

LORD CURSON'S HOUSE:
THE BISHOP'S PALACE, IPSWICH.

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(Second paper—Vide ante, page 255.)

A MS. in the Cambridge University Library * (Mm. III. 12), "Repertoriū epāle Norwicense Collectu per Anthonium Harison †, Cler. 1603/4 usque 1631/2" states—

"This house was begged of ye king by Bp Thirlby † that the Bp of Norwich might sometymes dwell in it for ye better government of y^t p^t of his Dioces in Suffolke."

"An^o 4to Regina Eliz. (1561) Bp Parkehurst § granted a patent for ye keping of ye Bps howse at Ipswich to Christofer Parkhurst, and gave him for his salarie yearly xls."

"An^o xxv. Eliz. (1582) Ianuarie 31. Bp Freake || demised this howse to Edmund Goodwyn ¶ of Ipswich Gent for xxi yeares from y^t date, for ye yearly rent of xs at Thanūciacon & S^t Michaell by even portions."

"17 April 1594. Bishop Scamler ** granted a concurrent lease to James Scamler Esquier—his eldest son ††—for 21 yeares from Christmas (then) last past at a rent of xs yearly"

The house is therein described as "All y^t his Capitall messuage, sométyme ye Lord Curson's place, wth all ye howses, buildings, yards, and gardeins wth all other the apptences, as they are situat, lyeing, & being in ye parishes of S^t Peter & S^t Nicholas, wthin ye Towne of Ipswich, in ye County of Suff: or either of them."

Such Lease contained a licence to the Lessee, his Exors., &c.

"To take, plucke downe, and convert to his & their ppr use, a certain long howse or howses †† pcell of ye

garden lying from ye greate gate there being eastward to the garden where ye dovecote now is builded without any-thing therefore to be allowed unto the said Bp his Exors^s or Successors &c ”

“This Lease was confirmed by the Deane and Chapter on the 19 of April 1594” who “were accessarie” subsequently “to the Leasing of the Bprick for 80 years and about six years after to the demolishing of pte of this place” :

The Learned Annotator concluding :—

“It had been fitt there had bene in ye lease made of this place & howse a proviso & reservacon of lodging for the Bp & his familie when he thought fitt, wth egress & regress for him & them &c. as in the lease of the Palace of Norwich for it may be some good Bp in conscience of pforming his dutie, would have thought fitt to have lived & made residence in Suffolke—according to the intent of ye grant of the howse to the Bp, and ye earnest desire of very many religious gent : & other people of ye Countrie, whoe much joyed in ye residence of ye good Bishop Parkehurst whoe was ye last resident in Suff : and all his Successors non-resident there ever since his death ”

* According to Dr. Bensly, the present Bishop's Registrar, who kindly so informs.

† The Rev. Anthony Harison was rector of Catfield, Norfolk, and Secretary to the Bishop of Norwich.

‡ Thomas Thirlby, or Thirleby, D.L. (see Cooper's *Ath. Cantab.*, Vol. I., p. 287), the 34th Bishop of Norwich (*vide* Blomefield), was the first and last Bishop of Westminster, and translated therefrom to the See of Norwich, on the 1st of April, 1550, and thence on the 15th of Sep., 1554, to the See of Ely. His despoliation of the lands at Westminster, the church of which was dedicated to St. Peter, for the reparation of the Cathedral, dedicated to St. Paul, gave rise to the well-known saying : “Robbing Peter to pay Paul.”

§ John Parkhurst, D.D., the 37th Bishop of Norwich (*vide* Blomefield, and Vol. I. Wood's *Ath. Oxon.*, p. 701), installed on the 27th of April, 1560, and died 2nd Feb., 1574.

|| Edmund Freke, or Freake, D.D., the 38th Bishop of Norwich (*vide* Blomefield), translated to that See from Rochester in 1575, and thence, in 1584, to Worcester, where he died in 1590 (Cooper's *Ath. Cantab.*, Vol. II., p. 96).

¶ Appointed one of the Bailiffs of the Borough, 8th September, 1581, described as a gent., but “himselfe useth a brewhouse within the liberty of this Towne.” Bacon's *Annals of Ipswich*, p. 326.

* * Edmund Scambler, D.D., the 39th Bishop of Norwich, “so covetous, that he impoverished the Bishopricks he was advanced to in a notorious manner” (*vide* Blomefield). Elected 15th December, 1584 (*vide* Vol. I., Wood's *Ath. Oxon.*, p. 701, and Vol. II., Cooper's *Ath. Cantab.*, 167), and died 7th May, 1594 (Weever, 710).

†† This son is, and other sons are, named in Will proved 22 June, 1594.

‡‡ Doubtless the stabling—see the plan.