

Before the Reformation the Nave of this Church is supposed to have been reserved for the use of the parishioners, the Choir having been appropriated to the members of the College. The Prebends were called De la Pole, Hempstill, Stowford, Alre, Rigge, Woodland, Carswell, Coombe or Prustcombe, La Crosse, Cridiè, and West Sandford.

The Collegiate Church of Crediton was dissolved by King Edward VIth, who vested the small tithes of Crediton,

Sandford, and Exminster in twelve Governors, of whom nine were to be of Crediton and three of Sandford, to be elective by the remainder upon any vacancy. Queen Elizabeth confirmed King Edward's charter of incorporation to the Governors, and gave them the great tithes of the said parishes, reserving to the Crown a rent of 100*l.* per annum, which is now vested in Sir John Davie, Bart.^a

College of Clist Gabriel, or Episcopi, in the Parish of Faringdon, in Devonshire.

TANNER calls this "A College or Hospital for ancient and disabled Priests, erected by Walter, Bishop of Exeter, in the beginning of the reign of King Edward the III, to the honour of St. Gabriel." He refers to "Pat. 3 Edw. II. m. 44, pro Capellanis celebrantibus in quadam Capella apud Clist Episcopi de novo fundata in honorem S. Gabrielis archangeli per Walterum Episc. Exon.," and "Pat. 18 Ric. II. p. . m. 6, pro Custode Domus sive Capelle apud Clist Gabriel de v. shopis et 1. gardino in Exon."

But Oliver, in his Historic Collections, says, that Bishop Bronescombe was the original founder, as appears from a deed of Bishop Walter, dated in 1276, which he has printed, and from which it appears that the first foundation was for two Chaplains. Bishop Stapledon annexed to it the foundation for twelve blind, infirm, or superannuated clergymen. The Dean and Chapter of Exeter, in 1376, engaged to contribute to this College the annual sum of forty-three marks, from the appropriated Churches of Westleigh and St. Melan.^b

College within the Castle of Exeter.

TANNER calls this an old Collegiate Church,^c or Free Chapel,^d for four Prebendaries, within the Castle here, dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, in the patronage of

the Priory of Plimpton, to which it was given by William Avenel, *temp. Steph.*^e

College, or Archpresbytery, of Haccombe, in Devonshire.

MR. OLIVER, in his Historic Collections, has printed the foundation deed of this College; premising, that the public notary has omitted to affix the date to it in Bishop Grandisson's Register: but that, by comparing it with the institution of the first Archpriest, Andrew de Tregors, in fol. 46. of the third volume of the same Register, he was of opinion that it must have been drawn up either late in the year 1341, or in the early part of 1342.

This foundation deed states, that Sir Stephen de Haccombe had formerly applied to Bishop Grandisson to erect the parish church of St. Blase at Haccombe, the burial-place of his ancestors, into an Archpresbytery; that before the prelate could comply with his wishes, the knight died; but that his heir, Sir John L'Ercedekne, had entered into

his views, and renewed the application to the Bishop, who had acceded to the request, and consented to the appropriation of the Parish Church of St. Hugh de Quedyock in Cornwall, for the better support of the Archpriest and his community. The community, beside the Archpriest, consisted of five Clergymen, who were called Socii, who were bound to sing the canonical office, and to celebrate perpetual obits; they dwelt under the same roof with the Archpriest, and lived in common. The Archpriest was obliged to pay six marks per annum to the Treasury of the Cathedral Church of Exeter.^f The Messrs. Lysons say, the Archpriest, or Rector as he is usually called, is now the only remaining member of the College, and enjoys its revenues.^g

College of South Molton, in Devonshire.

TANNER, from Mr. Willis's Parochiale, p. 158, speaks of a College here, to which the Rectory was appropriated. In the Domesday Survey, vol. i. fol. 104, we read—

"In SUDMOLTUNE ten. iiiii. presbyteri de Rege in elemosina unam virgatam terræ."

Collegiate Church of Slapton, in Devonshire.

MR. OLIVER says, that this Collegiate Church, with a perpetual Chantry of five Priests, and a Rector and four Clerks, was founded in honour of Our Lady, by Sir Guy Briant or Brene, about the year 1370.^h The founder appropriated to this College the Parish Church of Foundestock in Cornwall:ⁱ and the Church of Lodeswell was appropriated to it in 1413.^k

It was surrendered to the King in 1545, and granted

to Thomas Arundell: the lands being then valued at 63*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* per annum.

The Collegiate estate was purchased of the Arundell Family by Mr. William Paige, who, in 1822, was (if he is not still) the patron of the benefice of Slapton.^l

Tanner says, the Site of this College was granted, in the 6th Edw. VIth., to Sir William Petre.

The following is Mr. Oliver's List of the RECTORS of

^a Lysons, Mag. Brit. *Devonsh.* P. ii. p. 148. Oliver's Histor. Collect. p. 24.

^b Oliver, Hist. Collect. pp. 140, 141.

^c Taxat. P. Nich. IV.

^d Pat. 11 Hen. IV. &c. Ric. Courtney custos liberæ capelle de Heis infra castrum Exon.

^e Risdon, vol. i. p. 20, and Izaack, p. 3, ascribe the building and endowing this Chapel to the Lady Elizabeth de Fortibus, countess of Devon. There was a great heiress, named Isabel de Fortibus, coun-

tess of Devon, about the latter end of K. Henry III., who might be a benefactress, but it was certainly in being long before.

^f Histor. Collections, p. 133.

^g Mag. Brit. *Devonsh.* p. 250.

^h Histor. Collections, p. 130.

ⁱ Reg. Brantyngh. tom. i. fol. 74.

^k Registr. Stafford, tom. ii. fol. 289.

^l Lysons, Mag. Brit. *Devonsh.* p. 452.