⁵ Hasted.

grace wol com'ytt y^e hearynge herof vnto my lorde pryvay Seale, or ells to associate vnto me some other p'son at yo^r gracs pleasure, y^t we may heare y^e cause ioyntly together. If this man, who hath so highly offended yo^r grace, & p'ched agaynst me openly, beinge Ordinary & Metropolitane of this p'vince, and y^t in such matters as co'erne y^e autoritie, y^e myslyvynge, & y^e lawes of y^e busshope of Rome, & y^t also wⁱⁿ myn own church: if he, I say, be not loked opon, I leave vnto yo^r gracs prudence to expende what example this may be vnto other, w^t like colour to mayntene y^e Busshope of Rome his autoritie, & also of what estimation I shalbe reputed hereaft', & what credence shalbe gyven vnto my p'chyng, what so eu' I shal say hereaft'."¹

It is unfortunate that the name of this Prior is not given, so that his fate cannot be traced with certainty; it is probable that he followed the example of most of his religious brethren in England, and saved his life by flying into another country.

The suppression of the houses of the Mendicant Orders in England and Wales was carried out mainly by F. Richard Ingworth, suffragan-bishop of Dover. On his tour of destruction, in 1538, he thus wrote to his patron, Lord Cromwell:—

“My synguler goode lorde, In my vmbles man', pleseyth youe to vnderstonde that I haue receyueyd the howse of whyte fryers in Aylysforde in to the kyngs hands, and the xiiij day of dece'ber I cam to ca't'bury wher y^t I fynde iij howseys, more in dett than all y^t they have ys abull to pay, & specyally y^e austen fryers. . . . the blacke and gray be abull w^t ther inpleme'ts to pay ther detts and for ow^r costs, and lytyll more. . . . & so this sonday I woll make an ende in ca't'bury, and on mu'day to sandwyche. . . .”²

Hence, it seems, the Convent of Black Friars here was dissolved on Saturday, Dec. 14th, 1538.

The lands of this Priory were enumerated amongst the possessions of the Archbishop of Canterbury, which, in 1536, came to the crown by exchange; in the earliest years of Elizabeth as amongst the lands and possessions of Thomas Cheney, Lord-warden of the Cinque Ports. This seigniority

¹ *Cotton MSS.*, Cleopatra E. VI. fol. 232.

² *Miscellaneous Letters, temp. Hen. VIII*, series 2 vol. viii., p. 114.

³ *Ministers' Accounts, infra*.

extended, of course, only to the services of certain small rents and feudal rights. Immediately after the suppression of the house, the house and lands were let to tenants. The site of the Priory, with the churchyard, gardens, orchards, etc., was let to John Batehurst, for 40s. a-year; a garden to James Thomson, for 2s.; and another garden to Thomas Lawrence, for 2s. 8d. The Friars had already demised a garden to Robert Hunt for 20s. a-year; and a chamber near the river, late in the tenure of Friar Richard Mede, a fuel house near the door of the chamber, and a chamber or cell in the dormitory, to Robert Collens, LL. Bac., for 13s. 4d. a-year; and both leases were continued. So the total rent to the crown was 78s.¹ Hunt's garden was demised, Feb. 6th, 1543-4, to Richard Burchard, for 21 years, at 13s. 4d., increased in 1549 by 20d. for a house built in the garden wall; making the total yearly rent 73s.² Batehurst got a similar lease, Nov. 12th, 1547, for what he, and Thomson, and Lawrence held, at the old rents.³ The whole, including lands and buildings, was rated Jan. 26th, 1556-7, for Sir Edward Waldegrave, and May 15th following, for John Anthony, at 34 years' purchase, or £132 12s.⁴ The sale was made to this Anthony, *alias* Johnson, along with other church property, but these lands were subsequently withdrawn from the bargain, and Nov. 17th, he was allowed his full purchase money for them.⁵ In the mean time, they had been granted, July 3rd, to Thomas Wiseman and John Smith, gent. (his trustee) and the heirs and assigns of Wiseman, to be held as of the manor of East Greenwich, in socage and by fealty only.⁶ But before the following Michaelmas, they were in the crown again, and were rated, Oct. 27th, 1559, for William Hovenden of Canterbury, at 30 years' purchase, or £109 10s., and about April following for John Harrington.⁷ The grant was made, July 5th, 1560, to John Harrington and George Bur-

¹ *Ministers' Accounts*, 30-31 Hen. VIII, no. 105.

² *Ibid.*, 2-3 Edw. VI, no. 24.

³ *Enrolment of Leases*: Miscellaneous Books of Court of Augmentations, vol. 218, fol. 161.

⁴ *Particulars for Grants*, 3-4 Philip & Mary; Waldegrave grantee, sect. 2.

⁵ *Harl. MSS.*, cod. 607, fol. 118 in ched.

⁶ *Rot. Pat.*, 3, 4 Phil. and Mary, p. 3, m. 30.

⁷ *Particulars for Grants*, 1 Eliz.; Herrington grantee.

den, gents., their heirs and assigns for ever, by the same tenure as to Wiseman.¹

Harrington and Burden, it appears, soon sold the Blackfriars, and it passed to William Hovenden, of Christchurch, Canterbury, who died in 1587, and by his will gave this estate to Robert Hovenden his eldest son in tail male, with remainder to Christopher and George his sons. It afterwards fell into the possession of Peter de la Pierre, a surgeon, originally from Flanders, who purchased it in 1658, and was naturalized by Act of Parliament after the Restoration. He was a Protestant, and introduced the Anabaptists into Canterbury, who still hold their meeting-house and burial place here. The descendants of Peters have possessed the property down to the present century. The churchyard was in part converted into an artillery-ground for the citizens. In 1763 or 4, a Methodists' meeting-house was erected in the old way to the church south of the churchyard. The descent of the property from the year 1668 is fully traced in the works of Hasted and others. Although a new street has been formed on the site of the old garden, and the mansion has been pulled down, there are still very interesting remains of "y^e house called the Blackfreers wythin y^e Cytte of Canterbury."

C. F. R. PALMER.

¹ *Rot. Pat.*, 2 Eliz., p. 14, m. 17.