ART. XIV.—The Friar-Preachers, or Blackfriars, of Carlisle.

By the Rev. C. F. R. Palmer.* With an Appendix by R. S. Ferguson, F.S.A.

Read at Kendal, July 7th, 181.

WALTER MAUCLERK, or Malclerk, was one of the greatest diplomatists of his age, and was esteemed more as a politician and courtier than as a divine. From his scanty learning, it is probable that his surname was given to him. He was made Bishop of Carlisle in 1223, and owed his dignity mainly to temporal interests. His life at court was marked with all the vicissitudes of favour and disgrace—now at the helm of state, then in skulking flight. In his better nature he was always a patron and great benefactor of the Friar-Preachers. At last conscience overcame ambition; and, wearied with the world, and doubtful of the lawfulness of his appointment to the bishopric, he entered the Dominican order at Oxford in the summer of 1246, and after a short religious life, closed his days there in the autumn of 1248.

It was under the sanction of this noted prelate that the Friar-Minors and Friar-Preachers established themselves at Carlisle, in the year 1223. The former settled in this city about the feast of the Assumption; the latter about the following Michaelmas.† At first the house of the Friar-Preachers was "extra muros;" but Leland describes it as being "withyn the walles."‡ This is easily explained, for part of the city walls was rebuilt in the time of Henry VIII., and was prolonged so as to include the

^{*} Reprinted by permission from the "Reliquary Quarterly Archæological Journal and Review." Edited by Mr. Llewellynn Jewitt, F.S.A., for April, 1881. † Chron. Lanercost: Bibl. Cotton. Claud. D. VII.

⁺ I 1 1 1. It

[‡] Leland's Itin.

English gate and citadel, between which and the Church of St. Cuthbert, the Dominican Priory stood.

The Friar-Preachers having secured a house, immediately fitted up a chapel for themselves, and set about to build. The king ordered the Sheriff of Cumberland, March 12th, 1333-4, to give them the seisin of a plot of land in the street, lying between their chapel and some land belonging to them; which plot they had begged in order to enlarge and extend their houses and buildings.* But in the course of the erections, they encroached on the street to the damage of it, and would have had the obnoxious house summarily razed if the king had not directed a mandate to the sheriff, June 24th, 1237, to allow the Friars themselves to remove it without hindrance.† Another royol mandate was issued. May 19th, 1238, to the mayor and approved men of the city, to allow the Friars to carry their conduit either below or through the city wall; ‡ and the order was repeated September 30th, 1240, for piercing the wall. \ Hence it appears that they obtained their supply of water from within the city, probably from the public conduit. The king gave them, December 11th, 1230, ten oaks in Englewood forest for the fabric of their church; and in 1244 six more, which, August 31st, he ordered the sheriff to carry, "usque ecclesiam illam."

Henry III. ordered the sheriff, December 18th, 1251, to let the Friar-Preachers of Carlisle have thirty quarters of wheat, twenty quarters of barley, and thirty quarters of oats, as a royal gift for their support.** In 1269, the prior of Carlisle was present at the arbitration made, August 4th, at the convent of Pontefract, in the matters of controversy between the Cluniacs of that town and those of

Monk

^{*} Claus, 18 Hen. III. m. 28.

[†] Claus. 21 Hen. III. m. 9. ‡ Claus. 22 Hen. III. m. 14.

[§] Claus. 24 Hen. III. m. 1.

[|] Claus. 24 Hen. III. m. 19. Liberat 28 Hen. m. 5.

^{**} Liberat. 36 Hen III. m. 17.

Monk Bretton.* The executors of Queen Eleanor of Castile, shortly after Michaelmas, 1291, gave 100s. for this house, to F. William de Hotham, provincial, through Robert de Middelton.† The city of Carlisle was burnt down on the Sunday within the octave of Ascension (May 18th), 1292, and all the churches were destroyed except the one attached to this Priory. The chronicler of Lanercost bewails the unfortunate disaster in verse, wherein he gives the Friar-Preachers their French designation of Jacobins.

Proh dolor immensus! Maii sub tempore mensis, Ignibus accensis urbs arsit Karleolensis. Urbs desolata, cujus sunt aspera fata, Flammis vastata misere jacet incinerata. Ecce repentinis datur inclita villa ruinis, Fitque cremata cinis, salvis tantum Jacobinis. Organa, campane, vox musica Canonicorum Jam mentita sane sunt instrumenta dolorum. Post desolamen urbs sentiat hec relevamen. Fiat, fiat. Amen. Hoc audi, Christe, precamen."

During the wars with Scotland, Edward I. was several times at Carlisle, and in 1300 the royal family took up their quarters in this Priory. On July 3rd he gave an alms of 16s. to the Friars for their food on June 28th, 29th, and 30th, through F. John de Hibaldestowe. On leaving the city, July 4th, he gave 5s. 4d. for a day's food, through F. Henry de Newcastle-on-Tyne, and sent 10s. 8d., September 20th, from Rose Castle, through Sir Henry, his almoner, for food on August 14th and 15th, in honour of the Assumption of the B. Virgin. His queen, Margaret of France, amongst the alms given by Sir Hugh, her almoner, on the nine Fridays between September 18th, when she joined the king at Rose Castle, and November 19th, gave 6s. 8d.

^{*} Mon. Angl.

[†] Rot. (garder.) liberat. pro regina etc. 19-20 Edw. I.

[‡] Rot. garder. 28 Edw. I.

[§] Lib, quotid, contrarot. garder. reg. 28 Edw. I. printed).

to be bestowed on the Friar-Preachers of Carlisle for a day's food.* The king, being again at Carlisle, gave them. October 18th, through F. John de Wrotham, 18s. for three days' food, and 6s. for the 8th, on which day they had celebrated mass for the soul of the Earl of Cornwall.† They also celebrated mass for the soul of the Earl of Holland, November 10th, whose anniversary fell on that day: the Queen and Countess of Holland (the king's daughter) were present, and made an offering of 12s. 2d.; and the countess, moreover, gave 4s. for that day's food. In 1302 the Queen and Countess again heard mass here on the same anniversary, and gave the same offering of 12s. 2d.

Edward II., passing through Carlisle on his way from Scotland, September 4th, 1307, ordered 15s. to be given to the fifteen Friar-Preachers here for three days' pittance. through F. John de Warfeld. In 1315 Robert Bruce, King of Scotland, laid siege to Carlisle, July 24th, and placed part of his army under Lord James Douglas on the west, about the place of the Friar-Preachers. he learned that the English were advancing against him, August 1st, he raised the siege, and retired into his own country, leaving all his implements of war behind.**

By an inquisition taken at Carlisle, February 4th, 1333-4, by writ of November 16th preceding, it was found that Thomas le Spenser, chaplain, might assign land 240 feet long and 7 feet broad to the Friar-Preachers, to form a road straight from the street to their dwelling. The land was held immediately of the crown by house-gabellage, and was worth 40d. a year in all issues.†† A mandate was directed

[†] Rot. garder. (elemos.) 28 Edw. I.

T Rot. garder. (elemos.) 28 Edw. 1.

‡ Lib. quotid. etc. 28 Edw. I.

§ Onus garder. 31 Edw. I., de term. pasch.

|| Lib. garder reg. 1 Edw. II.

*** Chron. Lanercost.

† Inquis ad q. damp. 7 Edw. III., no. 12. Jurors: John, son of Tho. Pellipar,
Ad. de Oxholm, Edmund de Bolton, John fitz Martin, Hen. de Coquina, Alan de
Lydell, Will. de Fribus, Gilb. del Feilde, Tho. del Cowe, Tho. de Frod...sham, Ad. Tiffour, and Tho. le Sadelere.

to the Chancellor, May 16th, to grant the mortmain-license for the transfer of the land; but no such license appears on record.

Edward III., at Carlisle in 1335, bestowed an alms of 20s. on the Friar-Preachers, through F. Peter de Rudby, for celebrating the anniversary of his grandfather, Edward I. (July 7th), and made an offering of a cloth of gold, worth 26s. 8d., at the high altar through his almoner, Sir Walter de London.*

Sir Brian de Stapilton, Knt., by will dated May 16th, 1304, and proved January 26th following, bequeathed to the Friars of Carlisle, to each Order, 13s. 4d. † The mastergeneral of the Order gave license, June 20th, 1397, to F. Stephen de Actlu, S. T. Mag., to choose a companion, to take meals in his own chamber, and to remove disturbance of the peace from his convent of Carlisle. T Sir Richard le Scrop, Lord of Bolton, August 2nd, 1400, bequeathed 20s. to every house of Friars at Carlisle, Penrith. and Appleby. § F. John Grey, sac. pag. prof., prior (custos) of this house, had faculties from the Archbishop, February 20th, 1409-10, to hear confessions in the Diocese of York for one year. || Sir John Kimblow, Rector of Lamplugh, and Archdeacon of Richmond, by will dated September 18th, and proved November 6th, 1469, bequeathed 6s. 8d. to the Order of Friar-Preachers of Carlisle.**

At the time of the dissolution, the Priory consisted of the church and churchyard, the convent buildings and houses, a large garden, and a great orchard; with two tenements in Butcher-gate, which probably formed the endowment of some mortuary foundations or obits. The

convent

^{*} Lib. garder. de annis 8, 9, 10, 11 Edw. III.: Bibl. Cotton. Nero C VIII.

[†] Testamenta Eboracensia.

[‡] Ex. tabulario mag. gen. Ord. Romano.

[§] Testamenta Eboracensia.

[|] Hutton's Excerpta e reg, dioc. Ebor. : Harl. MSS., cod. 6969.

^{**} Wills and Inventories from the Registry of the Archdeaconry of Richmond.

convent was suppressed about March, 1538-9, apparently by the suffragan Bishop of Dover, for in a letter addressed to Lord Cromwell from Grimsby, February 24th, he mentioned his intention of going to Scarborough, Carlisle, and Lancaster.* The plate taken hence was lodged in the king's jewel-house, April 25th following,† and the buildings were appropriated for the purpose of the Government. John Skalton, Esq., was made keeper, and at Michaelmas the lands and buildings were thus occupied:—

The site of the church with the churchyard containing r .	
	g waste.
A stone house, with two stables adjoining let to Jane Blaner-	
hasset, gentlewoman	8s.
A house called the Gardyng House, in the tenure of the	
chamberlain within the city, and taken up with the	
king's ordnance and gunpowder	ios.
A chamber lying west of the Frater, let to Anthony Musgrove,	
chaplain	6s. 8d.
Two garners over the Frater, let to Sir Christopher Dacre,	
knt	8s. 4d.
A house called the Kylne House and a stepe trowe of lead, con-	
taining 3 yards in length, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in depth, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ broad, let	
to Will. Talentyre	48.
The quarter of the garden next the Kylne House, let to Jane	
Blanerhasset	12d.
The moiety of the same garden, let to the wife of Thomas Bell	2S.
The quarter of the same garden, let to Will. Howell	12d.
Upper part of the same garden, let to Edw. Blakeloke	12d.
Tenement lying in the Bocher Gate, let to the same	5s.
Tenement in Bocher Gate, let to Rob. Waroke	7s. 4d.
A garden, parcel of the Grete Orchard, let to Rob. Colier	12d.
A garden, parcel of the same, let to Rob. Dalston	8d.
Another parcel of same, let to John Duglas	8d.
A garden, also parcel of the same, let to Lancelot Sewell,	
merchant, and Alex. Stagg, and Hugh Berker, chaplains	28.
Total yearly rents, 53s. 8d.;	

^{*} Miscellaneous letters, temp. Hen. VIII., series 2, vol. viii.

Within

[†] Williams' Account of Monastic Treasures Confiscated (Abbotsford Club).

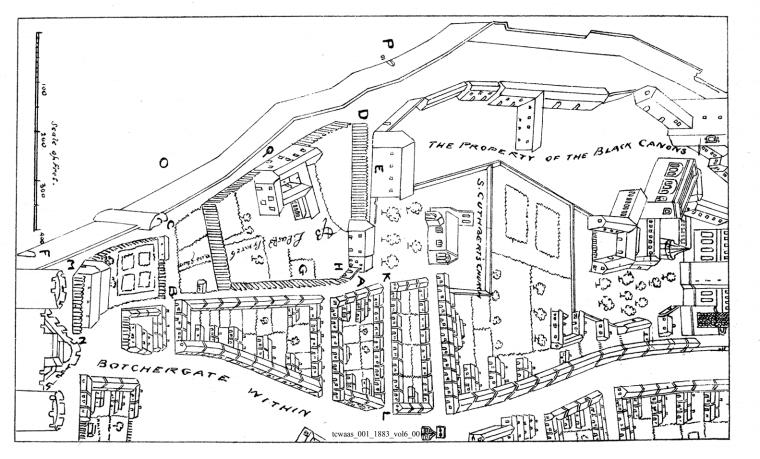
[‡] Ministers' Accounts, 30-31 Hen. VIII., No. 131.

Within a short time Margaret Sewell, Alex. Starke, and Berker were tenants of the last garden. In 1541 the site of the church and the churchyard, with the guard-house and all the buildings and lands, except the two tenements and the gardens let to Colier, Dalston, and Duglas, were paled in by Sir Thomas Wharton, and within the palings a house was well and strongly built out of the materials of the Priory for the use of the royal council in the settlement of affairs between the kingdoms of England and Scotland. The amount thus withdrawn from the rents was 30s.* In 1608 all the houses and lands remained in the same state as in 35 Henry VIII. (1543), except that the cottage let to Blacklocke was rented at 3s. 6d. instead of 5s., and the guard-house was then the wardenhowse of the citadel.† Afterwards, the large building was turned into the county gaol, consisting of several modern buildings around a considerable vard. This ground, 255 feet long and 108 feet broad, was bought by the Quakers soon after their society sprang up, for the accommodation of many of their sect who were imprisoned here; and the ground has ever since been part of the gaol. This was a mean building, and became much out of repair. A new county gaol and house of correction were erected on the site, and completed in 1827, at the cost of £42,534, including the purchase of 1½ acres of land. The old gaol was on the site of the present gaol-lodge. No memorial of the Blackfriars of Carlisle now exists, except a street to which the name was given.

APPENDIX.

^{*} Ministers' Accounts, 37-38 Hen. VIII., No. 178.

[†] Ministers' Accounts, 5-6 Jac. I., No. 6.



APPENDIX.

By R. S. FERGUSON, F.S.A.

The Catalogue of the MS. Maps at the British Museum contains the following entries:—

9. A plan of the "citie of Carlisle" drawn tempore Henry VIII. on a scale of 100 feet to an inch: 2ft. 2in., by 1ft. 7in. (Cott. Aug. I. c. 13.)

10. Ancient plan of the city of Carlisle, from a drawing in the British Museum, being a highly finished reduced copy in outline in pencil from the preceding; by F. Nash, 1ft. 1in., by 10in. (Add. 9462, fol. 145.) Engraved in Lysons' Magna Britannica, vol. iv., p. 58.

On looking to the engraving in Lysons' we find the site of the Priory most clearly defined, exactly as paled in by Sir Thomas Wharton in 1541, ante p. 144. I have reproduced a portion of this plan in fac-simile, adding for the convenience of those who do not know Carlisle, one or two names in a modern hand, and some lettering to facilitate reference. The site of the Blackfriars is a trapezium, ABCD on the plan, bounded on the east by the Back Street, or Blackfriars Street, A B; on the west by the street called now the West Walls, B D; on the north by Bella Head's Lane, A D, which divided the Blackfriars from St. Cuthbert's Churchyard, and the "Locus Canonicorum," on whose southern boundary stood the Canons' Tithe Barn, E on the plan. The southern boundary of the trapezium is the passage C B, or Bush Brow, leading from the main street to the halfround tower in the west curtain wall. Between this tower and the western tower of the Citadel was the English Gate, at F.* Over the area ABCD is written in a contemporary hand, "The Black freares was hear." Excavations show that Bella Head's Lane was once a ditch—the boundary ditch between the Black Canons of Car-

lisle

^{*} Many people think the English Gate was between the Citadels, and many maps show it there. It was to the north of the west tower of the Citadel. The fort of the Citadel consisted of two great round towers, connected by rampier walls, within which stood two houses (probably more), known as the Buttery and Boulting Houses. See the report temp. Elizabeth in Hutchinson's Cumperland, vol. 2, p. 594, and the view in "Carlisle in the Olden Times;" also Smith's plan of 1746. The rampier wall towards the city was strengthened by a great semicircular bastion, and that to the south by a square one. The fort of the Citadel was a most important part of the fortifications of Carlisle. It could mount two tiers of guns, its fire could sweep the main street of the city, as well as the London Road, which wound round its western tower, and it also enfladed the English Gate.

lisle and the Black Friars. The "locus Canonicorum et Fratrum Prædicatorum" of the Lanercost Chronicle thus extended from Paternoster Row to the Bush Brow, almost the whole length of the West Wall of Carlisle.

The paling put up by Sir Thomas Wharton is most clearly shown in the plan: it does not include the whole site, for a small piece on the south is excluded, and it is at two places interrupted by buildings. A large two-storied building stands in the centre of the west side: at right angles to it, and facing south is a two-storied house, looking over the gardens. This, from its position, I take to be the "Gardyng house," (ante p. 143,) which afterwards became the "Warden-house," or residence of the Warden or Governor of the Citadel, a post held by Sir William Dalston in the reign of Charles II. Two other buildings with these two enclose a courtyard, and the building forming the north side of the yard continues to the east, and has something like cloisters on its south side. These buildings must have occupied the site now the "Old Foundry," and stood probably on the foundations of the conventual buildings, if indeed part of those buildings did not actually survive in them. The church must have stood immediately to the east, about where are now the warehouses and stables in Blackfriars Street, which are now my brother's property, at G in the plan.

The title deeds of these warehouses and stables show that in 1606 Geo. Ladyman conveyed them to James Blaycklock as "all that Barne of two rooms and one outsett with the appurtenances situate in the said City and church of the late dissolved monastery of the Blackfryars there in the tenure of said Geo. Ladyman, &c," subject to a yearly rent of 8d. to the King. I have therefore little doubt but that the western portion of the Old Foundry is on the site of the Conventual buildings, and that the church stood on or near Mr. C. J. Ferguson's property in Blackfriars Street.

At the north-east corner of the enclosure the plan shows a two-storied house with a two-storied annex to it—probably the stonehouse and stables adjoining let to Jane Blanerhasset (ante p. 143). At this angle is the entrance H to the enclosure, directly opposite New Bank Bank, K L, which, spite its name, is shewn in the map temp. Henry VIII. It is to this day 240 feet long by 7 feet broad, and is no doubt the road of those dimensions which the Blackfriars obtained leave to make from their dwelling to the street, i.e., the main street.

I do not pretend to assign each of the gardens shown on the plan of temp. Henry VIII. to its tenant, but if any one will take the Ordnance Map, he will see that the present buildings that now cover the site have been formed by building round the gardens. The line that in the old map cuts off the north-west angle of the site is to this day

the

the boundary between the Old Foundry property, and other property belonging to my brother. His Blackfriars Street property, similarly, shapes itself to the lines of the smaller of the three garden plots, G. shown on the plan.

My next task is to identify the two tenements in Botchergate (ante p. 143).

At the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, and up to the end of last century, what is now called English Street, was called Botchergate: at first Botchergate simply, and afterwards, Botchergate Within (i.e., the city). A reference to the title deeds of any property (my own for instance) in English Street will shew this, the parcels running "in Botchergate within, otherwise English Street." The two tenements must, therefore, be looked for in English Street, and not in the modern Botchergate, which barely existed in 1746, and could hardly exist at all in 1538-9.

Now a reference to the plan shows, south of the site we have been discussing, another site, C B M N, also paled in,—a garden with small outhouse, and at the south end two large houses, exactly opposite Cuckolds's, or Citadel Row, and so on the site of the lodge to the present Gaol, which is in English Street, or Botchergate within. These occupy the site which was afterwards the "Old Gaol," and must be the buildings that were converted into the County Gaol, and that appear to the sinister in the plate of the English Gate in "Carlisle in the Olden Time."

The county histories say the Old Gaol stood on the site of the monastery of the Blackfriars. That is clearly impossible; a glance at the plan shows that, but no doubt the assertion arose from its having stood on the site of property belonging to that body, and only separated from their site by a narrow passage, which was closed during the last century, as the maps of that time show.

The "Grete Orchard" I do not pretend, as at present informed, to identify. I rather think it may be found outside the City, at O, in a property well-known as "Mounseys." Part of it was purchased from the Aglionbys, and Jefferson, in his History of Carlisle, says it came to them from the Blackfriars, The title deeds show that the Aglionbys purchased early in last century from Backhouse, whose name survives in Backhouse's Walk. The older deeds are missing, but Backhouse may have deduced title from the Blackfriars, and Atkinson, the writer of Jefferson's History, had special access to the Aglionby muniments. The name of Collier, who was tenant of parcel of the "Grete Orchard," ante p. 143, survives to this day in Colier's Lane. Wood's valuable map of Carlisle, in 1821, shows Colier's Lane continued to Backhouse's Walk.

After

After this identification of the site of the Blackfriars by help of the map temp. Henry VIII., there can be no doubt that their house was inside the City long ere Henry VIII. built the Citadel. I cannot accede to Mr. Palmer's suggestion that Henry VIII. included it in the City for the first time, when he built the Citadel, and prolonged the City Wall. That would involve the City Wall having once terminated at the Sallyport, (P on the plan,) and that Henry VIII. prolonged it from there to the English Gate. The Sallyport is situate in the West Wall, almost opposite the division between the property of the Black Canons of Carlisle and the Blackfriars. Examine the City Wall northward from the Sallyport to the Irish Gate, and southward to the Round Tower, i. e., the Viaduct: in both cases, patched as the walls are, it is easy to be seen they are of coeval date, and that a date long anterior to Henry VIII. Some competent judges have asserted them to be Roman: I do not think so, though many Roman stones appear among them. Any extension of the walls made by Henry VIII. would only be a few yards between the Tower and the Citadels, which were probably built a few yards in advance of the old gate. But the Chronicle of Lanercost, in 1315, clearly proves that the Blackfriars were then within the walls. It says:—

"Dominus vero Jacobus de Douglas, miles baldus et cautelosus, cum quibusdam aliis de exercitu qui erant audaciores et agiliores posuerunt se ad partem occidentalem contra locum Canonicorum et Fratrum Prædicatorum, &c."

No one doubts that Canons were within the Walls, and if they were, so must have been the Blackfriars, or Friar Preachers, for they are spoken of in identical language.

I am positive they were within the City in 1238, when they got a mandate to carry their conduit through the City Wall: that alone proves it. There was no public conduit in Carlisle; its position forbids such, and its water supply was got from deep wells,* of which several exist on the site of the Blackfriars. The order to pierce the Wall would be to run their sewer through it. If they were then outside, it would have been impossible to have either got water from the inside of the City, or to have drained into the City. They would too have had an abundant water supply at hand without the City.

Two solutions occur to me of the difficulty:—I. In 1233 they squatted outside for a few months until they could get inside. 2. The Chronicler of Lanercost is mistaken, as the Escheat Rolls prove him to be in another local instance. (See Transactions of this Society, vol. iv., p. 466.)

^{*} In the Artesian well in the Gaol, the water only rises to twelve feet from the surface. FA conduit in Carlisle could not be filled without constant pumping, and the surface within the City Walls is thirty feet higher than where the Gaol well is.

But since writing the above I have found the conduit. In Lysons' History of Cumberland, at p. ccvii, is an account, with plan, of a singular vaulted chamber within the City Wall at Q on the plan. All the local historians mention this chamber and its discovery, and have no idea what it is. Hutchinson, vol. ii., p. 607. says:—

"Up the west side, adjoining the walls, from S. Cuthbert's church to the gaol, is called the Black Friars: a few years ago in making a drain from a house here towards the walls, the top of an arch was discovered: some of the stones being removed, we discovered a spacious arched room, one side of which rested upon the walls, in height 15 feet, in breadth 12 feet, and in length about 30 feet: the end was narrower and lower, and supposed to have heen connected with other similar rooms, but the partitions built up. There were four funnels went upright to the foot-path of the walls, but covered at the top with flags, and iron grates in the funnels. On the opposite side, between the two arches, a horizontal funnel about two feet wide and three feet high went towards the city. This was searched a considerable way, till the person was entangled with rubbish which choaked it up: beneath this passage the floor was flagged and walled in about 18 inches high on each side, and a conduit went through the city wall on the opposite side of the vault: this was opened by removing the earth on the outside, about four feet deep, and let out a great quantity of water which was lodged in the vault. Proceeding to remove the wet rubbish which was collected, the workmen were interrupted by the gunner of the Castle, who assumed a higher power than Mr. Mead, the store keeper, at whose instance the search was making: and the place was shut up and never more opened."

The above was written in 1794: the vault has now been cleared, and is let by the Corporation, its present owners, as a tallow warehouse, for 2/6 a-year. It is simply an underground vault with a drain into the top, and another out under the City Walls at the bottom. There was no access to it, but one has now been made by breaking through the City Wall. It is close to what I have pointed out as the site of the Conventual buildings of the Blackfriars, and the upper drain comes from those buildings. It is nothing more nor less than the cesspool of the Blackfriars, and the four funnels are the shoots of the jakes. Instances exist at Durham, Canterbury, and elsewhere.