here follow to be seene.

Paules Church. First the Church or Minster of S. Paule in London, was founded by Ethelbert king of Kent, and Sigebert kyng of Essex, about the yeare of our Lord. 604.

The first aultar and crosse set vp in England. The first crosse and aulter within this realm was first set vp in the North partes in Heuenfield, vpon the occasion of Oswald king of Northumberland, fighting against Cadwalla, where he in the same place set vp the signe of the crosse, kneelyng and praying there for victory, Polychron. lib 5. cap. 12. An. 635.

The church of Winchester. The Church of Winchester was first begon and founded by Kingilsus king of Mercians, hauing 9. myles about it: after finished by his sonne Kewalcus, where Wyne, of englishmen was first bishop, An. 636. Guliel. Malmesb. Lib. De gestis pont. Ang.

The church of Lincolne. The Church of Lincolne first founded by Paulinus Bishop, An 629.

The church of Westminster. The Church of westminster began first by a certayne Citizen of London, through the instigatiõ of Ethelbert king of Kent, which before was an Ile of thornes, Bed. An. 614.

The scholes at Cambridge. The common scholes first erected at Cambridge by Sigebert king of Eastangles, An. 636.

Abbey of Knouisburgh. The Abbey of Knouisburgh builded by Furceus the Hermite, An. 637.

Malmesb. The monasterie of Malmesbery by one Meldulfus a Scot, about the yeare of our Lord, 640. Afterward inlarged by Agilbert bishop of winchester.

Abbey of Glocester. The Monasterie in Glocester, first builded by Osricus King of Mercia, as Cestrensis sayth. But as William Malmesb. writeth, by Vlferus, and Etheldred brethren to Kineburga Abbesse of the same house, An 679.

Mailrose. The monastery of Mailrose by the floud of Twide by Aidanus a Scottish bishop.

Heorenton. The Nunnery of Heorenton by Heui, who was the first Nunne in Northumberland, Bede, Lib. 4 cap. 1.

Hetesey. The Monastery of Hetesey by Oswy Kyng of Northumberlãd, who also with his daughter Elfred, gaue possessions for twelue monasteries in the partes of Northũberland, An. 656.

The monastery of S. Martine at Douer. The monasterie of S. Martine in Douer, builded by whitred king of Kent.

Lestingey. The Abbey of Lestingey by Ceadda (whom we call S. Cedd) through the graunt of Oswald, sonne to S. Oswald, King of Northum. An. 651.

Whitbie. This Hilda was first conuerted to the fayth by Paulinus a godly and learned woman, out of her Monastery came fiue Bishops Dosa, Eatha, Osford, Ioannes, Wilfride. The Monastery of whitby called otherwise Strenhalt by Hilda daughter to the nephew of Edwyne Kyng of Northumberland, An 657.

Hacanos. Item an other monastery called Hacanos, not far from the same place builded by the sayd Hilda the same yeare.

Abington. The Abbey of Abbington builded by Cissa Kyng of Southsex, An. 666.

Ioanno at Lincolne. Item an Abbey in the East side of Lyncolne, called Ioanno, by S. Botulph. Polychro. Lib. 5 cap. 16. An. 654.

Ely Abbey. The monastery in Ely founded by Etheldred or Edeldrida daughter of Anna king of Eastangles, and the wyfe of Elfrid king of Northumb. An. 674.

Chertley. The Monastery of Chertsey in Southrey, founded by Erkenwald bishop of London, an. 674. thrown down by the Danes, after reedified by king Edgar.

Berkyng. Item the Nunnery of Berking edified by the sayd Erkenwaldus bishop of London about the same tyme.

Peterborough. The Abbey of Peterborough called otherwise Modehamstede founded by King Ethelwald King of the Mercians, An 675.

Bardney. Bardney Abbey by Etheldredus King of the Mercias, An. 700.

Glastonbery. Glastonbury by Iua king of the westsaxons, and after repayred and enriched by King Edgar, an. 701.

Camesey. Ramesey in the tyme of king Edgar by one Ailwinus a noble mã, an. 973. King Edgar builded in his tyme 40. monasteries, who raigned, an. 901.

Winburne. The Nunnery of winburne builded by Cuthburga sister to Ingilsus, king Iua his brother, an. 717.

Sealesey. The Monastery of Sealesey by the Ile of wight, by Wilfridus bishop of Yorke, an. 678.

Wincombe. The Monastery of Wincombe by Kenulphus Kyng of the Mercians, an. 737.

S. Albones. S. Albanes builded by Offa, King of the Mercians. Anno. 755.

Eusham. The Abbey of Eusham by Egwinus Bishop. An 691.

Ripon. Ripon in the North by Wilfridus Bishop. An. 709.

Echelinghey. The Abbey of Echelinghey, by king Aluredus, an. 891.

S. Shaftesbury. The Nunnery of Shaftesbury by the same Aluredus, the same yeare.

Thus ye see what monasteries in what tyme began to be founded by the Saxons kings, newly conuerted to the Christian sayth, within the space of 200. yeares: who, as they semed then to haue a certain zeale & deuotion to godward, according to the leading & teaching that then was: so it semeth againe to me, two things to be wished in these foresayd kings. First, that they which began to erect these monasteries and celles of Monkes and Nunnes, to lyue soly and singlely by themselues out of the holy state of matrimony: had foreseene what daunger & what absurd enormities might and also did thereof ensue, both publikely to the Church of Christ, & priuately to their owne soules. Secondly, that vnto this their zeale & deuotion had bene ioyned like knowledge & doctrine in Christes gospell, especially in the article of our free iustification by the faith of Iesu Christ. Because of the lacke wherof, as wel the builders & founders therof, as they that were professed in the same, seeme both to haue run the wrong way, & to haue bene deceiued. For albeit in them there was a deuotion & zeale of mynd, that thought well in this their doyng, which I wil not here reprehend: yet the end and cause of their deedes & buildings cannot be excused, beyng contrary to the rule of Christes Gospel, for so much as they did these things seeking thereby merites with God, and for remedy of their soules, and remission of their sinnes, as may appeare testified in their owne recordes, whereof one here I thought to set forth for probation of the same. Read this Charte (if it please thee gentle Reader) of king Ethelbald his donation, & charter giuen to churches and religious persons, which Ethelbald was the builder (as is sayd) of Peterborough, the wordes of his record and instrument be these.

Two thinges to be wished in them, that first builded Monkishe Monasteries.

The article of free iustification not knowyne.

The donations and priuiledges granted and geuen by King Ethelbald, to religious men of the Church.

Ex Cronicis Guliel. Malmesb. Lib. 1.

PLerumq; contingere solent, pro incerta temporum vicissitudine, vt ea quæ multarum fidelium personarum testimonio consilioq; roborata fuerint fraudulenter per contumaciã plurimorum, & machinamenta simulationis, sine vlla consideratione rationis, periculose dissipentur, nisi autoritate literarum (testamento Chyrographorum) æternæ memoriæ cõmittantur. Quapropter, ego Ethelbaldus Rex Merciorum, pro amore cælestis patriæ, & remedio animæ meæ, studendum esse præfidi; vt eam per bona opera liberam efficerem in omni vinculo delictorum. Quoniam enim mihi omnipotens Deus per misericordiam clementiæ suæ, absque vllo antecedente merito, sceptra regiminis largitus est: ideo libenter ei, ex eo quod dedit, retribuo. Huius rei gratia hanc donationem, me viuente, concedo, vt omnia monasteria & Ecclesiæ regni mei, à publicis vectigalibus, & operibus, & oneribus absoluantur: nisi instructionibus arcium, vel pontium quæ nulli vnquam prosunt. Præterea habeant famuli Dei, propriam libertatem in fructibus siluarum & agrorum, & in captura piscium, ne munuscula præbeant vel regi, vel principibus, nisi voluntaria. Sed liberi Deo seruiant, &c.

By the contentes hereof may well be vnderstand (as where he sayth, pro amore cælestis patriæ, pro remedio animæ, pro liberatione animæ, & absolutione delictorum, &c.) how great the ignorauncе and blindenesse of these men was: who lacking no zeale, onely lacked knowledge to rule it withall: seeking their saluation not by Christ onely, but by their owne deseruings and meritorious deedes. which I recite not here to any infamy or reprehensiõ of them, but rather to put vs in minde and memory, how much we at this present are bound to God, for the true sincerity of his truth: hidden so long before to our forefauncetors, and opened now to vs by the good will of our God, in his sonne Christ Iesu. This onely lamẽting by the way, to see them to haue such works, and to lacke our fayth: and vs to haue the right fayth, and to lacke their workes. And this blinde ignorauncе of that age, thus aboue prenoted, was the cause not onely why these kinges builded so many Monasteries vpon zealous superstition, but also why so many of them, forsaking their orderly vocation of princely regiment, gaue themselues ouer to Monasticall profession, or rather wilfull superstition. Concerning the names and number of which kings that were professed Monkes, is sufficiently in the storye before declared: the names of whome wee shewed to be seuen or eight, within the space of these two hundreth yeres. Such was then the superstitious deuotiõ of kings & Princes in that age: and no lesse also to bee noted in Queenes and kings daughters, with other noble women, of the same age and time. The names of whom, it were to long here to recite. As Hilda daughter to the nephew of Edwine king of Northumberland. Abbesse of the house of Ely. Erchengoda with her sister Ermenilda daughters of Ercombertus king of Kent: whiche Erchengoda was professed in Saint Brigets order in Fraunce. Item Edelberga wyfe and Queene to Kyng Edwyne of Northumberland, and daughter of kyng Anna, which was also in the

A briefe Catalogue of Queenes and Kings daughters, which leaning their estate were made Nunnes.

Hilda.

Erchengoda Ermenilda. Edelberga. Etheldreda.