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labours of the council,¹⁹ but he was one of the four abbots chosen to preside over the chapter of Petershausen.²⁰ 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').²¹ Their reforms were mainly liturgical, and were embodied in the *Consuetudinarium* of St. Mary's. It is interesting that the most important external member of the commission was an admirer of Rolle²²—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.

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FILE 204 of the Ancient Indictments in the Public Record Office contains some interesting and, I think, as yet unpublished documents relating to the lollards and the abortive St. Giles's Field Rising of 1414.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

¹⁹ He was present at the conclave, November 1417, for electing Martin V (Von der Hardt, iv. 1474). Gascoigne twice refers to Spofforth as present at Constance (*Loci e Libro Veritatum*, pp. 10, 161).

²⁰ Richental, p. 173; Von der Hardt, i. 1095 ff., where the acts of this provincial chapter are printed. It inaugurated a new era for German Benedictinism; cf. Trithemius, *Opera Pia et Spiritualia*, Mogunt., 1604, pp. 1026 ff. Modern writers on the council of Constance, such as Finke, *Acta Concilii Constantiensis* and *Forschungen und Quellen zur Geschichte des Konstanzer Konzils*, and N. Valois, *La France et le grand schisme d'Occident*, have not dealt with the chapter of Petershausen.

²¹ St. John's College, Cambridge, MS. D. 27, fo. 1 (the *Consuetudinarium* of St. Mary's).

²² Cf. Emmanuel Coll. MS. 35.

by commissioners appointed under letters patent of 11 January 1 Henry V, to collect local information concerning such conspirators as had not yet been captured. In the writs of appointment, 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 municipal 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 returned 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 Chiveling 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,

¹ *Red Paper Book of Colchester*, ed. Benham, p. 53.

² At Thaxted the jurors described English books belonging to John Smith, cordwainer, 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 Sweyn was enrolled at Colchester in 1423-4 (*ibid.*, p. 103), and that of John Andrewe, 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'.⁴ 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 alios ignotos modo guerrino arraiatos, et huiusmodi hominibus vadia ibidem solverunt false et proditorie ad insurgendum una cum Iohanne Oldecastell 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 1414.⁵

ELEANOR J. B. REID.

* *Inquisitio capta apud Colcestriam coram Ricardo de Veer Comite Oxoniae, 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 consuete per sacramentum Thome Franceys, Iohannis Foorde, Iohannis Pod, Iohannis Sumpter, Iohannis Dyere, mercatoris, Henrici Besse, Stephani Flysp, Iohannis Kymberlee, Willelmi Notyngham, Roberti Slade, Roberti*

⁴ It is stated (no. 9) that each of them afterwards received 20d. from John Cok in London, 'in parte vadorum suorum predictorum ad propositum predictum perimplendum.'

⁵ The only Essex lollard who claimed the pardon was Thomas Pelle of Colchester 'cordener', who is not mentioned by name in the indictments. Possibly he had been caught before the Essex commissioners began their work.

⁶ *Ancient Indictments*, Public Record Office, File 204, no. 11.

Priour mercatoris, et Iohannis Segrave, qui dicunt quod cum Thomas Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis qui nunc est nuper commisit litteras suas patentes Thome Godeston et Iohanni Seburgh Ballivis domini Regis ville Colcestrie tempore Regis Henrici patris predicti domini Regis nunc, anno regni sui sexto, ad arestandos et capiendos omnes libros Anglicanos in predicta villa Colcestrie existentes; virtute quarum litterarum predictarum predicti Ballivi arestaverunt quamplures libros Anglicanos et illos miserunt predicto Archiepiscopo; quos quidem libros idem Archiepiscopus tunc commisit Priori Sancti Bartholomei Londoniis ad eosdem examinandos; et postquam predictus Prior dictos libros examinasset idem Archiepiscopus remisit predictis Ballivis libros [predictos] ⁷ ad reliberandum cuilibet homini ville predictae suum librum, videlicet Roberto Hadlee, Simoni Hadlee, Roberto Parker superstitibus, et aliis qui [iam mortui] sunt. Et sic predicti Robertus Simon et Robertus dictos libros usque in hunc diem habent et occupaverunt ut in lectura. Item [dicunt quod] Willelmus Chilton,⁸ laycus, Iohannes Andrewe, cordwanerus, Iohannes Bryce, Robertus Sweyn, et Iohannes Wellis clericus parochialis ecclesie [. . .] ⁹ Colcestrie similiter habent quamplures libros Anglicanos et eos occupant in lectura infra mansiones suas tam per diem quam per [noctem] [se]crete et aperte aliquando adinvicem et aliquando quilibet per se. Et dicunt quod predicti Willelmus Chilton, Iohannes Andrewe, Iohannes [Bryce], Robertus Sweyn, et Iohannes Wellis occupant libros predictos, ad quod propositum dicunt quod ignorant. Item dicunt per sacramentum suum quod [. . .] ¹⁰ Thomas atte Brook de Colcestria sutor, apud Colcestriam, die Iovis in Septimana Natalis Domini ultima preterita secrete, [modo] guerreño ¹¹ arraiatus, false et proditorie insurrexit [et] ¹² devillavit vicinis suis, ibidem, incognitis, ad propositum ad interficiendum dominum Regem, et sic cepit viam versus Londonias.

In cuius rei testimonium presentibus sigilla nostra apposuimus.

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 in 1634, that of the commons in 1613.¹ The earliest document now extant which possibly be described as a journal of the Irish parliament is a diary of John Hooker, *alias* Vowell, the English ambassador who recorded the daily proceedings of the parliament of 1568/9.² But Hooker was merely

most are illegible in the document.

¹ *Journal of the Commons per iudicium curie.*

² The name of the church are legible. Possibly it should

of the torn margin. It may perhaps be 'quidam'.

³ Omitted in MS.

¹ *Journal of the Commons per iudicium curie.*

² *Journal of the Commons per iudicium curie.*

³ *Journal of the Commons per iudicium curie.*