

Carmelites, or White Friars.

WHITE FRIARS of CAMBRIDGE.

TANNER says, "The Carmelites, or White Friars, first lived at Chesterton, and afterward, viz. A. D. 1249, Michael Malsherb gave them an habitation at Newenham without Cambridge, where they continued forty-two years, from whence, A. D. 1291, they removed themselves into the parish of St. John, Miln-street, where King Edward the First, Sir Guy de Mortimer, and Thomas de Hertford, were founders or great benefactors to them.^a The Site of this religious House (being where now the Provost of King's garden is,^b near Queen's College) was granted to John Eyer, 36 Hen. VIII.^c

There are several Impressions of the SEAL of this House in the Archives of Queen's College, Cambridge.

CHESTER.

THE White Friars, or Carmelites, were established in Chester by Thomas Stadham, gent., in 1279. Their House was in St. Martin's parish, in the south-west part of the City near the street still called White Friars. King Henry the Eighth granted the Site, with those of the other Friaries of Chester, to John Cokke: after the Dissolution, a mansion was built on the site by Sir Thomas Egerton; and in 1597, July 21, the steeple of this Friary was taken down. It was erected, according to the local chronology given in the Vale Royal, in 1496, and is said to have been of great height and beauty, "being the only sea-mark for direction over the bar of Chester." Harl. MS. 2125. This mansion is now destroyed.^d The only name of any of the heads of the Chester Friaries which occurred to Mr. Ormerod, was that of RICHARD DE DONNES (supposed to be of the Utkinton family) "prior fratrum Carmelitarum Domus beatæ Mariæ Cestriæ," who occurs as granting a dispensation of marriage to Sir William Brereton and Anilla Venables, 12 cal. Jun. 1386. Mr. Ormerod has given an Abstract of the Ministers' Accounts for this House, 31 and 32 Hen. VIII., from the Records of the Augmentation Office.^e

PLYMOUTH, in DEVONSHIRE.

LELAND, in his Itinerary, vol. iii. p. 43, says, in the east part of this Town stood the White Friars. Tanner says, the Site was granted, in the 38th Hen. VIIIth, to Giles Iselham; it should be Isham. The Particular for this Grant is in the Augmentation Office.

LYME, in DORSETSHIRE.

HERE, says Hutchins, was anciently a House of Carmelite Friars,^f of which we have only this Account, that it was found that it would not be to the King's prejudice if he granted licence to William Daie or Dacre,^g to give a messuage and eight acres of land here to the Friars of the Order of the blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, to build *de novo* an Oratory and House for their habitation for ever, which premises were held of the King *in capite* as parcel of his farm of Lyme, by service of paying yearly to him for the said farm 15s. 10d.^h

^a Collect. RR. P. Matthei Wren quondam Episc. Eliensis; et collect. viri doctissimi Thomæ Baker, e libro Memorandum Ecclesiæ de Barnwell, ubi habetur, "Compositio inter Priorem et Conv. Barnwellensem, et Carmelitas, pro indemnitate Ecclesiæ S. Joannis, A. D. 1291."

^b So Parker, more truly than Fuller, who reports, that "it occupied the ground whereon Catherine Hall and Queen's College do stand at this day." Whereas both those houses were founded while this Friary was standing, and inhabited by the Carmelites. TANN. Cole, in his Manuscripts in the British Museum, vol. xxxi., says, "White Friars, on the south side of King's and north side of Queen's Colleges, and west side of Mill-street, opposite to it East Plott and Nutt's-lane."

^c Tanner says, "Vide Pat. 18 Edw. I. m. 16. de tribus mess. concess. per Will. Hamelton. Pat. 20 Edw. I. m. . Pat. 8 Edw. II. p. 1, m. 8. pro quadam venella contigua domui perquirenda et claudenda. Pat. 9 Edw. II. p. 1, m. 10 vel 11. Pat. 5 Edw. III. p. 2, m. 5 vel 6. Pat. 24 Edw. III. p. 1, m. ."

MALDON, in ESSEX.

THE Priory of Carmelites in this Town was founded about the year 1292 by Richard Gravesend bishop of London, and Richard Iselham a priest. Speed was under a mistake in valuing the revenues of this House at 21l. 6s. 8d.: they really amounted to no more than 26s. 8d. Jan. 14th, 1537, William Harris had a lease of the Friars Carmelites at the farm rent of 8d. Tanner says, the Site was granted, 36 Hen. VIIIth, to George Duke and John Sterr; but Morant says, Oct. 8th, 1546, to them and their heirs, to hold in burgage and free socage by fealty only. The subsequent descent of the capital messuage of this Friary to a late period may be seen in Morant.ⁱ THOMAS MALDON died Prior here in 1404. RICHARD ACTON died in 1446.^k

There is an Impression of the SEAL of this House in the Duchy Office of Lancaster.

WHITE FRIARS, at GLOUCESTER.

BISHOP TANNER ascribes the foundation of this House to Queen Eleanor, Sir Thomas Gifford, and Sir Thomas Berkeley, or the last alone, some time in the reign of Henry the Third, in or soon after the year 1269.^l It was at first a small House; being afterwards enlarged by the grant of a curtilage and vineyard.^m It produced some eminent men amongst its religious. The House, however, was in decay at the time of the Dissolution, and had then only three Friars. The buildings and adjacent land were granted, 35th Hen. VIII., to Richard Andrews and Nicholas Temple, who sold them afterwards to Sir Thomas Bell, by whom they were applied toward the support of St. Kyneburgh's Hospital. Fosbrooke says, Great part of the Friary seems to have been destroyed about the year 1567; yet in the reign of Queen Elizabeth several of the buildings belonging to it remained; and the House of Correction for the County of the City was appointed to be kept in some part of them. Some of the materials were used in the civil wars in the fortification of the City; and others, called the Founder's Lodgings, were converted into a barn, which proved very useful to the City at the siege. As the Site, however, cannot now be distinguished, it is fit to note, that the House stood without the lower north gate, not far from Brook-street, towards the west end of a meadow still called the Friars' Ground; for which the Corporation pay to the Crown a yearly quit-rent of 1s. 3d.ⁿ

There is an Inventory of the Goods of this House, *temp.* Hen. VIII., in the Chapter-House, Westminster.

WINCHESTER, in HAMPSHIRE.

MILNER says, Opposite to the Church of St. Michael Winchester, in a close called College Mead, stood the Church and Convent of the Carmelite Friars. It was dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary, and founded in 1278 by Peter, who is called the parish priest of St. Helen's, Winchester. The dwelling, and the land on which it stood, were estimated at no more than 6s. 8d. yearly: nevertheless, being bestowed upon Wykeham's College, to which they joined, they proved a valuable acquisition to it, by enlarging its enclosure, which before was rather confined.^o

^d A part of it was blown up in 1772, in consequence of a tremendous accident. See Pennant's Wales, vol. i. p. 176.

^e Ormerod, vol. i. p. 275. Sir Thomas Egerton's mansion is now destroyed.

^f Esc. 12 Edw. II.

^g Tanner, who refers to Inq. ad quod damnum rot. 15 Edw. II., makes the licence to William Tay.

^h Hutchins, Hist. Dors. new edit. vol. i. pp. 402, 403.

ⁱ Hist. of Essex, vol. i. p. 336. Tanner refers to "Rot. pat. 21 Edw. I. p. . and Pat. 8 Edw. II. p. 1, m. 10. de quadam placea terræ ibidem contigua aræ suæ perquirenda de Tho. Palmer," concerning this House.

^k Stevens, Contin. vol. ii. p. 184. 1 Notit. Monast. Glouc. xiii. 10.

^l Rot. pat. 14 Edw. II. p. 2, m. 17. confirm. eisdem curtilagium, &c. in suburbio Glocestr. concess. per Hen. de Oke.

^m Fosbrooke's Hist. of Gloucester, p. 299.

ⁿ Hist. Winchester, vol. ii. p. 139.