

SUSSEX RELIGIOUS HOUSES AND RECUSANTS,

TEMP. HEN. VIII., AND ELIZABETH.

THE following reports relating to religious houses in Sussex, from Richard Layton to Thomas Cromwell, are among the *Rolls' Records*,¹ and will add to the reports already printed. Having visited Bath, Layton says:—

At Farley, sell to Lewys the Prior hade but viij horses, and the reste of the monks sum iiij, iij, ij, as they myght gett them. Ther wylls was goode. * * * * I have matter sufficiente here fownde (as I suppos), to bring the Prior of Lewys into gret dangier (*si vera sunt quæ narrantur*).

Ye shall also receue a grete kome callid Mary Magdalene's Kome, Saint Dorothe's Kome, Sainte Margarett's Kome the leste; they cannot tell howe they came by them, nother hath any thyng to showe in wrytyng that they be relyks. Whether ye wyll sende them agayne or not, I have referide that to your jugement, and to the Kyng's pleasure.

The Prior of Bathe hath sent unto yowe for a tokyn a leisse of Yrishe Lavers, brede in a selle of his in Yrelonde, no hardier hawks can be, as he saith.

Thus I pray Gode to sende you as well to fare as your hart dessierith.

From Bathe this Monday by your assuride poire preste and servaunt.

Ye shall receive a booke of our Lades miracles, well able to mache the Canterberies Tales: suche a bowke of dremes as ye never sawe, which I founde in the librarie.

RICHARDE LAYTON.

To the Ryght Worshipfull Master Thomas Cromwell,
Cheffe Secretarie to the Kyng's Highnes, his
singulier goode Master.

Pleasite your goodnes to vnderstonde that on Friday,² at nyght, I came into Susseks, to an Abbey called Durforde.

¹ *Rolls' Records*, Misc. Corr. 2 Ser. xx. 247.

² *Ib.* f. 254.

Hit might better be called "Dyrt"-forde, the porriste abbey that I have sene, as this berer, the abbot therof, can tell; fur in det and gret dekey. This yong man, for hys time, hath done ryghte well, whom I have licencede to repaire unto yowe, and to declare unto yowe his mind concernyng license and libertie of hym self, and other his bredren; wherewith I tolde hym I coulde not medle, but referrede all to yowe.

An abbay or a priorie of nunnes, and a priorie of chanons, nygh together lay towards Chichester, and bycause of their povertie not able to loge us, we were compellede of necessitie to ryde oute of our way to an abbay of Cistercens, called Waverley, Winton dioc., ther to loge on Satterday at nyght; and betwyx that and Chichester lieth the two poire priories. In one of them is iij chanons, and the other, iij nonnes, wiche we will dispache on Monday by the way; and so on Monday at nyght we shalbe at Chichester Cathedrale Church, and if the bisshope be not able to cum to his church, after we have visited the hole church, we will go visite hym at his howse, iij mylls from thens, and so to Arundel College, and then to Lewes and Battell, and so into Kent. This is only to advertise your mastership of our way and jornay.

From th'abbay of Waverley, this Sunday, by your assuryd servant, and poire preste.

RICHARDE LAYTON.

To the Right Honorable Mr. Thomas Cromwell,
Cheffe Secretarie to the Kyng's Hyghnes,
at Winchester

Other Letters have been printed in the *Sussex Archæological Collections*, Vol. VII. p. 217.

The following order of the Privy Council adds something also to our information as to the way in which those in Sussex, who did not conform to the Established Church under Elizabeth, were dealt with.¹

To our verie lovinge friends, the Sherif and Justices of Peace in the County of Sussex.²

After our harty commendations. Whereas the Queen's Majestie hath occasion for the present servis in Ireland, to

¹ See *ante* vol. II., p. 58.

² MS. Harl., 705.

send certaine horsmen into that Realme, and understandinge that ther be in that county certaine gentelmen and others that ar recusants, who, notwithstandinge that in point of religion they doe not shew themselves soe conformable as appertaineth, and her Majestie most earnestly desyreth, yet in all other mattars, when they ar chardged with undutifullness, they doe professe all dutyfull affection unto her highnes, soe furr forth as to adventur both their lyves and goods in her Majestie's servis. She, therefore, being desirouse upon this occasion to make some prooffe thereof, that those whose names wee send you herewith contained in a schedule subscribed by us, should by you be dealt withall in that behalf. And for that purpose she hath commanded us that we should direct you to repair to the places wher the said Recusants do reside,¹ takynge with you two of the commissyoners of musters, or any two justices of peace within the said county, nere to the resydence of the partyes. And after you have acquainted them with the contents of theis our lettres, to requier them in her Majestie's name, as soe directed by us, that they give order out of hand for prepareing by the XVth day of September next, of soe many horse or horses as ar taxed upon oath of their names in such sort furnished, as ys contayned in the said schedule, letting them understand that in case her Majestie shall find them conformable in that behalf, yt shall give her cause to use them with the more favoure, and to qualify some part of the extremity of the punishment that otherwise the law doth lay upon them. And for that we due doubt that they may not soe conveniently, and within the tyme lymitted, provyde the men and horse furnished according as yt is in the said schedule expressed, you shall offer unto them that in case they will disburse for every horseman the some of twenty and four pounds, which is the least some that may serve, that proportion to be payed within tew dayes after knowledge given to them by you, of her Majestie's pleasure in this behalf, that then you will see them discharged.

And in case any of them shall refuse to doe eyther the one

¹ On 4th Dec., 1569, the Sheriff and Justices of Sussex reported to the council that they had assembled at Steyning, and subscribed their Lordships' order for uniformity of public worship. William

Shelley and William Scott, Esquires, did not appear. William Dawtry and James Page, Esquires, refused to subscribe.—*MSS. State Paper Office.*

or the other, then it is her Majestie's pleasure that you shall cause the partyes soe refusing to sett down under their hand the causes of their refusall, and to certifiye the same upp unto us, with as convenyent speed as you may; as also in what tyme we may looke that the money shalbe delyvered into your hands by soe many of them as this notyce shall dutyfullie assent or yeld thereunto, to th'end that theruppon we maie take such further order therin as shalbe thought meet. And soe we bydd you hartely farewell. From the court the XVIIth of August, 1584.

Your loving friends,

W. Burghley, R. Leycester, C. Howard, James Croft,
Chr. Hatton, Fra. Walsingham.

SCHEDULE FOR THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX.

The names of such persons as are appoynted to fynd light horsemen within the County of Sussex, every one to be furnished with a good large serviceable horse or geldinge, a light horseman's staff, a jack, a burgonet, sleeves of male, a case of pistoletts, and a cassock of such colour as shalbe hereafter signified from the lords of her Majestie's Privie Counsell, or ells pay soe much money as shalbe sufficient for the through furnishing of the same.

W. Burghley, R. Leycester, C. Howard, Chr. Hatton.

Edward Gage, of Framfield.

Richard Shelley, of Worminghurst,
at the house of Mr. Devenish,
in the Cyty of Chichester.

John Leedes, Esquier.
