

CARDINAL WOLSEY'S INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS OFFICERS
AT DURHAM.

(*Chapter House Records, Rolls House, First Series, No. 270*)

Instructyons devysed by my Lord Legate his grace for Doctour Strangwysshe Surveyour of Duresme and Rycharde Bellysis Esquier and to be executed by them within his Busshopricke of Duresme.

First that they be diligent to oversee and survey all the mynes of lede or any other metall and also cole mynes or any other myneralles within the saide Busshoprick the same to be converted employed and improved to my lord his most proffyte and advantage.¹

Item where of late my lorde his grace hath caused a certen new house and furnes to be made for the melting and tryeing of lede with see coles that they do se the saide house and furnes perfyted and also preserved in the best wyse.

And that they shall devyse with the fyners which have taken upon them to melte the saide lede with see coles that they with diligence may procede unto the melting of the same Forseeing alwayes that no waste of money or losse of tyme be had aboutes the same but that diligence be gyven thereunto so that in as brief tyme as possible may be my lorde his grace may be acerteined what proffyte ys lyke to in sew of the melting of the saide lede and what the yerely value by estymacyon will amounte unto.

Item that they shall devyse with certen persons of Berwyk for a relesse to be made unto them for my lordes fisshinges there and also to cause suche fynes to be levyed for the same as shalbe to my saide lorde his most proffyte and advantage with also certen banelles of salmon to be payed unto my lordes grace yerely according to suche instruxions as is gyven to them by monthe that ys to meane xx banelles of salmon yerely during my lordes lyf.

Item that if there be any other fermes fisshynges or any other improvemens which may lafully be taken within the saide Busshopryk that then they joyning together shall by their good discession comon with any suche person or persons as shall be wylling to take the same And theruppon to certefye my lord hys grace of such fynes and proffytes as may arryse unto his grace by the same.

Item that my lord his ship of Tynmouth may with all goodly spede be takeled and put in a redynes.

And that the fyners in no wyse lacke any ower or any other necessary thing belonging to theyr facultee by reason whereof they might or shoulde alledge any impedymnt in their workes whereby my lord his

¹ See Frankeleyn's letter, Hutch. Durham, i. 405.

grace might be put to charges without taking any advantage or proffyte.

Item that my lordes wardes may be seased and the proffytes of theyr londes taken to my lorde his use And that comonyacion may be had with suche persons as will bye the maryages of the same And that his grace may be certefyed who wilbe most proffyttable to his grace And upon his pleasure knowen the same to be ordered.

Item that no arrerages be left unlevyed of any the fermors or tenantes within the said Busshopricke but that the same may be payed to th' use of my saide lorde at the termes accustomed without fether delaye.

Item that they do speke unto Mr. Bowes to be my lorde his Exchetour within his saide Busshoprick and to advertise him on my Lorde his behalf that he se my lorde his grace take no wronge as in his wardes and other exchetes within the saide Busshoprycke.

Item that the saide exchetor shall with all spede procede unto the fynding offyces of all suche wardes as my lordes grace at this present or hereafter shalbe intyteled unto So that the londes and bodyes of the saide wardes may be ordered according to the lawes And that his grace may be answered of all th' issues and profyttes of their londes as also for the maryages of the persons of the same wardes And if in case that any feoffement be alledged to th' use and performauce of any will or wylles or th' use of any joynctour or joynetours Or that the mothers of any of the said wardes shoulde be indowed after the customes and law there That then circumspectly the saide feoffementes may be sene And the ffeoffes knowen so that my lordes grace may know his tenante And also that his grace may be answered of the rest of th' issues and proffytes of the saide wardes londes Forseeing alwayes that no ffeoffement ne will be amytted unto such tyme that suffycyent prof be had of lyveree and season concernyng the feoffement wherby the same will or willes might or may take any effecte.

Item that my said lorde his attorney and other the offycers of his courtes within his saide Busshopricke shall in as convenyent tyme as may be certefye his grace of all fynes for alenyacions amercyamentes for being nonesuytes fynes upon the sheryf for none retorning nor executing of proces forfaytures upon statutes penall recognisances weves strayes felons goodes felons londes forfaycte deodandes and all other exchetes amercyamentes proffytes and casualtees which have happened these vj yeres now last passed And that my Lordes grace may be certefyed what the proffytes of the same yerely may be worth within his said countye palentyne.

Item that my Lordes Ship ymedyatly upon his arryvayll there may be laden with coles and sent to my Lordes Colledge in Gipswicke.¹

¹ See Wolsey's Letter in Raine's Auckland Castle, 63.