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labours of the council, but he was one of the four abbots chosen to preside over the chapter of Petershausen. This council was ordered by the fathers of Constance, to promote the internal reform of the Benedictine order, and Spofforth was called upon to help in reforms similar to, though wider than, those which had been carried out at his own abbey in 1390. In that year a commission had been issued by the archbishop of York, and had sat under the presidency of the abbot and the archbishop's two commissioners ('per commissarios suos,...

Magistros Iohannem de Newton legis civilis doctorem, et Thomam de Walworht bacallarium utriusque iuris'). Their reforms were mainly liturgical, and were embodied in the Consuetudinariun of St. Mary's. It is interesting that the most important external member of the commission was an admirer of Rolle — Master John de Newton, afterwards treasurer at York, and a person of great local importance. There is evidence that Rolle's *Incendium* became a popular monastic text-book during the period that these reforms were being carried out at St. Mary's, and while Spofforth was monk and abbot there, and it therefore seems possible that the book became known through him to the continental Benedictines, when they met to draw up a similar, though more comprehensive, scheme of internal reform. The presence of Spofforth at the chapter of Petershausen suggests itself as a medium by which Rolle's *Incendium Amoris* may have passed to the Continent, and, later, disturbed the history of St. Bonaventura's work.

M. Deanesly.

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**Lollards at Colchester in 1414**

File 204 of the Ancient Indictments in the Public Record Office contains some interesting and, I think, as yet unpublished documents relating to the lollards and the abortive St. Giles's Field Rising of 1414. The documents in question are in the form of inquisitions held in the counties of Essex, Hertfordshire, Nottingham, Northampton, Derby, Leicester, and Worcester.
by commissioners appointed under letters patent of 11 January
1 Henry V, to collect local information concerning such con-
spirators as had not yet been captured. In the writ of appoint-
ment, 'the lollards are accused of traitorously planning the
king's death and the destruction of the catholic faith, but the
inquisitions appear to have incidentally brought to light several
heretics of whose rebellious intentions there is seemingly no
evidence. One of the returns of the Essex commissioners of an
inquisition held at Colchester (no. 11), which is printed below,
is especially interesting as illustrating the co-operation of munici-
pal and ecclesiastical authorities in the search for heretical
writings in 1405.

In some of the indictments direct charges of lollardy and
heresy are made. At Thaxted in Essex, for instance (no. 2),
the jurors ruled that John Smith 'soutere' of Thaxted
'est magnus lollardus', and that 'Willelmus nuper capellanus
parochialis de Thaxted est communis lollardus et tenet opiniones
lollardas'. At Colchester, on the other hand, where in 1429
some of the inhabitants, according to a petition of the abbot of
St. John's, were 'detecte, noysed and endited of lollardrye', and
where in the same year William Chivelng was tried for heresy
and burned,1 the jurors of 1414 accuse nobody directly of
heresy. The sole charge brought against the Colchester offenders,
with one exception, is the fact that they possess and read English
books. Some at least of these books must have been regarded
as harmless by the ecclesiastical censor in 1405, or they would
hardly have been returned to the owners. As to the character
of the other books, which are not stated to have undergone
official examination, no information is given beyond the fact
that they were English.2 Possibly the earl of Oxford and his
colleagues were too intent upon the discovery of traitors to
concern themselves with heresy as such or with men who had
incurred suspicion of heresy by peaceable ways only. The
owners of the books were dismissed sine die by judgement of
the court, and apparently left unmolested. It is not unlikely
that they were well-to-do3 heretics of the more cautious kind
who did not invite persecution by proclaiming their views aloud
or by joining in political conspiracies, and with whom, perhaps,
some of the jurors, their fellow townsmen, were in sympathy.

The charge brought against Thomas atte Brook, shoemaker,

2 At Thaxted the jurors described English books belonging to John Smith, cord-
waine, and others as being 'contra fidem catholicam'.
3 William Chilton had been admitted as a burgess of Colchester in 1410–11 and
John Bryce in 1412–13: Oath Book (of Colchester), ed. Benham, p. 95. The will of
Robert Swyn was enrolled at Colchester in 1423–4 (ibid., p. 103), and that of John
Andrews, cordwainer, in 1454–5 (ibid., p. 120).
of Colchester, is one of treason, not heresy. From other indictments (nos. 9 and 10) it appears that on the Saturday, the feast of Epiphany, he joined John Warner, Thomas Sawyer, weavers of Kelveden, and Robert Cappedok, and with them he set out from Kelveden to join the followers of Sir John Oldcastle in St. Giles’s Field with the intention of killing the king. John Warner and Thomas Sawyer appear to have been in the pay of John Cok, weaver, of Pattiswick, who on the Monday, the feast of the Circumcision, had promised them each sixpence a day, ‘ad propositum quod ipsi Iohanni Oldcastell lollardo et heretico ac inimico domini Regis publico adhererent et cum eo insurgerent contra dominum Regem’.

John Cok was apparently acting as organizer and leader of the little band of shoemakers, weavers, and cutlers who formed the greater part of Oldcastle’s Essex contingent. The jurors further reported (no. 12) that John and Thomas Cok assembled at Coggeshall on 2 January.

diversos homines rebelles videlicet Willelmum Sprotford de Coggeshall predicto et alos ignoto modo guerrino arraiatos, et huiusmodi hominibus vadia ibidem solverunt false et preditorie ad insurgendum una cum Iohanne Oldcastell chivaler vocato domino de Cobham notario et publico heretico ac vulgariter lollardo nuncupato ac multis aliis tam lollardis quam aliis ad magnam summam ignotam.

Of the ultimate fate of Thomas atte Brook and those of the Essex insurgents whose names appear in the indictments there is no clear evidence. It seems that some or most of the Essex lollards returned home when they found that the king was holding St. Giles’s Field (no. 9), and Thomas atte Brook was probably with these. Neither his name nor those of his neighbours appear on the patent rolls amongst the names of those who claimed the pardon offered by the king on 28 March 1414.

ELEANOR J. B. REID.

* Inquisitio capta apud Colcestriam coram Ricardo de Veer Comite Oxonie, Willelmo Bourghcher, et sociis suis commissionariis domini Regis in comitatu die lune proxima ante festum purificationis beate Marie Virginis anno regni Regis Henrici quinti post conquestum primo, virtute cuiusdam commissionis eisdem directe et huic inquisitioni consute per sacramentum Thome Franceys, Iohannis Foorde, Iohannis Pod, Iohannis Sumpter, Iohannis Dyere, mercatoria, Henrici Besse, Stephani Fylsp, Iohannis Kymberelee, Willelmi Notyngham, Roberti Slade, Roberti

* It is stated (no. 9) that each of them afterwards received 20d. from John Cok in London, ‘in parte vadiorum suorum predictorum ad propositum predictum perimplendum.’

* The only Essex lollard who claimed the pardon was Thomas Pelle of Colchester ‘corder’er,’ who is not mentioned by name in the indictments. Possibly he had been caught before the Essex commissioners began their work.

* Ancient Indictments, Public Record Office, File 204, no. 11.
Journal of the Irish House of Lords in Sir John Perrot's Parliament (3 May 1585—13 May 1586)

The printed series of journals of the Irish house of lords begins earliest document now extant which possibly be described as a journal of John Hooker, alias Vowell, daily proceedings of Hooker was merely

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