

Note on this edition: to facilitate understanding by a modern audience, the text has been re-punctuated; occasionally an extra letter has been supplied in square brackets to make the meaning more immediately obvious. The original spellings are retained, except that 'i' is replaced as appropriate by modern 'j', and 'u' by 'v'. Originally published in 'Records of the nuns of the second order', contributed by the Prioress and community of Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, *Catholic Record Society*, Dominicana, Vol. 25, 1925. Page numbers correspond to this volume.

176

PORTIONS – THE YEAR 1661, TO THIS PRESENT DAY THE 5TH OF MAY 1747, & THE OBLIGATIONS OF MASIS & OTHER PRAYERS FOR THE LIVING & THE DEYD – WE TAKE THEM UPON OURSELVES – FOREVER.

177

J.M.D.

A true relation of the begining & progress of our Convent of Religious women of St. Dominic's Order.

In the year of our Lord on thousand six hunderd sixty one, the Right Honourable Philippe Howard, second brother to Henry Howard duke of Norfolk, being then chiefe Almoner to the queen of Great Britain, now Cardinall of the Romain Church, having piously spent many years in the holy order of St. Dominic, and founded with great labour and charge a convent for the religious men of that order at Burham in Flanders, was also led by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, and a zealous desire to save soules, and that God should be served by religious women as well as men, though he had experienced wonderful troubles, pains and charges with the first Convent, yet his undanted courage surmounting all difficulteyes, he resolved to the greater honour of God, to begin this our monastery for Religious women of St. Dominic's order.

First being powerfully asisted by our Blessed Saviour and haveing obtained leave and order from our holy Father the Pope (Alexander the seaventh) as allsoe from the Right Reverend father, John Baptista De Marinus, generall of the holy order of preachers: the above mentioned Lord Philippe Howard of Norfolk, with mature advise judged it best to hyre a house at Villford near Bruxelles, to which place he sent three religious women belonging to the convent of Tempes, in the Diocess of Gant, to begin this our Cloister, their house being very observant in Religious discipline, two of these, to wit, Sister Lewesa De Hertogh, and Sister Clare van Elst, truely vertuous and exemplare Religious women were quire nuns, the third a lay sister.

Ther came in their companie Mistress Antonia Howard, youngest daughter to Coronall Thomas Howard of Tirsdoile in the County of Durham, and of Mistress Margarite Evers his wife, who had remained in the convent of Tempes about a year for this intention; she most earnestly beg'd the holy habitt tho of a very delicate tender complexion and weak in body, which was acorded to her by our illustrious founder, who with the consent and willing aprobaton of the two ancient Religious (that were great admirers of the constant fervour and courage which they had experienced in this young creature, but 16 years of age) cloathed her himselfe on the 11th of June 1661, she being the first English that had, to our knowledg taken the habitt of our holy father St Dominick since the unhappie fall of Religion in England.

A short time of her noviship passed when it pleased God to try her with a tydious and grievous sickness, in which she allwayes expressed a singular patience and perfect resignation to the Devine will; who rewarded her courageous vertuous intentions and fervent desires to be wholly consecrated to him in holy Religion with a clear sight of his sacred Mother the ever Blessed Vergin Mary, about an hour before her happie Death, which happened upon the eight day

of October 1661, four months wanting three days affter she took the holy habitt.

Her Death, to the best of my remembrance (who was an unworthy wittness of it) passed in this manner. The day before, she said severall times that she should depart out of this world that night, and demanded often if the Confessor were returned (who was that day gon to Bruxelles) wee not perceaving her to be worse than she had been ten days before, when she had made her proffession and received the Rightes of the Church. She apeared glad when she heard the Confessor was come home, saying she had much to doe that night, every hour of which she observed the Clock, and a little before 12 desired that the Confessor might be called to hear her confession, and to bring her the most Blessed Sacrament, for it would be soone time for her to communicate. This was performed and she confessed and communicated with great devotion and an intire confidence in the infinite mercyes of our dear Redeemer; she than desired the holy candle, and a little while after fell into a trance, in which for aboute a quarter of an hour she apeared quite dead; then smiling she opened her eyes with great signes of joy, and presently affter fell into another Trance, which lasted not so long as the former, but the signes of joy & satisfaction which she then expressed far exceeded that, that she had showed before; this moved the father to aske her the Cause of her joy, to which she made noe reply, but looked upon him & us that were by her very chearfully, and made some signes with her hands which wee could not understand. Then her Confessor much surprised to see this strange satisfaction, so very unusall at such a time, said thus to her. "Child, I command you in vertue of holy obedience to declare the cause of your joy at this dreadfull time, when you are going to give a strict account of every thought, word, and deed, which God exacts with such severity, that the greatest saints have trembled to think of it." She without any change of countenance answered: "I see it." "Child," said the father, "what doe you see? Tell what you see." She said: "I see our Blessed Lady with a Crowne in one hand, and a Rosarie in the other, a fine Crowne." "Child," said the father, "have a care what you say; doe you see our Blessed Lady?" She very chearfully replied: "Yes, I doe see our Blessed Lady, with a fine Crowne and Rosarie. O! fine Crowne, O! fine Rosarie! I desire to see no more of this world." Then the Confessor (who was the very Reverend father William Collings, a very learned & exemplar Religious Man) said to her: "Child, would you have the absolution of the Rosarie?" She answered: "I made signes for it many times when I could not speak, pray give it mee." Then devoutly preparing herselfe to receive it, he gave it to her; & presently after with a pleasent smiling countenance she left this wretched Life, as wee have great reason to hope, to pass into eternall felicity. I, tho' most unworthy of it, then felt a joy and satisfaction so great, that I did not then resent any sorrow for her Death, though I loved her with such tenderness, that I could never before think of her death without being extremely afflicted; all that were present felt an

extraordinary joy. Her face retained the same Beauty she had when alive. After her body had been carried in a waging to Burham, where she lyes interred in the Convent of our English Dominican fathers, wee living at that time in a hyred house had no permission to interr her.

Sister Antonia Catherine Howard was the first Religious of this our Monastery Begun at Vilvort 1661; she dyed the 8th of October 1661 Was Profest upon her death Beed October the 2nd 1661; Aged 16; Burid at the Convent of Bornham .

In the year 1661 Mrs Elizabethe Boyle took the holy habit of St Dominick in our begining cloyster at Villford, and with it the name of Barbara. She was daughter to Mr Thomas Boyle, and of Mrs Alice Modant his wife. She remayned 3 years a novice, the Bishope and country all that time persisting in rude denyalls to admitt of an English Convent. At last the industry and labour

of our worthy founder overcame their obstinacy, and she made her profession the 13th of July 1664, and dyed the 21 of Fevray 1717 being 94 years old & 57 professed.

Sister Barbara Boyle soon after her Noviceship was made Superior by Lord Cardinal Howard in 1667, and continued Prioress 30 years giving up that charge in 1697. Mother Barbara was chosen Prioress a second time in 1700 & again in 1706 for the third time.
J. M.D.

In the year of our Lord 1663 in the beginning of June, by the order of our illustrious Founder of this monastery, came Brigett Sheldon to Villvord being daughter to Edward Sheldon Esquire, of the house & family of Beoby in the County of Worcestershire, & of Mistress Mary Wake his lawfull wife who is lineneally descended from the Wakes formerly of the County of Kent. She was received by the R. Mother Lowise De Hertoghe (the first superioress of this Cloister) and received the holy habitt the yeare following from the hands of the founder on the 13 of July 1664 being called Magdalene & made her profession on the next year of the 14 of July 1665.

Dyed the 12 [...] 1699. Aged 59. Professed 34.

J.M.D.

The same year 1663 in the end of August, came Mistress Catherine Mildmay, forth Daughter to Francis Mildmay Esquire, of Ammersdon in Oxfordshire, and of Mistress Mary Brook his lawfull wife. She received the holy habitt with Sister Magdalene Sheldon & was laudably professed on the same day & yeare 1665.

Dyed the 9 of August 1714. Aged 72. Proffessed 50.

In the yeare 1664 Mistress Frances Peck, third daughter to Mr Roger Peck and Mistress Johana Fairwood his wife. She came to our Convent at Villford and tooke our holy habitt the 16 of November 1664, making her profession the yeare following on the 16 of November 1665.

180

This good religious for her many vertues had presently many officis & charges imposed upon her. Her first was Portress, Celleress, Dispencer; she had charge of the Linning, and was one of the first Circuitt sisters. For severall yeares she made & mended the habitts & other things belonging to the Community; when her eyes began to decay she betook herself to knitting, the which she followed so constantly to her dying day, that tis wonderfull to tell what an abundance of it she performed. She rung the bell to Mattings for more than ten years together, and never exempted herself from that imployment nor from any part of the Devine Office, but when great extream sickness force her to it.

Her end was as hapie as her holl life had been pyous, for the Devine goodness thought fitt to call her to himselfe at the same hour of Mattings that she was accustomed to rais others, in his prayse; and to encourage those which shall follow her happie steps. Heere followes some perticulers out of many, of the favours our Blessed Lord was pleas'd to show her in this life. She dyed on the 14 of July 1680, being 59 years old & 15 years profest.

AN ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE EXTRAORDINARY FAVOURS GOD WAS PLEASED TO DOE SISTER FRANCES PECK, RELIGIOUS OF THE CONVENT OF THE ENGLISH DOMINICANS IN BRUXELLES, GIVEN TO THEM BY HER CONFESSOR FATHER: Jo: VERE IN THE YEARE OF OUR LORD 1680.

I have been her Confessor neer fourteen yeares, and altho: she came frequently to confession, yet such was the innocency of her life, the purity of her conscience, that I had much adoe to find matter to absolve her from. I allways observed in her a great horror of telling a lye, as allsoe of anything that savoured of pride. Her confessions were allwayes accompanied with a mighty sence of sorrow for haveing even lightly offended God. O how often has she shed teares for what I could scarce thinke a sinne in her!

I could tell you a great many storys of her union with God, & resignation to his Divine will: but one shall serve for a great many. The morning before she made her happie profession, comming to confession to mee, she expressed a wonderfull joy, saying: "This is my mariage day, O how glad am I of this day! I tell your Reverence a truth, I had rather dye than goe out of this house; yet if it were the will of God I should not be a Nune heer, I would goe out, though I had noe other way to gett my living than by raking kennells."

How much given she was to prayer the Religious are wittnesses of. Soe powerfull were her prayers that I have severall times unknowne to her commended myselfe to her prayers, & implored God's mercy for her sake, whilst she was yett alive, which without any desert of myne, meerey for her sake, his Divine Majesty afforded mee. I will say nothing of her mortifications, of her wearing about her nettles, hake cloaths, sharp wier mortifications known only to God & mee. Other mortifications she used which I will not declare.

Her obedience to Mother Prioris was in great perfection; if she erred in anything she but lightly insinuated she would have done,

181

she was highly concerned for it as a most greivous sinn, though her fault proceeded more out of inadvertency than negligence. For this her purity & ardent desire to please God in all her actions, God was prodigall in his favours to her. The first she informed me of happened at Vilvord, the first yeare of her comming to Religion. She being there told (I know not by whom) that the first that came one Withsunday into the quier would obtain of the Holy Gost what she desired. She beleiving it got thither the first, & being there in prayer, an Angell, or something like an Angell seemed to pierce her breast with a dart, after which she was most wonderfully inflam'd with the love of God, & had a very high supematurall prayer, which she thus write in a paper with her owne hand at my request. Heere it is as she has write it discribing it thus.

"Jesus help mee. When I dispose myselfe for prayer, some thing suddainly inwardly seazes upon me, (at least it seemes soe to me) for the present it hinders me that I cannot speake or thinke on any thing; this lasts but a short time. Then I presently feele a certain motion which moves the will to love God; this motion is most in the heart, which one usually fees after walking fast. It always tends upwards & comming into the head dulls the understanding, yett not like sleepe, to witt as sleepe dulls it. This motion in the heart is allwayes after the same manner; but it produces divers motions. It once seazed upon me with such force it made my body bend (as I may say) to make place for it. After this the motion in the heart moved as It was accustomed: then there seemed to fall a dew, or small raine upon my soule; & then something seemed to rise up in my soule like a flame with sparks of fier kindling a great love of God in my soule, then I seeme to swallow or drink up the Divine favours with soe much greediness of loveing God that my body seemes too narrow to containe my soule. In the meanetime the motion in my heart seemes to nurish & afford fewell for the flame of love as often as I draw my breath. Besides this some airy thing much elivats or raises up the desire of my will above me, but I cannot express the great satisfaction or pleasure the will fees at this time. Sometimes this motion is soe violent that I cannot without difficulty breathe; notwithstanding it brings such tranquility & pease to the Soule, that the soule desires the Continuance of it. Sometimes this motion soe prevailes over the body that it seemes to tread downe all things under it; I know not how, but it seemes to aspire to something above it. In the meane time I allwayes perceave my will to be busied in loveing of God. This motion sometimes lasts for halfe an houre, but for the most part for a quarter, & then it vanishes away, I know not how. There is another thing I doe not understand, to witt, that the first time I perceaved this motion, something whilst I kneel'd before the Blessed Sacrament, as It were like lightning yett without light, seemed to strike through me, raising in my soule such a love to God as can hardly be expres'd. Another time

whilst I prayed before the Blessed Sacrament, I felt noe extraordinary dispositions of love, when, on a suddaine, something like subtile ayre seemed to penetrate me, & fill'd my heart with love to God.

182

As to my Communions, the Blessed Sacrament, when I receive it seemes to have soe sweet a tast as can hardly be expres'd.

What I have heere writte I feare will not afford your Reverence light to know my condition. For perhaps what I have sayed of prayer is nothing but my imagination.

Forced, not willingly, I have wrote this, to show myselfe your Reverences obedient daughter, Frances Peck."

I show'd this paper of hers to severall of the mysticall & schole Divines, who unanimously agreed she was not deluded, but supernaturally favoured by God.

I had a great many more papers of God's wonderfull favours to her in this kind, write at my instance in her owne hand; which at my last departure for England I left with the now Vicker Generall, (then your confessor) the which when he was sent for England he left With her, who noe sooner had them in her hands, but she burnt'd them; this I heere write by chance escaped the fier.

Furder to evidence to you how she was favoured by God, I cannot but tell you what she told mee, & mind you of what wee all saw. She told me, she hath been forced in prayer, (if my memorie faile me not) severall times to lay strong hold of the bench where she prayed, to keepe herself downe, lest she should have been elevated in the ayre. Wee most of us saw her in a rapt (as I believe) when some monthes before her death she received the most Blessed Sacrament. A more lovely sight I never saw in my life.

But heere a greater wonder yett, which Mother Prioris is ready to depose upon oath, that comming into her cell, half a yeare before her death, she found her in the middle of it with a little cross (I had given her) in her hand, her eyes lifted up to heaven as immovable as a stone. The Prioriss stopt awhile before her, smil'd uppon her, but when she perceaved that liek a statue of wood or stone she mov'd not, she strook'd her face; nor did that stir her the least. Wherefore leaving her in her rapt she retir'd, in which how long she continued God knows.

I have one thing more to say of her which is, that she had a great care not to say anything to any of her sisters that might give them the least offence, or cause of troble or discontent.

The observations some of you have made are truly worthy to be remembered. First that she dyed at the precise time she was accustomed (for soe many yeares) to waken you to Mattins. Secondly, that she had sences in perfection to the last, a favour she had many yeares begg'd of God. Thirdly, that after her death, her hands joynd in the same folds she was accustomed to hold them when she prayed.

I have noe more to say of her, but that God hath made her your example; I wish you may all follow her, live as she did, & dye as she did. To his Devine Majesty who blest your house with her be all honour and glorie for ever. Amen.

183

A DOLFULL MEMORANDUM WRITTEN BY SISTER ANNE BUSBY, PRIORESS, 1709.

Upon Tuesday in Holy weeke, it being the seventh of Aprill 1705, was stollen out of the Tabernacle of the English Dominican Nuns in Bruxells, the Remonstrance with the Blessed Sacrament in it, which was a very great grief & affliction to our Community,

We had continuall prayers six weekes together, singing for this intent every day the Great Littanis, & Littanis of our Blessed Lady; prayers & nine Masses in honour of St Joseph, prayers to St Antony of Padua etc.

The Bishop commanded for this intent, three Prayer days all o're the Towne, with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, & in our Church it was exposed six days, & our Church all this time mourned in purple from Easter to Ascention. We fasted with bread & water two Fridays, everyone from the eldest to the youngest, sitting the whole time of table upon the ground, that God would be pleased to manifest to us the sacraledgous thiefe, & that the Blessed Sacrament might be restored to us again. And upon a Saterdag night the 16th of May 1705, Mr John Jacobs, a Masson, Master & Deacon of the Trade (& our near neighbour) was ceased upon, and put in prison in Steenport, upon suspition of the fact, & after he had bin in prison three days, he confest twas he had stollen the Remonstrance, which he might doe easier than another, for he served our Mass whenever he would, & we confided in him like a Domestick. His father & himselfe had bin our massons six & thirtie years, and he was that very day he stole it, in actuall worke for us.

After he had confest his Sacriledge to the Judges and Majestrats; he told them he had broke & melted most of the silver & gold of the Jewells about the Remonstrance, (as proved true) some he had sold to severall goldsmiths, which brought them into great trouble & lawsuits, the remainder of what was left Jacobs had buried underground in his garden, that none could find them but himselfe; so that the Amptman and Judges brought him out of prison in the night, to discover where he had buried them. And there in his garden he open'd three or four places where the remainder of the Jewells & the foot of the Remonstrance was; and he had planted trees & other things upon the places where he had buried them, so that nobody but himselfe could ever a found them out. But he would not confesse what he had done with the Blessed Sacrament, though he was rackt to tell it. Sometimes he say'd he had put it in one place, sometimes in another, but never told the truth.

The things in the garden being found out, the next day there come such a multitude of people to view & see the places in the prisoner's garden, where he had buried the foot of the Remonstrance, & some part of the Jewells belonging to it, that the streets were covered with men, women & children, from four o clocke in the morning till nine at night. Some rushing in to the garden, others looking through the hedges on all sides, that a guard of soldgers that

184

was put there to keep the garden could not keep them off, so great was their curiosity; & many of them gave mony to the soldiers to let them in to the gardin, that they might the better sattisfie their curiosity. This concours of people lasted about ten days, till the Criminall was put to death.

After all his Process was ended he received his sentence of death upon the 26 of May 1705, and the same day he wrote a letter to our Community to beg pardon for this great crime, & for all he had done against us, & another to our Confessor, who was the Very Reverend Father Ambroise Grymes, then Provinciaall of England, whom we had the honour to have for Confessor. This letter of the prisoner was likewise to beg his Reverence pardon, & both were writ with his owne hand.

On the 27 of May, about ten o clocke, John Jacobs, the prisoner, was brought in a cart bareheaded, there being a Jesuit with him, & thus with a great guard of Soldgers on horseback, all arm'd, some riding before the cart, others behind, till he was brought before our Church dore, & there tied to a post, put in the ground for that purpose, being stript to the waist was whipt with three rods. Then they put him on a Pitcht Coat, and so he returned in the same cart to the market place, where a scaffold being made for him, he there again confest, & at each

corner of it demanded pardon of the whole assembly for all the scandall he had given, & for his sacraledgous theft, & say'd these words: "Look or search no more for the holy Host which I stole, for I tooke it in my sinfull mouth, for which I am sorry." These his last words, were believed, being seconded by his Confessor the Jesuit, who helpt him to die. Then his right hand was cut off, & he being strangled was then burnt, & his burnt body carried to a place out of towne called the Three Towers, there exposed to the view of all the world.

As soon as we could we made a new Remonstrance, which weighes 134 ounces at 55 1/2 stivers the ounce, makes in all 373 - 2

For the workmanship at 30 stivers the ounce, 201 - 14

For the 2 Crystals, 001 - 1

For the graving & the gilding the Excepanis & halfe Moon, 004 - 10

For enchasing severall stons, 30 - 18

Total same 611 - 5

When the Remonstrance was made, it was carried to Sainte Gudule to have the Blessed Sacrament put into it, it being the Great Church of our parish; and then all the Orders met together, where the Cannons of Ste Gudule and all the Orders came in Procession to accompany the Blessed Sacrament to our Church in the New Remonstrance. There *Te Deum* was sung by our Religious, our church bell ringing the whole time. *Tantum Ergo* was sung by the Cannons accompanied with Musick, which filld our hearts with joy & our eyes with tears. We had Drums & Trumpets & Commers (which resound as loud as Cannons) to wellcom our great God & King. Never any such procession had bin seen in our street before, which was hung

185

with Tapestry & devout Picturs from the street to our Church Dore, and our Church was richly adorn'd, and severall new things made for the Alter express for this Solemnity.

The Pope granted a Plenary Indulgence on Easter Munday, to all the faithfull that shall visit our Church on that day, where the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed from morning to evening, in memory of this sad & dolefull action. And these indulgences are to be renewed every seven years. The first year of the indulgence was dated the 25 of June 1706. All praise be to God for ever!

After some years the half Moon where the Blessed Sacrament stands in our new Remonstrance, was changed into betten gold, & all the Jewells about it are true stones, so that the half Moon is now of considerable vallue. All praise be to God!

Sister Jane Berchmans

Sister Jane Berchmans, a lay Sister, was born in Brabant in the Parish of Horne by Brussels, of pious & Catholic parents. She entered into our Convent at Vilvorde, and was there professed in the Year of our Lord 1665. She was a very exact virtuous religious, a careful observer of silence, and all religious discipline. She bore with wonderful patience and resignation to the Divine Will, a very painful, troublesome distemper, which deprived her of the use of her right hand, and seemed to enter with a strange corruption into her body, rendering her for some weeks before her death, unable to help herself. She received the Rites of the Church, and happily left this world upon a Friday, the 6th of August, about 3-o'clock in the afternoon, in the Year of our Lord 1669. Sister Jane Berchmans was professed at Vilvorde, Sept. 14th 1665.

Sister Columba Pound. Professed at Vilvorde March 4th 1666. Died Jan. 2nd 1669. A lay Sister.

Sister Susanna Christina Touchett.

Professed February 28th 1677. Died November 19th 1694.

Jesus. Mary. Dominic. Sister Christina Touchet was born August 16th 1655. At eight years of age she made an offering of herself on Good Friday, to live & suffer for the sake of her crucified God & Saviour. At nine years old she made a vow of perpetual virginity, before the altar of St Francis Xavier, in the Jesuits' Church at Brussels. On Pentecost day in the year 1665, she made her first Communion, being favoured with a most particular interior sweetness, and feeling an extraordinary most delicious sweet smell, as long as the Holy Host remained in her breast. This smell (being distinct from all other sweet odours that Perfumers use) was twice perceived by her after she came to Religion, but not so long nor so forcibly as at her first Communion.

When living in the world she was extremely given to penance, using hair-shirts, bracelets, disciplines & other instruments of mortification. Sometimes for four, five or six days together, she fasted

186

on bread & water, even at her father's table, taking meat in her mouth & conveying it away without being seen. This was in satisfaction of her daily secular frailties, to which her prodigious wit & Judgement, joined to a perfect agreeableness in all her features & actions, made her subject.

Grace & nature contended for many years about her coming to religion. Resolving to embrace that happy state, she laboured all that she could to be a Teresian nun. Her heart always told her that Spellikens was the place she had to go to, but she constantly had an abhorrence (or endeavoured to make one) against it. Falling mortally sick, having received all the Last Sacraments & being despaired of by the doctors, she made a Vow to Almighty God that if He pleased to grant her life & health, she would be a nun at Spellikens. This vow was made in the evening, & the next day she sat down to dinner at my Lord's table in perfect health.

Within fifteen days coming to Spellikens she demanded the habit of our holy Father St Dominic, & was immediately accepted by the Prioress, the Venerable & Very Reverend Mother, Sister Barbara Boyle. Being come to the time of Profession, she kept a private paper in her breast, written with her own hand, wherein she had made a vow that she would live & die in the most strict, literal observance of her holy Rule & Constitutions, without admitting of any dispensations, particularly in eating of Flesh (a thing absolutely necessary in Flanders, where convents are not very richly founded) if she could obtain permission from her Superiors to do so, as with much importunity she did, 4 years before she died.

This paper she touched with her hand as she pronounced her vows of profession on the knees of Mother Prioress.

Her penances in Religion were too severe, yet ever depending on obedience. Those which Almighty God let fall or afflicted her with were no less dreadful than extraordinary. From about the middle of August 1690, till about the middle of May 1693, she was most dreadfully tormented with infernal spirits, visibly appearing to the eye of her fancy, more clearly a thousand times than anything her eyes could see, with all the worst of abominations hell could invent, seeming to be given over as a victim & a sacrifice into their hands to torment at their pleasure, & this was the cause of her writing this paper with her own blood. And indeed this was the continual cause of all those extraordinary stoppages & asthmas in her stomach, which with her dropsy of 15 months, attended with many incredible pains & torments, brought upon her by the Physicians mistaking her disease, carried her through living & suffering to her beloved Spouse, the 19th of November 1694 on a Friday afternoon, near half past two-o'clock. This is the real truth witness all. November 25th being Advent Sunday. Copy of the paper which Sister Christina wrote with her blood. I, Sister S. Christina Touchet, do protest in the presence of my

Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ, true God & true Man, that when I consecrated myself to the service of His Divine Majesty, I was a virgin both in body & I hope in soul, & such I have continued hitherto, & as such I resolve to persevere to the last breath of my

187

life, & will rather choose to suffer a thousand deaths, than ever willingly consent to the least thought, word or deed contrary to that virtue. I likewise declare and protest that whatsoever I shall or may suffer either in body & mind, or by any way offend His Mercy. In testimony whereof I have written this with my own blood. Sister Susanna Christina Touchet. Sept. 19th 16-

I pretend not to write the life of our dear Sister Christina of happy memory, having many considerable particulars & better pens & judgements than my own. This only I will say, she seemed to be a soul highly dear to God, since He was pleased to conduct her by ways which lead to a continual death to nature, viz; as by pains, interior, & exterior; by penances, vigorous fasts & other mortifications, & by the persevering, endeavours she used to purify her intention in all her undertakings. As to strict observance, she often said to this purpose, that she found herself so powerfully moved to put herself upon the fast of the order, being fully persuaded that then was the time that Almighty God required it of her, that should she suffer all that heaven & hell could raise against her, & even shorten her life by so doing, she should esteem herself happy to die in the practice of so blessed an undertaking. And indeed the Almighty Goodness gave her so precious a death, that there is no cause left to doubt but that she followed therein the powerful attractions of the divine inspirations.

For this our dear Sister dying of an incurable dropsy, she suffered incredible pains with a courage more than human. For when her body was swelled to a vast proportion, the corrupted water breaking out of her legs made such wounds there, that the surgeons daily cut off pieces of her flesh. For several weeks before she died she could not lie in bed, & we being forced to lift her up by her arms in what could not be avoided, we found after her death that we had almost torn her arms from her body, it was so prodigiously heavy; in all which she would be frequently praising & giving thanks to God; & she seemed to be so much pleased with her pains, that she was never heard to pray or wish they might be eased. As a convincing argument of which, when she drew near her end, so that we really thought her natural strength was almost quite spent, all on a sudden she seemed to gather all the powers of her soul together, and with a loud & intelligible voice cried out: "Oh, that I had a voice like an echo, so loud that I might be heard throughout the four quarters of the world, that I might discover to all mortals the happiness there is in living & dying in a Religious state!" To which she presently added: "I suffer indeed what none can comprehend; but blessed be sweet Jesus!" And as if her felicity in this life consisted in pains & torments, when her agony grew stronger upon her, smiling upon us she said: "Now it goes well indeed!" She then repeated these words more than once: "Haste, Lord; why stay you so long?" And so, after begging pardon of God & of us all for her faults, with a great faith & humble confidence in the infinite goodness of God, she happily expired in her, perfect senses. After her death her face resumed its former features, to which was

188

added so agreeable a smile & sweet a countenance, that it filled with pleasure & admiration all who beheld it. This I, S. M. A. do affirm.

An abstract from her own pen in virtue of holy Obedience. "Communion for I ardently desired it. I prepared myself for it four or five months before, but with so much fervour & devotion that they were astonished at it. I invented twenty ways to mortify myself. I made disciplines of knotted cords, & girded myself next to me with the same kind. When I could without (being) perceived, I wore woollen next to me, & in fine I did so importune my

confessor, that at last he permitted me some penances, but could not obtain a hair cloth, only a pair of sleeves made of the same sort as the hair cloths are made of.

I spent every day much time in prayer, & often upon my bare knees. I had one companion whom I loved above all the rest, & agreeing very much in our sentiments we would lock ourselves up in the Oratory for hours together, & pray with so much fervour that we could not be satiated nor grow weary. This young lady was afterwards a partner of my vanities, though I was much the worst, & at the same time that God touched my heart to become a nun, He did the same to her, for she took the habit of the Discalced Carmelites at Antwerp some few days after me, & makes an excellent religious woman, having both a great deal of wit & a great deal of virtue.

One day, praying before the relics of St Francis Xavier, in the Jesuits' Church in this town, I had a great desire to offer something to Almighty God thro' the merits of this great Saint, but having nothing considerable to give I remained a little in suspense, but my desire increasing as well as my fervour, it suddenly came to my mind how pleasing virginity (I had heard) was to the Divine Jesus, so that without further deliberation I made a vow of chastity.

The time approaching which I so much longed for, to receive the Blessed Sacrament, which was upon Pentecost day 1665, I will not go about to declare what indeed I cannot express, but I wish that I had the same preparation every time I have the happiness to receive that divine Sacrament. My heart was all on fire, my will & my desires so inflamed that I ever longed for that happy moment. All I will say in particular is, that as I approached to receive the Sacred Host, I found not only a most interior and delightful sweetness, but likewise a most delicious smell, which was neither of any kind of musk or flower, but certainly it was so odoriferous & pleasant that it seemed to dilate itself allover my interior, so that I remained in great recollection after Communion. This thing, I say, happened at my first Communion, & the memory of it ever remained so fresh in my mind that I could never forget it. I think, (but am not sure of it) that I had the same favour once or twice more afterwards. Once also since I was a nun, coming into the Choir as I made my adoration to the Blessed Sacrament, I smelt a most sweet odour, and presently reflected that it was the very same I smelled when I made my first Communion. But it lasted but a very short time." S.C.T.

189

Part of a letter to her Confessor.

"The torment that I suffer both in body & mind is beyond expression. My heart is sometimes ready to break by reason that I must so often repress my tears, which, it may be, would give me some ease. If it were not that I am so much employed in exterior things, I should be in danger of being almost distracted. For solitude & prayer which were my greatest delight, are now nothing but a place of horror & torment. Knew I any way to be rid of this temptation, I would willingly expose my life to be free from it. It is of such strange kind that I do not know what to say. For it is as violent at present as ever, & rather more frequent, & I see no hopes of remedy, since neither prayer, fasting or penance gives me any help. St Catherine of Sienna said she found most ease in these temptations when she stayed longest in the Church or communicated them to her confessor. But this remedy with me is worse than the disease itself. For the Passion of Our Lord J.C. pray for me, & I promise you I will submit to all that your Reverence pleases, & blind my own judgement to follow yours, so I may be but free. And if there is any danger that I should either by nature, will, etc. be any occasion of my misery, I will endeavour with my tears & with my blood, to show our Lord the detestation I bear in mind & heart against it, since I will rather die than give the least consent."

Towards the end of July she was prodigiously swelled with a dropsy, having also so violent an asthma or stoppage of breath that death was daily expected. She had been several

weeks in a chair, night & day, passing sometimes five or six nights without closing her eyes. Then a great Lady prescribed her a remedy, which made her legs break, & so was under the Surgeon's hands 2 months. Then they were healed, & the water from them ceasing she began to swell again much worse than before, being so weak that she could not in any way help herself, & so heavy that a person could hardly move or help her.

..... She was endowed with the gift of Prophecy. Her confessor being 200 miles from her knew when she was most tormented.

[The following is extracted from a retreat book, written by Rev. Fr. Raymond Greene, 1698, for the use of Sister Elizabeth Dominica Howard; it is evident "the Method," etc., must have been Sister Christina's, as she died on the day mentioned, Nov. 19th, 1694.]

THE METHOD

or disposition of time, which one of the suffering servants of the God of crosses used to make use of in her yearly exercises: Whose death was precious, the 19th of November 1694.

Supper ended on the Vigil of the first day's Exercise, the Reverend Mother or Superior's benediction. Then retirement & preparation against the next day, till eight-o'clock in the evening.

From eight to twelve at midnight, sleep & repose.

At midnight, Matins & public Meditation with the Community till two in the morning.

190

From two to three, voluntary devotions in Cell, or longer if permitted. By voluntary devotions are to be understood ejaculatory aspirations, acts of love, acts of Faith, Hope, Sorrow, Admiration & the like. Mental prayer; interior introversion, as God Almighty should inspire.

From three till five, sleep & repose, if not permitted to watch & pray the said time.

From five to six in the morning, voluntary devotions, never out of cell or chamber.

At six o'clock, Prime & public Meditation with the Community in the choir.

From the end of Prime & Meditation till eight, spiritual reading in those books that obedience has an influence over.

From eight till about half an hour after nine, the other Hours of the Divine Office with the Conventual Mass.

At the end of Mass, private Meditation for an hour's time, before the Blessed Sacrament, according to the subjects or matters proposed in the twenty following Meditations.

From the end of Meditation till eleven, reflexion and examination of conscience.

At eleven, dinner with the Community in the refectory.

After dinner, two pair of beads, walking in the garden for digestion's sake, but alone. Then examination of conscience in the Oratory, according to the rules above prescribed, till one-o'clock.

At one in the afternoon, the third pair of beads with the Community in the Choir.

From the end of beads till two spiritual reading in cell.

From two to three, the private afternoon's meditation before the Blessed Sacrament.

At three, Vespers with the Community, & then reflexion and examination of conscience as in the morning till four.

From four till five, voluntary devotions, in choir, oratory or cell.

At five, Compline & public Meditation with the Community.

At the end of Compline and Meditation, Supper or Collation as others take in the Refectory.

After Supper or Collation till eight, retirement and preparation for the next day, going only to suffrages with the rest, all the other times alone.

Corporal Mortifications all this while, of what sort soever, either with the express knowledge, or, (if left to discretion, choice, & privacy) not without the express permission of Superior and Confessor.

A PRAYER,

composed, and daily made use of, by the same great servant of Almighty God, during the time of her Spiritual Exercises. "Sweet Jesus be a Jesus to me! Grant me, O my thrice amiable and beloved Spouse, grant me thy all powerful, efficacious grace, that I may begin, go on, and finally persevere in the constant practice of thy holy will and pleasure. Enlighten me, I most humbly beseech

191

thee, in this time of my spiritual recollection, perfectly to know myself & Thee. Send thy holy Spirit into my heart, to discover unto me all my secret sins, my past & hidden defects, my deep & immortified inclinations. Inspire me to demand of thee those virtues which are most conducive to this end, & which are most necessary for me to practise this next year following. And having mercifully heard my prayer, grant me, my most adorable Jesus, for thy own sweet love & sake, by the memory of thy bitter passion, & by the intercession of thy ever holy and blessed Mother, the assistance of thy divine grace to put them faithfully in execution. Give me not only a good will, but strength and courage daily and constantly more and more to practise them, Bestow upon me all those necessary lights that are requisite to let me perfectly distinguish the motions & interior inspirations of thy Divine Spirit, from the secret temptations & immissions of the deluding enemy. Fortify me against all his invisible assaults by an inviolable fidelity in thy service: and if unhappily, at any time, out of frailty or infirmity I offend, assist me immediately to rise again and make an atonement for my crime. Give me a true act of sorrow, a most hearty and deep contrition, joined to an effectual courage and resolution by some considerable penance to make satisfaction (as I now propose) for my offences, and then obtain thy pardon for them. O my divinest Jesus, my God, my Saviour & my Spouse! Be merciful, be propitious to me thy servant. Call to mind O Lord, that the height of all my glory, the end, the scope, the only ambition of all my desires, purely consists in this, never, never to offend thee voluntarily, though by the least wilful offence, but ever, ever to love thee, to desire at least to love thee as thou deservest to be loved, as thou art worthy to be loved, with a never ceasing, never relenting, ever burning, ever increasing, always consuming, everlasting, eternal love. Amen, my adorable Jesus. Amen, my adorable God of love. Amen. Amen.

THE LIST OF THE SUPERIORS OF OUR CONVENT, AS THEY SUCCEED ONE ANOTHER.

1. Sister Luesay Hartock as the first Superior made by Lord Cardinal in the year 1661. A Dutch woman.
2. Sister Barbara Boyle soon after her Noviship was made by Lord Cardinal Superior 1667, & continued Prioress 33 years, giving up that charge in the year 1697.
3. Sister Mary Crofts succeeded Mother Barbara 1697, being Superior three years.
4. After Sister Mary, Mother Barbara was a second time 1700.
5. In 1703 Sister Dorothy Canning was chose Prioress, being the first Nun they profest at Spellicans.
6. In the year 1706 Mother Barbara was chose again Superior, the third time.
7. In the year 1709 Mother Ann Busby was elected Prioress.
8. In 1712 Sister Agnes Atmore was chose.

9. In 1715 Sister Constasy Mildmay was chose.

192

10. After her in the year 1718 Sister Agnes was chose again.

11. In the year 1721, Sister Mary Rose Howard of Norfolk was elected Prioress the 21 of June. Confirmed the 11 of July following.

12. Sister Agnes was chose the third time, 1724.

13. In the year 1727, Sister Letitia Barker was chose Prioress.

14. In 1730, Sister Julia Brown was chose Superior

15. In the year 1733, Sister Mary Anna Chilton was chosen Prioress, & confirmed after her Reelection in the year 1736.

16. In the year 1739, Sister Mary Theresa Sarsfield was chosen Prioress, who dyed four months after in Feb. 1740.

17. In the year 1740, Sister Mary Young was chosen Prioress.

18. In the year 1743, the 21st of March upon a Thursday Sister Margaret Joseph Compton was made Prioress of this convent, & confirmed the same day by Mr Burgis.

19. In the year 1746, Sister Anne Mary Short was chosen Prioress, 19th Superior of this Convent, the 24th of March 1746; upon the same day she was confirmed at six & half at night in the great Spick House, by Mr Burgis Provincial.

20. Sister Anne Mary Short was made a second time Prioress 1749.

21. Sister Margaret Compton was made a second time Prioress 1752.

22. Sister Anne Mary Short was elected the third time Prioress the 13 of April 1755.

SOLI DEO HONOR.

OBLIGATIONS OF THIS OUR COMMUNITY, CONCERNING PRAYERS & SUFFRAGES FOR OUR FRIENDS & BENEFACTORS LIVEING & DECEAS'D.

As they were Examined and Determin'd by the Reverend Father Master Worthington, Provincial of our English Province & Doc: in Devinity, in the year of our Lord 1726, by the Com[m]and of the Right Reverend and Eximious F, Father Augustin Pipia, D. in Divinity and Master General of our Order. With Order to register the said Obligations in our Depositum, And to Expose to publick veue in the Community, the Prayers and suffrages we are to performe & see perform'd for the Abovesaid. Which accordingly are placed at the Quier Door for perpetual Memory. To which are added & to be added al such Obligations as have also been since, or may hereafter be accepted in this Community.

Written by Sister Elizabeth Dominica Howard of Norfolk, by order of her Superiours, from the Notes taken by the abovesaid

193

Reverend Father Provincial Worthington, when he perus'd our Original Papers, & Confer'd with the Mothers of the Council on that Examination, and what was Collected from the affirmation of the Superiours & Ancient Mothers of the house, & from our latter and certain Knowledg.

Al which Notes & Collections, haveing been Consider'd & Compar'd by our Superiours & Ellders, were found and declared exact befor I transcribed them as follows, with all Care & integrity for perpetual Memory, by Order of my Superiours. Retribuere dignare etc.

Jesus. Maria. Dominicus.

Perpetual obligations of Masses, Prayers & Devotions, to be performed & see performed by the English Dominican Nunns, residing in Bruxells. The which Obligations extend to al theyr Successors for ever.

THE FIRST OBLIGATION. In consideration of the manifold Benefits bestow'd upon this our Monastery of English Dominican Nunns, resideing in Bruxells, by its Illustrious Founder, his Eminence the late Lord Philip Thomas Howard, Serene, Reverand & Eminent Cardinal of Norfolk, of happy memory, Gratitude requires that we Religious of this said Monastery & our Successours, should ever retain a Grateful memory of Him, & return our Acknowledgements in the best manner we are able.

Wherefore we resolve that ourselves, as well as our Successours, should for ever be obliged to sing yearly a solemn An[n]iversary Mass & Libera for the Soul of our noble Founder, the late Lord Philip Thomas Howard, Serene Reverend & Eminent Cardinal of Norfolk, who de-ceas'd June 17th 1694. Item, the Office of the Dead for that week, & a general Communion should be yearly perform'd & offered up by the Community for the Soul of the said Lord Philip Thomas Howard, Serene Reverend & Eminent Cardinal of Norfolk. Requiescat in pace.

Our abovesaid Illustrious Founder, Ordain'd and Establish'd the practice of Reciteing daily & pulbickly after the Conventual Mass, the Psalm *Exaudiat Te Domine, in die tribulatione* etc. from the foundation of this our monastery when first begun at Vilvord, which was in the year 1661, appointing it should be said for his Britannick Majesty, our Lawfull Soverain, then Raigning, Charles the 2d and for the happy conversion of England: which hath ever since been perform'd by this our Com[m]unity.

SECOND OBLIGATION. This Com[m]unity is obliged in acknowledgement of the Grant his Catholick Majesty Philip the 4th of Spain gave for our Admittance into his Dominions, & the Establishin of this our Monastery at Bruxells, gratis, in the year 1664; with the obligation of Reciteing solemnly some particular Prayers daily, when assembled in the Quier together, for the long & happy Raign of his Majesty and the serene Princes, (these are the words of the King's Grant) with obligation to Communicat once in the year for the same end, as also those shal be Received hereafter for ever. To which end we oblige ourselves, & all our successors to offer up

194

the *Salve Regina* we sing daily, & to communicat for his Majesty the 1st day of the year.

Also for his Catholick Majesty of Spain Charles the Second, in Acknowledgement of his Grant for the Amortization of this our Monastery, Gratis, between the year 1697-8. To offer up for his Majesty the Mass on Easter Day, & the Psalm *Exaudiat te Domine* etc., which we say daily & publicly after the Conventual Mass, (as abovesaid) to which we doe oblige ourselves & our Posterity for ever.

THIRD OBLIGATION. In consideration of 100 Gil^s permⁿ, First placed upon the village of Bornhem, as appears in the Contract signed by all the Religious Sisters, December the first 1699, now placed upon the Rents of the Town-house of Bruxells, 4000 Gildars Capital, at 4 per cent, falling due June 2nd & Dec. 2nd No. 2152; a Perpetual Privat Mass must be said weekly for the Soul of Mistress Mary Duncomb, alias Busby, to be perform'd by our Reverend Father Confessor pro tempore, in Consideration whereof, we are to give him yearly in perpetuum, 40 Gilders, as appears in the said Contract.

FORTH OBLIGATION. In Consideration of 500 Gilders permⁿ First placed upon the village of Bornhem, as appears in the Contract signed by all the Religious Sisters, the 23rd of March, 1700, now placed upon the Rents of the Town-house of Bruxells, 4000 Gils Capital at 4 per Cent, falling due the 2^d of June & December; a Perpetual private fortnight Mass for the soul of Sister Elizabeth Warner, a Tertianan; Deceas'd November the 18th 1724. To be performed by our

Reverend Father Confessor pro tempore: In Consideration whereof we are to give him yearly in perpetuum 20 Guilders as appears in the said Contract.

FIFTH OBLIGATION. In Consideration of 500 Gil^{ders} permⁿ an Anniversary solemn Mass must be sung yearly for the Soul of the aforesaid Sister Elizabeth Warner, a Tertianan, who dyed the 18th of November, 1724, by our Reverend Father Confessor pro tempore; in Consideration whereof, we are to give him in perpetuum the assigned Retribution of four Skillins.

Item. That weekly Office of the Dead, and a general Communion once a year is to be performed & offer'd up by the Comunity, for the soul of the said Sister Elizabeth Warner, a Tertianan: in Consideration whereof, the Community is to have as appears in the book of Professions: and we now all agree to.

SIXTH OBLIGATION. By mutual Contract of many years pass'd, between the Religious of the Monastery of English Poor Clares at Gravelin & our Monastery, we have agreed when ever the Death of any of their Religious be notify'd by them to us, to offer for the repose of the Deceas'd the first Mass, & also our first Comunion in Community: which they are in the like man[n]er to perform for us: which Obligation on each Community is for ever.

SEVENTH OBLIGATION. In Consideration of 2000 Gil^s permⁿ placed at Bruges, the 28th of July 1723, at 5 per cent, an Anniversary Solemn Mass must be sung yearly, for the Soul of the late Right Honourable Henery, Earl of Stafford, who dyed the 20th of April 1719.

195

Item. The Office of the Dead for that week to be perform'd & offer'd up by the Comunity for the Soul of the said Right Honourable Henery Earl of Stafford.

As also on the same Obligation, another Anniversary yearly Mass must be sung, for the Soul of the late Honourable Henery Charles Howard of Graystock, Neveu to our Illustrious Founder; who being Executor to the above said Right Honourable Henery, Earl of Stafford, Assign'd this Fund of 2000 Guilders permⁿ to our Community: besides many Personal guifts to us befor his decease, which was 21 June 1720.

Item. The Office of that week to be perform'd & offer'd up by the Community, for the soul of the said late Honourable Henery Charles Howard of Graystock. In consideration whereof, we are to give the Reverend F. Confessor pro tempore, the assigned Retribution of 4 Skillins for each, and to the Community as appears in the Council book, as we now all agree to.

EIGHT OBLIGATION. In consideration that Mistress Catharin Peters did, by her last Will & Testament, leave us English Dominican Nuns at Bruxells Heresses of all She was possessed on, which then lay placed upon the Banks of Paris, the Capital whereof was very Considerable, but by the late Regulation, & Deduction made, does at present yeald no more than 450 french Livers per annum, of all which we are now in full Possession. Wherefore we doe in Consideration hereof, oblige ourselves & Successors, to sing yearly an Anniversary solemn Mass, for the Soul of the said Mistress Catharin Peters, who deceas'd the 19th of January 1723.

Item. The Office of the Dead for that week, to be performed & offer'd up for the Soul of the said Mistress Catharin Peters by the Community.

In Consideration whereof, we are to give the Confessor pro tempore, the assign'd Retribution of four Skillins, & to the Community as appears in the Council book, to which we all now agree.

NINGHT OBLIGATION. In consideration of Eighteen pound English, left us one Mistress Cusack, which we joyn'd to our Capital mony in England, put out at 4 per cent, We oblige ourselves, & our Successors for ever, to a yearly memory of her Soul, & of her Father & Mother's Souls, on the last of August, by saying in Com[m]unity for them the Psalms *Miserere mei Deus, De profundis Clamavi*, with the Anniversary Prayer, & the Prayer *Fidelium Deus omnium*, etc., to which we all agreed.

TENTH OBLIGATION. In consideration of fifty pound English, Receiv'd the widdow Mistress Poole, 'twas agreed in Council, on the 2d of May, 1731, to sing a solemn Mass & Libera then, & to offer up that weekly Office of the Dead for the Soul of her Husband Mr Poole, who dyed the 11th of June, New style: which with many other Prayers & Suffrages were in presant Gratitude perform'd imediatly by the Community for them both. Also we oblig'd ourselves & Successors for ever for the said Mr Poole's Anniversary, to offer yearly that weekly Office of the Dead for his Soul.

196

Likewise to offer once a year, a General Communion for Mistress Poole's Spiritual & Temporal Happyness during her life, & a daily memory of them both amongst our Benefactors.

ELEVENTH OBLIGATION. In Consideration of a Second Charity of fifty Pound English, Receiv'd from the abovesaid Mistress Poole, as marked in our Depositum book, August the 17th 1733, we have determin'd in Council, to have a privat Mass said at our Alter once a year for her, which after her Death is to be fix'd to her Anniversary day for ever, in Acknowledgment of that Charity. The aforesaid two fifty pounds were employ'd towards the late purchas of a little Land etc., Joyning to our Gardan Wall 1733. The abovesaid Widdow Poole Deceased on the [...]

TWELFTH OBLIGATION. In Consideration of nine pound English received of the Right Honourable Earl of Ailsbury, Joyn'd to our Capital mony put out to Rent at Henaut at 4 per Cent 1736, we oblige ourselves & our Successors for ever, to have two yearly Conventual Masses said by our Reverend Confessor pro tempore, at our Alter. Of which one is for the Soul of his Lady, Charlotte Countess of Ailsbury, on her Anniversary day, July the 23rd 1724. The other for his Lordship on his Anniversary day, who dyed the 16th of December 1741.

According to the Tennor of the Obligation in my Lord's hand, which Authentick Copsy we have in our Depositum dated Sept the 30th 1734. As we then agreed to.

THIRTEENTH OBLIGATION. In Consideration of many Frenly Services, & chiefly the frequent Masses said at our Alter, by the Reverend Priest Mr Clement, Channon of Midelbourg, for above ten years, *Gratis*, for the assistance of our Community, We have in acknowledgment, at his earnest Request, consented to have two privat Skillin Masses said Yearly at our Alter for his Intention; The first on the 2d of February which after his death is to be exchang'd for his Anniversary day. (He deceased the 31th of January 1747; Chang'd the 2d of February to the Anniversary Mass.)

The Second Mass on the 15th of August. Which Obligation extends likewise to our Posterity for ever, haveing Accepted from the Said Mr Clement to deffray the expences of the Masses, twenty-five permⁿ Gilders, which we Joyn'd to our Capital mony put to per Rent at 4 per cent, March 1737.

As also we have consented to make the said Mr Clement Priest etc., partaker of Prayers, Works & Suffrages as a Frennd, on the agreement of the like participation of his, & chiefly of his daily holy Sacrifices for our Liveing and deceas'd. As expressed in the Agreement under his own hand, dated the 13th of March 1737. Kept in our Depositum. To which participation of our prayers on the abovesaid Occasions & Agreement the whole Cofiumity Consented; so that this Obligation extends to our Successors for ever.

FOURTEENTH OBLIGATION. In Consideration of a Legacy of 59 Cur^t Gil^s left us by Mr Peter Joseph Nauts, a Gentleman of this Country, left to our Community by his Will, made in Bruxells the 20th of March 1738; With the Obligation of haveing a low Mass said

197

for his Soul, every Sunday & Holy-day throughout the year forever in our Church, wher his body lyes Interr'd. (This Mase is to be a second, say'd by a priest apointed, for his Soul, at 10 Stivers a Mase, all Sundays & Holy days.)

This Legacy with the said annex'd Obligation we have Accepted, to be perform'd as long as the Said Legacy is duely paid: Which Masses have been constantly said from the first payment of the same, which we are yearly to receive from his Widdow Mistress Nauts, during her Life, & after her death from the Town-house of Bruxells, where our Right to this Legacy and Annex'd Obligation of the Masses is Register'd. The payment of this Legacy falls due on the 14th of March. (The said Widdow Nauts has since determin'd, 1740, we shall henceforth receive ourselves this Legacy by our owne Acquittance from the T-house of Bruxells.

FIFTEENTH OBLIGATION. In Consideration of two Actions upon the India Compay at Paris, yeilding about 300 french Livres yearly, Mr Christopher Chilton by Will left our Com[m]unity at his death, who deceas'd the 18th of July, 1738. We have all Agreed to sing yearly forever, an Anniversary Mass & to Offer up that weekly Office of the Dead for his Soul, & to give the R. F. Confessor pro tempore, the Assign'd Retribution of four Skillins, & the Com[m]unity as on the other aforesaid Anniversarys.

SIXTEENTH OBLIGATION. It hath been from many years past by Mutual Concent, a lasting Obligation agreed on between this our Com[m]unity, & the Reverend Fathers of the Convent of the Holy Cross at Bornham, & those of our English Colledg at Lovain, to sing for each other Deceas'd, A Requiem Mass, & to offer up for their Souls that week, our weekly office of the Dead for the repose of the Soul of that presand Deceas'd of our English Province.

SEVENTEENTH OBLIGATION. In the beging of March, the Weeckly Office of the Dead is to be Offer'd for the Soul of Mr Striaigts; upon Consideration of a Summer House in one of our Gardins, which the Widow Striaigts made over to the Community upon the abovesaed Conditions, & accepted by the Counsille & Community in the year 1742.

THE 18TH OBLIGATION. Apou the 8th of August 1746 Wee, by Vouts [votes] of the Counsille touck upon our Selfes and our Suecessours the Obligation of Mistress Polehampton's Wille, for the yearly Masis for her Soul & those of her Familly, chifly her dear daughter, Sister Mary Cicily Polehampton who deyd the 14th of July 1746, which till then was her excentrick.

And now the Wille is delivered to the Reverend Mother Anne Marie Short, Prioriss of this Convent at present, & is to be Kept in the Depositom, Regestourd with the other Papers, No. 43.

The mony, for the above saed Masis is put out upon the Bankes of Paris, it was about 2 Hunderd pounds Capattall, it yearly produces 41 Guilders or 42 a year, more or less according to the rising or falling of the Frince [French] mony; its due the 24th of June this year 1746.

198

The Procuratrisse is to Recive the Rent, and pay 20 Masis to the Fathers of Convent of English Dominikens at Bornhem & 10 Masis is to be giving to the Confessour of this Convent of Spillikins, at 7 Stivers a Mase; the remander of Rent the Procuratrisse is to imploy for Masis as above saed, and to be accountable once a year for the Receipts & expending of it as agreed vpon in Counsile to the Counsille; but in case this Mony should be lost, or not payd anny more, our Obligation Sescis [ceases] then with the many, as is to be found wrighting [written] in her wille. It was put for perpetually. Requiescant in Pace. Amen.

THE 19TH OBLIGATION. The Reverend Mother Anna Mary Short & her Council, have taken upon them Selfts & posterity for the futher [future] the Obligation for a Hunderd Pounds Starling, of a Weeckly Mase for the Soul of Lord Petters, Son to the Right Honourable Lady Stourton, which mead this foundation at a Skillin a Mase to be say'd by our Confessour in our Church. This Agreement was mead upon the 30th of May 1751, but with this Condistion, that if

the Mony should come to be Lost the Perpetuall Obligation sises. Its put out by Madame Nettin at Vinne, at 5 par Cento, Bears interist from the ...

In the year 1661 Mistress Elizabeth Boyle took the holy Habit of St Dominick in our beginning Cloister at Villford, and with it the name of Barbara. She was Doughter to Mr Thomas Boyle & of Mistress Alice Modant his wife. (She was Widdow to Mr. Piney.) She reman'd three year a novise the Bishop & Cuntry all that time persisting in Rude denyalls to admit of an English Convent. At last the Industry and Labour of our worthy Founder overcame their obstinacy, & she made her Profession the 13th of July 1664, being thirty three. She had a yearly life rent of 100 Gil^s on the Town-house of Bruxells, put out by my Lord Cardinal Howard, our Founder, at our first comeing to Bruxells. This venerable Mother Jubilarian, Sister Barbara Boyle (of Cork & Burlington) died the 21 of February 1717 being 94 & fifty seven Profess'd.

[The following eulogium of Mother Barbara Boyle is taken from a Latin obituary notice. The original is in the Carisbrooke Archives.]

"At the close of the seventeenth century, on the second Sunday of Lent, in the Convent of the English Nuns at Brussels, after devoutly receiving the Sacraments, in perfect possession of memory, intellect & hearing, up to her last breath, though the forces of nature were at length failing through old age – our Very Reverend & Venerable Mother, Sister Barbara Boyle, Sprung from the Counts of Cork & Burlington, in the hope of glory, laid down all that was mortal, in the 94th year of her age, & the 57th from her entry into Religion.

She was in every way a remarkable woman; and even more illustrious by her virtues than by her descent

Under God's Providence she left Ireland when still a girl, destined to adorn first England & afterwards Belgium with the brightness of her youth & early years. Prudence, the Queen of all the virtues, she would seem to have received from Heaven in its perfection; & she especially displayed it, when she determined to abjure Protes-

199

tantism, & embrace the saving Roman Catholic Faith, the ancient faith of the three Kingdoms. Wherefore, beloved as she was of God & man, the most Eminent Lord Cardinal of Norfolk transferred her to his new plantation, namely, to the garden of noble English nuns of his Order; & when only a few years had elapsed from her Profession, instituted her their first Superior or Prioress. How well, with what holiness, & what prudence she ruled, is sufficiently shown by an uninterrupted authority of thirty years. Not even then would her rule have come to an end had not she, of her own sweet will, renounced the control of her daughters. Yet, not even thus was she able to attain the rest for which she longed, for twice the nuns elected her, with unanimous consent for another triennium; until at last, overcome by the tears of their beloved Mother, they all consented to accept her good counsel in place of her authority.

Such was our unique Mother. Her memory will be cherished as long as the Convent endures. For to her, (after God the giver of all good) to her example, to her rule, we especially attribute whatever we can claim of Observance, piety, humility, poverty of spirit, economy, & other virtues whether Religious or Moral. This notwithstanding, in her divinely infused humility, she ever appeared in her own eyes a useless lump of clay; and as such she earnestly begged to be commended by us to your prayers, Sacrifices & suffrages. What she earnestly implored we also most earnestly beg; humbly praying that with the help of your charitable prayers, our beloved Mother's soul may speedily rest in eternal peace."

[Although Mother Barbara's age is set down as 94, it is difficult to reconcile this statement with the dates given. She was professed in 1664 at the age of 33, and her death occurred in 1717. Therefore she was 86 years old, and had been 53 years professed.]

Aprill 1697.

Mother Magdalen Sheldon's father gave with her to this hows, five thousand gilders, eight honderd gilders of this was put on a man at Vilford at rent; it was all lost. Twelf honderd was spent for tow years pention & her Cloathing & Profession, with a silver incens fatt. Soe that thear remayns only thre thousand gilders (3000) on of which is for her life on the city of Brussells, one honderd gild: a year, the other tow thousand is on the city of Bruges, a perpetuall rent, Mother Magdalen Sheldon died the 12 of December 1699. Aged 59. Profess'd 34.

She was daughter to Edward Sheldon Esquire of the House & Family of Boely in the County of Worcestershier & of Mistress Mary Wake, his Lawfull Wife, who is linally descended from the Wakes, formerly of the County of Kent.

Mr Bedingfild gave with Mother Chateren Mylmy[Catherine Mildmay] at her Cloathing, on thousand gilders, which was layd out for Cloathing & other necessary things in the hows; what she

200

had at Profession & afwards, it was layd out on the building at Vilford.

Mother Catherine Mildmay died the 9 of August 1714. Aged 72. Professed 50. A Jubilarian. In her first year.

She was fourth Daughter to Francis Mildmay Esq. of Am[m]ersdon in Oxfordshier & of his Lawfull Wife Mrs Mary Brook.

Sister Frances Peck had eight pound a year for her life, & on thousand gilders in mony which thousand gild was put on Mynheer Castros land at Lijbeck, 1000. She was third daughter to Mr Roger Peck, & to his lawfull Wife Mrs Joanna Fairwood.

Sister Frances Peck died the 14 of July 1680. Aged 59. Professed 14.

Mother Ann Busby had thre thousand five honderd gilders for her portion from her Mother; five honderd was for her Cloathing and profession; on thousand gilders was lay'd out at Vilford in building the quire. The other tow thousand gilders was given on Mynheer Castros land in Lijbeck. She was 3rd daughter to Mr Joseph Busby in Yorkshier, and of his lawfull Wife, Mrs Mary Dancer.

Reverend Mother Ann Busby was 7 years a Jubilarian. Died the 11 of December 1722, 76 years old. She had been once Prioress.

Mother Ann Busby, as being the Sixt of this foundation, and a great Bennefactris to this House, deserves a place in this Book, for having bestow'd upon the Common good most part of the means given her by her friends for her own use, (with leave of the General & other Superiors) as is to be seen from her own hand, whence I copied the following list.

1712 for the new wall to the Church	300
To pave the same place	042
A pair of silver candlesticks for the church 1713	342
For the windows to light the organ	028 - 10
The great brass Cross for processions & Burial	027 - 3
The wooden gutters round the wash house 1711	040
The great Scales with Iron Chains	021
1715. A pair of Silver Flower Pots	135
1715. Another pair of Silver Flower Pots	100
The Image of our holy Father in the Quire 1716.	022
For the two great Crowns of Our Saviour and Blessed Lady in the Church. The acquitance was lost so the sum can't be put down, (tho' it	

be considerable) with severall other things.
 For by 4 Bear [beer] Tuns, each holding a tun & halfe 154
 Eighteen bear tuns more of the same size. Not put
 down what She paid for 'em.
 For making the vaught [vault?] of the sceller
 strong to hold bear 1716 050
 For a suit of Church stuff with a Cope and Scarfe,
 besides goold galon, Lace & Lining 015
 1776 - 13

201

Mrs Catherine Petres who Dyed January the 19th 1724, Left us by her Last Will and Testament all she had upon the Banques of Paris, which was very considerable; but the Breaking & other misfortunes happening, the Cappitall is reduced to 3 Actions which brings in yearly each 150 Livers, so the 3 produces 450 Livers, which in Currant is 245 Guilders more or less, as the french Mony fals & rises. It has been exactly paid by Mr Loftus till the year 1738. But Mr Loftus Dyeing & being broak, it has never been Payed since, so is now quite lost. Requestcat in pace.

Sister Chateren Howard had fifteen pound a year for her life, and on thousand guilders in mony; this thousand guilders is on Mynheer Castrows land in Libek. 1000.

Sister Catherine Howard died the 28 of June 1683. Aged 47. Profess'd 15.

She was third Daughter to Collonel Thomas Howard of Tirsdoile in the County of Durham, of the Family of the Carlile Howards, and of Mrs Margarit Evers his Lawfull Wife; Sister to our dear Sister Antonia Howard, first Religious of this our foundation begun at Villvord, where she herself was the last Profess'd, befor they were removed to this City of Bruxells.

Sister Doroty Canning had tow thousand four hounderd guilders to her portion; four honderd guilders was for her Cloathing and Profession, the other tow thousand guilders is on the Jesuits at Namure. 2000. She was third daughter to Mr Richard Canning of Foxcoat in Warwickshire, & of Mrs Gratian Fowlar, his Lawfull Wife. She had been once Prioress. Sister Dorothe Canning died the 15 of September 1712. Aged 60. Profess'd 42.

These 2000 guilders on the Jesuits at Namur they paid in on the 15 of May 1722.

Sister Tresa Busby had thre thousand five honderd guilders Portion from her Mother; five honderd of this was for her Cloathing & Profession. The thre thousand gild: is as follows: on thousand fower honderd is for on honderd fifty guilders each year of her life, on the city of Brussels. Six honderd was lost being at Rent on a begine [Beguinage] heer in Brussels, the other thousand guilders on this city, a perpetual Rent. She gave at Profession 10 pound starling to Mother Boyle, Prioress, & 5 pound to her sister Ann Busby for a present besides her Portion.

Sister Tresa Busby gave at her Profession three honderd gildders more, for a payr of silver candlestiks for the Church. 3500.

She was eldest Daughter to Mr Joseph Busby, and Mrs Mary Dancer, his Lawfull wife, and owne Sister to the aforesaid Sister Anne Busby.

Sister Teresa Busby died the 22 of November 1710. Aged 70. Profess'd 39.

Sister Mars Crofts had tow thousand guilders portion, five hondard guilders of which was for her Cloothing & Profision; on thousand guilders for a honderd guilders each year of her life, on the City, & five honderd guilders on the Roloabane a perpetuall Rent. 2500.

202

She was Daughter to Mr Robert Crofts in London, A Marchand, & to Mrs Mary Taylor his Lawfull Wife; born in the City of London. She had been once Prioress. Sister Mary Crofts died the 16 of May 1720, being 72, & 48 Religious.

Sister Anamary Tomsons father pay'd for her Cloathing & Profession very plentifully, & gave us the image of our Lady, of Marble of good valew, & som goold roses sett with dimonds, which are valewed at three honderd gilders. What portion her father promised was never payd, through the misfortune of his breaking & law-sutes.

She was Daughter to Mr William Thompson, an English Marchand, & Mrs Mary Deane, his Lawfull Wife.

Reverend Mother Jubilarian Anna Maria Thomson died the 8 of December 1728. Aged 74, & had been six years a Jubilarian.

Sister Constancy Mylmy [Mildmay] had tow thousand five honderd gilders portion, five honderd gilders was for her Cloathing & Profession ... 500. The tow thousand gilders is on the City of Bruxells, a perpetual Rent. 2000.

She was youngest Daughter to Mr Francis Mildmay etc. Sister to the aforesaid Mother Catharine Mildmay. She was once Prioress.

Mother Constantia Mildmay, Jubilarian died the 23 of February 1728. Seventy years old & 54 Religious.

Sister Tecla Darcy, the Cardinall promised to give her 150 gilders a year for her life.

She was Daughter to Mr William Darcy, and of Mrs Margarit West, his Lawfull Wife.

Sister Teakla Darcy died the 27 of April 1722 Seventy year old, 48 Religious.

Sister Susana Barker had tow thousand fower honder gilders for her portion; fower honderd gilders was for her Cloathing & Profession; the tow thousand gilders is on the city of Bruxells, a perpetuall Rent 2400.

She was Widdow to Mr Robert Barker, & Daughter to Mr William Beswick, & of Mrs Mille Saint Ems, his Lawfull Wife.

Sister Susanna died the first of Aprill 1722. Aged 78. Profess'd 47.

Receav'd with Sister Christina Touchet. three thousand five honderd gilders from her father; five honderd was for her Cloathing & her Profession.

On thousand of her portion we lent to Mrs Clara Hord to by her Cloathing gownd & Religious habits; which gownd now is in Church stuff. The other tow thousand gilders is, on thousand on the Rolabare the other on the Toll chamber at Antwerp. 3000. The Capital mony on the Tole Chamber at Antwerp was pay'd in the 28 of Oct. 1737, & joyn'd to other of our Capital mony, put out at Haynan at 4 per cent, April the 12th 1738.

Sister Christina Touchet died the 19 of November 1694. Aged 39. Professed 18.

203

She was only Daughter to the Honourable James Tutchet, Barron Audly, Earle of Castlehaven; and of Mrs Catherin Stanford his Wife, born in London.

Sister Mary Delphina Stafford Howard had three thousand five honderd gilders, which is all on the land of her mother, the Vicountes Stafford, for which she paid us yearly 240 Gils which was due the 25 of Sept.; the which was continued by her Son, the Right Honourable Henery Earl of Stafford, until her death.

Sister Mary Delphina Stafford Howard dyed the 14th of January 1714, being 56 years old. Profess'd 37.

She was Daughter to the Right Honourable William Howard, Lord Vicount Stafford of Pious memory, who was injuriously put to death on Tower Hill, the 29th of December, Saint Thomas of Canterbury's day 1680, Old stile, And of the Right Honourable Lady, his lawfull Wife, Mary Barronness & Vicountess of Stafford.

Sister Sophia Gallaway had besids her Cloathing & Profession mony, twenty pound a year for ten years; then her father pay'd in tow thousand gilders, which is still the same in her

father's hands at Rent, which he pays every half year. The abovesaid two thousand Gils was paid us in at Mr Gallaway's death, till when he pay'd us yearly 80 Gils for 8 pound English.

She was Daughter to Mr Steven Gallaway, & of his lawful Wife, Mrs Elizabeth Blanck. He had the care of our Bussyness till his Death.

Sister Sophia Gallaway died the 27 of November 1694. Aged 36. Professed 18.

Sister Latia [Letitia] Barker had tow thousand gilders portion, which is still in her unkle Barker's hands, on his & his sonn's oblygation, for which he pay'd us yearly on her Life, a Rent of 120 Gilders due in March, the which was performed to the year 1695 which shews that ... This is all lost for many years.

She was Daughter to Mr Robert Barker & Mrs Susanna Beswick his Lawfull Wife; the Daughter of the aforesaid Widdow Sister Susanna Barker. She was once Prioress.

Sister Latica Barker dy'd the 17th of March 1748, Aged 87, Jubilarian, Proffest 71. She had bin Prioriss of Convent.

Sister Agness Atmore had for her life 150 gilders each year for her naturall life; its to be payd by the Duke of Powes.

And was accordingly pay'd to her death, as agreed on. She had forty pound for her Cloathing & Profession mony.

The venerable Mother Jubilarian Agness Atmore died the 27 of April 1731, being 84 years old & 51 profest, having been three times Prioris.

She was Daughter to Mr Richard Attmor of Bridlymore of the Parish of Tardebick in Worcestershier, & of Mrs Jeane Morgan his Lawfull Wife.

204

[The following is a copy of an original deposition preserved in the Master-General's Archives, Rome.]

"Mother Agnes Atmore was elected Prioress (for the third time) July 1724. On the 1st January 1726 after having been as well as ever in health & in her senses, she had that day confessed & communicated. In the afternoon I found her alone in the kitchen thrusting her hands into the chimney. I, being frightened & surprised asked her what she wanted, drawing her from the fire. She looked on me like a mad woman, & told me she was taking some papers & letters out of the fire. From that day she grew worse by degrees, strangely & extravagantly mad, running round the house night & day. She thought the nuns were witches and talked about the witchcraft she found everywhere. She knew neither the religious nor the house, & used to say all was changed. She both tore & cut her clothes, with so many extravagances that for the sake of the rest of the Community two religious were obliged to watch with her night & day. As I was often one, I can affirm I many times kept her from burning her hands, which she thrust often into the fire with such extravagant actions that surprised us all. So she continued till March, when Bishop Egan came from Rome, & to gratify the devotion of our Community who desired to see & kiss the Mitre our holy Pope had consecrated his Lordship with, he gave it to us inside the grate with one of the Pope's slippers, which we all kissed with veneration & devotion. It was then carried to the Infirmary, where our Prioress, Mother Agnes Atmore had been so long, & we told her what it was. She sensibly desired to have the Mitre placed on her head, & desired all there to pray with her. So kneeling down she begged of God that all the malice & witchcraft be brought to light. Then she rose & was much pleased & was quiet. I saw her kiss the Mitre twice before she gave it back. The next day I met her walking by herself in a room of devotion dedicated to our Lady, & asked her how she found herself. She answered me calmly that she was better, & had found her memory, & several other things. I asked her the colour of the Mitre. She said: 'Silver; & the slipper had gold galon.' She desired me to

pray for her, & I told her I would & was glad that she was so well. She said it was the Pope's Mitre that had done her good, & said again her memory was better; & truly from day to day she came to herself, kept choir, came to the refectory, held the usual chapters, received the accounts of the Convent, & in May made Sister Anna Maria Chilton Subprioress. So far as I can judge, about a year she continued perfectly well. About two months or six weeks before she gave up the Prioresship she had a relapse & lost her coherency, tho' at intervals she came to herself, & frequented the Sacraments With devotion, & never fell into any of her extravagant madness as formerly, nor were we obliged to watch her, except so far as to see that no accident befell her. She is now in perfect health, eats & sleeps well. The other day I asked her about the Pope's Mitre; she remembered the passage very well, & said it had done her good, & she was sorry so good a Pope was dead. There are several other

205

passages I leave to those more about her, but this I have writ I can affirm is true."

Sister Mary Rosa Howard of Norfolk

July 24th 1730.

[Another account is as follows]

"We can with truth subscribe, that our Prioress, Mother Agnes Atmore on the 1st of January 1726, lost her senses, & was extravagantly mad for several months, thinking us witches, & the house changed. She knew not the Religious & called out for the dead nuns whom she fancied came & spoke to her; talked much of witchcraft in the Convent, & so many extravagant notions that surprised us all. She raved day & night about the house. Two religious, the following winter, had to watch with her to keep the convent easy & secure her from harm. Bishop Egan, coming from Rome, lodged at our Convent a few days, & gave in through the grille the Mitre with which our holy Pope consecrated him, to satisfy the devotion of the Religious. And afterwards, we carrying it to the Infirmary to our infirm Prioress, & telling her what it was, *she desired to put it on her head*, which she did with devotion, & begged of God that the truth of all may come out. She certainly from that time became much more herself, & afterwards followed the Community exercises for above a year, perfectly in her senses, coming to Choir, Refectory etc., & the May following made Sister Anna Maria Chilton, Subprioress. She continued very well till about a month or six weeks before she finished her Prioresship, & then lost her senses again, but with none of those former extravagances, & having intervals much oftener of sense & reason, particularly to those who are more close witnesses. This being so well known to all, in obedience to our most Rev. Fr. Master General we give this testimony to the Rev. Fr. Andrew Wynter, General Preacher of our Province, & at present our actual & worthy confessor, & the Subprioress whom the above mentioned Prioress made was confirmed by the abovesaid.

Witness her hand (signed)

Sister Marianne Chilton Subprioress
Sister Dominica Howard (of Norfolk)
Sister Mary Rosa Howard (of Norfolk)
Sister Mary Teresa Sarsfield
Sister Catherine Winifred Hyde
Sister Mary Cicely Polehampton."

Received with Sister Agatha Smith thre thousand fower honderd gilders from her Mother for her portion; fower honderd gilders was for her cloathing & profession. The other thre thousand is on the Duke of Powes. 3000. (Who hath about 1736 given in all our Capital mony which was 1040 pound star: of which is again put out to Rent, as our Rental shews the 1000 pound star: to my Lord Arundel, at 4 p. ct., September 29, 1739.)

She was Daughter to Mr Thomas Smith, of Walworthe-Moore in the Bishoprick of Durham, & of Mrs Mary Salvin, his Lawfull Wife.

206

Sister Agatha Smith Dyed the 10th of June 1694. She was aged 29 & 12 years Professed.

Sister Isabela Hansby is to have tow thousand gilders: her father has not yet paid it in.

Thus, what we have had first & last from her Friends follows. We have Received from Mr Ralph Hansby for his sister Isabella Hansby, one hundred & 15 pound the 28 of October 1710. This mony is put out upon my Lord Ailesbury for 6 per Cent The 15 pound was made up 20 by our Prioress, so my Lord Ailesbury has for Sister Hansby, one hundred 20 pound starling at six per Cent My Lord Ailesbury has pay'd this money in, in the year 1720.

Mr Hansby's Obligation being Satisfyed, according to promise, our Council gave him a full discharge, which was sent him on the Receipt of the aforesaid specified sume of 115 pound English mony.

Mother Isabella Hansby dyed May the 27th 1734. Aged 72. Profess'd 52. Jubilarian 2 years.

She was youngest Daughter to Mr Raphe Hansby of Tickle (Tickhill] Castel in Yorkshier, & of his Lawfull Wife, Mrs Winifred Morgan.

Receavd with Sister Ursly Coolman, thre thousand five honderd gilders for her portion from her father, five honderd gilders was spent for her Cloathing & profession, tow thousand is on the Duke of Powes, six honderd gilders is on the hows by the francistens under St Nickles Church, the other fower honderd gilders I was forct to make use of for Sister Isabele's Cloathing. What hath been put out on her life was fully paid, Except the life Rent of ten pounds yearly, left her yearly by her Father, Mr John Coleman, payable by Mr Arthur, Banquir in England, who was one of his Execcutours, And had Care of our busyness in England since Mr Gallaway's Death. The said Mr Arthur's last payment of the abovesaid legacy was the April after her death 1733, when we received for half a year's Interest 58g. 13st., which was due from September the 29th 1729, the Rent being then 3 years behind hand, of which we have little hopes to receive the Arreers: Mr Arthur leaving off acting in busyness & the reduction of the mony in France, makeing the Returns to England scarce answerable to the designs & affairs of the Deceas'd.

The Interest of all the Capital mony we put out on the Estate of his Grace the Late Duke of Powis has been fully satisfyed, as hath been since by his Grace the Presant Duke, in the succession of his Father, in full, till he pay'd in the Principal mony the 14th of February 1734, To Mr Mannock Strickland Esquier who does Business for our Community since Mr Arthur has given over acting in that kind. Of this Capital which was 1040 pounds stirling, Mr Strickland lent 1000 p. at 4 per Cent to L. Peters the 19 of March 1736 English Stile, our Stilee 1737, which he pay'd in August the 9th 1739. This 1000 Capital Mr Strickland put out to Lord Arundel, the 29th Sept 1739, for 4 per cent Sister Ursly Collman died the 7th of February 1773, Aged 66, Profest 49.

Receavd with Sister Mary Ann Chilton, tow thousand five honderd gilders; five honderd gilders was spent on her Cloathing &

207

Profession, the tow thousand gilders is on the Parish of Borem. 2500.

She was second Daughter to Mr Christopher Chilton & of Mrs Margarit Thompson, his Lawfull wife. She was six years following Prioress.

The Parish of Bornhem has paid in this many, & its put on my Lord Ailesbury for 5 per cent in the year 1720. My Lord Ailesbury paid this mony in the year 1721.

Mistris Chilton promised to leave her Daughter 100 pound more at her death, to make her portion 350 pound, & recommended the performance to her son & heir Mr Christopher Chilton, who charg'd himself theirwith, & promis'd us kindly to make up for the Interest or Arreers: who at his death accordingly, & to be pray'd for after his Death, in his Will left our howse two Actions upon the India Company at Paris, which yealds yearly about 300 french Livers. These two Actions are in the hands of the Reverend Father, Fr. Peter Neville, Procurator of the Jesuits of the English Province at Paris, who hath undertaken to remitt us yearly the Accidents theirow which we have accordingly Receiv'd since Mr Chilton's death 1738.

The yearly Payment is uncertain, according as the mony rises & falls which comonly produceth about half the vallue of our Currant Gildars.

Mother Marie Anna Chilton died the 20th of January 1741. Aged 74. Proffest 53 years. Was chosen Priorisse twice.

The two Actions left us by Mr Christofer Chilton was sold at Paris by the consent of the Consell for 2191-07-3: Currant, which mony was put out as follows: Put out by Mr Nettine Banquier in Brussells for us 2000 Gilders Currant at Hannay the 9th of September 1743 at 4 per Cento Currant. Remainder of this Mony is 191-07-3 which is in the Cappittall Bag kept in the Depositime.

Receavd with Sister Mary Agustina Yeats tow thousand gilders in all; five honderd gilders for her Cloathing & Profession mony, the rest is on thousand gilders on this city of Bruxells, & five honderd gilders on the parish of Borem. 2000. This 50 pound is paid in from Bomhem 1718. She was Daughter to Mr John Yates & Mrs ... Harris his Lawfull Wife.

Sister Mary Augustin Yeats died the 8 of August 1733, being 65 years old & 43 profest. Received with Sister Elizabeth Dominica Howard 1694, from the Cardinall of Norfolk, Cardinal Howard, three thousand five honderd gilders; five honderd gilders was spent on her Cloathing & Profession, the other thre thousand gilders on Mynheer Dise at Brusseils a perpet: Rent at 5 per Cent 3500.

(My Lord Cardinal Howard of Norfolk sent another 100 pound soon after the Cloathing of his two neeces, Sister Dominica & Sister Mary Rosa Howard of Norfolk, to make each of their portions 400 pound starling: & 40 for theyr Noviship year. The said 100 pound was put out for them on Perpetual Rent soon after by Mother Barbara Boyle then Prioress whose word we had for it.)

208

The six hundred pounds for Sister Dominica & Sister Mary Rosa Howard's Porstion is now put uppon a great Tavarne in Bruxells at the signe of the Ellefan [Elephant] in Hatters Street 4 1/2 per cent

This Rent has ever been justly paid as agreed on to this 25th of December 1739, which according to our last Agreement with Mr Francis D'Ancillon, March 1731 is to be payd us at 4 per cent, each half year, or if not duely payd befor 6 weeks after the Rent falls due, is payable at 4 1/2 per cent, as was then Concluded. This Rent falls due the 24th of June & 25th of December, payable as above by the Grandsons & Heirs of Mr D'Ancillon the Grandfather, long deceas'd.

Sister Elizabeth Dominica Howard of Norfolk, was Eldest Daughter to the Right Honourable Collonel Bearnar'd Howard of Norfolk: A younger brother to the abovesaid Cardinal Howard of Norfolk, Founder of this our Convent, & of our English Province. Her Mother was Mistress Catharin Tettershal, youngest Daughter of Mr George Tettershal, of Dorking in Surry: which Family were Ancient Lords of Tygars Hall. Dominica Howard, Jubilarian, Dyed the 17 December 1761.

April the 12: 1743: Recived in from Mr D'Ancillon the 100 hunderd Pounds of our Capitall, which was Mother Dominica & Mother Mary Rosa Howards Portions.

Put out the 12: of May 1743: To Mr Van Beeman upon Land Security at 3 an a half per Cent 2000 Guilders Exchange, Part of their Portion.

Put out the 21: of May 1743: To Mr Offians Reciver Generall of the Rivage (or Skipford) at 3 an a half per cent 5000 Guilders Exchange upon Security of the Town House of Brussels.

Received with Sister Mary Rosa Howard 1694 from the Cardinal of Norfolk, Cardinal Howard, three thousand five honderd gilders for her portion; five honder was spent on her cloathing & profession & (the Rest is al understood as for her Sister Elizabeth Dominica Howard as befor written at lenght) the thre thousand gilders is a 5 per cent a perpetual Rent on Mynheer Dise in Bruxels.

209

3500. This mony is now on a Tavarn in Bruxells in Hatter's street, at the signe of the Ellefant, at 41 per cent, till March 1731, at 4 p. cent as agreed.

She was Prioress in the year 1721. Chosen June the 10th & confirmed July 11th 1721. She dyed on 18th of April 1747, aged 70, proffest 53.

This is the portions of all the Religious of the Community since the hows begun in the year 1661. The portions are now settled just as they are written by me.

Sister Barbara Boyle 1697

Prioress.

The portions, & how they were settled etc. as appears, were since written by the succeeding Prioresses & Depositarians by order of theyr Superiours: and lastly by me, Sister Elizabeth Dominica Howard of Norfolk, now Depositarian: to this present year, December 1740; in which I collected with all fidelity, and the utmost care I was capable of, what I have written throughout this book, from peruseing our Council & Depositum books, and Rentals; and from our presant & certain knowledge, which is review'd by those who have been Prioress & Procuratrix & Depositarians to affirm the certainty of what I have writ for a serviceable memory for posterity

Sister Mary Teresa Busby by her profession brought to this monastery the house next our garden & two other little houses & a garden belonging thereto, each of them being let for 40 gilders a year, and the great house for 130. This was left by Mr John Busby, a priest, for an English biginage; but finding no English would take to that state of life, his Holyness the Pope changed the intention of a biginage to the use of our monastery, on condition they should take a nune upon it, of the kindred of Mr John Busby. Mra Teresa Busby, being his second cosen, and the first that offerd her selfe to this state of life, was professed the 6 of October 1700, and died the 18 of August 1711, aged 27. Profess'd 11 years. She had 50 pound from her father in ready mony for her Clothing & Profession.

As long as these houses remaine, we are obliged to keep a Nune uppon them, the place being vacant, according to the conditions of the agreement, express'd in the Breef of his Holyness, when some difficultyes, concerning that house & affair was exposed and determin'd to remain fixed, which was about Nov. 1722 or 3.

She was youngest daughter to Mr Joseph Busby in Yorkshier and his lawful wife Mistress and own neece to the aforesaid Sisters, Mother Anne, & Sister Teresa Busby.

210

Received from Sister Marie Claire Standford four hundard pound makeing 4330 Guilders, April the 12th 1701; of which was put out to rent on the city of Brussels

3000-00-0

Given the Procuratrix, Sister Agness Atmor for a year's pention and her Cloathing	0400-00-0
Pay'd to Sister Mary Delphina Stafford for what she laid out for the Cloathing gound	0260-00-0
Given to the Procuratrix, Sister Dorothy Canning for her Proffession	0300-00-0
Given out for making up the Cloathing gound into Church stuff	0410-00-0

Sister Mary Clare Stanford dyed the 29th of Sept., 1709, aged 29, being 10 years professed.

Mr James Stanford, her father, hath kindly left at his death a hundard pounds stirling, as he had promis'd his daughter, when in England for her Profession, to make up the 500 pounds legacy left her by her Uncle, of which the abovesaid four hunderd pounds for which we received 433 gils was her religious portion. The abovesaid mony was brought to our Depositum, with the return of 35 gilders, the month of March, 1725.

Sister Catherin Mary Joseph Howard had three hundred & fifty pound from her father, Mr Baniard Howard of Norfolk, for her portion, 1701.350 gil: Five hundred gildars was spent for her Cloathing & Profession. The three thousand gildars was put out to rent for her on the citty of Brussells Partly on her life, a rent of 70 gil^s yearly, the rest for perpetual.

The return of the 300 pound was 30 pound, out of which she gave as a presant of the church, a Missal adorn'd with silver work, at her Profession, which cost eighty gilders. She had her 200 gilders pay'd apart for her noviship year, which makes in all four hunderd pounds English mony. She was third & youngest daughter to the Right Honourable Collonel Bernard Howard of Norfolk, and his lawfull wife Mistress Catharin Tettershal etce., as befor said of her two sisters, Sister Eliz. Dominica & Sister Mary Rosa Howard of Norfolk, who were three Sisters, and neeces to our noble Founder, the Lord Philip Thomas Howard Cardinal of Norfolk.

She dyed on the 2 of Febury 1793, aged 70, professed 52. Sister Frances Bulstrode is to have for portion, four hundred pounds when our King comes for England to enjoy his Crowne. 400.

She had from her parants, Sir Richard & my Lady Bulstrode, fifty pounds stirling for her Cloathing & Profession expences.

Nov. 23d, 1723, she had a presant of 50 pistals from Prince Eugene, son to Princess Sophia, who led her into this our Monastery to be religious.

Sister Olimpia Frances Bulstrode died the 30th of January, 1733, being 46 years old and 26 professed.

211

She was the third daughter to Sir Richard Boulstrode, Envoye to his Britannick Majesty James the 2d, and of his lawfull wife, Mistress Mary Standford.

Sister Margaret Ellerker had one hundred pound which was put upon my Lord Ailesbury for six per cent 100. She had seven hundred bookes call'd the Reformation, judged worth a crowne a piece, and the brass plate to print the "Tree of Life," all of which is to make up her portion when they are sold.

My Lord Ailesbury has paid this hundred pound in the year 1720.

Sister Margarit Ellerker dyed the 22nd of February 1737, aged 67, and 26 professed.

She was only daughter to Mr Ellerker, a Yorkshier family, and of his lawfull wife Mistress.

Sister Mary Teresa Sarsfield has two hundred & sixty livers upon the towne house of Paris. She had 40 pound for Clothing & Profession. One hundred & Thirty livers is for her life, the other hundred & thirty is perpetuall; made over by will before her Profession to us, & this will is in the Depositum.

The above said settlement was chang'd befor her death into a perpetual rent, payable by Mr Lostist at Paris, which being now turn'd into Actions, produce yearly by the Reduction of the town house of Paris, they now allow us, only 78 livers of France yearly. And we receive for the accidents of the said actions, an uncertain payment from Paris, as the mony rises & falls; but we find it comonly produceth about the half vallue of our currant guilders or better: and have of late years receiv'd the yearly payment of only forty gil^s currant.

She was youngest daughter to Mr Peter Sarsfield, descended from the family of the Earle of Sarsfield, and of his lawfull wife, Mistress Catharin Pue, an English gentlewoman, wher she was born. She was Prioress, & dyed after 4 months.

Sister Mary Teresa Sarsfield dyed the 5th of February 1740, being 64 years old, and 28 profess'd. Priorises actualy when she dye'd, 4 months after being chosen Superieure of this convent.

212

Sister Catherin Winefrid Hyde had first for portion 120 pound starling; 20 the Procuratrix had for her novice year's pention; the 100 pound is a life rent at Briges for 100 guilders a year. 100. Sister Catherin Hyde was cloathed and profest very hansomly, of the charges of her kinde relation, Sister M. Rosa Howard, of Norfolk, who procuer'd and lay'd out for her Cloathing & Profesion, fifty pounds starling.

Mrs Catharin Thorold, aunt and Godmother to Sister Catharin Winifrid Hyde, to whom she gave the above said portion of 120 pound st. on which some she was receiv'd and profess., promis'd that if her circumstances better'd, so as to enable her, she would farthar extend her kindness to her. And accordingly at her death, left her neece a hundard & twenty-five pound, which made her fortun in all 295 pound. This last 125 pound was paid in the year 1735 Councillor Strickland, who put it out the same year with other of our capital mony, for perpetual rent, at 5 per cent, on Mr Paston's estate.

She was youngest daughter to Mr Francis Hyde, of Pagbourns, in Barkshire, and of his lawfull wife Mrs Frances Thorold of Lankishier.

She dyed the 14 of August, 1752, aged 54; proffest 17. Requiescant in pace. Amen. Soe St Joseph be my healp at this draudfull moment. Kety Hyde.

Sister Margaret Joseph Compton had for portion at her Profession (which was the first of July, 1717), she had four hundred pound starling. One hundred pound is put out for her life at Briges for 10 in the hundred, the other 250 is put out for a perpetuall rent, & the other 500 guilders was spend for her Profesion and Mrs Boucher's Clothing.

She payd the expences of Sister Clare Boucher's Clothing, and gave a rich suit of church stuff to our Alter, of silver tabby, and richly embroderd with gold.

She and her sister, Mrs Anne Compton, was at the charges of building the new wall in our H. Father's walke, and repairing the wall on the other side. Both these walls together cost 1664 guilders, which they paid to the masson, Mr Soger, in the year 1716.

She was daughter to Mr Edward Compton of Gersby, Esquier, of the family of the Earle of Northampton; and of Mrs Anne Merry, his lawfull wife.

She dey'd ...

Sister Mary Clare Boucher, profest the 27 of September, 1718, and had for her portion 100 pound, which is in Baron Fonseca's hands for our yealy rent, with the rest of our monies. Sister Margarit Joseph Compton paid for her Clothing, but at profession she had nothing but the

100 pounds, which her Uncle March gave her. The charges of her profession the house paid, out of our depositum of our capital money.

Her father was Mr Richard Boucher, and her mother Mrs Margarit Wearing, his lawful wife.

She died the 24th of February, 1752, aged 52, professed 34. Requiescant in pace.

213

Sister Mary Young had for Profession and Cloathing one hundred & twenty pounds sterling, the 100 pound is put out on her life by Mr Strens on a villige near Bruxells, call'd Allost or Gramop, for a 100 guilders yearly. The 14 of December, 1721, she was professed.

She was only daughter to Mr John Young in Lincolnshire, and of his lawful wife, Mrs Elizabeth Brown.

She died January 11th 1774 - in religion 53 yrs:

Sister Lucy Thompson was professed the 24 May, 1723. Her father hapening to die in her novitiate could not comply with his promise of paying 300^l for her portion as he promised, but in his will left his daughter the thirds of what he had; which being intangled with law suits, she was to expect the conclusion, with which circumstance this community consented to profess her. Since which we received 130^l, which was looked upon due the greatest part, for four year's penitence, & the charges of her Profession, the which money was appointed to pay old debts, & we have a prospect when the law suite debate is at an end, she should have sum thing considerable, tho we know not how much. Her father's affairs being concluded to his disadvantage, & many unexpected charges, we never received any more thing, or have prospect of further payment.

She was only daughter to Mr John Thompson, an English gentleman, whose estate was in Sussex, and of Mrs Anne Williby, his lawful wife.

She died...

Sister Mary Cecily Polhampton had in all 200^l sterling, 50 spent for her Clothing & Profession, the other 150^l is put upon a good security in the City of Bruxells, for a perpetual rent, at 3 and 1/2. Her friends since has promised her yearly sum thing during life.

She was only daughter to Mr James Polehampton, and to Mrs Elizabeth Sarsfield, his lawful wife, neece to the aforesaid Sister Mary Teresa Sarsfield.

She died the 14th of July, 1746, aged 39, professed 23.

She was our only organist many years.

Sister Anamaria Short was professed the 30th of October, 1731. She was daughter to Mr Thomas Bennet, of the county of Norfolk, and of his lawful wife, Mrs Susanna Danial; and widow to Mr Philip Short, of the county of Suffock.

She had for her portion a life rent of 300 guilders permission, in the hands of Mr Edward Dicconson Esquire, a Lankishier gentleman; & had for the expences of her Cloathing & Profession 500 guilders, permission money.

She died Dec. 10th, 1782, aged 82. Professed 51 years.

Sister Margarit Mary Agness Short was professed the 22th of June, 1734. The eldest daughter to Mr Francis Short at Berey in Suffolk, & his lawful wife, Mrs Joanna Harrison.

She had 200 permission gils^s for her Cloathing expences, and 3000 permission guilders for her portion, out of which was deducted 200

214

perⁿ guilders for her profession expences: which 200 gils we added out of our capital money, to make up again the full summe of 3000 perⁿ guilders, to put out to rent, which accordingly was put out by Counciller Mannock Strickland Esquire, at 5 per cent to Mr Paston, 1736, on the 25th of February.

She dyed ...

Agreed by the Venerable Mothers of the Council that the legacy bequeathed to late S.M. Agnes & S.M. Ursula Short by their late uncle, Doctor P. Short, be applied to discharge the principal sum of one thousand glds. exchange, together with the interest due on the same, & the remainder to said legacy to be applied in purchasing deals & slates for the roof of the monastery etc. As witness my hand, September 30th 1786. F. Ben. Short, Provincial.

Sister Mary Francis Segrave was profess'd July 27th, 1734. She was eldest daughter to Hennery Segrave of Scabbrough, Esquier, near Dublin, in Ireland, and of his lawfull wife, Mrs Anne Oneal.

She had for her portion 4000 perⁿ guilders, of which 500 were employ'd for the expences of her Cloathing & Profession: and of the 3500 gil^s perⁿ cappital mony, 2110 gil^s was put out by Councillor Mannock Strickland, to Mrs Kingsdon, at 4 & 1/2, the 31th March, 1735. the remaining 590 gils Mr Strickland put out lastly among our other cappital mony, which he put out to rent for us at 4 per cent, 1738, to Lady Carrington, April the 25th, 1738.

She dye'd December 3rd, 1790, aged 74, professed 56.

Sister Mary Catharin Yates was profess'd October the 21th 1734.

She was eldest daughter to Mr William Yates of Bankfould, in Yatebank, in the parish Blackburn in the county of Lancaster; and of his lawfull wife, Mrs Isabella Rishdon, in Haslingdon, in the same county of Lancaster.

She had for portion a hunderd & fifty pounds starling & sixteen ginnis for her Clothing, which she gave out of her owne pocket. Wee have recived the full above mentionned this year, 1751.

She dyed ...

Sister Mary Ursula Short, the 2d daughter to Mr Francis Short &c. was profess'd the 6th of September, 1735.

She had in al for her fortun 1000 guilders, and 100 perⁿ guilders, given her for the expences of her profession. Of the 1000 guilders portion, 500 was joyn'd to make up 2000 perⁿ guilders of ours, put out for us att Haynau, by Mr Nettine, at 4 per cent, the 12th of April 1738; which carry's intrest from the same day. This 500 perⁿ guilders (or 50 pound) was pay'd by Mr Dicconson, by our appointment to Councillour Mannock Strickland in England for our orders, which we drew over to place as above. The other 500 perⁿ guilders (or 50 pound) of her portion, in Mr Bostock's her uncle's hands, is not pay'd us as yet, to this presant year 1740 .

Sister Marie Ursula Short dye'd the 30th of Nouvember 1741, age'd 25, profest 7 years.

Sister Mary Augustin Walkinson was profess'd Aug. the 19th, 1738. She was 2^d daughter to Mr William Walkinson, and Mrs Elizabeth Watkins, his lawfull wife, in London.

215

She had for portion in al 130 pound starling. The 30 pound was layd out for her Cloathing and Profession expences. The 100 pound capital was, according to agreement, pay'd down befor her Profession, at our appointment, by her father, to Counciller Mannock Strickland, in whose hand it remaind, to be put out to rent for her in England. But this hundard pound we afterwards drew over, haveing the occasion of putting it out by Mr Nettine, on the States of Brabant, at 4 per cent, in currant mony, the 8th of June, 1739, carrying interest from that day; which mony made part of the 400 pound of our cappytal mony, plac'd as above.

She dye'd January first, 1763, age 47, professed 25.

Sister Mary Barbara Fullar was profess'd the 8th February 1739. She was 2d daughter to Mr James Fullar, and Mrs Arabella Veray, his lawfull wife, att London.

She had for her portion in all 170 pound, of which 35 pound was for her Cloathing and Profession expences. The other 135 pound starling remaind in Counciller Mannock Strickland's hands, to be properly put out to rent for her. The above said mony was pay'd, according to agreement with her father in law, Mr John Morris, befor her profession. This above said 135 pounds was afterwards drawn over, haveing a good opportunity of haveing it put out by Mr Nettin, on the States of Brabant, at 4 per cent, currant mony, the 8th of June, 1739, from which day it carries interest.

She dye'd ...

Sister Mary Anna Calvert was profes'd the 30th of October 1750. She was daughter to Mr James Calvert and Mrs Anne Dortrey, his lawfull wife; borne at Fery Bregs in Yorckshire.

She had for her portion a hunderd pound starling, & 20 pound for Clothing & Profftion. The hunderd pound is put out by Madame Nettin, with other mony belonging to our convent, at Vienne, in the year 1751.

She dy'ed ...

Sister Mary Therese & Sister Mary Rose Brooke were professed June the 1st 1756. They had each of them 120 pound sterling, 40 of which was laid out for the expences of their Clothing & Profession, & the remainder put out on Vienna at 5 per cent

They were daughters of Mr Leonard Brooke & Mrs Ann Mud, in Maryland.

Sister Mary Rose dyed, Jan. the 20th, 1757.

Sister Ann Dominick Brooke, daughter of Mr Edward Cole & Mrs Ann Neal was professed May the 10th, 1757. She had 130 pound for her fortune. 100 was put out at 5 per cent to the French Jesuits, & the remaining 30 was spent for the expences of her Clothing & Profession.

Sister Mary Aloysia Spalding was clothed with Sister Ann Dominick, but dye'd in the year of her noviceship. She made her Profession on her deathbed.

216

Sister Mary Hyacinth Wilkinson, daughter of Mr William Wilkinson & Mrs Dorothy Purson of the county of Durham, was professed the 11th of May, 1758.

Sister Mary Clementina Paston, daughter of Mr Clement Paston, & Mrs Mary Brown, was professed May the 16th 1758. She had 280 pound sterling for her portion; 240 of which was put out at 5 per cent to the French Jesuits, & 40 laid out for the expences of her Clothing and Profession.

Sister Mary Joseph Constable, daughter of Mr Robert Constable & Mrs Elizabeth Lister, was professed July the 26th 1758. She had for her fortune 200 pound sterling, of which 160 was put out at interest to the French Jesuits at 5 per cent, the remainder, to wit 40 pound, was for the expences of her Clothing & Profession.

Sister Mary Louisa Allgood, daughter to Robert Algoood, & Mary Potts, Hexhem, in Northumberland. Professed Decembre the 8th 1779.

She dye'd ...

Sister Frances Mary Benidict Halford, daughter to Mr Thomas Halford & Ann Welch, London. She had a hundred pound for her fortune. Professed January the 29, 1783.

She dye'd ...

Sister Mary Magdelain Jackson, daughter of William Jackson & Mary Beadlan Haggerston in Northumberland. She had a hundred pound for her fortune. Professed September the 30, 1783.

She dye'd ...

A Letter written by our Generail to Father Verjyce when he was constituted our superior at Villfoord.

Brother John Baptista de Marinis, Professor of sacred Divinity, humble Master Generall and servant in the Sonne of God of the Order of Preachers, to his beloved sonne the verie Reverent Father Master Brother John Baptista Veriyce, Prior of Antwerp, greeting.

The same that Lucke II, v. 22 doth assine only one stronge and armed for the defence of his portall, Cant. 3, v. 7 makes use of noe less than sixtie, and those not of ordenarie condition, but of the most stronge of Israel, for the defence of Solomon's bed; because (according to the interpretation of Gilbertus 16 upon that place) the care of the spouse is far greater then that of the possession. Since not without cause we are all so induced to ordaine with greater care some few more, and those of the strongest of Israell, as gardiens, for our new and tender Monestery of Villfoord, which wee are fully perswaded is the chamber and mariage-bed of the true Salomen, especialie since its ordinarie gardien, being for the most part far absent, is retained in England aboute the more important affaires of the Order, & therefore as lately we committed to your watchfullness, oversight, & exterordenary direction the convent of our Irish brothers of Lovan, so being intreated with most great instance that we would committ the forenamed monestery with the like forme to the same person, by the order of this, and the authoritye of our office,

217

fatherly & earnestly we commend the foresaide most religious monestery in spirituall and temporall affaires, to your extraordenery care, zeale, and redy watchfullness, to the efect that you incesantly promote its regular observance by fitt helps, best counsellis and commands, that you procure, and aplye, through your delagated power, remedies to what so ever dificulties may now and then ocur, and that according as the varietie of times and buisenes presenting them selves, shall require you there, either by your presence or letters, perform, ordaine, dispose, and put in execution, whatsoever either our Vicar Generall of England, or we our selves, if either of us wear present, would doe, not diminishing the ordererie subjection and respect of the sayd monestery towards our said Vicar Generall. As heretofore, and to that end, we give you out of the plenitude of our office, all necessary faculty & power. And there fore, as most experient in warr, for God and religion, Buckell on your sword for this charge, being mindfull how sacred & noble a tresure we committ to your experient prudenc and integrity. They are our daughters, and chosen spouses of Jesus Christ. They are strangers in your country; and banisht from their own true soyle, for their loyallty to there Spouse, under the hard beginings of a new cloyster, they stand in need of extraordenery holy care and comfort. It shall be your dutye, soe in our place to atend to them, that for their virtue, peace, and noble contempt of the world, we may all wayes acknowlige for angelicall whom for their country we call English.

In the Name of the Father and of the Sonn and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Leonardus Hanson.

To the present & future Satisfaction of All whom it may concern.

Our most Reverent Father Master General Augustinus Pipia desiring to be inform'd about the legacy which our late Lord Cardinal of Norfolk, of pious memory, left for the maintenance of the confessour & his companion at the Monastery of the English Dominican nuns in Brussels, the Fathers of our province requir'd from me, who was (then) their confessour, and Vicar of the Province of England, to give an exact account of this affair.

To satisfie the General, & them, I writ in Latine to Father Master Williams, Rector of Lovain, what I now write in English for the satisfaction of the nuns. The substance whereof was as follows.

That the Cardinal, to ease the nuns of the yearly charges they were at, of one hundred & fifty gilders for the maintence of their confessour, in the convent of the Dutch

Dominicans, in this city of Brussels, was pleased in his last will & testament to leave two thousand Roman crowns, the equivalent of six thousand guilders, or six hundred pound sterling, to maintain a confessor & his companion for ever, for the service of the said nuns.

As soon as this, and other legacies, began to be paid, the Procurator of the great Convent came to me, demanding the monies; saying he had need of it to pay the Convent's debts and to buy provisions.

218

I answered, the monies were not yet come from Rome; but when they were, they were to be set out upon the Town-House, or some such secure place, for a perpetual rent, to maintain the confessor & his companion, wheresoever they should be: for, by the blessing of Almighty God England might be again converted to the Faith, and then very probably the nuns would leave Brussels, and settle themselves in their own country.

This answer I afterwards gave to the Prior & chiefest Fathers of the great Convent. They asked me, where I found such a *clausula* in the Cardinal's will & testament? I replied, 'twas not there in express terms, but downright reason & common sense dictated the will was to be so understood; and that without this condition fulfill'd I would pay no monies, unless the General & the four Cardinals, executors of the testament commanded me to do the contrary.

This answer was communicated to the (then) Provincial, Father Master Harney; who for some private reasons advised or permitted the Prior & Fathers of the Council to declare they would have nothing to do with the confessor & his companion in their convent; and that the nuns might take the money, & put it out, where, and as, they pleased.

This was the substance of their answer, which I desired they would give me in writing. They did so, and sign'd it with their own hands, & the great seal of their convent; which authentick declaration I immediately brought & delivered to Venerable Mother Barbara Boyle, then Prioress, leaving it to her care, trust, & integrity, to see the Cardinal's legacy put out to the best advantage, as soon as Brother Henry Peck, our Roman procurator, should send the monies down from Rome.

But here it is to be observ'd, that the too great caution of the four above-mentioned Cardinals-executors of the Testament, made our Province, Colledge, & nuns too, loose prodigiously in the exchange of the money. For their Eminencies would by no means permit any considerable great summe to be sent down into Flanders, till the merchants on whom the bills were to be drawn had found out other merchants who would be bound for 'em, in case they should break, or by any accident turn'd bankrupt. This condition the chiefest merchants of Antwerp refused, as contrary to their honour: but one at last was found who, corresponding with the Jews in Rotterdam, accepted of the Cardinal's caution with this condition: that he would only give an Holland skilling for an Italian *julio*; whereas the other merchants offered a Spanish skilling, (very near a stiver more), for every one of 'em.

This was the reason that venerable Mother Barbara Boyle received only five thousand guilders exchange-money, or thereabouts, for the two thousand crowns which were sent down from Rome; loosing by the exchange about one in six; which would not have happened had the offer of the other merchants been accepted. But (to say the truth) the Cardinals had reason for what they did: for one of these very merchants did afterwards break, tho' not by his own fault.

Another thing also is to be observed, that our pious Founder, the

219

Cardinal of Norfolk, thought this legacy would have been put out at five in the hundred; and consequently there would have been one hundred & fifty guilders a year for the maintenance of the confessor, and as much for his companion. But soon after the Cardinal's death the interest

fell much lower; so that there was no more to be had (especially in Flanders) on good security, than four in the hundred. And this afterwards was reduced, by reason of the warrs, from exchanging mony to currant mony, and so it still continues. So that by a vigorous computation, according to the intrinsecal value of the mony, Town-houses pay only now a dayes about three & a half in the hundred, exchanging mony: which sum the nuns thought not to be sufficient to maintain a confessour & his companion.

Here is, very Reverend Mothers, the substance of what I writ in this affair, at the desire of the Fathers of our Province. What answer the General gave, I never had the curiosity to inquire. If what I writ be worded to your advantage, 'twas no more than what justice & truth required. Friendship prevailed to give you this account, there being some among you who earnestly desired it of me. If the please to place this paper at the end of your register or depositum book, it may in future times be a satisfaction to all whom it may concern, and will be a lasting memorandum of the good will of Your old Confessour, alwaies true friend, and servant,

Br, Raymund Greene, D.D. Ex-Provincial. Bornhem
The Feast of All Saints, 1722.

Note. My Lord Cardinalls Will in his owne handwriting to give us the silver plate he left in Our Coustody.

Brussels 5 October 1675.

These are to certify whomsoever it may concerne, that if it please God to call me into a better world, I doe give the English Dominican Nunnes in Brussels, all those goods & plate of mine which I leave in theyr keeping, except I shall at any time before-hand order any of it otherwise under my handwriting & seale; Witnes my said hand & seale

Cardinal of Norfolke.

I give them also one thousand gilders which I putte on the house called Rolobane is next to theyr garden. Witnesse John Canning

Henry

Edward Baythorn.

In this paper is the assurance of what my Lord Cardinal gave us.

Copie

Received from our Reverend Father Vicar general Vincent Torre, the 8th of July 1683, these things belonging to our founder his Eminence of Norfolke,

2 gild Chalisses whit the Patents, one which is very massif & great,

220

2 faire silver candlestiks turned

2 great massive silver crewet pots for wine & water

1 massive silver Box

1 large silver square Box

one Sawel [?] set whit Rubies whit a peece of Gold Chaine to it

one picture set in gold of my Lady Catherine Digbyes

one Picture of the earle of Esseck, set in gold and Amels greene

2 auld tusly [?] worke cussions whit his Majesty's Armes

22 Damask napkins

one damask table cloath

Signed Sister Barbara Boyle, Prioress.

TO THE VERY REVEREND, MOST VIRTUOUS, AND MOST RELIGIOUS SISTER, MOTHER ANNA
BUSBY,
ON HER JUBILY OF FIFTY YEARS, IN THE CONVENT OF THE ENGLISH DOMINICAN NUNS, AT
BRUSSELLS, THE FIFTH OF JUNE.
1715

[This rhyme which gives an account of Mother Anne Busby's career is contained in a MS. volume entitled; "The Wandring Muse, or a poetical amusement, to divert and pass away the Time of some Travelling Hours; In an agreable and profitable Manner, By way of Paraphrase, on most of the Chiefest Canticles or Songs. made use of by Holy Church; and some few Selected Psalms. By Fr. Raymund Greene, an English Dominicain, D.D."]

The book, which had been lost during the flight from Brussels, was purchased in 1907 by the Very Rev. Fr. Bracey, O.P., and by him restored to the Carisbrooke Community. The volume is 13 inches by 8 inches, and is bound in brown calf.]

Forbear, my MUSE, to take thy wandring Flights,
Forbear to soar abroad on foreign Heights.
Home yields a Theme, as noble & sublime,
As all thy Verse can reach, or Numbers climb.
Invite thy *Sisters*, call the *Graces* Quire,
Bid *Orpheus* come, let *Phœbus* bring his *Lire*,
There's more than They can sing, or *Helicon* inspire.
Nor think, O MUSE, I rave, or do despise,
What may from *Pindus* or *Parnassus* rise:
Sweet is the Musick of those sacred Hills,
Most sweet the Notes that fall from *Nissa's* Rills;
But sweet too is the Musick *Home* affords,
Most sweet the Notes that BUSBYS Voice accords.
Then try thy Skill, exert thy utmost Force;
Take Care Thou flag not in thy middle Course;
For Heav'n will have Thee mount on wings divine,
And sing the Praises of its *Heroine*.

221

This is thy Subject, this thy glorious Theme,
This bounds thy Song, this from thy Verse must stream.

When early *Reason*, like the blushing Morn,
Began her Soul's high Mountain to adorn;
And raising by Degrees its beauteous Head,
The Valleys of her threefold Pow'ers o'respread;
Then from Above arose the SUN of Grace,
And o're the *Nymph* display'd its glorious Face.
With Faith by Love inflam'd, the *Virgin* view'd
Its radiant Beams, and where *Grace* led, pursued.
The *Magi* scarce with greater Joy from far
Beheld the Glories of the rising Star:
Inspir'd by Heavn's Command, both *She* and *They*
To JESUS and to Mary took the pointed Way.

To *Bruges* first, like Saba's Queen, She came,
To see and hear if all were true, that *Fame*

Reported of those human Seraphins,
Those Saints incarnate, *English Augustines*.
But great was her Amazement when She found
The *Goddess* could not halfe their Praise resound.
Some *Truths* so publick were, that Envy's Reach
Cou'd them of Nought, but too much Good impeach:
But thousands more were hid from Mortals Eyes,
Their *Own* could not discern what Angels did surprise.

Three Years She rested in this blest Retreat,
And thought to make it her perpetual Seat:
But princly Brussels was the fated Place,
Where She was call'd to run her Glories Race.
Mean while to Suff'rings born, She must endure
The golden Trial, and come out as pure.
Parents by Force will have their *Daughter* home,
And willing or unwilling She must come.
Obedience makes Her try the angry Main,
But Storms & Tempests drive Her back again.
How did She bless, how did She thank the Wind,
That was so good, while Friends were so unkind!

Once more repeated Orders cross the Seas,
And sour with sweetest Words the *Virgin's* Ease,
Too young She was, too weak, for Vertues School,
Too tender for Religion's Yoke, for AUSTIN'S Rule.
Too fair They wou'd have said, *too charming bright,*
Too beauteous to be hid from Mortals Sight.
And so indeed it was, tho' what They meant,
Friends strove to colour with a good Intent.
Yet She all-Duty, as all-Vertue too,
Submits to *Fate* what Friends will have her do:
Remounts the Seas, with Hopes, that as before,
The dancing Billows would begin to roar,
And drive Her back again unto the Friendly Shore.
But Vows & Prayers could no new Storms command,

222

No Tempests raise to stem Her off from Land;
Obsequious rather by her Side They rowl,
And heave the Vessel through the *Godwin* Shole.

Thus safe arriv'd, full fraught with lovely Charms,
Bright Vertue fears no Shipwrack but in Parents Arms.
One tedious Year the *Fair's* whole Patience tries,
Whilst *Fops* pretend to idolize her Eyes.
The great Disturbance was, that Friends approv'd
What She esteem'd a Crime, *to be belov'd*.
But Proof to all, victorious keeps the Field,
By no One forc'd, but by her *Self*, to yield.
Resolv'd to fly, She steals a safe Retreat;
Deludes the Foe, and triumphs in the Cheat.

One Friend was found, a *Brother* just and good,
Who bold and gen'rous by his *Sister* stood.
The worthy Youth well knew her chaste Design,
Saw all was pure, all Love, all Flame divine;
Espous'd her Cause, her happy Choice admir'd,
And bid Her go where Heav'n and *Grace* inspir'd.

Thus hast'ning to the Deep, with joyful Eyes
She sees the *Star* with greater *Lustre* rise.
Just o'er her Head it shone, and mark'd the Way,
Where lovely JESUS Her expecting lay.
Some Chang (She thought) its Splendors did attend;
The Rays to *Brussels*, not to *Bruges*, bend.
The anxious Maid the secret Cause inquires,
And Heav'n her Mind with this bright Thought inspires.
In *Austin's* Grove full forty *Cedars* grow,
Their Tops as lofty, as their Roots are low;
Thy *Sister Thecla* towers among the Rest,
With all the Bloom of Grace and Nature blest:
But *Norfolk's* rising Hill at *Brussels* wants
Young Vines and Trees, choice Flowers, and rarest Plants.
Tis here where *Grace* designs Thee; here to be,
Sown, planted, water'd by Humility.
In thy chaste Soul let this fair Vertue shine,
Tho' Roses should in One with Lillies joyn,
Their Odours would be less, their Beauties short of *Thine*.

Thus Heav'n at once did Light and Courage give,
Where She must go, what do, and how must live.
Nor did the chosen Nymph unfaithful prove
To Grace's Call, or slacken in her Love.
The Zeal and Ardour of her *Novice-Year*,
At *Fifty's* End, does still the Same appear.
Sincerity and Truth adorn her candid Mind,
Religion's Rigour with Indulgence joyn'd.
Ye noble VESTALS, can your Verdict bring,
Ye can assert, and witness what I sing.
For Ye alone her Worth can truly tell,
In whose pure Breasts your *Mother's* Vertues dwell.

223

Your Choice and Judgment deem'd Her fitt to bear
The Sweets of *Marie's* Charge, the Weight of *Martha's* Care.

No Wonder then if such rare Gifts of Mind
Should Love at Borne, Abroad shou'd Admiration find.
Their just Report of Friends and Parents flew,
And from their Arms their eldest *Daughter* drew [Sister Elizabeth Teresa Busby, professed in 1671].

Tempted *She* was to see dear ANNA'S Choice,
But vow'd *She* would not hear her *Siren's* Voice.
So Kindness was intended, Nothing more;

A Visit, not Religion, brought Her o're.
 But vain are Vows; in vain does *Nature* swear,
 When foolish *She* does War with Grace declare.
 Triumphant *Grace* was quickly pleas'd to shew,
 What wond'rous Change its mighty Power could do.
 A secret Flame invades her tender Heart;
 And burns, consumes it not, with pleasing Smart.
 Bright ANNA'S Vertue, Worth, and Merits, fire
 Her Soul with Love, inkindle one Desire.
 Thus doubly joyn'd, by Grace as well as Blood,
 The *Sisters* strive, not to be Great, but Good.
 The *Younger* was advanc'd in Vertues Course,
 Which made the *Elder* run with double Force.
 Led on by Love the swift TERESIA flies,
 And gains in ANNA'S sight the blissful Prize.
 But 'twas not Want of Love made ANNA slack,
 'Twas too much Weight thereof that kept Her back.
 O'recharg'd, not tir'd; o'repowr'd by Love, not spent;
 She yields the Palm, and glories in Consent.
 Her Will, her Pleasure is, to have it so,
 Since *Love* commands TERESIA first should go.
 This Joy She finds in closing of her Eyes,
A Saint my Sister liv'd, a Saint She dies.

Thee too, her Neece and Child, with Sighs suppress,[Sister Mary Teresa Busby, professed
 in 1700]

She tending saw to thy Eternal Rest.
 Thy blooming Youth insur'd long Years Increase,
 To live her Joy, and close her Eyes in Peace.
 But now full ripe for Heavn's divine Embrace,
 Thou wert to see thy GOD'S, but She no more thy Face.
 Great was her Grief, but greater was her Mind,
 That could such Struglings feel, and be resign'd,
 To mighty Grief *frail Nature* seem'd to yield,
 But mightier *Grace* made *Nature* keep the Field.
 Not so thy Friends, who sought from Tears Reliefe,
 But found a *Flood* could not asswage their Grief.
 Their Joy, their Life was gone, their Hearts Delight,
 When MARY-TERESE t'wards Heav'n took her Flight.
 Thy vertuous *Life* made Them this Judgment frame,

224

Thy precious *Death* confirm'd Them in the Same.
 Ah! dear and much lamented *Shade*, how shall
 My humble *Muse* thy lofty Praise extoll ?
 Young, Lovely, Pleasant, Chearful, Witty, Gay,
 A *Temper* sweeter than the Sweets of *May*.
 A *Soul* sublime, of Harmony compos'd ;
 In thy fair *Body's* Frame, as Beauties *Shrine*, inclos'd.
 When Thou with graceful Touch of flying Hand

Didst *skim* the *Keys*, and *airy Sounds* command,
How did the noble *Organ* dance t'obey!
And We, how ravish'd stand, to hear Thee play!
But These meer *Shadows* of Perfections were,
To those diviner *Gifts* thy *Soul* from *Grace* did share.
Pure, Humble, Patient, Faithful, Just, and True,
Religion's Love, Delight, Example too.
Come, *All The Nine*, corne with the *Graces-Three*,
Come, Sing the charming *Virgin's Elegy*.
Bring *Violets*, bring *Roses*, bring the *Spring*.
Bring all the *Pride* that *May* can usher in:
And whilst the *Milky-Way* with *Flow'rs* Ye strow,
Let my condoling *Muse* in Consort flow;
All, All's too little for the matchless Nun,
All, All's too little, but the Crown. She 'as won.

Return, my *Muse*, these *Raptures* make Thee stray;
Tis too much *Splendour* makes Thee loose thy *Way*.
Return to *ANNA'S* *Worth*; Return again,
To sing her *Praises* in a *Swan-like Strain*.
Serene and calm *SHE* waits th'approaching *Day*,
Which shall what *Mortal* is exchange to *Clay*;
Not bowing to the *Weight* of stooping *Years*,
(For in her *Meen* a vig'rous *Youth* appears);
But by the *Weight of Vertue* downwards tends,
And *Humble by descending* *Heav'n ascends*.

Long may *SHE* live, and happy live to see
The *Years* had made her *Neeces Jubily*.
Five *Lustres* more upon her *Organs* play,
As *She* has done full *fifty* *Years* this *Day*.
And when the *Fulness* of ripe *Time* is come,
That *Grace* invites *Her* to a *Blessed Home*,
May *She* in Consort with those *VIRGINS* joyn,
Who near the *LAMB* in brightest *Glories* shine,
And sing a *Song* in *Heav'n*, all-new, and all-divine.
The cordial sincerest *Wishes* of *Her Reverences*
most humble and devoted *Servant*, *Br. Raymund Greene*
D.D. Confessour unworthy.

225

PROFESSION BOOK.

Jesus. Maria. Dominicus

All Glory be to God now & for ever. Amen.

In this Book are written the Solemn Professions of the English Religious women of St Dominick's Order in Villvord. Which Monastery is begun and founded by the Right Honourable the Lord Philip Howard, third Sonne to the Duke of Norfolk, Earle of Arundelle etc., now by his offis Lord Allmoner to the Queen of England.

The year of our Lord on thousand six hundred sixty one. May the first 1661.

Jesus. Maria. Dominicus.

I, Sister Antonia Howard, doe make my Profession, and promise Obedience unto God, and unto the Blessed virgine Marie, and unto the Blessed saint Dominik, & unto you Sister Ludovica van Hertogh, Prioress of the English Nunns of Vilvuord, instead of the most Reverend Father Jhon Baptista de Marinis, master generall of the whole Order of fryars Preachers: and his Successors, according to the Rule of St Augustine and the institutions of the Sisters whose charge is committed unto the said order, that I will be Obedient to you & your successors untell death. Provided, in case I recover of this my present sicknes, then this my foremade profession is invalid untell it be publickly solemnized anew, after the tearme of my probation yeare in the hands of my lawfull superior: but if I die of this sickness, the said profession is to hould & bee valid. Aged 16. October the 2, 1661. Sister Antonia Howard.

Sister Antonia Howard dyed the 8th of Oct. 1661.

Jesus. Maria. Dominicus.

I, Sister Barbara Boyle doe protest that by no force, compulsion, or feare I have entred the Order of S. Dominick, but, as I hope by the instinct of the Holy Ghost: and so I intend to persever, & make my profession in the same: in testimony whereof I have hereunto written my name in this Convent of Religious wemen of S. Dominick's Order at Vilvuord July 13 in the yeare of our Lord 1664.

Sister Barbara Boyle.

I, Sister Barbara Boyle, do make my profession and promise Obedience to God and our Blessed Lady Mary alwise a Virgin, to St Dominick, and you Reverend mother, sister Luisa de Hertoghe, Prioress of this English Convent of St Dominick's Order at Vilvuord, supplying the place of the most Rev^d Father Jhon Baptist de Marinis Generall of the Order of Preachers, and of his Successors, according to the Rule of St. Augustin, and the Constitutions of the Sisters of the Order of Preachers, that I will be Obedient to you, and your Successours untell death. aged 30. Sister Barbara Boyle.

Mother Barbara Boyle died the 21 of February 1717;

226

Sister Bridgett Magdalen Sheldon, professed at Vilvuord July 14th 1665. Aged 25. Died Dec. 12th 1699.

Sister Catherine Mildmay, professed at Vilvuord July 14th 1665. Aged 21. Died August 9th 1714.

Sister Jeane Berchmans, professed at Vilvuord Sept. 14th 1685. Died August 6th 1669. Lay Sister.

Our dear sister in Christ, Sister Jane Berchmans a lay sister was borne in Brabant in the Parish of Horne by Bruxells, of pious Catholick parents, she entered into our Convent at Villfort & was ther professed in the year of our Lord 1665. She was a very exact vertuous Religious, a carefull observer of silence & all Religious disciplin, she bore with a wonderfull patience and resignation to the Divine Will a very painfull troublesome distemper, which deprived her of the use of her right hand and seemed to enter with a strange corruption into her body rendring her for some weeks before her death, unable to helpe herselfe. She received the rights of the Church & happily left this world upon a friday the 6th of August about three-o-clock in the afternoon in the year of our Lord 1669. Requiescat in pace.

Sister Frances Pecke, professed at Vilvord, Nov. 16th 1665. Aged 45. Died July 14th 1680.

Sister Columba Pounce, professed at Vilvord March 4th 1666. Aged 25. This is a lay sister. Died Jan 2nd 1699.

Sister Anne Busby, professed at Vilvord April 26th 1666. Aged 19. Died Dec. 11th 1722.

Sister Margarite Catherine of St Dominick Howard, professed at Vilvord May 15th 1668. Aged 31. Died June 28th 1683.

Our Cloyster is translated from Villvord to the City of Bruxells, why & whearfore you will see in the book which includes a tru relation & acount of our begining and increas.

227

Sister Dorothy Cannyng, professed at Bruxells, July 3rd 1670. Aged 18. Died Sept. 15th 1712.

Sister Elizabeth Teresa Busby, professed at Bruxells, December 18th 1671. Aged 28. Died November 22nd 1710.

Sister Mary Crofts, professed at Bruxells August 3th 1672. Aged 24. Died May 16th 1720.

Sister Anna Maria Thompson, professed at Bruxells, May 7th 1674. Aged 18. Died Dec. 8th 1728.

Sister Margarite Constantia Mildmay, professed at Bruxells, May 8th 1675. Aged 17. Died Feb. 25th 1728.

Sister Tecla Darcy, professed at Bruxells, May 8th 1675. Aged 23. Died April 27th 1722.

Sister Susanna Barker, professed at Bruxelles, October 10th 1675. Aged 33. Died April 1st 1722.

Sister Susanna Christina Touchet, professed at Bruxls, February 28th 1677. Aged 21. Died November 19th 1694.

Sister Maria Delphina Stafford Howard, professed at Bruxels March 2nd 1677. Aged 19. Died January 12th 1714.

Sister Anna Sophia Gallaway, professed at Bruxels April 20th 1677. Aged 17. Died November 19th 1694.

Sister Anna Margarita Hurlocke, professed at Bruxells, October 10th 1679. Aged 24. Died January 9th 1680. This is a lay sister.

Our dear Sister in Christ, Sister Anna Margarita Hurlock, a lay sister left this miserable life, as we have much reason to hope for a better, upon a Tusday betwixt 9 & 10 a clock in the morning, the 9th day of Januarie 1680, three months after her profession. According to her very earnest desire (though the Doctor did not Judge her disease mortall) she received the most Blessed Sacrament for her Viaticum upon the Circumcision of our Lord, being on a Munday, & the Friday following the holy Extrean Uction. Her distemper seized upon her on All Saints at night, yet she performed her ordinary labours for 8 or 10 dayes, but with much difficultye by reason of excessive pains like the Collick. She entred our Convent the 4th of Jully 1676 & with much importunity obtained our holy habit upon the 20 of June 1677, on a Sunday in the octave of Corpus Christi. She was of a singular moddest reserved carriage, much adicted to prayer & recollection, zealliously devoted to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, an exact observer of holy silence & of all Religious dutyes. She gave constant testimonyes of an extreordinary vocation to Religion which she indeavoured to enter into a few years affter her conversion from

228

the heresie she was bred in, to the holy Catholick faith; not being able to effect her pious desires she made a vow of chastity. She spent the time of her Noviship (which was above two years) very vertuously, & three monthes affter her holy profession was called, as we hope, to a happy eternity.

Requiescat in pace.

Sister Letitia Maria Barker, professed at Bruxells, February 19th 1680. Aged 18. Died March 17th 1748.

Sister Jane Agnes Atmore, professed at Bruxells, September 2nd 1681. Aged 33. Died April 27th 1731.

Sister Mary Agatha Smith, professed at Bruxells, September 2nd 1681. Aged 16. Died June 10th 1694.

Sister Isabella Winefrid Hansbie, professed at Bruxells November 23rd 1682. Aged 19. Died May 27th 1734.

Sister Anne Ursula Coleman, professed at Bruxells, November 15th 1685. Aged 18. Died January 7th 1733.

Sister Mariana Chilton, professed at Bruxels February 17th 1688. Aged 19. Died January 20th 1741.

Sister Maria Augustina Yate, professed at Bruxells May 21st 1690. Aged 22. Died August 9th 1733.

Sister Elizabeth Dominica Howard of Norfolk, professed at Bruxells February 10th 1695. Aged 18. Died December 17th 1761.

Sister Mary Rosa Howard of Norfolk, professed at Bruxells, February 10th 1695. Aged 17. Dyed the 18th of April 1747. Aged 70, proffest 53. Was Piores of this Convent in the year 1721.

Sister Mary Teresa Busby, professed at Bruxelles October 7th 1700. Aged 17. Died August 18th 1711.

Sister Penelope Mary Claire Stanford, professed at Bruxelles April 20th 1701. Aged 20. Died September 29th 1709.

Sister Catherina Mary Joseph Howard of Norfolk, professed at Bruxelles August 17th 1701. Aged 18. Died February 2nd 1753.

Sister Mary Agatha Ward, professed at Bruxelles, February 10th 1702. Aged 26. This is a lay Sister. Died November 11th 1728.

Sister Martha Roberts, professed at Bruxells December 21st 1706. Aged 27. This is a lay Sister. Died May 3rd 1755.

Sister Elizabeth Brent, professed at Bruxells December 21st 1706. Aged 24. This is a lay Sister. Died June 13th 1752.

Sister Olimpia Francis Bulstrode, professed at Bruxells March 10th 1707. Aged 19. Died January 30th 1733.

Sister Margaret Xavere Ellerker, professed at Bruxells June 6th 1711. Aged 41. Died February 22nd 1737.

Sister Mary Teresa Sarsfield, professed at Bruxells, February 22nd 1712. Aged 36. Died February 5th 1740.

Sister Catharin Winifrid Hyde, professed at Bruxells October 20th 1716. Aged 18. Died August 14th 1752.

Sister Margarit Joseph Compton, professed at Bruxells July 1st 1717. Aged 22. Died July 23rd 1768.

Sister Margarit Mary Clare Boucher, professed at Bruxells September 27th 1718. Aged 25. Died February 24 1752.

229

Sister Elizabeth Mary Young, professed at Bruxells December 14th 1721. Aged 21. Died January 11th 1774.

Sister Anne Lucy Thompson, professed at Bruxells May 24th 1723: Aged 22. Died October 26th 1778.

Sister Mary Cecily Polehampton, professed at Bruxells June 17th 1723. Aged 16. Died July 14th 1746. Aged 39. Profest 23.

Sister Anna Maria Short, professed at Bruxells October 30th 1731. Aged 31. Died December 10th 1782.

Sister Mary Agatha Groves, professed at Bruxells November 21st 1732. Aged 25. This is a lay Sister. Died April 10th 1749.

Sister Margarit Mary Agnes Short, professed at Bruxells June 22d 1734. Aged 18. Died October 19th 1780.

Sister Mary Frances Segrave, professed at Bruxells, July 27th 1734. Aged 18. Died December 3rd 1790.

Sister Mary Catharine Yates, professed at Bruxells October 12th 1734. Aged 28. Died May 14th 1773.

Sister Mary Ursula Short, professed at Bruxells September 6th 1735. Aged 17. Dyed the 30th of Nouvember 1741. Aged 25. Profest 7 years.

Sister Mary Augustine Watkinson, professed at Bruxells August 19th 1738. Aged 20. Dyed the 1st of January 1763.

Sister Mary Barbara Fuller, professed at Bruxells February 8th 1739. Aged 22. Dyed the 30th of May 1785.

Sister Mary Anna Calvert, professed at Bruxelles October 30th 1750. Aged 27. Died

Sister Mary Teresa Brooke, professed at Bruxells June 1st 1756. Aged 27. Dyed the 5th October 1789.

Sister Mary Rose Brooke, professed at Bruxells June 1st 1756. Aged 23. Dyed the 21 Jenery 1757.

Sister Frances Mary Benedict Halford, professed at Bruxells January 29th 1783. Aged 25.

Sister Mary Magdalen Jackson, professed at Bruxelles Sept. 30th 1783. Aged 28. Died March 12th 1788.

Sister Elizabeth Mary Joseph Hunt, professed at Bruxelles, June 9th 1789. Aged 22.

Sister Ann Mary Magdalen Barstow, professed at Bruxelles, August 26th 1790. Aged 21.

Sister Ann Mary Catherine Teresa Danton, professed at Bruxelles, January 25th 1791. Aged 37.

Sister Elizabeth Mary Rose Stowers, professed at Bruxelles, January 25th 1791. Aged 28.

N.B. On the 18th day of January 1791: by the desire of the Archpriest of Bruxelles, commissioned to examine Sister El. M. Rose Stowers's vocation; & duly authorized by John Henry, Cardinal Archbishop of Mechlin; I, underwritten, baptised (conditionally) the said Sister Elitabeth Stowers. John Hurst was her (conditional) Godfather, and Mother Ann Calvert Godmother.

Bruxelles 18th January 1791.

Br L. Brittain, of the Holy Order of Preachers & Confessor to this Community of English Dominicanesses.

230

Sister Jane Mary Teresa Leadbitter, professed at Bruxelles, August 28th 1791 Aged.....

Sister Ann Catharine Van Roly, professed at Bruxelles, April 16th 1793. Aged 39. For my name I sign +. The above crosses were signed by Sister Catharine. Witnesses, Br. L. Brittain, Confessor.

Sister Mary Louisa Allgood.

Sister Elizabeth Ann Dominick Brooke, professed at Bruxelles, May 10th 1757. Aged 27.

Sister Mary Hyacinth Wilkinson, professed at Bruxelles, May 10th 1758 Aged 19. Died December 27th 1788.

Sister Mary Clementina Paston, professed at Bruxelles, May 16th 1758. Aged 22. Died August the 2, 1779.

Sister Mary Joseph Constable, professed at Bruxelles, July 26th 1758. Aged 45. Died October the 7, 1780.

Sister Elizabeath Jerome Kitchin, professed at Bruxelles, January 4th 1761. Aged 22. This is a Lay-sister.

Sister Sarah Alexia Kitchin, professed at Bruxelles, January 4th 1763. Aged 21. Died March 6th 1789.

Sister Mary Louisa Allgood, professed at Bruxelles, December 8th 1779. Aged 32.

Sister Ann Mary Dominica Stennett, professed at Hartpury Court, October 29th 1806. Born Sep. 29th 1774.

Sister Winifred Mary Agnes Stead, professed at Hartpury Court, April 28th 1808. Born May 11th 1777.

Sister Frances Jane Frances Russell, professed at Hartpury Court, Feb. 7th 1810. Born Dec. 9th 1782.

Sister Jane Mary Joseph Cooper, professed at Hartpury Court, April 19th 1815. Born August 2nd 1791.

Sister Jane Mary Hyacinth Malthouse, professed at Hartpury Court, May 12th 1824. Born March 6th 1800.

Sister Mary Ann Catherine King, professed at Hartpury Court, October 4th 1826. Born April 15th 1802.

Sister Ann Mary Louisa Speakman, professed at Hartpury Court, May 6th 1829. Born March 13th 1797.

The Council Book

Hear begins all the Propositions & determinations passed in Counsel since the Election of Reverend Mother Julia Brown whow whas Confirmed Prioress of this Monastery of Religious women of St Dominiks ordre att Bruxelles the 25th of August 1730.

Mother jubilaria Letitia Barker whas meade Supprioress by the voths of the Counselle the 26th of August 1730.

231

The 7th of Septembre the Reverend Mother & all the Counsel agreed upon putting Mrs Polhamtons too hondred pound upon the securite Mr Strickland proposed att 5 in the hundred. 1730.

Mrs Short is to have for Clothing twenty five pound. For Proffession twenty five pound more. During her life the Hous is to heve forty pound a year, of wich five pound is for a yeraly Solem Requiem Mass for Dr Short during her Life with the weekly office of the dead that weke the Mass is sung. Other five pounds out of the forty for the Prioress pro tempore that Mrs Short may with mowre fredom goe to the Prioress for Little tings she wants.

Sister Francis Bulstrode Secretary of the Council.

Ann Short October the 11, 1730.

By the consent of the Council met together, the acomodation was meade btwikt our Communaute & Mr Ancillon upon & according the agrement meade betuine him & Mother Constantia Mildmay, the year 1717 of reducing our rent from four & half in the hondert to four only. The Reverend Mother Julia Brown with the consent of the Counsell has acommodated all

this affaire between Mr Absolon & us, et from the 17 February 1731 & is determined by both parties henseforward to pay 4 per cent, which rent must be paid by him that lives in the House of the Elephant, payable according to the contract february 21, 1731. Witness my hand,

Sister Francis Bulstrode, Secretary.

Witness Sister M. Rosa Howard of Norfolk.

By the consent of the Reverend Mother the Council has appointed the Procuratress to repay Sister Mary Rosa Howard fifty-eight gilders ten styvers, which is in full all she pretends on certain expenses, for the procuring of the excise for ever. Witness my hand Sister Francis Bulstrode Secretary.

The Council has appointed that the Procuratrix should give out of the rents of the house, some gratification as the Reverend Mother will think proper to Mr L'Abbe ... for his trouble in soliciting our excise, as witness my hand.

Sister Francis Bulstrode

witness Sister M. Rosa Howard of Norfolk

But he accepted none of the money offered paid back to Mr Brown.

The 2d of May it is agreed in Council that in consideration of the somme of 50 pound received from Mrs Pool there shall be a solemn Mass with the libera sung & the office of the dead said the same week for her deceased husband. and the office of the dead to be said once a year for ever for the same intention, Likewise the general Communion to be offered once a year during her life for her spiritual & temporal happiness and a daily memory of them among our benefactors, as witness our hands 2d of May 1731.

Sister Francis Bulstrode

Secretary & Depositaria

witness Sister Mary Rosa Howard of Norfolk

232

This 23 of September 1732 the Reverend Mother & Council agreed to lend Father Winter Rector of Louvain the Sum of six hundred gilders exchange for the use of the College upon his farther assignment on the Capital debt we have of this in our depositum upon the town house of Brussels for the principal and interest for the fore said some.

Sister Francis Bulstrode Secretary & Depositaria

witness Sister Mary Rosa Howard of Norfolk

Having agreed the Council together in buying the Land next our Garden wall, joining our great house, two little houses, & one dwelling house next the street this 16 May 1733 Sister M. Rosa Howard of Norfolk We after agreed to take on interest exchange money *Secretary & Witness* towards the payment of that land: & repay it out of our first Capital at which is repaid, & fully satisfied for the Land.

We have also agreed in Council, August the 17th 1733, That in Consideration of a second Charity of fifty pound, sterling Received from the Widdow Poole, to have in Community a Son Mass, said at our Altar once a year for her, for ever, to which we likewise oblige our successors for ever.

The above said 50 pounds sterling sent us also by the Widdow Poole May the 2d 1731, as also this 2d Charity was both employ'd towards purchasing the Land & joining our Garden.

The 7th of November 1732

The Council agreed to receive Mrs Margrite Short upon trial for a years noviciat upon the following conditions.

That she is to have three hondert pounds portion if she lives to the age of one and twenty til wich time we ar to heve the interest there of besids twenti pound att clothing and twenti moure att the profession and is to pay for the year of her noviship fifteen pound wich we suse to be the interest of the abouve three hondert pounds.

Sister Francis Bulstrode secretary and
depositarian witness Sister M. Rosa Howard of Norfolk.

The 3d of Agost the Council agreed to take Mrs Yeats for a Quire Nun on the account of 150^{ll} starling witness my hand Sister M. R. Howard of Norfolk 1732.

The 11 of Jun 1734 the Reverend Mother Cald her Council on recieving Mrs Margerit Short to her Profession; & having reneu'd the Contract, wee find sum small changes in affairs on the account of her fathers death in her Noviship, so to ajust all maters wright, the Council was pleased to determin as followes.

The 300^{ll} starling being paid by our orders to Mr Strickland, who daly expects the puting it out on rent, wee Chuse to advance the 20^{ll} for the Profession, which maks her portion two hundred & eighty pound starland.

The Reverend Mother Broun having assembled the Council the 2 Jun 1733 on the account of a letter from Mr Segrife upon his daughters reception to our Habit, & agreement for her Profession the Council has determined as following.

233

Three hundred & fifty pound starling to be paid two months before profession, fifty for Clothing & profession Including all expences, fifteen pound pention the yeare of her Noviship which is what wee demand as the portion of our house, to be understood all exchange mony.

The Ladys name is Mrs Frances Segrife the Eldest daughter.

Sister Mary Rosa Howard of Norfolk (Sister Margarite Xav: Ellerker).

At Mrs Segrifs profession all the above said conditions were performed by her father, & payd to Mr Strickland the above saide Summe. 350 placed by Mr Strickland on security of Mrs Devereux's estate at 5 per sent., begining the 15 of July 1734.

The 14 of July 1734 the Reverend Mother Mariana Chilton Cald the Council to propose Mrs Ursula Short to her Clothing. Her temporal Conditions are Fifty pound starling in Mr Bostacks hands & fifty more promised at her Profession, payable to our orders by Mrs Dickison whose note in case of death wee have which is all wee can demand as agreed one, Mrs Dickison has paid the 50^{ll} as promised.

Reverend Mother Marianna Chilton Prioress propossed Mrs Mary Walkison to her Clothing which was the 23 July 1737, the Conditions proposed was 30^{ll} 20 paid down, & 10 at Profession, with 100^{ll} starling for her Portion, by our Orders to Mr Strickland, 6 weeks before her Profession as passed betwine us & her father at parting, & which agreement was exactly performed by her Father.

In September 1738 Reverend Mother prioress Chilton proposed to the Council Mra Mary Fuller for a Nun, on the following Conditions, offered by her father in Law Mr Morris, & her own Mother barth heare together, and agreed all they could allow was 170^{ll} of which 20 was paid at her Clothing, the 150^{ll} delivered Mr Strickland by our orders 6 weeks before her profession, out of which wee touk 15¹¹ for Profession expences, so all that agreement is fully satisfied.

Being comande by the Reverend Mother I writ what follows ... Wee underwriten Mothers of the Council do concent & determin that the 100^{ll} which Mrs Andrews promised to pay this Comunity for Sir Mary Cathrin Yeates portion at 10^{ll} par annum till the full payd, when received to be given to the Procuratrix for the maintenance of the said Sister Cathrine Yeats, of which from the year 1734 till the year 1740 there's 60^{ll} dew to the Procuratrix the rest to be

paid yearly this Reverend Mother Mary Young obliges me to writ, to this present yeare Jen 1740 wee have reed nothing from Mrs Andrews.

Jen: the 2, 1740

Sister Mary Young Prioress
Sisir Letitia Barker Jubilarion
Sister Mary Anna Chilton Jubilarion
Sister Catherine Winifride Hyde
Sister Margarit Joseph Compton
Sister Mary Clare Boucher
Sister Ann Lucy Thompson

234

The Reverend Mother Anna Maria Short cald the Council on the 8 of Agust 1746 on the account of Mrs Polehampton last will & Testament Concerning the 200^{ll} seteled in France, the product of which comes to about 40 Guilders *salve justi* yearly, wee unanimously concented to charge our self with the obligation of those Masses at a skiling a Mass as far as the monny produces for the sayd Mrs Polehampton with that of all her famuly Souls. Wee enter on that obligation from the day of her daughter Mary Cicly Polehamptons death the 14 Jull7 1746, the Fathers of Bornhem are left 20 Masses, the Confessor 10, the rest at the apointment of the Prioress in our Church as occasion sarves & the monny received by the Procuratrix, who each yeare must bring in her accounts the number of the Masses say'd, according to the muny received.

Sister Anna Maria Short Prioress
Sister Margret Compton Sub Priouress
Sister Letitia Barker Jubilarion
Sister Elis Dominica Howard Jubilarian
Sister Maria Rosa Howard Jubilarian
Sister Catherine Winifride Hyde
Sister Mary Clare Boucher
Sister Mary Elisabeth Young
Sister Ann Lucy Thompson

The Reverend Mother Anna Maria Short hauving Cald he Council apou the 7th of February 1748 Proposed to them to have said 12 Masis in our Church; by the Confessour of our Convent for the Souls of all our Dear Deceest'd Religious; & for our future Posterity; at a Skilling a Mase; to be said every furst Munday of ech Month; payd by the Procuratrix out of the Rents of the Convent, to Which all Joyfully Consentid & unanimusly desierd; as agreed apon; Might be Registerd in this our Council Booke the 7th of February 1748 Follia the 7th

Sister Ann Short prioress
Sister Dominica Howard of Norufock Jubilarion
Sister Catherine Winifride Hyde
Sister Mary Clare Boucher
Sister Mary Elisabeth Young
Sister Ann Lucy Thompson

The Reverend Mother Anna Maria Short hauving Cald her Council, apou the 16th of Septembre 1750 for Reciving Sister Mary Anna Calvert to her Professton. She was unanimusly Reciued & Profest the 30 of October 1750. Died October 17th 1800. She had for her Portion a Hunderd pound Starling & for Cothing & Proffestion 20 pounds; all is payd to us as agreed apon;

The Hunderd Pounds is put out by Madame Nittin with other Mony of ours at Vienne this year 1751.

Ann Short Prioress Margaret Compton
Mother Jubilarion Dominica Howard
Sister Catherine Winifrid Hyde
Sister Mary Clare Boucher
Sister Mary Elisabeth Young
Sister Ann Lucy Thompson.

235

The Reverend Mother Anna Mary Short hauving Cald her Council upon the 30th of May 1751. Proposed to us the disiers of the Right Honoured Lady Stourton of Giving a Hunderd Pounds Starling for a Weeckly Mase for her Sons Soul Lord Petters, sayd by the Confessour of the Convent; at a Skilling a Mase which all agreed tow; but with this Condistion that if the mony should come to be lost this perpetuall Obligations cescis: the Hunderd pound is put by Madame Nittin for us; at Vienne at 5 par cent; it bears interist from the ...

The Remeander of the Yearly income of this Mony is to be Givine of the ... of the Church; as agreed & determened by the all the Councell; the same day.

Ann Short prioress Margaret Compton
Mother Dominica Howard Jubilarion
Sister Mary Clare Boucher
Sister Mary Elisabeth Young
Sister Ann Lucy Thompson

Reverend Mother Margaret Joseph Compton call'd the Council 16th of February 1754 to propose the accepting a Hunderd pound from the Right Honourable Lady Stourton with the obligation of a weekly Mass for the deceas'd Lord Stourton, & happy Death for her self, & when Dead to be join'd in the Requiem. The Hunderd pound is put out by Madame Nettinat Vienna at five per cent, to which we added two Hunderd & forty one current Gul^{drs} to make it a Thousand German Gul^{drs}. The Mass is to be said by the Confessor at a skilling the Mass.

Sister Mary Teresa Brooke was Profess'd the first of June 1756, her fortune was a Hundred pound & twenty for her Clothing & Profession Expences.

Her sister Mary Rose Brooke had the same Portion & was Profess'd on the same day.

Sister Ann Dominick Brooke Profess'd on the 10 of May 1757 had for her fortune a Hundred pound & 30 for her Clothing & Profession expences. Died March the 8th 1816 aged 87.

Sister Mary Aloysia Spalding was Clothed 24 of February 1756 Profess'd on her Deathbed the 20th of January 1757.

Sis. Mary Hyacinth Wilkinson was Profess'd on the 11 of May 1758

Sister Mary Clementina Paston Profess'd on the 16th of May 1758 had for her fortune 240 pound & 40 for her Clothing & Profession expences.

Sister Mary Joseph Constable was Profess'd on the 26 of July 1758, her fortune was 160 pound & 40 for her Clothing & Profession.

Sister Margaret Mary Louisa Allgood Profess'd the 8th of December 1779. Daughter to Robert Allgood & Mary Potts Hexham Northumberland. Died 1st of January 1821, aged 74.

Reverend Mother, Ma: Agnes Short Proposes to they Council, that as there is a very greate appearence that by mains of friends & Charitys there may be a Little Convent Billt, they M^{ors} of they Council Consent that it may be begun, but Declare that our Rents

236

may never be tuch'd nor money taken up at Interest for the aforesaid Billding, as the House we have soul'd: to the Man of the Rollingbol for 800 perm^{on} Gul^s, wase Bought with intention of billding we Consent that money when paid shall be for that use.

December the 3d 1772. Sister M. A. Short Prioress

Sister Ann Short Supprioess

Sister Mary Elisabeth Young

Sister Ann Lucy Thompson

Sister Ma. Frances Segrave

Reverend Mother, Ma. Agnes Short with her Council Accepts of Mrs Dorothy Thorolds last Will where she laves us 3000 Gl'drs Ex^{ch} and 1000 Gldrs Exch: for a weekly Mass to be said by our Confessor at 10 pence a Mass for her Soul & that of her Husband, her Father Mother Sisters, Uncle & Aunt with a Solemn Mass & office of the Dead on the day of her Anniversary, which the 2d of March this 1000 Gul: is put upon the town House of Bruxelles & due the 15 of April. 35 Gul^{ds}.

Sister M: A: Short Prioress

Sister Ann Short Supprioress

Sister Ann Lucy Thompson

Sister Ma. Frances Segrave.

Reverend Mother Sister Mary Agness Short and all they Community have agreed, that out of greatfull acknowlegment for the Vast Charitys we have Receivd twords Building our House, from Mr Jesup that on his Anniversary day the 24 of March there must be a Low Mass, Office of the Dead, & Com[m]union for his Soul & the Performance of which we oblige our Selves and Posterity.

Sister M. A. Short, Supprioress,

Sister Ann Short Supprioress

Sister Ma. F. Segrave

Sister Barbara Fuller

On account of a thousand perm^{on} Gul^d given us by Madame Fonton de Lasalle, Reverend Mother Ma. Agnes Short with her Council & Community Accipts of what she proposses: which is to have yearly a Low Mass for her deceas'd husband, Mons: Antoine Guill: Fonton de Lasalle on his Anniversary day the 23d of October, and after her Death a Low Mass on her Anniversary & a Miserere & De profonds at End of Each. The Performance of which we oblige our-selves and Posterity.

Sister M. A. Short Supprioress

Sister Ann Short Supprioress

July the 25:

1777

Sister Ma. F. Segrave

Sister Ma. Barbara Fuller

Sister Frances Mary Benidict Halford, Daughtr to Mr Thomas Halford & Ann Welch London. She had a Hundred pound for her fortune, professed January the 29 1783.

Dyed the 28 of August 1792.

Sister Ma. Magdelain Jackson Daughter of William Jackson & Mary Beadlam Heggerston in Northumberland. She had a Hundred pound for her fortune. Professed September the 30, 1783.

Dyed the 12 of March 1788.

Sister Mary Joseph Hunt Daughter to George Hunt & Mary Fooks Dorcetshire had for fortune 2 Hundred pounds Stock. Professed the 9 of June 1789. Died August the 10, 1794. aged 27.

Reverend Mother Sister Ann Dominick Broock has with the Council agre'd to the following Masses yearly for ever.

March the 3d Sister Frances Andrews Anniversary with the office of the Dead, 2 skillins a Mass.

April the 1st for William Andrews Anniversary with the office of the Dead, Mass 2 skillins.

July the 12 Sister Constantia Jesup Anniversary Mass 1 skilling & office of the Dead.

September the 2 Bredgit Lady, Anniversary Mass 2 skillings, office of the Dead.

September the 25 Phillip Southcote Anniversary with the office of the Dead, Mass 2 skillings.

October the 14 til Mrs Southcote Anniversary with the office of the Dead, Mass 2 skillins.

October the 19 Reverend Mother Mary Agness Short Anniversary Mass, & the office of the Dead 1 skillin.

November the 28 Mrs Ellen Andrews Anniversary office of the Dead Mass 2 skillins,

For Reverend Father Master Short on St Benidicts Day, & at his Death on his Anniversary Mass, & office of the Dead 1 skillin.

These are all perlude obligations agreed by Council, all the Anniversarys are Low Masses.

This is likewise agreed by Council to aply the interest of the Benifaction of £500, left us by Mr Southcote which is £25-10 yearly towards discharging in ban Gelders demands & anny other Debts.

Sister Ann Dominick Brooke Prieriss

Sister Ma. F. Segrave Suprioress

Sister Ma. Barbara Fuller

Sister M. Ann Calvert

Sister M. T. Brooke

Sister M. H. Wilkinson

Reverend Mother Sister M. Ann Calvert with her Council has Agreed that the Interest of £500 part of the £600 old South Sea Annuities should be yearly laid by in order to Compleat the Slating of the House; but that in case of Necessity shall be applied to the use of the Procuratrix.

Sister M. Ann Calvert Prioress

Sister M. France Segrave Supprioress

Sister Ann Domick Brooke

Sister M. Benedict Halford

November the 13, 1794. Reverend Mother Mary Louisa Allgood, with her Counsel has agreed to comply with Reverend Father Confessor demands which was to pay him yearly while in England £8 more to the £12 he had at Brussells which makes his yearly salary £20 compleat. Washing, Mending, Beer, included; out of which he is to find himself in Tea, Suger, and other little necessaries, to repair his Clothes; the Counsel likewise require that the intentions for our

238

Deceased Benefactors shall be fulfilled as before when in our Convent; and that in case we have the happiness to return to Brussells the Confessor Salary shall be reduced to the former sum of £12.

Sister Mary Louisa Allgood Prioress
Sister Ann Dominick Brooke Subproress
Sister Mary Ann Calvert
Sister Mary Teresa Leadbitter

A FEW PARTICULAR EVENTS, RELATING TO THE DOMINICANESSES LEAVING THEIR CONVENT IN BRUSSELS, CAUSED BY THE FRENCH REVOLUTION IN THE YEAR 1792.

[This account is written on loose sheets of paper; it is probably a copy.]

The first entry of the French into Brussels was in the beginning of November 1792, during the time they remained there the Community was in continual alarm. One day late in the evening a body of Soldiers came to the Convent, and demanded lodgings; the religious were obliged to furnish them with victuals, and had to make up beds for them in one of the large speak-rooms, there was a gentleman in the town of the name of Martin, a great friend to the Community, who came every night to see all the soldiers lights were out, and all safe &c. as long as they remained in their quarters, which was three or four nights.

On the 6th of March 1793 in the afternoon about 1/2 past 3 O clock a number of the French soldiers, with their Officers, demanded entrance into the convent; having previously made the same demand to the Reverend Mr. Brittain who refused; they then commanded him to be off, pointing their bayonets at him; which he was obliged to do immediately in an agony of fear for the consequences that might happen to the nuns from insults &c. &c. They then rung the bell, and commanded the enclosure door to be opened, the Portress who did not know the french language, and knew not what they wanted, answered "oui, oui" and ran off to the superior. In the mean time the soldiers impatient of delay broke down the staves of the Turn with the end of their muskets, and entered the Convent, to the unutterable horror of its inmates. One of the head Officers asked for the superior, but she not daring to appear, they dispersed themselves over the house and visited the nuns cells, but finding nothing there that suited their purpose, they proceeded into the Church. Two or three of the Officers went into the Sanctuary, and one of them impiously took the Blessed Sacrament out of the Tabernacle, the gardener who was also Sacristin went to take the Ciborium out of the wretch's hand in order to carry it to the nuns, two of whom were ready at the grate holding a corporal to receive it, when he threatened the poor fellow telling him to be off, for he had no more right to touch it than himself; he then called for a Purificator and taking off his hat, emptied the Ciborium, pouring the consecrated Hosts into the Corporal, wiped out the Ciborium very carefully, and then struck it with the key threw it down saying now it is prophaned, immediately the rest of the crew who were in the Church, set up an infernal shout of joy. They then went to the Sacristy and found a Chalice,

239

Paten, a pair of silver candle-sticks, and silver Cruets which had been reserved for present use, the rest of the plate had been sent for security to the care of a friend in the town. Their next visit was to the Refectory where they sacked the nuns drawers of their Tea, sugar, chocolate, and began to eat it, putting the rest into their pockets, then to the Confessors apartments, but all there had been secreted before, except a silver spoon, which one of the soldiers stuck in the front of his cap; then to the Choir, and took the nuns veils and mantles to make them into (as they said) cravats and waistcoats. Having taken all they could find which was as they said useless plate, they assembled, and one of the Officers took a paper and read it aloud, signifying the authority they had for what they had done; they went off to the great joy of the poor distressed

religious. The behaviour of the Officers, and Soldiers whilst in the Convent was in some degree respectful.

The following day a message was sent to tell the nuns to send some one to claim their property which the soldiers had taken from them the day before, for they found the Austrians were at their heels, and they were obliged to fly, leaving their booty behind them. Mr Brittain went and got back all the Church plate, sadly battered and injured. During several months after this visitation they were harassed by daily reports that the French were about to return, many of whom were actually in the town. In the spring of 1794 they seemed to enjoy a little tranquillity. The Emperor being crowned in Brussels on the 23d of April all appeared to promise peace, and security, but these hopes vanished in a fortnight, after, the French were ravaging the country and making daily advances towards Brussels, the town was thrown into dreadful consternation, and the inhabitants expected nothing but universal destruction; for the French pretended on their first visit to come as friends, but they were now coming as conquering enemies. The friends of the community were very urgent that the nuns should provide for their safety, they however were in hopes that things might take a favourable turn, could not resolve to make any preparations to quit their beloved retreat till they were at last compelled to pack up what might be most useful, as Church stuff, linen, &c. in order that should any thing happen to force them away, they might at least secure them.

On Saturday evening 21st of June, Mr Brittain informed the religious that they must absolutely prepare to fly, for they could not possibly remain any longer, for the enemy was approaching nearer, and nearer, and therefore they must pack up in all diligence if they did not wish to be treated, as many of the communities had been in France. They then with broken hearts set on, and were packing all night what they could get together. Poor Mr Brittain was so dreadfully afflicted he could not say Mass in the morning, so they were obliged to get a Dutch Dominican to say an early Mass for them. It was proposed that the nuns should go first to the Fathers at Bornheim, and wait there to see if there was any prospect of their returning to Brussels, but they could only get two vehicles at an immense price which were appropriated for the use of the sick and

240

aged, the rest were obliged to walk with Mr Brittain, under a burning sun, and ankle deep in hotter sand nearly 20 miles; they had provided a joint of meat to support them on their way, but were obliged to leave it behind them, with a great quantity of luggage which they could not take for want of conveyance, and which they never could get.

When the time of their departure had arrived, the scene was most distressing many of the poor nuns were obliged to be dragged out by force, so unwilling were they to pass the enclosure gate of their holy sanctuary. When the nuns who rode arrived at Bornheim, the Fathers were thrown into the deepest affliction, for though they knew affairs went on very badly, yet they still hoped, until they saw these poor creatures demanding protection. Mr Brittain and his exhausted companions arrived at the College about 11 o'clock at night, where all was grief and confusion. The nuns remained at the College till the evening of the 24th, when they were obliged to decamp again with several of the Dominican Fathers in two small vessels to Antwerp, they stayed there till the 26th and the people took every advantage of their forlorn situation, and made them pay for the use of every article, even for knife, fork, spoon, plate, &c. &c. They were necessitated to sleep on the brick floors on the father's mattresses not being able to procure beds. From Antwerp they were again obliged to fly at night in two little vessels to Rotterdam, which they happily reached on the feast of Saints Peter & Paul in the evening, after having escaped being all drowned, owing to the vessel the nuns were in, taking in water, which was not discovered till midnight. Two of the religious who could not sleep perceived by the

strange motion of the ship, something was amiss, and gave the alarm, when all hands were immediately at the pump, and by the blessing of God the vessel began to rise, a few moments later would have buried them in a watery grave. The scene was very terrific, the night was dimly dark, not a ray of light but what was produced by great flashes of lightning, and which enabled the sailors to work at the pump and save their lives, the fears of the Captain lest he should lose his property, all contributed to make this event one as painful as any that had preceded it. They remained at Rotterdam 10 days, several of the English communities had arrived there before them, and they were joined by others during their stay there, most of them set off for England immediately, but the poor Dominicanesses knew not where to go, nor what course to steer.

After much deliberation they at length resolved to go to England but the difficulty was how to get there, for there was no vessel at hand to convey them.

A Captain of an American ship who wanted ballast hearing of their distress agreed to take them over for a hundred pounds, they gladly accepted the offer, though it was a most miserable conveyance, destitute of every convenience. One of the religious was in a dying state, of consumption, and the community feared that she would die before they reached England. The Captain humanely gave up his cabin for her use during the voyage but charged six guineas extra when they landed.

241

They then set sail but were obliged to coast it, to avoid the enemy and the press gang. Many were the dangers and frights they had to support, they passed vessels whose crew fired at them and would have sunk their ship had not one of the nuns, roused at the supineness of the Captain hoisted the English flag. They thanks be to God, however escaped all danger, and arrived safe on the river Thames on the 16th July. The Provincial who was at this period in England, hearing that the community had left Brussels, and were returning to their native soil, had provided a house for them in Seymour Street Portman Square where they remained seven weeks, paying for their lodgings at the rate of 3 guineas per week. No prospect appeared at this time of their being able to keep together, their little store of money exhausted and no means of support, but through the charity of pious individuals, they were quite at a loss to know what to do; when an offer was made to them, of Hartpury Court, an ancient mansion on the estate belonging then, to the present Lady Southwell, and her sister the late Mrs Robert Canning, which they joyfully accepted, ever bearing in their minds the great debt of gratitude they owe to their generous and charitable benefactresses.

They left London on the 1st of September and got to Hartpury Court on 2d where they remained 45 years, and should have been very glad to have continued there, had not an Architect who examined the house, which wanted many repairs, assured the community that it was not in a state to be repaired.

LETTER FROM THE NUNS' AGENT IN BRUSSELS.

[Original MS.]

Dear Reverend Sir!

Brussels July 6th 1795.

As I know not where to Direct for Mrs Allgood or her Community I take the Liberty to acquaint you that all imaginable care has been taken to secure the best effects of the Spellekens before the arrival of the republicans to whom a Contribution of Two Thousand Livres in cash was paid in July last as taxed on that house and on the next month it was seized & made a wash-house for the hospitals, but not having sufficient water in the winter that operation soon ceased but only served as an Entrepot for the foul Linen till last month. The Gardener remained to cultivate the garden for the use of the Directors of the hospitals; but the house is now converted

into a magazine of clothing for the army, where daily shoemakers & Tailors are at work, & the Garden is let out for six months by our Governors. Little damage has done hitherto in it, but how & when it will end is more than I can conjecture; pray give mine & my family's best compliments to Reverend Mother all her Community & Fr Brittan tell him his Books are saved. I hope they & all your Bornhem community are all well in health & happily settled, it is however a great pity they ever went from home. I shall be glad to hear from them by Mr Martin's return who is the bearer of this & who will relate you more particulars, if he has the honour to see you or any of your friends. In the meanwhile I have the honour to be most respectfully-

Dear Sir!

Your most obedient humble servant

J. Johns

Aremerg Street N^o 112.