

Early Documents
The Paston Letters: Henry V
The Paston Letters: Henry V
Contents of this Volume

[The Paston Letters Home Page](#)

THIS edition, published by arrangement with Messrs. ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE AND COMPANY, LIMITED, is strictly limited to 650 copies for Great Britain and America, of which only 600 sets are for sale, and are numbered 1 to 600.

No. . . 44. . . .

THE PASTON LETTERS

A.D. 1422-1509

THE
PASTON LETTERS

A.D. 1422-1509

NEW COMPLETE LIBRARY EDITION

EDITED WITH NOTES AND AN INTRODUCTION

BY

JAMES GAIRDNER

OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

VOLUME II

LONDON  EXETER
CHATTO & WINDUS **JAMES G. COMMIN**

1904

The text of the title page is
shown at the end of the
file.

THE PASTON LETTERS

Early Documents

BEFORE entering upon the correspondence of the Paston family, in the reign of Henry VI., we have thought it well to give the reader a brief note of such deeds and charters of an earlier date as appear either to have been preserved in the family, or to have any bearing on its history. The following is a list of those we have been able to meet with either in the originals or in other quarters, such as Blomefield's *History of Norfolk*, where notices are given of several documents, which appear now to have got into unknown hands. The documents seen by Blomefield, and those from the Paston and Dawson-Turner collections, now in the British Museum, were probably all at one time part of the Paston family muniments. The three Harleian charters seem to have been derived from a different source.

A Deed is cited by Blomefield (*Hist. Norf.* vi. 480), by which Anselm, Abbot of St. Benet's, Hulme, and the Convent there, gave to Osbern, the priest (said by Blomefield to have been a son of Griffin de Thwait, the founder of the Paston family), the land of St. Benet's of Paston (*terram Sancti Benedicti de Paston*), in fee, for half the farm of one *caruca*, as his ancestors used to pay for the same.

Also a Deed of William the Abbot (who lived in King Stephen's reign), granting to Richer de Pastun, son of Osbern, son of Griffin de Thwete, all the land that the Convent held in Pastun, with their men, and other pertinencies.

Also a Deed of Covenant between Richer de Paston and Reginald the Abbot, and Convent of St. Benet's, Holme, that when peace should be settled in England, and pleas held in the Court of our Lord the King, the said Richer would, at the request and at the expense of the Abbot, give him every security in Court to release the lands in Pastun.

'Ralph de Paston was son, as I take it' (says Blomefield) 'of this Richer, and appears to have had two sons, Richard and Nicholas.

'Richard, son of Ralph de Paston, by his deed, *sans* date, granted to Geoffrey, son of Roger de Tweyt, lands in this town (Oxnead), paying 9d. per ann. for his homage and service, 40s. for a fine (*in gersumam*), and paying to him and his heirs on the feasts of St. Andrew, Candlemas, Pentecost, and St. Michael, on each feast, 2s. *ob*. He sealed with one *lis*. Laurence de Reppes, William and John, his brother, William de Bradfield, &c., were witnesses.'—Blomefield, vi. 480–1.

'There was also another branch of this family, of which was Wystan, or Wolstan, de Paston, which I take to be the lineal ancestor of Sir William Paston, the Judge, and the Earls of Yarmouth. This Wolstan lived in the reign of Henry II. and Richard I., and married, as is probable, a daughter of the Glanvilles, as appeared from an impalement of Paston and Glanville in the windows of Paston Hall in Paston. His son and heir styled himself Robert de Wyston and Robert de Paston; who, dying in or about 1242, was buried at Bromholm, and left Edmund de Paston. To this Edmund, son of Robert, son of Wolstan de Paston, Sir Richard de Paston gave the land in Paston which Robert, his father, held of him and Nicholas, his brother, by deed *sans* date.'—Blomefield, vi. 481.

Undated Deed of Nicholaus filius Radulfi Diaconi de Paston, granting to Robert, son of Wistan de Paston, two parcels of land—one of them abutting on the lands of Eudo de Paston. Witnesses—Richard de Trunch; Will. Esprygy; Ralph de Reppes; Roger de Reppes; Richard, s. of Ralph de Baketon; John de Reppes; Roger, s. of Warin de Paston; Hugh, s. of Will. de Paston, &c.—Add. Charter 17,217, B.M. (Paston MSS.).

Undated Deed of Richard, son of Ralph de Pastune, granting to Edmund, son of Robert Wistan de Pastune, lands in Pastune, &c.—(*Seal attached, in fine condition.*)—Add. Charter 17,218, B.M. (Paston MSS.).

Blomefield also mentions (vi. 481) that Nicholas, son of Ralph de Paston, gave lands to Robert, son of Wystan de Paston, by deed *sans date*. Witness, Roger de Repps.

Undated Deed Poll, by which Richard, the son of Ralph, Deacon of Paston, grants to Edmund, the son of Robert Wiston of Paston, certain lands at Paston.—Add. Charter 14,810, B.M. (D. Turner's Collection of Deeds relating to Norfolk).

Richard, son of Ralph de Paston, according to Blomefield (xi. 24), gave 12*d.* a year rent in Paston to the Priory of Bromholm. This gift is also mentioned by Richard Taylor in his Index Monasticus of the Diocese of Norwich, p. 15, where the purpose of the endowment is said to be 'to keep their books in repair.'

Deed, cited by Blomefield (vi. 481), by Richard, son of John, son of Richard de Paston, granting to Richer Alunday and his heirs his native Alan de Tilney, with all his family, &c. (*cum tota sequela*), and 7 acres of land in Paston and Knapton, with messuages, &c., for 4 marks of silver *in gersumam*, and a rent of 22*d.* a year.

Undated Deed Poll, whereby William, the son of Robert Barrett, grants to Edmund, the son of Robert Whiston of Paston, certain lands in the Common Field of Paston.—Add. Charter 14,813, B.M. (D. Turner's Coll.).

Undated Indenture between Clement Parcerit of Gimmingham, and Cecil, his wife, and Edmund, the son of Robert de Paston, concerning lands in Paston Field.—Add. Charter 14,814, B.M. (D. Turner's Coll.).

Undated Deed Poll, by which Richard de Lessingham grants to William, son of Robert de Paston, certain lands in the Common Field of Paston.—Add. Charter 14,812 (D. Turner's Coll.).

Ancient Deed of Nich. Chancehose of Baketun granting to Edmund, fil. Roberti Wistan de Pastun, and his heirs, for 30*s.*, a *tresroda* of land in Pastun.—Add. Charter 17,219, B.M. (Paston MSS.).

Undated Deed Poll, by which Richard, son of John de Paston, grants to Roger, his brother, certain lands in Paston Field.—Add. Charter 14,811, B.M. (D. Turner's Coll.).

Undated Deed Poll, whereby Hugh, son of William de Pastun, grants to Walter, son of Edmund de Pastun, and his heirs, a *tresroda* of land in the fields of Pastun, 'inter terram quæ fuit Osberti Salr. (?), ex parte Austri, et terram quæ fuit Ricardi Chaumpeneys ex parte Aquilonis, et abuttat super forreram quæ fuit Roberti Carpenter' versus Orientem, et super liberam et terram ecclesiæ de Past' versus Occidentem.'—Add. Charter 2004, B.M.

A.D. 1313, 16 Oct. 'William de Paston obtains a pardon as an adherent of the Earl of Lancaster for his participation in the death of Gaveston, and the disturbances occasioned thereby.' 16 Oct., 7 Edw. II.—Palgrave's Parliamentary Writs, vol. ii. div. iii. p. 1262.

A.D. 1324, 22 Jan. Deed Poll, dated on Sunday after the Feast of St. Agnes, 17 Edward II., whereby Henry de Mundham, parson of Oxnead, and another, grant to William Hautayne and Alice, his wife, a certain messuage and premises in Oxnead.—Add. Charter 14,804, B.M. (D. Turner's Coll.).

A.D. 1324, 19 Feb. Quit-Claim by Edmund, son of Robert de Neketone, to Robert de Paston, Tabernarius, of lands in the fields without the West Gate of Bury St. Edmund's. Sunday after St. Valentine's Day, 17 Edw. II. Seal attached.—Harl. Charter 54 A. 31, B.M.

A.D. 1329, 24 Dec. Deed Poll of Margery, daughter of Robert de Neketon, granting to Robert de Paston lands in the fields of St. Edmund's. St. Edmund's Bury, Sunday, Christmas Eve, 3 Edw. III.—Harl. Charter 54 A. 32, B.M.

A.D. 1330. Petition to Parliament 4 Edw. III. of John de Claveryng, complaining that John Payne of Dunwich, Constantine de Paston, Austin Fitzwilliam, and others of Dunwich, took by force and arms five ships and a boat belonging to him, at Wallerswyke, and goods to the value of £300, after having beat, shipwrecked, and imprisoned (*baterent, naufrerent, et enprisonerent*) the said John's servants. The king's answer: 'Eyt en Chauncellerie oyer et terminer pur le horibilite du trespas, devant covenables justices.'—Rolls of Parl. ii. 33.

A.D. 1333, 29 April. Deed Poll, dated Thursday next before the Feast of the Invention of the Holy Cross, 7 Edward III., whereby Alice, widow of William Hautayne, grants to Henry de Colby and others a messuage, with the appurtenances in Oxnead.—Add. Charter 14,805, B.M. (D. Turner's Coll.).

A.D. 1341, 28 Aug. Deed Poll of Robert de Paston granting to William de Bradeleghe and William Child, Chaplains, lands in the fields of St. Edmund's Bury, without the West Gate at Stanywerp, &c. St. Edmund's Bury, Tuesday after St. Bartholomew, 15 Edw. III.—Harl. Charter 54 F. 37, B.M.

A.D. 1341. Indenture of 15 Edw. III. between John de Knapeton, rector of Freugges, and Clement de Paston and Will. his son.—Add. Charter 17,221, B.M. (Paston MSS.).

A.D. 1361. Charter of Sir Rob. de Mauteby to the Prior of St. Olave's, Herlyngflet, 35 Edw. III.—Add. Charter 17,222 (Paston MSS.), B.M.

Notes of Proceedings in Outlawry of the time of Edward III. Judgment by Sir John Hody, mentioned in a more modern hand.—Paston MSS., B.M.

A.D. 1382, 5 Oct. Deed Poll, dated on Sunday next after the Feast of St. Michael, 6 Richard II., by which Robert de Paston grants to John Gant certain lands in Paston field.—Add. Charter 14,817, B.M. (D. Turner's Coll.).

A.D. 1404, 1 Oct. Deed by which Mary, Lady Mortimer, mother of Sir John Fastolf, grants to her said son her manors of Caister and Caister Hall, together with her manor of Repps and the advowson of the free Chapel of St. John, within the said manor of Caister, to hold to him and his heirs for ever. 1 Oct., 6 Henry IV.—Add. Charter 14,597, B.M. (D. Turner's Coll.).

5

THE PASTON LETTERS

Henry V

1

HENRY V.'S CONQUESTS IN FRANCE^{5.1}

1417-9

THESE be the names of Townes, Castell, Citees, and Abbeys that the [King did]^{5.2} gete in his secund viage:—

The Town of Cane and the Castell.

The Town of Valeis [*Falaise*] and the Castell.

The Town of Argenton and the Castell.

The Town of Bayeux and the Castell.
The Town of Alawnsom and the Castell.
The Town of Frezsne le Vicont and the Castell.
The Town of Seint Savers de Vive and the Castell.
The Town of Seint Jakes de Beueron and the Castell.
The Town of Seint Jakes de Burvam and the Castell.
The Town of Seint Low and the Castell.
The Town of Valence and the Castell.
The Cytee of Averense and the Castell.
The Cytee of Sees.
The Cytee of Leseaux.
The Cytee of Everose.
The Town of Louerse.
The Town of Counsheux.
The Town of Vire.
The Town of Karentine.
The Town of Chyrbourgh and the Castell.
The Town of Vernouile and ij. Castell.
The Town of Morteyn and the Castell.
The Town of Powntlarche and the Castell.
The Town of Esey and the Castell.
The Town of Dounfrount and the Castell.
The Town of Pountedomer and the Castell.
The Town of Turve and the Castell.
The Town of Costaunce and the Castell.
The Cytee of Roon and the Castell.
The Town of Galion and the Castell.
The Town of Galdebek [*Caudebec*].
The Town of Mustirvilers.
The Town of Depe.
The Town of Ve and the Castell.
The Town of Vernouile suz Seyne and the Castell.
The Town of Mawnt and the Castell.
The Castell of Towk.
The Castell of Morvile.
The Castell of Overs in Awge.
The Abbey of Seint Savers suz Deve.
The Abbey of Seint Peers suz Dive.
The Abbey of Seint Stevenis of Cane.
The Bole Abbey of Cane.
The Castell of Cursy.
The Castell of Gundy.
The Castell of Nevylebeke.
The Castell of Vermus.
The Castell of Garcy.
The Castell of Oo [*Eu*].
The Castell of Vileine.
The Castell of Egyll.
The Castell of Regyll.
The Castell of Curton.
The Castell of Fagernon.

The Castell of Chamberexs.
 The Castell of Ryveers.
 The Castell of Bewmanill.
 The Castell of Bewmalyn.
 The Castell of Harecourt.
 The Abbey of Behelwyn.
 The Castell of Parlevesque.
 The Castell of Semper.
 The Castell of Tracy.
 The Castell of Tylly.
 The Castell of Groby.
 The Castell of Carsell.
 The Castell of Hommbe.
 The Castell of Seynt Denise.
 The Castell of Bonvile.
 The Castell of Grenneville.
 The Castell of Perers.
 The Castell of Seint Gilerinz.
 The Castell of Bewmound.
 The Castell of Asse la Rebole.
 The Castell of Tanny.
 The Castell of Antony.
 The Castell of Balon.
 The Castell of Mountfort.
 The Castell of Tovey.
 The Castell of Lowdon.
 The Castell of Noaus.
 The Castell of Seynt Romains in Plaine.
 The Castell of Daungell.
 The Castell of Peschere.
 The Castell of Bolore.
 The Castell of Keshank.
 The Castell of Turre.
 The Castell of Seint Imains.
 The Castell of Seint Germaines.
 The Castell of Bomstapyll.
 The Castell of Croile.
 The Castell of Bakuile.
 The Castell of Bellacombyr.
 The Castell of Douyle.
 The Castell of Likone.
 The Castell of Ankyrvile.
 The Abbey of Seint Katerinz.

These er the gates names of Roon, and how the lordys lay in sege, and to fore what gate, and also the derth of vitailles withyn the forseyd Cytee of Roon.

Le Port Causches. To fore thys gate, lay my Lord of Clarence^{8.1} vnto riversyde of Seyne with mykyl of hys howsold and a grete market; and then fro that gate upward lay my Lord of Urmound,^{8.2} my maistre Corwayle^{8.3} with the Lord Talbotts meyne. *Le Port de Castell.* At thys gate my Lord Marchall,^{8.4} the Lord of Haryngton. *Le Port de Bewvoisyn.* At thys gate lay my Lord of Excester. *Le Port de*

Vowdelagate. To fore thys gate lay the Lord Roos, the Lord Wylleby, the Lord Fyhew,^{8.5} Sir John Gray, and Sir William Porter. *Le Port Seint Yllare*. To fore thys gate lay the kyng and my Lord of Glowcestyr. *Le Port de Martynvile*. To fore thys lay my Lord of Warwyk and Sir Phelip Leche. *Le Port debut de Pount*. To fore thys gate lay my Lord of Huntyngdon, my Lord of Sawlisbyry, my maistre Nevile, and my mayster Umphirvile. *Le Port de Vicount*. Thys ys the chefe Watergate of the town, and at thys gate cometh in al maner marchawndys and vitales.

Furthymore as towchyng to the derth of vytayles withyn this forseyd Cytee, j. [one] Buschell of Whete was worth v. scutys, j. lofe j. frank, j. dog j. frank, j. kat ijs. sterlinges, j. rat vjd. sterlinges. And as towchyng all other vitales, it was spendit or that we com in to the Cytee.

Urbis Rotomagi Wulstano captio claret,
Quam Rex Henricus Quintus sexto capit anno.

5.1 [From Paston MSS., B.M.]

5.2 Parchment mutilated.

8.1 Thomas, Duke of Clarence, the King's brother.

8.2 James Butler, Earl of Ormond.

8.3 Sir John Cornwall, afterwards Lord Fanhope.

8.4 John Mowbray, Earl Marshal, afterwards Duke of Norfolk.

8.5 Fitz-Hugh.

2

AMYE BOWET TO ———^{9.1}

1417-9

TRESCHER et mon tresfiable amy je vous salue tressouvent de tout mon cuer, desirant pur savoir et oier bons noveles de vous, et que vous soiez en prosperitee. Et, mon tresfiable amy, vous face assavoir que monsieur mon baron covient sey apparailler et ordenyier envers le Roy ore en y ceste proschein viage en la presence oue le Duc de Excestre, pur la quelle luy covient faire grandes expenses entour son arraie en salvacion de son honour, lequel je vorreie faire ma diligence pur saluer et encrescer a mon poair, come je suy graundement tenuz; et vous estez la persone en la quelle je plus graundement maffie devaunt aucune altre ore vivant. Pur quey je vous emprie tresespecialment de trestout mon cuer que vous please pur faire a tant pur moy quant a ore pur moy faire chevyceance de xl. marcz come pur voie dapprompt ore en y ceste nostre graunde busoigne, promittant de certeyne que sereez bien et loialment repaiez a aucune jour reisoignable que vous veuilliez assigner; et si vous ne osez pleignement affier en y ceste ma promys pur peril quent purra avenir en temps avenir, vous auerez tiel seuretee come vous veuilliez deviser. Trescher et mon tresfiable amy, pluisours a vous nay escrier au present, mays que vous veuilliez doner foie et credence a une gentile feme portour dycestes. Et pri al Saint Espirit qil vous ait touz jours en sa tressaintisme garde. Escript en haste a Wrentham, le xxviii^{me} jour de Mars. AMYE BOWET.

On the back is written in a different hand:—

'Thomas Lente et Matillda uxor mea petunt de Galfrido Somerton xiijs. iiij*d.* quos Willelmus Lyster et dicta Matillda, circa xxiiij. annos elapsos quum ipsi levaverunt finem de tenementis in Castre inter ipsos et Walterum Gase; et dicit quod dicta Matillda quando ipsa examinata fuit per Justiciarios apud Jernemuth qui sedebant super Rayes (?) in ecclesia Fratrum Carmelitarum, dictus Justiciarius dedit dictos xiiis. iiij*d.* quos ipse habere debuisset pro labore suo dictæ Matilldæ, et dictus Galfridus dictos xiiis. iiij*d.* posuit in loculo suo proprio et nullatenus illos dictæ Matilldæ solvit: et ad festyngong per iiiij. annos elapsos le boteler apud Somerton audivit quod dictus Galfridus promisit dictæ Matilldæ et dicto Thomæ tunc viro suo dictos xiiis. iiij*d.*'

10

^{9.1} [Add. MS. 34,889, f. 141.] This letter appears to be of a very early date. If its contents refer, as seems probable, to the preparations for Henry v.'s expedition in France, it is of the year 1417, and so earlier than No. 1; which, however, it may follow as bearing on the same subject.

lequel je vorreie faire ma diligence
text unchanged: error for 'vorroie'?

3

[THE PARSON OF EDINGTHORPE] TO WILLIAM SEWARDBY^{10.1}

A mon trescher et honure sieur, William Sewardby.

1417-9?

TRESCHER et honure sieur, jeo me recomaund a vous si tresentierement de t doyere et de savore bonez novells de vous et de vostre entiere estat et souereyn tres bonz de vous auore et savore com vous mesmes lez sauera meltz devisere ou et si de moy le vostre. Vous plese savore, a la fesaunce de cestez j'estoy en bon saunte. [Et quant a] vostre boys de denz le boys de Baketon vous plese savore que le Prieur de Bromholm est (?) [nostre] parochen, et nous ade prie pur avore vostre dit boys dissevere et departie a son boys issint boys que est parcel a vostre boys pur lour profit et saunz damage de vostre dit boys, mes Richa[rd] disseveryng fere saunz vostre volunte ou autre maundement de vous, come le portour de ment que jeo ne puis ore escrire. Et touchant vostre manere illuques si longuement com maynez de dit priour, vous, ne null de voz bien voliauncez y aueroyent nulle conyschaun[ce] . . . de vostre manere as autrez de leurs seigneuries, et ensi vous et vostrez serrount en temps avenir que vous les tenez en voz maynez proprez et sure tiele colour si vous plese Richard Causton et payr omez a vous si taunt come le priour avaundit fet a termes et jours par vous assign[ez] pur avore par voz tenauntz lez ditz terez, rentz et tenementz, boys et autres comoditez disseverez et departez. Et vous covyent avore i. seneschal pur tenir vostres courtez iluque[s] de dit priour ne en son daungere, mes tiel homme que nad null dom de eux et tiele vous luy voliez bien rewardere pur son travail. Trescher et honure sieur, de ceste matere et de par le portour de cestz, et nous ferrouns nostre powere et diligence de lez accomplere a

11

vostre Sieur, jeo prie a Dieux quil vous doyne tresbon vie et long
honour et souereyn joye de A Edythorp juxta Bromholm, le primer
jour de Jul'.

^{10.1} [Add. MS. 34,889, f. 142.] This letter appears also to be of a very early, but quite an uncertain date. It is unfortunately mutilated, some words being lost on every line on the right hand side of the MS.

4

ABSTRACT^{11.1}

1420
24 MARCH

Marriage Settlement of William Paston, dated the Eve of the Annunciation of the Virgin, 8 Henry v.—It is agreed between Sir Edmund Berre, Kt., on the one part, and William Paston of Paston on the other, that the latter shall marry Agnes, daughter of the said Sir Edmund, and that his trustees of the manor of Oxenede, Norf., shall demise the same to the said William and Agnes, and the heirs of their bodies, &c. Also Sir Edmund's trustees, either of the manor of Estodenham, co. Norf., or of the manor of Hollewellebury, Herts, at the option of William Paston, shall deliver one or other manor to the said William and Agnes, and the heirs of their bodies, &c. If Estodenham be chosen, Paston is to make to Sir Edm. and his wife Alice an estate for life, either in the manors of Marlingford, Norf., and Stanstede, Suff., or in the manors of Elghe and Willyingham, Suff., &c.

5

ABSTRACT^{11.2}

1422

Inspeximus of a Deed of Thos. Pecke, clk., dated 10 Hen. v., granting the reversion of the manors of Breydeston, Caston, &c., then held by Sir John Carbonell and Margery, his wife, to Sir Rob. Brewys, John Fitz-Rauff, and others.—(See Blomefield's *Norfolk*, ii. 285.)

^{11.1} [Add. Charter 17,225, B.M.]

^{11.2} [Add. Charter 17,243.]

THE PASTON LETTERS

Henry VI

INFORMATION AGAINST WALTER ASLAK^{12.1}

1424

BE it remembered that where, on the nyght next biforne the feste of the Circumcision of owre Lord Jesu, the [second]^{12.2} yeer of the regne of Kyng Henry the Sexte, certeyns maffaisours, felons, and brekeres of the kynges peas vnknowyn, to the noumber of iiij^{xx} [*four score*] and more by estimacion, of malice and imaginacion forne thowght felonowsly, the dwellyng place of John Grys of Wyghton, in Wyghton, in the shyre of Norffolk, brokyn, and with carpenteres axes the yates and the dores of the seyde place hewen, and the seyde John Grys, and hys sone, and a servaunt man of hese by here bodyes tokyn, and fro the seyde dwellyng place by the space of a myle to a payre gawles ledde, there hem for to have hangyd; and by cause hem fayled ropes convenient to here felonowse purpos, the seyde John Grys, hese sone, and hys man there felonowsly slowen and mordered in the most orrible wyse that ever was herd spoken of in that cuntre. Wher up on Walter Aslak, purposyng and imaginyng to putte William Paston in drede and intollerable fere to be slayn and mordered in the seyde forme with force and ageyn the kinges peas, on the shyre day of Norffolk, halden at Norwiche, the xxviiij day of August, in the seyde secunde yeer, beyng there thanne a grete congregacion of poeple by cause of the seyde shyre, in hese owne persone, and by Richard Kyllynworth, that tyme hese servaunt, to the seyde William Paston swiche and so many manaces of deth and dismembryng maden and puttyn by certeyns Engliche billes rynd in partye, and up on the yates of the Priorie of the Trinite chirche of Norwiche, and on the yates of the chyrche of the Freres Menures of Norwiche, and the yates of the same Cite called Nedeham yates and Westewyk yates, and in othre places wyth inne the seyde Cite by the seyde Walter and Richard sette, makyng mension and beryng this undyrstondyng that the seyde William, and hese clerkes, and servauntes schuld be slayn and mordered in lyke forme as the seyde John Grys in the seyde forme was slayne and mordered: conteyning also these too words in Latyn, *et cetera*, by which wordes comunely it was undyrstandyn that the forgeers and makers of the seyde billes imagyned to the seyde William, hese clerkes and servauntes, more malice and harm than in the seyde billes was expressed. Wherfore the seyde William, hese seyde clerkes and servauntz, by longe tyme aftyr were in gret and intolerable drede and fere by the sayde maffaisours and felons to be slayn and mordered. Wherfore the seyde William, hese clerkes and servauntes, ne durst not at here fredom nothyr goon ne ryde.

Wher up on the seyde William, for hese owyn persone, affermyd a pleynt of trespas ageyn the seyde Walter and Richard, processe contynued ther up on til the seyde Walter and Richard were founden gilty of the seyde trespas by an inquisicion ther of takyn in dwe and lawefull forme, by whiche inquisicion the damages of the seyde William for the seyde trespas were taxed to cxx^{li} [*£120*]. Aftyr which pleynte affermyd, and to fore ony plee up on the seyde pleynt pleded, the seyde Walter and William, by Thomas Erpyngham, Knyght, a myghty and a gret supportour of the seyde Walter in alle these matiers and circumstaunces ther of ageyn the seyde William, were induced to trete in the same matier in the forme that folwith: That is to seyne, that the seyde William schuld sue forth the seyde pleynt and the execucion ther of at hese owne will, and the seyde Walter schuld defende hym self in the seyde pleynt at hese owne will, except that he schuld no benefice

13

14

take by noon proteccion, ne wrytte of *corpus cum causa*, ne of no lordes lettres up on the seyde sute. And what so ever fortunyd in the seyde pleynt, the proces, execucion, or the sute ther of, the seyde Walter and William schuld stonde and obeye to the ordinaunce of certeyns persones by the seyde William and Walter arbitratours that tyme named, if thei myghten accordyn, and ellys of **anoonpier** also that same tyme named, of alle the seyde trespas, pleynt, and sute, and alle the circumstaunces ther of, so that the seyde arbitrement and ordinaunce of the seyde arbitratours, or ellys of the seyde nounpier, were made withinne xl. dayes next folwyng aftyr the jugement geven in the seyde pleynt.

And aftyrward, the Thursday next biforn Pentecost, the thrydde yeer of the regne of the seyde kyng, at London, in the presence of the right excellent, high and myghty prynce, the Duc de Gloucestre,^{14.1} and by hese commaundement, atte sute and instaunce of the seyde Thomas Erpyngham, it was accordyd bytween the seyde William and Walter that thei schuld stonde and obeye to the ordinaunce and award of alle the seyde matiers of twenye of these iiij. persones, William Phelip, Knyght, Henry Inglose, Knyght, Oliver Groos, and Thomas Derham, chosen on the partye of the seyde William Paston, and tweyne of those iiij. persones, Symond Felbrygge, Knyght, Bryan Stapilton, Knyght, Roberd Clyfton, Knyght, and John of Berneye of Redeham, chosen on the partie of the seyde Water, and elles the decree and jugement of a nounpier to be chosen by the same arbitrores. The whiche William Phelip, Bryan Stapilton, Roberd Clyfton, Oliver Groos, John of Berneye, and Thomas Derham, takyng up on hem the charge of the makyng of the seyde award and ordinaunce by the assent of the seyde Thomas Erpyngham, the Fryday next aftyr the feste of the Assumpcion of Owre Lady, in the seyde thrydde yeer, at Norwiche, tokyn ensurans of the seyde William and Walter by¹⁵ here fayth and here trowthez to stonde and obeye to here ordinaunce of alle the seyde matiers, and the same day biforne noon, maden here full ordinaunce and arbitrement of alle the same matiers in the chyrche of the Greye Freyrys at Norwich; and aftyrward, up on the same award and ordinaunce mad, hadden a comunicacion ther of with the seyde Thomas Erpyngham; and aftyr the same comunicacion, the same day aftyr noon, the same ordinaunce and award wretyn was red byforn the seyde arbitrores and the seyde Walter and William, and examyned, agreed, and assented, and by the seales of the same vj. arbitrores and the seyde Walter and William, was affermed and ensealed and left in the handes of the seyde Sir Bryan, saveliche to be kept in playne remembraunce of the seyde award and ordinaunce; the whiche award and ordinaunce the seyde William was at all tymes redy to obeye and performe, on to the seyde feste of Michelmesse, that the seyde Walter to holde or performe the seyde award pleyntly refused.

And where the seyde Walter, by jugement of the Chaunceller of Ingland, the xvj. day of Jull' the seyde thrydde yeer, was remytted to the kynges prison at Norwich by cause of the seyde sute, the seyde Walter yede at large owt of warde fro the seyde xvj. day of Jull' to the seyde day of the makyng of the seyde arbitrement and award, and fro that day in to Michelmesse thanne next aftyr; the seyde William that meene tyme evermore supposyng that the seyde Walter wolde have holde and performyd the seyde ordinaunce, arbitrement, and award. And at the comyng of the right high and myghty prynce the Duc of Norfolk fro his Castell of Framyngham to the Cete of Norwyche, aftyr the seyde day of the makyng of this arbitrement and ordinaunce, and to fore the feste of Michelmesse than next folwyng, the seyde Walter by hese sotill and ungoodly enformacion caused the seyde Duke to be hevvy lord to the seyde William. Where the seyde William the tyme

of the seyd enformacion was with Sir John Jermy, Knyght, and othre of the counseill of the seyd Duk of Norffolk in hys lordshipes in Norffolk and Suffolk, thanne to hym falle [*fallen*] by the deth of the right worthy and noble lady hys modyr, occupied abowte the dwe service of wryttes of *diem clausit extremum*^{16.1} aftyr the¹⁶ deth of the seyd lady. And where as the seyd William Paston, by assignement and commaundement of the seyd Duk of Norffolk, at hese fyrst passage over the see in to Normandye, in the kynges tyme Henry the Fyfte, was the Styward of the seyd Duc of Norffolk, of alle hese lordshipes in Norffolk and Suffolk fro hys seyd passage un to the seyd feste of Michelmesse; [And^{16.2} over that as sergeaunt of lawe, thow he be unworthy, withholdyn with the seyd Duc of Norffolk alle the tyme that he was sergeaunt bifore the same feste of Michelmesse. And all be it that the fees and the wages of the seyd William for hys seyd service unpaid draweth a gret some to hys pouere degree, if the seyd Duk of Norffolk lyked, of hys noble and plentifous grace, to graunte to the seyd William, in right, ony part of the favour of hese good lordship, the seyd William wolde evere be hys pouere and trewe bedeman, and evere in hys herte thenke alle hys seyd service, and alle the service that ever he dede to the seyd [Duke] of Norfolk, plentefeously weell rewarded.^{16.3}]

And where the seyd Walter, the tyme of the seyd trespas and of the seyd bylles makyng ne long to fore, ne never aftyr biforn the seyd comyng of the seyd Duc of Norffolk to Norwich, ne no tyme hangyng the seyd sute, ne the tyme of makyng of the said arbitrement and ordinaunce, never was servaunt to the seyd Duc of Norffolk at fees, ne at wages, ne wythhaldyn in hese service, ne to hym sued to be supported by hese high Lordship in this seyd matier, to the knowleche of the seyd William, ne to no commune knowleche, in the shyres of Norffolk, Suffolk, ne Norwiche; the sute that the seyd Walter made for supportacion in this seyd matier was be the meene of the seyd Thomas Erpyngham to the seyd Duc of Gloucestre, by whose reule and commaundemente the seyd arbitrement and award was mad in the forme afor seyd. And not with stondyng the seyd trespas and grevaunce by the seyd Walter doon the seyd William, ne that the seyd William ne is not satisfied of the seyd cxx^{li}, ne no peny therof, and hath absteyned hym of al maner of execucion, sewyng of godes or catelles, that by force of the seyd processe, or ony othyr, he myght have had ageyn the seyd Walter or hese borwes [*sureties*], ne that the seyd William hath suffred the seyd Walter to gon at large by long tyme whan he myght have had hys body in warde in lawfull forme: The seyd Walter, be billes in the too last parlementz holden at Westminster and at Leycestre, and at divers tymes in divers other maneres hath noysed and skaundered the seyd William ungoodly and othyr wyse than othyr [*either*] gentilnesse or trowthe wolde; and, overmore, caused the seyd William orribly to be manassed of hys deth, betyng and dismembryng of hys persone by certeyns servauntz of the Lordes Fitz Wauter and othre persones, and by ferefull and overe felle lettres and sondes. Wherefore the seyd William, nothyr hese frendes, ne hese servauntz in hys companye, at here fredam sithen the seyd parlement at Leycestre **durft** not, ne yet ne dar not rydyn ne goo abowte swyche occupacion as he arn used and disposed, to here grete and unportable drede and vexacion in here spirites, and gret harme and damage and losse of here pouere goodes.

[Overmore,^{17.1} the seyd Walter hath sued, and yet rigorously suethe a wrytte of *decies tantum*^{17.2} ageyns x. persones of the seyd Inquisicion and ij. of the servauntz of the seyd William and iiij. othre persones; supposyng by hese seyd sute hem to have taken of the seyd William in hys seyd syte lxxij^{li} [£62] and more

of moneye. The whiche sute of *decies tantum* the seyde Walter, betwyx God and hym, knewith verryly is untrewed. And also the seyde Walter hath sued, and yet persuyth Adam Aubrey, on of the seyde Inquisition in the court of the said Duc of Norffolk of hys manoir of Fornsete, by cause and occasion of the seyde matiers, in whiche sute in the seyde court it is proceded ageyn the seyde Adam in other maner thanne othyr lawe, conscience, or good fayth wolde.^{18.1]}

Overmore the seyde William, atte commaundement of the seyde Duc of Norffolk, hath submytted hym to stonde to the ordinaunce of divers persones of alle the seyde matiers: ones at Leycestre, the Wednesday next bifore Palm Soneday, the iiij. yeer of the regne of the syde kyng; anothyr tyme at Reed clyf in Aprill the same iiij. yeer, aftyr the forme of certeyns billes ended ther of made. The whiche submission, with alle the circumstaunces ther of, the seyde William hath be at alle tymes redy to obeye. The cause why the seyde Walter, by the seyde Englyshe bylles, and in othyr forme, putte and sette the seyde William, and hys seyde clerkes and servauntz, in drede and fere intollerable to be slayn and mordered, and to hem trespassed in the forme afore seyde, was onely for as moche as the seyde William was with the prior of Norwiche of counseille in hese trewe defence ageyn the entent of the seyde Walter in a sute that he made ageyn the seyde priour of a voweson of the chyrche of Sprouston in the counte of Norffolk, wher to the seyde Walter hath nothyr title suffisaunt ne right in no maner wyse by ony matier by hym declared byfore thys tyme.

This scrowe is mad only for the informacion of the worthy and worshipfull lordes the arbitrores; savyng evere to the maker the benefice reasonably to adde and amenuse, his ignoraunce in swiche occupation and defaute of leyser also tendrely considered.

12.1 [From Paston MSS., B.M.] This paper refers to proceedings as late as the fourth year of Henry VI., and therefore cannot be earlier than 1426; but as it mainly relates to outrages committed in the second year of Henry VI., *i.e.* 1424, we have arranged it under that year.

12.2 This word is omitted in the MS.

14.1 Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, Protector of England.

16.1 These were writs issued on the death of a tenant *in capite* of the Crown, and directed to the escheators in the different counties in which his lands lay, directing them to inquire by jury what lands he held, and of what value, and who was his nearest heir, and what was the heir's age.

16.2 Over this word is written 'va,' the first syllable of *vacat*, showing that the passage is cancelled.

16.3 Here is written 'cat.'—See Note 2.

17.1 Here is written 'va.'—See p. 16, Note 2.

17.2 A writ against a juror who had been bribed, by which the prosecutor could recover from him ten times the amount of the bribe, dividing the proceeds with the King.

18.1 Here is written 'cat.'—See p. 16, Note 2, and p. 17, Note 1.

and ellys of a noonpier also that same tyme named
text unchanged: error for 'a noonpier'?

othyr wyse than othyr [*either*] gentilnesse or trowthe wolde
"either" printed in roman (non-italic) type

the seyde parlement at Leycestre durft not

7

WILLIAM PASTON TO JOHN STAYNFORD^{19.1}

To my weel beloved John Staynford of Furnyvales Inne.

1425

THE instruccion to comune of to John Robynson of Carleton bysyde
Snayth.

To enquerre and wyte whether the stoon may be sawed or nought.
Whether it wille chippe or chynne or affraye with frost or weder or water.

Also that every pece of the stoon be iij. foote longe, and that xv. tunne tyght of
the stoon be every stoon weel bedded into the walle and a foote thikke that it
ryse in heighte a foote in the walle; and x. stones of the stoan must be ii. foote
broad, and at the lest a foote and an half thikke. A stoon wil drawe the wighte of
a pipe, as I suppose; the gret stones and nought the smallere stones shuld be
sawed, so that every pece sawed shud holde the seid lengthe of iij. foote, and the
seid brede of ij. foote, and to be, after it is sawed, half a fote or lesse on
thikkenesse, and thenne the brode sawed stones shulde evere stond in the werk
betwen the seid weel bedded stonys that shuld ryse but a fote in the walle and
ben ankered iche of hem with other; and this werk shal be strong j nowe, as
werkmen seyn, and drawe but litill cariage. I wold have swiche stoan a xx^{ti} tunne
tight caried to Moneslee^{19.2} in Norffolk between Crowmere and Bromholm, and
but a myle from Bromholm.

To reporte plein answeere of this bylle writen and how sone I myght have the seid
stone caried to Monesle aforne seid, and for what price.

This werk is for a . . .

W. PASTON.

On the back is written, also in the Judge's hand:—

'Sount due a mon sieur Will. Bardolf de ses gages en les lyueres a ... de mon tres
honneur seigneur le Count de Warrwick, capitayn illeoques, iusques al iiij.^e jour
de febr. lan de Roy Henri Sysme tierce, ccccxiii. xvjs. xd. q^a.'

20

Below this is written in Fenn's hand: '14 Feb^y 3 H. 7. 1487'—a great misreading
of the date.

^{19.1} [Add. MS. 34,889, f. 213.] This letter appears from the postscript to be of the
year 1425, as Bardolf's wages, due on the 4th February in that year, had not
yet been paid.

^{19.2} Mundesley.

NICHOLAS PRIOR OF BROMHOLM TO WILLIAM

PASTON^{20.1}

A Will' Paston soit donne.

1425
JULY 5

DERE Syre and weel be loved, I grete yow weel, and do yow to wetyn that Dawn John Pastone was atte Norwiche on Munday last passed, and dede settyn on Cryste Chyrche gates divers litteres, a lytyl tyme, and ij. copiiis wheche stondyn ther yet, for somounnyn me to the curt of Rome. And we supposyn to have hym at Bromholm, or sum man in hys name wyth inne a lytyl tyme; for dawn Robert of Yorke was atte Norwiche be sendynge of my lady of Murlee, and spak wythe hym in hyre hous on Munday afornseyd, and ther he told the forseyd dawn Robert that he wolde nedys ben Priour of Bromholm, to levyn and deyin ther upon. Also he seyde, as for the composissiou of Bromholm, he hadde do sherchyd att Clunye; and ther inne he standyth clere as he seythe; and as for provisyoun, he seyde he hadde spokyn wyth the Chaunceler and the chef Justyse and Ascam, and thei demptyne hym clere as ther inne, and he seyth; and other dowte is ther none inne be hys tale. And after this the forseyd dawn John askyd obedience of the forseyd dawne Robert in my ladyis presens, and dawn Robert seyde agayne he xulde noghte done that atte that tyme, but he badde hym provyn owt hys purpos as for the composissiou and provisioun to an hende, and than he wolde do hys dever to hym; and thus he departyd. Where for, yif ony thing may be don whyl ye arn now atte Londone for 21
oure helpe and his lettyng, gode Syre, helpythe atte this tyme if it maybe godely, we be seche yow. Dawn Thomas of Cane was atte my lord of Norwiche for helpe in this matier, and he seyde he was inhibytyd and alle hys clerkes be the curt of Rome in this matier, and he seyde by yowre advys, yif it lyke yow, wryttes may ben taken agens hym, and that is best remedye ther inne; j. [one] wrytte is *ne ingrediatur manu forti*. The Holy Trinite have yow in governaunce. Wretyn atte Bromholm the v. day of July, *per* NICH. PRIOREM DE BROMHOLM.

^{20.1} [Add. MS. 34,888, f. 1.] This letter is evidently of the year 1425. Comp. No. 10.

9

ABSTRACT^{21.1}

1425
SEPT. 24

Bill witnessing a concord made 24 Sept. 4 Hen. VI. between John Kertelyng, clerk, general attorney to Sir John Fastolf, on the one part, and Richard Boson, Esq., on the other, viz.: That Fastolf shall have in fee-simple the manor of the said Richard in Castre called Bosons of the gift of the said Richard before Easter next, and that the said Richard shall have Fastolf's manor in Titeleshale called Peekhalle, in fee-simple, of the gift of Fastolf, paying to Fastolf £60 within the next four years.

^{21.1} [From a Bodl. MS.]

1425
NOV. 5

RIGHT worthy and worshepefull Sir, I recommaunde me to yow, and thank yow for the good, trew, and diligent labour ye have hadde for the matier between the Priour of Bromholme^{21.3} and his commoigne^{21.4} apostata, Johne Wortes, that namythe hym self Paston, and affermith hym untrewely to²² be my cousyn. [I have many pouere men of my kyn, but so fals, and so pouere,— but he was nevere of my kyn.]^{22.1} God defende that any of my saide kyn shuld be of swyche governaunce as he is of! Maister John Ixworthe told me that he hadde lettres fro a frende of yowres in the courtt of Rome, that is of the seyd prioures counseill in this mater as ye be, whos name I knowe nought, specifyng that the seyd John Wortes adversarius prioris desperat in causa et concordiam quærit. It is told me sithen that the seyd John Wortes is in the cite of Rome, sacred a bysshop of Irland, videlicet episcopus Corcagensis, wherby it is seyde here that his pretense of his title to the priourie of Bromholme is adnulled, and voide in your lawe. The seyd John Wortes, and a contremen of myne in the seyd court, Maister John Urry, have sent me lettres, wherof I sende yow copies and a trewe instruccion of the seyd matier closed with this bille, the whiche lettres and the matier ther of me semyth mervailous and straunge. A prest of Norffolk, that spak with yow in Julie or August last passed, told me that he yede with yow to the cardinales hous, Trikaricensis,^{22.2} to espie if any swyche processe were sued ageyn me as the seyd lettres specifien, and that ye told the same prest at alle tymes ther was than no swiche processe sued, ne had; the whiche relacion I trust and beleve better than the seyd lettres. I have, by advys of counseill, in makyng a procuracie *ad agendum, defendendum, provocandum, et appellandum* to yow and the seyd Maister John Urry and the Wynsalaw (?) de Swysto; and also a general appelle, the engrossyng of wyche the messenger of this bill myght nought abide; the whiche procuracie and appelle I shal sende to yowr persone, tantummodo [cum pecuniis],^{22.3} with moneye onward, on trust. My will is, ye have the chief governaunce of this matier, and that this article be counseille [*i.e.*, secret]; wher upon I prey yow hertily to be saddely avysed in these matiers, and, as nede is, so to governe hem by your wysdom, that the seyd prioures estat and honeste, and myn also, to yowr worshepe be saved; and that, in alle haste resonable, ye lyke to sende me redes lettres of alle the seyd matier, and the circumstances ther of, and who ye wil I be governed in this mater. I was nevere somouned, ne never hadde tydynges of this matier but by seyde lettres and other fleyng tales that I heve herd sithen, ne nevere hadde to do more with the seyd John Wortes than is specified in the seyd instruccion. Al myghty God have yow in His governaunce. Writen at London, the v. day of Novembre. Yowre frend unknowen.^{23.1}

A Instrukcion and Information of the verry trewe matier between the Priour and the Covent of Bromholm and the seyd John and me, as I am enformed, and as I knowe touchant my persone and the^{23.2} — —.

Ista litera
missa non
fuit.

RIGHT worthy and worshepefull Sir, I recomaunde to yow, preyng yow to wite that I have resceyved yowr goodly lettres makyng mencion that Sir John Paston,^{23.3} ut asserit, hath optyned me condempnyd to hym in CCC[vij].^{23.4} marcz and C.s.; and that the same John, atte reverence of your right

worthy persone, hathe cesed of his sute of certein processes ageyns me up on the seyde condempnacion, takyng continuance^{23.5} of the same matier unto Cristemasse next comyng; by which lettres ye conseil me to make ende with the seyde John, ne deterius inde contingat. I [s]end yow, closed with this bille, [the]^{23.6} copie of un frendly lettre that the seyde John hathe sent to me late, touchant the same matier. The seyde priour hath sent also to yow, and to Mayster William Swan, whiche longe hathe be his procurator, a procuracie for my person, and v. marc of moneye onward. Wher up, in the seyde prioures name, and in myn own also, I prey yow hertily to sette al these matieres in continuaunce un to yowr comyng in to Ingeland; and because ye arn here beneficed, ovr cuntreman, and of worshepe and cunnyng worthyly endowed, the seyde priour and his brether, and I also, willen gladdely in these matieres be treted by yow; and if this mesure be accepted, and we may have knowyng here ther of, it shall cause the attemptacion of divers matieres a geyn summe frendes of the seyde John to cese. And if this continuance be refused, I prey yow, with al my power, that of your wysdom and good discrecion ye wille, in the seyde prioures name, and myn, defenden the seyde sutes, and alle other that the seyde Johne sueth ageyn the seyde priour and me, in your best maner, and to be of ovr counseill in these matieres; and as ye lyke resonably to write to us, so we wil be governed in yowre rewarde, and al other circumstaunces of the same matieres.^{24.1} I conceyve by your seyde lettres that the grece of the matier conteigned in the same ye have of the informacion and assercion of the seyde John, and as he hath enformed yow, I wot weel ye trewely writen; but I hope and trust verrayly the matier of his informacion is untrew [for he hathe no cause to swe to me, ne I was nevre somouned ne cited].^{24.2} The priour of Bromholm sued ageyn the seyde John and other in Ingeland a wryt of *præmunire facias*, and I was therin of the same prioures counseill as the lawe of Ingelond and myn office willen, and more I have nought hadde to do with the seyde Johne, and I can nought beleve that in this cas the same Johne myght by your lawe any swich sute have ageyn me as your lettre specifieth. Also William, the prest specified in yowr [letter],^{24.3} told me that he, after that ye told hym of this matier, lyke as yewrce (?), he comuned with Maister William Swan, and he told the seyde prest ther no processe in the courte ageyn me in no maner —.^{24.4}

24

25

The above two documents are from a corrected draft, written on one side of a broad sheet of paper. On the other side is a long Latin pleading, also much corrected, relative to the Abbey of Bermondsey; prefixed to which are the following words, in the same hand as the preceding letters:—

‘Sir, do writen ij. copies of this note in papier, wyde writen, and gete a copie of the writte in the Eschekyr ageyn.’

The pleading referred to is in a different hand, and begins as follows:—

‘Et prædictus abbas dicit quod ipse de præmissis domino Regi computum reddere non debet; quia dicit quod diu ante erectionem, fundationem sive erectionem prioratus de Bermundeseye qui nunc erectus est in prædictam Abbatiam, Willielmus Rufus filius Willelmi Conquestoris nuper Rex Angliæ fuit seisitus de manerio de Bermundeseye,’ etc.

^{21.2} [From Paston MSS., B.M.] This letter, being dated in November, was probably written before Nos. 11 and 12 which follow, though evidently very near them in point of date. The chief evidence of the time when they all must have been written will be seen in No. 12.

^{21.3} Who this Prior was we cannot say, the list of the Priors of Bromholm being

very defective. Blomefield says, that a Prior John has been met with in the 11th of Edward III., and Robert, in the 14th of Henry VI.—that is to say, in 1435 or 1436, just ninety-nine years later. Nothing is known of the Priors between these dates, even by the latest editors of Dugdale.

21.4 'Commoigne,' i.e. brother monk. The writer also calls him *apostata*, i.e. a monk who has run away and renounced his order.

22.1 These words occur in the draft, but are crossed out.

22.2 Thomas Brancaccio, Cardinal Bishop of Tricarico. He was made a cardinal by his uncle, Pope John XXIII., and is said to have been a man of very bad morals.

22.3 Interlined, and afterwards erased.

23.1 Above these words, and in the place where the signature might have been expected, occur these names, one above another—

'Thomas Abbas de Leyston, in Com' Suff.

'Ricardus Fremelynham, concanonichus ibidem.'

They do not, however, appear to be connected with the letter. The following words are also scrawled between this letter and the next:— 'N. persona ecclesie de Testerton in Com' Norff. Gees Cuttyng. Joh' persona ecclesie de Yermuth (?), Alicia Gosloth (?).'

23.2 *Sic*.

23.3 The title 'Sir' was at this time commonly prefixed to a priest's name.

23.4 The 'vij.' is struck out.

23.5 Contiañce, MS. here and after.

23.6 Struck out.

24.1 Here occur the following words, crossed out:— 'Ferthermore, touchant my persone, I mervaille that the seyd — Ferthermore.'

24.2 Struck out.

24.3 Omitted in MS.

24.4 The draft here ends abruptly.

fuit seisitus de manerio de Bermundeseye
text has 'd emanerio'

11

JOHN PASTON *ALIAS* WORTES^{25.1}

*Venerables et discretas personas les courtesans demorans en l'ostel du
Templebar en la cité de Londres, Mes treschiers et treshonnourés
seigneurs et amis.*

1426

TRESCHIERs et treshonnourés seigneurs et grans amis, toute recommandation premise, plaisir vous soit de scavoir que je vous notifie et avertich pour le present que Wilhelmus Paston le Sargant est denunciés escommuniés, que plus plainement poes perchevoir per Instrument que vous envoie. Et pour tant, mez treschiers seigneurs, que je disire moult le salut de votre ames et l'onneur de cascun de vous, comme faire le doy, affin que vous u [ou] aucun de vous n'ayes aucune conversation u participation avecquels le dit Wilhelmus, car il est aggrevés a cloquettes sonans, et tant que pour faire cesser

en toutes eglises leur il voldroit aler. Mais jou qui suy homme d'eglise et sur toutes choses desire et convoite l'onneur et le bien dou Royaulme, car gy suy tenus, je ne envoie point pour le present les dittes aggravances, ne ossi voillans faire si grand mal que poroye jusques a che que j'aray certaines nouvelles et responses comment li dis Wilhelmes se voldra ordonner en mes affaires, car nous avons en le loy que nuls os excumeniés ne puet et ne doit estre admis devant juge quelcunq. Mes treschiers seigneurs, se aucune chose vo plaise que faire puisse, mande le me et le feray de bon cuer. E le sancte Dieuls qui vous ait tous et cascun de vous en sa sancte garde. Et osy, mes treschiers et treshonourés seigneurs, plaise vous scavoit que encelle meyme cause li dis Wilhelmes est redevaules et enquews envers moy, par sentence diffinitive que j'ay obtenu pour moy, en mille deuls cens et trente ducas, et que li dis Wilhelmes ne puet yestre jamais absols sy non qu'il soit d'acort avecquels moy. Escript a en la ville de Bruges le xxiiij^e jour de Janvier. 26

JOHANNES PASTON,^{26.1} en temps passé Priour de Broholm, et pour le present evesquels de Corkagen, le tout vostre.

^{25.1} [From Paston MSS., B.M.] William Paston, who is here spoken of as a Serjeant, attained that degree in 1421, and was made Judge of the Common Pleas in 1429. But a closer approximation to the date of this letter may be made by comparing it with that which follows, which is certainly much about the same time.

^{26.1} William Paston, as appears by Nos. 12 and 14 following, disputed this writer's right to call himself Paston, and asserted that his real name was Wortes. It is curious that neither in the list of the Bishops of Cork, nor in that of the Priors of Bromholm, is the name either of Paston or Wortes to be met with.

12

WILLIAM PASTON TO WILLIAM WORSTED AND OTHERS^{26.2}

A mez treshonourés Meistres Will'm Worstede, John Longham, et Meistre Piers Shelton soit donné.

1426
MARCH 1

RIGHT worthy and worshepefull sires and maistres, I recomand me to yow, and thank yow with al my herte, of the gret tendrenesse ye lyke to have of the salvacion of my symple honeste, preying yow evermore of your good continuance. I have, after the advys of your lettre, doon dewely examyned the instrument by the wysest I coude fynde here, and in especial by on Maister Robert Sutton,^{27.1} a courtezane of the Court of Rome, the which is the chief and most chier man with my Lord of Gloucestre, and his matier in the said court for my lady, his wyff;^{27.2} and here aunswere is that al this processe, though it were in dede preceded as the instrument specifieth, is not suffisant in the lawe of Holy Cherche, and that hem semyth, by the sight of the instrument and by the defautes [that] ye espied in the same and other, and in maner by the knowelech of the notarie, that the processe, in gret part ther of, is fal[se and un]trewe. I have 27