

## EASTRY.

CRESSY, out of Harpsfield, makes K. Egbert, who died A. D. 673, to have built here, for his sister Ermenburga, a Monastery dedicated to St. Ethelbert and St. Ethelbright, which seems to have been a mistake of the story of St. Ethelbert and St. Ethelred, brothers of Domneva here murdered, and for the expiation of which crime the Abbey of Minstre was founded.<sup>a</sup>

## ELFLEET, or ELSLIT.

SPEED, says Tanner, places here a Nunnery of Domneva's foundation; which, if at all, seems rather to have been at Ebbsfleet, in the Isle of Thanet.<sup>b</sup>

## HITHE.

LELAND, speaking of this place in his Itinerary, says, "It evidently aperieth that where the Paroch Church is now was sumtyme a fair Abbay. Yn the Quire be fayre and many Pylers of marble, and under the Quier a very fair Vaute, also a faire olde Dore of stone, by the which the Religius Folkes cam yn at mydnight. In the top of the Chirch Yard is a fayr Spring, and thereby Ruines of Howses of Office of the Abbey; and not far of was an Hospital of a Gentilman infected with Lepre."<sup>c</sup>

## NEWINGTON.

STEVENS, in his Continuation of Dugdale, vol. i. p. 530, gives the following Account of this Monastery, from W. Thorn's Chronicle, col. 1931.

"There was formerly a Monastery of Nuns at Newynton, who were possessed of all that manor; but by whom founded does not appear. It happened afterwards, that the prioress thereof was strangled by her cook at night, in her bed, and afterwards dragged to the well, which is called Nunnepet; whereupon the king seized that manor into his own hands, and kept it in his own custody, removing the rest of the nuns to Shepey. Afterwards Henry, father to King John, before the martyrdom of St. Thomas the Martyr, by advice, placed there seven priests, in the nature of secular canons, and gave them the said manor entire, and 28 weight of cheese from the manor of Middleton. Afterwards one of them was killed among them, of which murder four were found guilty; and the other two, not guilty, with the king's licence, gave their portion to the Abbey of St. Augustin, and the other five parts remained in the king's hands, till he gave the same to the Lord Richard de Lucy, his justice, whereupon the abbat of St. Augustin's held the said two parts. Another manuscript says, that those seven prebendaries committed that crime in the reign of King William the Conqueror, by which means all that they possessed was forfeited into the king's hands; the which King William gave the two so often mentioned parts to the abbat of St. Augustin's. Which of these two Accounts is the truest, is left to the reader to judge; but we will here add a third, from Mr. Hearne's *Fragmenta Sprottiana*,<sup>d</sup> as follows:

"*A short History of Newynton.*

"Memorandum, That there were once nuns at the manor of Newynton, who held that whole manor, viz. that which the abbat of St. Augustin's at Canterbury now holds, and that which the heirs of W. de Ripariis hold, besides what Richard Lucy purchased, Brunell Middleton, and then that manor was maintained for one swyllingate of land to

the king at Middleton. A certain king that then was gave to the same nuns 10 pounds of his revenue at West-Newynton, in alms, at two terms, viz. at the feast of St. Michael, and at the feast of St. Martin. And he assigned to the same nuns on the same 10 pounds his revenue, as far as they were to pay at the aforesaid two terms out of the said manor. And they paid at the term of St. Thomas the Apostle five shillings, and at the term of Palm-Sunday five shillings, like other swylling lands in the country. And afterwards it happened that the prioress of the same monastery was strangled by her cat in her bed at night, and afterwards dragged to a well, which is called Nunnepette. And afterwards the king took that manor into his hands, and held it in his custody. And he removed those nuns as far as Shepey. And King Henry the father of King John, before the martyrdom of St. Thomas the Martyr, by the advice of the same, placed there seven priests in the nature of secular canons, and gave them the said whole manor, and besides he gave them for to mend their diet 28 weight of cheese of his manor of Middleton. And soon after one of their number was killed among them, and four were found guilty of the death of the fifth their brother. And two of the seven, who were not found guilty, with the king's licence, gave their portion to the abbat of St. Augustin's at Canterbury, and the other five parts remained in the king's hands, until he gave those parts to Richard Lucy, at that time his justice. Afterwards it happened that the same Richard Lucy had a son called Godfrey Lucy bishop of Winchester, his heir, and after the death of that bishop, Godfrey Lucy, that manor devolved to Roisia Dovore sister to that Godfrey, Anne sister of the aforesaid Roisia, and Maud Lucy the daughter of the said Roisia; and so that manor is divided. Thence the abbat of St. Augustin's holds as well in lands as in revenues of the aforesaid seven parts two parts in all particulars, and the other five parts are divided into two parts. Whereof Geffry Lucy held one part, viz. that which belonged to Roisia, and Henry de Ripariis held the other part of the gift of Maud Lucy his mother, and according to the aforesaid manner they pay their revenue to the court of Middleton at the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, that is, Geffry Lucy 22½*d.*, and Henry de Ripariis 22½*d.*, and the abbat of St. Augustin 15*d.*, and the like at Easter.

"This monastery is not taken notice of in the *Monasticon*, or by Willis in his *History of Abbies*, as having ceased to be so long before the general suppression; notwithstanding the which, it deserves to be mentioned, as well as cities which are entirely lost, and their very situation not known. This must suffice concerning it, having no where met with any more concerning the same. Only I must here observe, that the two accounts from Thorn and Sprot exactly agree, excepting only in one point, about the strangling of the prioress, of which the former says it was done by her cook, and the latter by her cat, which we must leave as we find it."

Tanner says, some writings assign the misfortune above mentioned among the Prebendaries to have happened *temp. Will. Cong.* And in Thorn's Chronicle, col. 1788, it is positively asserted that the Conqueror gave the abbey of St. Augustine's eight prebends in Newington. Compare also Hasted's *History of Kent*, vol. ii. p. 550.

## SANDWICH.

LELAND, in his Itinerary, vol. vii. p. 125, noticing this Town, says, "Ther be yn the Town iii. principal Gates, iii. Paroche Chyrches, of the which sum suppose that S. Marye's was sumtyme a Nunnery." No other memorandum of the existence of a Monastery here has occurred.

## Lancashire.

## COKERHAM.

TANNER cites two instances from Charters in the Register of Lancaster Priory, MS. Harl. 3764, in which Priors of Cokerham occur as subscribing witnesses. One without

the name of the person in 1275. The other, "Henrico Priore de Cokerham," signs an Instrument without date. He adds, "In Taxat. Lincoln. 20 Edw. I. inter temporalia Religiosorum infra archidiaconatum Richmond. 'Custos Domus de Cokyrham, xiii'."

<sup>a</sup> Tann. Notit. Monast. Kent, xxii.

<sup>b</sup> Ibid. Kent, xxiii.

<sup>c</sup> Lel. Itin. vol. vii. p. 141.

<sup>d</sup> Frag. Sprot. p. 162.