

THE EARLY MINUTE BOOKS OF THE DEAN AND
CHAPTER OF CANTERBURY.¹

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Nicholas Battely, the editor of Somner's *Antiquities of Canterbury*, in a letter to Strype, dated March, 1690, describes a visit to the Chapter Library at Canterbury. He says :—

“ . . . in the place where ye Records of about ye time of K. Edward & Qu. Elizabeth lay were found heaps of burnt papers ; for some years ago a fire happened to ye place where ye records lay, whereby many of them were consumed and ye rest very much defaced. A damage irrecoverable ! ”—

Out of those heaps of burnt papers the earliest remaining records of the Chapter were saved. Four volumes (two of which are so much burnt as to be in a fragmentary condition) contain the “Acta Capituli” from 1561 to 1628 inclusive ; and I propose to indicate the nature of the matter which here awaits the research of the historian or the antiquary.

By far the larger portion of the record relates to the renewal of leases to the Chapter's numerous tenants. These entries contain many curious particulars ; but I need only mention the obligation laid on certain of the lessees to regularly furnish supplies of corn and meat for the daily wants of Mr. Dean and his brethren. Thus the tenant of Orgaresweeke Marsh in 1563 was

“ bounde to delyuer to the [prebend]aryes resident weekly thorow owte [the year]³ except the tyme of lente cclⁱⁱ [of] byeffe after the rate of ob qⁱ a ponde and . . . Carkases and a halfe of mutton . . . at v^s the Carkas.”

The tenant of Sheldwich in 1567 covenanted to deliver, within the precinct of the church yearly, thirty quarters of good wheat. As he received the profits of the vicar-

¹ Read at the Canterbury Meeting, July 23rd, 1896.

² Cambridge University Library MSS., *Baumgartner Papers*: Strype Corre-
spondence, Vol. III.

³ Words within parentheses are conjectural completions of the burnt text ; portions not thus filled in are indicated by . . .

age by sequestration, he was also required to keep the chancel in good repair, and

"to provide an apte and convenient curat."

It was sometimes arranged that renewal fines should be paid partly in kind: we read of a tenant having to send in

"a fatt bullock to m^r Deane";

another,

"a good fatt buck of this Season";

a third,

"halfe a Tunne of wyne to be deliuered into m^r Deanes howse before halomas next,"

and so on.

The income from certain manors was ear-marked for the purpose of hospitality; some rents being appropriated to the Dean, and others to the resident prebendaries—an arrangement which lasted until the year 1615. There would ordinarily be frequent arrivals of distinguished guests within the Close; but occasionally a royal or archiepiscopal reception involved a heavy addition to the usual outlay. When Queen Elizabeth visited Canterbury, in 1573, the Chapter resolved

"that at her ma^{ties} repare hither to this church she shall be psentyd wth a purse and thyrtye poundes in golde,"

and it was further agreed

"that her ma^{ties} honorable counsaile shall be byd some one Daye to a Dynner."

In 1583 it is recorded that

"m^r Deane and dyuers of the company at her ma^{ties} last being here were at greate charges wth thenterteyn[ing] of dyuers of her hignes pryvey counsaile and othe[rs] attending vpon her royall persone to the some of thre hundreth poundes or thereaboutes."

In June, 1585, it was agreed

"that the great chamber in m^r Deanes house shalbe waynscotted at the churches charge because it is thonly place wthin this churche fitt for thentertaynement of any noble psonage that shall resort hether for any purpose."

At the same time, in order to make a better show on such occasions, it was agreed

"that there shalbe one hundreth marks bestowed at [the] Discreesson of my Lo. of Dover o^r Dean & the Rec^r & tresorer in sylu[er] p[late]

for thuse of the church & that the said playet so bought shall Re[main] in the custody of my Lo. of Dover o^r Dean for his necessarie vses [as] ofte as need shall require."

A year later it was decreed

"that my Lo. of Dov^r o^r Dean in considerat[ion] that his house roome the Dean Lodginge wherein he nowe Dwelleth is very narrow & strait for hym especially when he enterteyneth any noble ma or other of hygher place pass[ing] this wayes in publique affayres. wherevnto he is nowe often Dryven: shall haue all that house & lodging w^h m^r Gilberte hyde late o^r Audit^r hade."

Archiepiscopal installations were occasions of lavish hospitality; and we find the Dean and Chapter welcoming a new Primate with a substantial gift. When, in 1575, Grindal was translated from York to Canterbury, it was decreed

"that the lorde Archebusshopp hys grace shall agaynst thys next Ester be presentyd by the Thresorer of thys church with twentye fatte wethers in token of the chapters good will at hys nowe entry into tharchepiscecopall See of Canteburye."

Again, in September, 1583, it was agreed, on the coming of his successor,

"that the new electyd Archebusshop shall be presentyd wyth ij ffatt oxen at his entrye into tharchiëpall See."

While handsomely maintaining hospitality, the Dean and Chapter did not overlook the duty of benevolence, both to the poor at their gate and to the distressed stranger. Every Sunday throughout the year distribution of the "Queen's alms" was made to thirty persons whom the Mayor of the city declared to be fit and proper recipients of the bounty. To supplement this, the Dean and Chapter agreed, in 1575, to tax themselves individually for the better relief of the poor, and directed their treasurer to deduct yearly forty shillings out of the stipend of the Dean and a sum¹ from the stipend of each prebendary, the whole to be handed over to the Mayor. The benevolence of the Chapter was not confined to Canterbury. In January, 1582, they agreed

"that John hooker master of [Arts] and Reder of the Ebrew lector in Corpus christi college in Oxford shall at the request [and] sute made to vs by the right honorable therle [of] Leicester and m^r Secretary Walsyngham hau[e] from vs fyve poundes six shillings and eight pence by yere towarde the furtherance of h[is] studye. . . ."

¹ The amount is not legible.

In June, 1569, they gave £6 13s. 4d.

"to the poor of the afflicted frenche church in London."

In 1570 the assistance granted "to Ciprian valore a stranger" was continued for another year. In 1585 a sum of £4 was bestowed upon three French preachers, exiled for religion, "their necessity being great."

The Chapter of Canterbury has included within its own body some of the most distinguished foreign scholars who sought refuge in this country from religious persecution in their own. In the early Minute Books we find mention of Peter Alexander, whom Cranmer employed in his intercourse with foreign Reformers. In 1561 it is stated that

"where there ys the some of xiii^j^h remayn[ing in the ha]nds of the most Reuerend father in god the Lorde Archebussshop of Canterburye of such money as ys due to this church for fynes takyn of diu's late consecrated Bysshoppes owte of this church That m^r. Peter Alexander shall take and Receyve the sayd some of oure gyfte and in lew and place aswell of all suche Dueties as he sayth were due and vnpaid vnto hym at his late deature oute of Englonde after the death of the late Kinge Edward. As also of all suche diuident as he claymeth to be due vnto hym by vertue of his let^t of non resydens at eny tyme at or before micha^s last past."

The burnt pages of these early Chapter records bear the signatures of Hadrian de Saravia, Hooker's familiar friend, and of Pierre du Moulin (Petrus Molinæus); while later (January 25, 161¹₁) the reception of the learned lay prebendary, Isaac Casaubon, is thus recorded:—

"At this Chapter by vertue of the Kings ma^{ties} graunt vnder the broad Seale of England m^r Isaac Casaubon was admitted and in his owne pson sworne in the place of a Prebend of this Church and after enstalled in the Quier in the person of m^r D^r Charier."

It has been stated by some writers that the Walloon refugees began to occupy the Crypt of the Cathedral as their *Temple* as early as 1561. Others say that the Crypt was first assigned to the strangers by Queen Elizabeth in 1568. These dates are too early; for the main body of the Walloon settlers only arrived in Canterbury at Midsummer, 1575.¹ It is precisely at this date that they are mentioned in the Chapter Minutes, as follows:—

"Yt ys agreed the wallons Strangers shall be licensed asmuch as in vs the deane & chapter lyeth to haue thuse of theire comen prayer

¹ See *Acts of the Privy Council*, 1574-1575.

& sermons in the paryshe Church of St Elphies in Cant^ybury in such sorte & at such tyme as the parysheners there be not hyndred or disturbed of theyre conien prayer."

From this record we learn, for the first time, that the Walloons worshipped in St. Elphage Church before they obtained possession of the Crypt; a fact which explains why in 1575-6 the baptisms of the foreign congregation were entered in the parish register.

Like their predecessors, the Priors of Christ Church, the Dean and Chapter bore their part in the national defence. When, in 1569, the Earl of Northumberland's rising agitated the kingdom, they gave order

"that there shalbe providit tenne Corselettes furnyshed and tenne Calyuers also furnyshed to remayne in some conuenient place in this church in the custody of the Tresorer to doe such service as shall apperteyn."

A little later, mention is made of

"the greate charge that the church hath bene at for setting furthe of Six light horsemen for the servyce of the prince agaynst the Rebells of this tyme."

The rebellion was soon quelled, and in the following year the Chapter's militia were back in Canterbury; for an order was then given to sell their geldings,

"to avoyde such charge as the church ys at by the keypyng of theym."

Notwithstanding their large estates the Dean and Chapter seem to have been often in want of funds. In May, 1567, it is recorded that

"by reason of lack of payment of and [not coming] in of the revenues of the said church at [seasons] and tymes vsuall The officers there are [at such ty]mes destitute of money to Supplye thordinary [and q]uartely payments to the poore and inferio^r mynisters. . . ."

It was remembered, however, that there remained

"in the vestrye [or] Tresory howse of this church dyuerse . . . ¹ ments . plate and other Jewells now not [law]full to be vsed in or abowte the Servyce,"

and it was ordered, for the church's better provision, that

"[the said] plate shall be by weight delyneryd to m^r [Tresorer th]at now is to be conueyed to london and [who] shall make sale thereof to the best [profit] of the church. And that the money thereof [received] shall be lade into that cheste where oure [S]cale lyeth redye to supplye as nede shall [be] thordinary and quarterly payments alone [and] whych shall be allways redylyueryd to be [laid in] the

¹ The word may be "vestments" or "ornaments."

foresaid chest as money shall come [in to the Tresor]er or officers of the said churchē."

Again, in 1570,

"vestments and other Vestry Stuffe"

were sold in order to purchase armour. In the same year it was agreed

"that m^r Receyvo^r and m^r Tresorer shall make sale of the lente clothes remaynyng in the vestrye to m^r pyerson at such pryces as they shall thynke theym resonably worthe."

In May, 1566, we find the Chapter agreeing to sell some property, in the City of London, which is connected with a famous historical site: it was no less than that of Gresham's Royal Exchange. The record is as follows:—

"[Where] there hath ben dyverse motions made by and from the Lorde mayo^r of the Cytye of London and others the Cytyzens and Comyners of the same Cyttie to vs the Deane and the Chapiter of this churchē to have by bargayne sale and ffeoffament all those oure messuages Landes Tent^s & Gardyns and other hereditaments situate and beinge in the parishes of Saynt Bartylemew the littell and of Sainte michaell in Cornhille wthin the same Cyttie to thende to plante and erect a Burse vpon oure grounde and soile there. Yt hath ben therfore after sundrye consultacons hertofore had amongst vs the saide Deane and Chapiter in that behalfe thoughte goode to Appoynte m^r Buttler and m^r Nevynson prebendaries of this churchē and m^r Wyllm Lovelace solicitor generale and of the churchē counsaile in all matters and causes by and wth the aduise of m^r Deane of the saide churchē to entre in [comm]unicacon wth the saide mayo^r Cittizens and coialtie and after the quenes maiesties licens to be ohteyned vnto vs to depte withe the saide Landes and Tent^s and vpon good consideracon of sufficient recompence [to] be made to vs the saide Deane and Chapiter for the [same] to conclude and goe thorowe in that behalfe. [Whereu]pon they the saide m^r Butler m^r nevynson and [m^r] Lovelace by and wth thaduise of the saide m^r D[eane] concluded that we the saide Deane and ch[apter] shall depte withe bargayne and selle the saide mess[uages lands] tenements & hereditaments to the s[aid] Lord Mayor citiz[ens] & Cominaltye."

So far the record is written upon a folio which had been folded in previous to the fire, and is only slightly damaged. The continuation, upon the next folio, is much burnt; but sufficient remains to show that an indenture had been made between the two parties, whereby the Chapter agreed to dispose of their lands, tenements, and gardens on the said spot to the Lord Mayor and Commonalty; who, on their part, agreed to assure to the Dean and Chapter, as the price of the property, an annuity of thirty pounds. A record, dated February,

1572, informs us of steps then taken to capitalise the annuity :—

"Yt is agreid that wheareas there is a conuenient purchase of xxx^{li} by yere offery[d] that waruynge shall be gyven vnto the lor[d] mayo^r and others at London for the paymen[t] of Six hundreth pounds."

It was not until 1574 that the sum of £600 was paid down in London, "at St. Lukes tyme," to representatives of the Dean and Chapter. The price of the site of Gresham's Bourse was laid out in the purchase of about eighty acres of land at Great Chart.

The Deanery at Canterbury was rebuilt in the time of Dean Godwyn. The original building, formerly the Prior's lodging, had been destroyed by fire. In February, 1569, the Chapter agreed

"that yf there lacke eny stones for the reedyfying of the burnt lodgyng"

they might be taken from any place within the precinct of the church : doubtless the monastic buildings afforded a convenient quarry. In November, 1569, it was agreed that Dean Godwyn, should take a fine of £200, arising from renewal of a lease,

"to thende that the said m^r Deane shall satysfie and content fford and Holte for theyre barganes toching the buyldyng of his new lodgyng."

He was also to pay £27 4s. 10d. arrears due, for the year ending at Michaelmas, and in future

"to beare the charge of all workmanship glasse and other thyngs nedefull for the fynyshynge of that buyldyng."

In December, 1570, it was agreed

"that m^r Deane shall haue somuch of the yron in the wyndowe in the lytle chappell aboue in thuppermost of the churche aboue namyd as he shall haue nede of to be spente in the new lodgyng."

The Dean of Canterbury had, at this time, a London house. It is first mentioned in 1561, as

"the messuage called the flower de luce [in South]warke."

In 1562 there is an order of the Chapter

"that the Receyvo^r for the tyme [being have] oure mansyon howse at the [flower de luc]e in Southewarke well repayred."

Again, in 1568, we read :—

"Yt ys agreed that the mansion house and Lodgyng at the floure de lyce in Southwarke shall be conveniently repayred in such man^r as the same may be apte to Receyve M^r Deane as necessitie shall requyre."

The Dean had another mansion house at Chartham, near Canterbury. Dean Godwyn had found this house in great decay, and was allowed, in 1570, the sum of £6 13s. 4d. toward its reparation. It was then agreed that the chapel should be pulled down if it could not be repaired.

In 1589 the Chartham mansion was leased to William Boys, with a proviso that

"yf anye Successor of my L: of Dovor that shall hereafter be Deane of this churche shalbe disposed to inhabite and dwell in the sayde mansion house and shall thereof giue one whole yeares warninge,"

the lease should become void; but the Dean was bound in that case to repay to Mr. Boys a sum not exceeding a hundred marks

"laide out in the finishinge of the buyldinge lately begon there."

A record, dated December 1st, 1585, shows that Dean Godwyn, who had been lately consecrated Bishop of Bath and Wells, had not, in the opinion of the Chapter, taken due care for the Deanery buildings. It is as follows:—

"It is decreed that a lett^r shalbe written to my L[ord] Busshope of Bathe to signifying the ruen of & decay of the Deans houses aswell at Cantorbury as at Chartham Lefte by hym at his departure from this deanery & to vnd[er]stand what allowance he will make for the same & for other things delyvered to his custody & now not found to be lefte by him: and yf he do not answeere to o^r good satisfaction to enter an action agaynst hym for dilapidations & for other things that are to be answered by hym as we shalbe advised by o^r counsell."

Among the distinguished persons who are mentioned in the record is Lord Cobham, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. In November, 1564, the Chapter, on learning that his lordship, "a man of much hono^r," was intending to become their neighbour, granted twenty oaks from the woods of Godmersham toward the repair of his house at St. Augustine's (Canterbury). In 1575 it was agreed

"that the right honorable the Lorde Cobham shall haue free lybertye to enter into our mano^r of meopeham and there to take his pleasure of hawkyng and hunting, and to take order for the preservacon of oure game and free warren there and in oure names to restrayne and inhibit all other persons to vse or folowe oure sayde game there."

Another notable person frequently named in the Chapter books was Roger Manwood, Recorder and M.P. for Sandwich, subsequently Justice of the Common Pleas

and Chief Baron of the Exchequer. In 1563 it was agreed to grant a lease

"of the howse in Sandewhiche called [S^t Tho]mas howse to hym and to his heyres in, . . . payeng xx^d by yere to thentente to [erect a] Gramar scoole therevpon according to the [Queen's] ma^{ties} licens in that behalfe made."

In September, 1565, Mr. Manwood was

"reteyned to be of the Churches counsaile,"

the reason for the appointment being

"because m^r Lovelace oure Solicito^r and Counsaile^r [is so] much Trobled wyth other causes that owre [caus]es are not folowed as they ought to be."

In 1565 it was agreed :—

"m^r Seriaunt manwoode shall haue twenty ooks towards the buyldyng of vj almes howses at hakyngton to be takyn owte of owre woodes at Thornden by thassignment of m^r Hill now Receyvo^r vpon resonable pryse to be set by the said Receyvo^r."

It was at the same time agreed to contribute £5 toward the repair of the highway between Thornden and Canterbury, Serjeant Manwood undertaking

"to bestowe as much more of his owne purse."

In 1576 the following record refers to an extension of Manwood's Charity :—

"Uppon Sute made vnto vs from m^r Justice manwoode by hys letters for thauyng of two acres of fewell woode to be spente vpon the burnyng of bryck to be provided for the makyng and settyng vpp of a new howse wherein the poore shall be sett on woorke or otherwise relevyd and Roages and vagaboundes punyshed yt ys agreed that he shall haue twoo acres to be taken owte of oure woodes by thassingnement of the Receyvo^r and Surveo^r of oure woodes without enythinge to be payed therefore."

An earlier reference to brick-making occurs in 1565, when the Lady Hales became a suitor to the Chapter—

"to lease a lytle close lyeng nere to her howse [of the] Dongeon cont. ij or iij acres callyd Bryckes close whych ys thought to be a very Apte pcell of ground [to] make Breck in when the church shall haue [n]eede thereof and therefore not meete to be lett [o]wte. . . ."

There are many references to the extensive woods belonging to the Chapter. In 1565 the following curious entry occurs :—

"Yt ys agreyd that the Saltpeter men shall for theyre favo^r showed to the church haue by assignment of the sayd Receyvo^r one Roode of woode to be takyn owte of Shoorte payeng nothinge therefore."

In 1573 a gift of six oaks was made to

"Sir Thomas Scott Knyght, Thomas Honywoode esquier and other gentlemen of the country who are purposed at theyre and the countryes charge to Repayre Sandegat Castell."

The Chapter usually assembled at the early hour of eight¹ in the morning. When necessary they adjourned from day to day until the business was completed. Then all who were present subscribed their names to the record. In 1569 there arose

"contentyon betwene m^r Deane and the prebendaryes "

"with complaynts of gryeffs of wronges offered to some of the chapter."

It was found impossible to agree as to the election of officers,

"althow that the whoole Daye was spent in that busynes ";

and, after many ineffectual adjournments, it was agreed

"that tharchebussh. his grace shulde haue thorderyng of all the matters."

The Archbishop fixed the 5th December for the Dean and the Prebendaries to appear before him; but this

"daye by reson of the greate Assembly of the L. Cobham and of dyu^{se} other of the wurshipfull of thys shyre for the prynces greate affayres was not thought conuenient."

Ultimately, on December 15, the Dean and certain Prebendaries attended at Lambeth, and the appointments were made by the Archbishop. A year or two earlier than this dispute, it was found that the deliberations of the Chapter had not been kept secret, but had been revealed, causing "greate disclaunder." It was therefore decreed that, upon proof being obtained of any such offence in the future, the offender should for the first fault be banished from the Chapter a whole year; for the second fault, three whole years; and for a third fault, for ever.

At this period² the Chapter included one member who was eminently qualified for the "Church Militant." This was Mr. George Boleyn, whose turbulent temper has served, more than his talents, to preserve his memory. He is supposed to have been a son of the ill-fated George Boleyn, Viscount Rochford, and therefore a nephew of

¹ Occasionally at 7 a.m.

² 1566-1576.

Queen Anne Boleyn. In July, 1575, we find him "convented" before the Dean and Chapter

"yppon a bill of complaint exhibited and showed fourth by m^r willm woode a preacher of the sayd church toching a greate misbehavio^r of the sayd m^r Bolen."

He confessed

"to have stryken the said m^r woode wth a dagger,"

and he was thereupon censured and

"sequestred from the chapter vntyll his better behavio^r were approved and allowed of."

Mr. Boleyn had previously offended: He had assaulted one of the Prebendaries; had castigated a lawyer in the Chapter House; and had even threatened to pin the Dean to the wall with his dagger. He now appealed to his cousin, the Queen, and was soon after reinstated *in statu quo*. In November, 1574, it is recorded that

"m^r Bolen hath made his sute to the chapter that he may be lycensed to goo to his studye at Cambrýdge and that neu^thelesse he may receyve & haue all such comodities as he now enioyeth."

It was agreed to pay him his stipend and dividend

"so longe as he contynueth his studye."

In February, 1574⁴/₅, he was presented to the rectory of St. Dionis Backchurch. In December, 1576, Dr. Boleyn was installed Dean of Lichfield.

The preacher on whom Mr Boleyn drew his dagger was probably the same as the

"m^r woode one of the pben[daries]"

who is mentioned in November, 1570, when

"in consideracon of his paynes takyn in reading a lecture twice eu^{ry} weke betwene mydsomer and michas"

he was granted

"of the churches liberalitie xxv^s and . . . henseforth quartely vntyll other order be takyn."

In 1562 mention is made of a person of the same name who served the Chapter as physician. It was then

"agreid that m^r willm woode the phisicon [receiue] yerely foure marks to be payed [to him] quartely duryng the chapters pleasure [towards] the mayntennce of his state here [in Can]terbury the fyrst payment to begyn [at mic]as next the same willm imployeng his diligence [in] his vocacon when he is or shall be resonably callyd."

A second appointment of a like kind was made in December, 1587, when it was

"agreed that m^r D: Becon shalbe entertained as phisicion to vs the Deane and Chapter, and shall haue a Stypend of fower pownds by yeare at fower vsuall feasts by even porcions to be paied him."

The Chapter minutes only rarely refer to the services in the Church. In 1583 complaint was made that the petty canons and lay clerks, in spite of warnings, still neglected to attend

"in such sort as their duty bound them,"

and it was ordered

"that yf eny peti cannon or laye clerke fale to be present in the quere at the begynnyng of the three dayly seruyces except in theyre weekes of lybertye that eury of theym so makyng defaulte shall the next seruyce after stande at the doore of the grate in the quere in his surplis duryng the tyme of the whole service."

In 1567 the Chapter agreed

"that m^r Selby m^r of the children and organ player in consideracon of his paynes had in makyng and pryckvng of dyuers books of [music] for the queere shall haue fyfthe three shillings and foure pens."

In November, 1583, it was granted to

"m^r Selbye in Respect of his old age . . . to be absent from the Quyer at his owne liking."

In 1574 it was ordered that

"for the better exercyse of the maister and of the queresters there shall be a sett of violis and a sett of Lutes prepayred at the churches charge."

In November, 1583, it was agreed

"that (blank) ffelbrig shall remayne as a conduct in the quere and to receyve after the rate of tenne pounds by yere."

It was also ordered

"that henry Bryckell who the last michas quarter hath served in the quere shall haue for that quarter xl^s and shall so contynue and receyve for his stipend after viij^d by yere."

At the same time it was appointed

"that m^r Deane m^r vicedeane & m^r Tresorer calling to them the Chaunter & the Quier shall see the same Quier furnyshed with songe books & to reward those that take paynes therein according to there discretion."

In 1573 it was agreed to

"disburse to the quenes orgayne maker beyng sent for to viewe and mende the greate orgaynes for his costs aswell at this tyme as at an

other tyme before this and for mendyng of the lessor orgaynes in the quyere Six pounds thyrten shillings and foure pens."

In 1578 it was ordered

"that Jaspar Blanckard the Organe maker shall have xx^{li} ouer and besides the bargayne and agrement made with hym for the amending of the greate orgaynes";

and it was agreed that he should have

"a fee or rewarde yerely to thys ende that he shall twyse euerye yere make hys repayre to thys church to see to the sayd orgaynes and amende the same if neede so requyre."

The Chapter record contains a few references to bells.

In 1570 it was agreed that

"where the bells of late have bene stollen from the church of Seasalter that thinhabitants there shall haue fyve marks to be taken outt of thalmes money toward the bying and providing of a new bell for the sayd church."

In June, 1585, it was agreed

"that the wackeringe bell now in the house of m^r Lawse shalbe given in almes to thuse of the Hospitall at the east Bridge in this city of Canterbury to be hanged vpp there in the chappell so that it be recorded in the records of that howse that it was the gyfte of this Dean & Chapter."

In 1624 it was ordered that an agreement should be made

"with Hatch the belfounder by the great for the new making of six bells to be hung in Dunstan steeple."

If these bells were made it would be interesting to know what became of them, as there are no Hatch bells in the present Cathedral peal.

The Cathedral Grammar School, or King's School, is mentioned from time to time. In 1565 it is recorded:—

"the L. Archebusshoppes grace hath [mis]lyked of the gramer scole that yt lackyth banks [and] that yt is not bourded,"

and the Chapter agreed to see the school amended in all things necessary. Mention is made, in 1570, of the lodging of the schoolmaster, usher, and scholars within the precinct. In November, 1573, the decision was taken for Mr. Dean to journey to London

"to make meane to the quenes mat^{ie} for a dispensacon to place the gram^r scole owte of the mynte in some other place wⁱⁿ the Syte of the church."

In 1585 the Chapter

"decreed that there shalbe fyue marks geven in Reward vnto m^r Shor . . . the scolema of the gramm scoole to encourage hym in his

diligence [and for] his paynes takinge in teachinge & for the Releife of his charges in his late sycknes."

At the same time a sum of twenty shillings was

"bestowed vpō John Leeds a pore scoller of cambridge & somtyme one of her mat^{ties} scollers in this scoole."

We find on various occasions the school term shortened in a gruesome way by the plague dispersing the scholars to their homes. A more agreeable record occurs in 1561, as follows:—

"Yt ys Agreid that the Scolemaster and [Usher] shall haue lxxvj^s viij^d towards such [charg]ys as they shall be at in setting furthe of [trag]edies Comedyes and int^ludes this next [...]mas and the same to be done by thadvise [and] consent of m^r vicedeane."

Had the date been a few years later, we might fairly have assumed that Kit Marlowe had some share in the diversions.