

their ale,' and increasing their means of hospitality.* The prior also claimed the privilege of a market at Tynemouth, but in a suit on that account, judgment was given against him at the King's Bench; but the place had certain immunities, which it annually asked of the judges itinerant, at *Chille Well*, in Gateshead,† when they came from York; or at *Faurstanes*, when they came from Cumberland. Edward I. in 1299, restored to Tynemouth the free customs which the crown had taken from it, and allowed the prior to determine *by his own justices* all pleas concerning his own men, lands and tenements, so that the king's justices were not permitted to enter his liberty. King Edward II. and his favourite, Gaveston, were at Tynemouth in 1312, from whence they took shipping to Scarborough.‡ Sir William de Middleton, Knight, and Walter de Seleby, at the head of a riotous band of Northumbrians, ravaged this priory in 1316, but they were afterwards sent prisoners to London, where they were tried, condemned and executed. The Queen of Edward I. resided here for some time in 1303, as also did the Queen of Edward II. in 1322; and the monastery was again plundered by the Scots in 1389. Thomas Duke of Gloucester, in 1391, was entertained at this house for a few day's after his return from Persia. The prior, with fifteen monks and three novices, surrendered this monastery on the 12th of January, 1539, when an annual pension of £80 was assigned to the prior, and small stipends to each of the other members of the convent. Its site, with all its offices, were granted on the 9th of March, 1539, to Sir Thomas Hilton, on a lease of 21 years, at the yearly rent of £163 17s. Its possessions were very extensive, having no fewer than twenty-seven villas in Northumberland, with the royalties belonging to them, viz. Tynemouth, Shields, Milnton, East Chirton, East Preston, Monkton, Whitley, Murton, Earsdon, Backworth, Seghill, Wolsington, Dissington, Elswick, Wylam, Hertford, Cowpen, Bedside, Weldon, Hauxley, Ambell, Eglington, Bewick, Lilburn, Flatworth, Middle Chirton, and West Chirton, together with the lands of Royely and Denum, a tower at Benwell and Whitley, possessions at Monkseaton, Denton, Whittingham, Billy Mill, and Framlington; the tithes of Corbridge, Ovington, Wylam, Newburn, Dissington, Callerton, Elswick, Bothal, Warkworth, Ambel, Rothbury, and Wooler, in Northumberland, and of Hertness and Middleton upon Tees, in Durham, besides several messuages in Newcastle, and the impropriations and advowsons of the churches of Tynemouth, Woodhorn, Whalton, Bolam, Bewick, Eglington, Hartburn, Shilbottle, and Haltwhistle, in Northumberland, and those of Conscliff in Durham. The Benedictine monastery, on Coquet Island, was a cell to this house. The total annual value of these possessions was estimated, in 1539, at £706 10s. 8½d. according to a manuscript in the Augmentation-office, where there is a beautiful impression of the seal of Tynemouth monastery affixed to the original surrender, and bearing, a representation of the Virgin Mary, Christ, and St. Oswin, and the following inscription, "*Sigile, commune prioratus Sancte Marie & beauti Oswini de Tinmutha.*" The possessions of this richly

* William Pigun, the thievish and gluttonous monk who stole the common seal of St. Albans, and committed a forgery with it, was banished from that house to the cell at Tynemouth, where the credulous Matthew Paris informs us, that he died, after eating and drinking to excess, and that the monks, who were in the dorture, distinctly heard a voice crying, "Take him, satan! take him, satan!"

† Vide page xx.

‡ Vide page xxi.