

A brief discourse touching the office of Lord Chancellor of England / written by ... John Selden ... and dedicated by him to Sir Francis Bacon ... ; transcribed from a true copy there of, found amongst the collections of that judicious antiquary St. Lo Kniveton ... Together with A true catalogue of Lord Chancellors ... from the Norman conquest, untill this present year, 1671 / by William Dugdale.

Contributors

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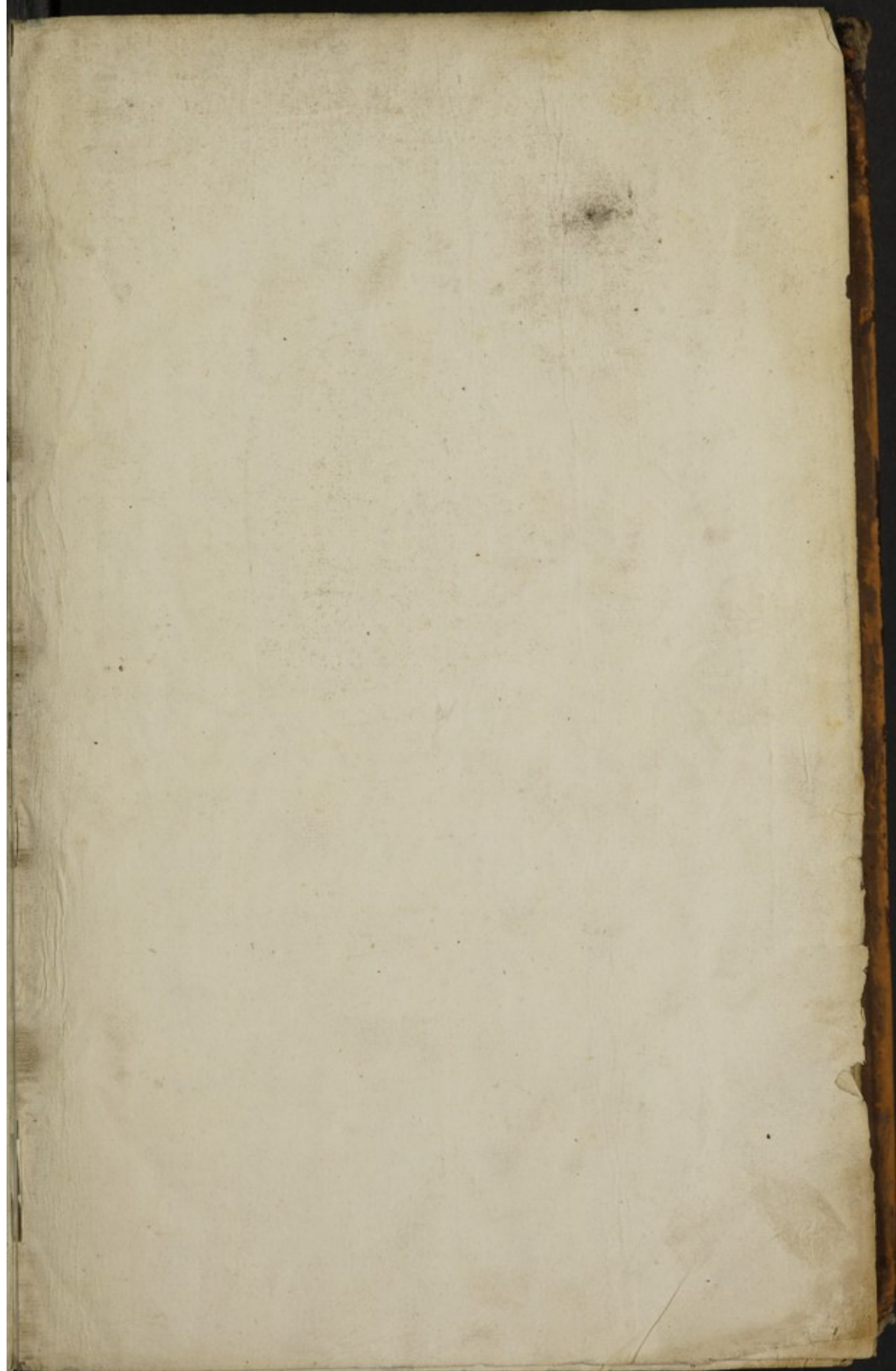
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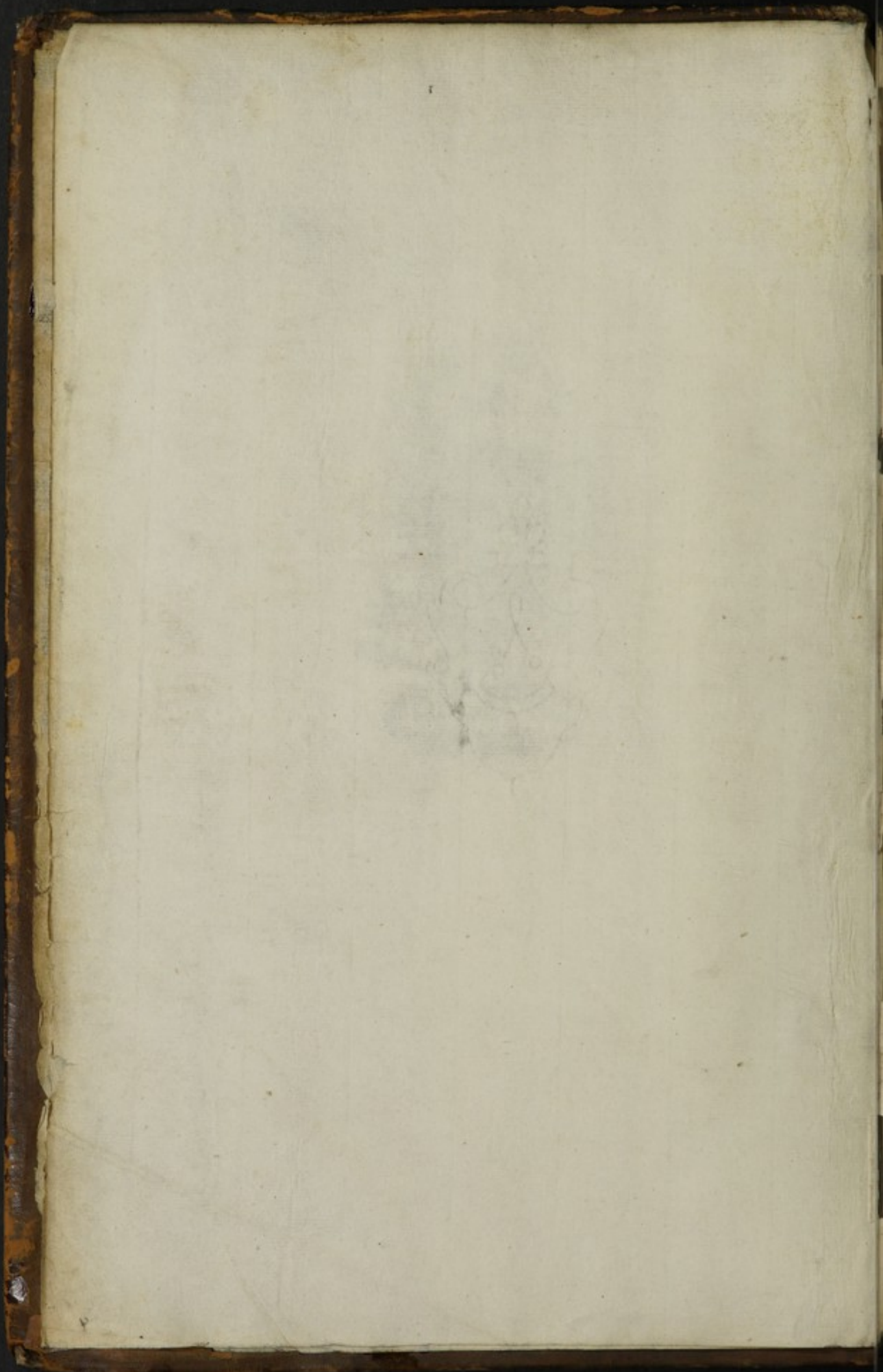
BACON, F

Bound in at end is J Selden's Brief
this course touching the office of Lord
Chancellor. 1671.



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PIECES

WORKS

In Two Parts

The Entry into the History of Winds.

THe Winds gave Wings to men; for by their assistance men are carried up through the Air and flye; not through the Air indeed, but upon the Sea; and a wide door is laid open to commerce, and the World is made previsions. They are the besomes which sweep and make clean the earth, which is the seat and habitation of mankind, and they cleanse both it and the air: But they make the Sea hurtful, which otherwise is harmless, neither are they some other ways also, free from doing hurt: They are without help of man able to stir up great and vehement motions, and like Hirelings serve both to sail and grind, and would be useful for many other things, if humane care were not wanting. Their Natures are reckoned amongst secret and bidden things. Neither is that to be wondred at, seeing the Nature and Power of the Air is unknown, whom the Winds do serve and flatter, as Eolus doth Juno in the Poets. They are not primary Creatures, nor any of the six days works, no more than the rest of the Meteors actually, but after born, by the order of the Creation.

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A
BRIEF DISCOURSE
TOUCHING THE
OFFICE
OF
Lord Chancellor
OF
ENGLAND.

WRITTEN BY
The Learned *John Selden* of the *Inner Temple*, Esq;
and Dedicated by him to Sir *Francis Bacon* Knight, then
Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of ENGLAND.

Transcribed from a true Copy thereof, found amongst
the Collections of that Judicious Antiquary *S^t. Lo. Kniveton*,
late of *Graves Inn* Esq;

TOGETHER WITH
A True Catalogue of Lord Chancellors, and Keepers of the Great
Seal of England, from the Norman Conquest, untill
this present Year, 1671.

BY
WILLIAM DUGDALE, Esquire,
NORROY King of Arms.

LONDON,
Printed for *William Lee* at the *Turks Head* in *Fleetstreet*, over
against *Fetter-lane* end, 1672.

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TO THE
RIGHT HONOURABLE
Sir FRANCIS BACON Knight,
Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England.

MY LORD,

THE Times obvious discourse, whereby that All which truly loves Nobles or Learning congratulates your highly deserved Honor, caused me collect these, taken out of no obvious Monuments, touching the auncientest mention, conjunction, and division of those two Great Offices of State which your Lordship really bears, though stiled but by the name of one: they are short, yet give large testimony of the former times. They conclude with an Act made about 320. years since, of like tenor in substance with that later under Queen *Eliz.* which was as proper to your name, whence these also were the fitter to offer you: Enough, other particulars touching both these Great Offices might have been added, but these were chosen for the usual Question of the present, and thus are given (not yet seen by any other eye) as a taste of my humble Observance. My Lord, they are only yours, as their Author would be,

J. Selden.



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J. Selkirk.



A
BRIEF DISCOURSE
TOUCHING THE
OFFICE
OF
Lord Chancellor of England, &c.

The Name and Office of Lord Chancellor of England
under the Saxons.

THE eldest mention in good authority of the name of Chancellor of this Kingdom, is in Edward the elders time, about the year DCCCCXX. he made Turketill Abbot of Croyland his Chancellor. *Cancellarium suum eum constituit, ut quaecunque negotia temporalia vel spiritualia, Regis Iudicium expectabant illius consilio & decreto (nam tantæ fidei et tam profundi ingenij tenebatur) omnia tractarentur, & tractata irrefragabilem sententiam sortirentur.* This Abbot held the Office under Athelstan, Edmund and Edred succeeding Kings.

King Ethelred afterwards divided the Chancellorship between the Abbots of Ely, and St. Augustine in Canterbury, and of Glasfenbury, who were to exercise it by turn. The words of an Old Monk of Ely are, *Statuit atque concessit quatenus Ecclesia de Ely extunc & semper in Regis Curia, Cancellarii ageret dignitatem quod & aliis, Sancti viz. Augustini & Glasconie Ecclesiis constituit, ut Abbates istorum Cœnobiolorum vicissim assignatis succedendo temporibus annum trifarie dividerint,*

B

cum

Temp. Edw.
senioris &
sequentium
Regum.
Ingulphus.

Temp. E-
thelredi.

cum Sanctuarii & ceteris ornatibus Altaris ministrando : So as the Abbot of Ely, or some Monk by him appointed, exercised the Office from *Candlemas* four moneths yearly, and the other two of *Glastenbury* and *S^t. Augustines* made up the twelve.

But there occurs not any subscription in Charters by that name, till the Confessor, in his Patent to the Church of *Westminster* ; after the King, Bishops, Abbots, and others, comes *Ego Rembaldus Cancellarius subscripsi*.

Yet in the ancientest Monument of a Grant by any King extant here, I doubt not but the Chancellor subscribed, though under another name.

Temp. E-
thelberti.

The first Christian King of the Saxons founded and endowed *Canterbury Church*, and in his Charter amongst the Earls, occurs *Ego Augemandus Referendarius subscripsi*; where *Referendarius* may well stand for *Cancellarius*, the Office of both (as the words applyed to the Court are used in the Code, Novells, and Story of the declining Empire) signifying an Officer that received Petitions and Supplications to the King, and made out his Writs and Mandates, as a *Custos Legis* : And though there were divers *Referendarii*, as 14. then 8. then more again, and so divers Chancellors in the Empire ; Yet one especially here, exercising an Office of the nature of these many, might well be stiled by either of the names. These are testimonies of that time without exception, though *Polydore* begin the Name and Office at the *Norman Conquest*.

II

Whether the Keeping of a Seal, were in the Chancellorship under the Saxons.

Edgar.

FOR that Principal part of the Office, or that other Office joyned with the Chancellorship, the Keeping of the Seal ; If the common Opinion were cleer, that under the *Saxon State* no Seals were here used, then were it vain to think of it as of that time. But there is yet remaining an *Old Saxon Charter* of King *Edgar*, beginning, *A Orthodoxorum vigoris Ecclesiastici monitu creberrime instruimur*, &c. to the Abbey of *Perfore*, wherein divers Lands are given, and there remains in the Parchment plain signes of three Labells by the places cut for their being hanged on : and of the self-same

same Charter a testimony also as ancient, that the Seals were, one of King *Edgar*, the second of *S^t. Dunstan*, and the third of *Alfer Ducis Merciorum*. That testimony is in a Letter from *Godfric* Archdeacon of *Worcester* to *Pope Alexander III.* writing of that Charter, and the Authority of it: *Noverit*, saith he, *Sanctitas vestra*, *verum esse, quod conscripti hujus scriptum originale in virtute Sanctæ Trinitatis sigilla tria, trium personarum autenticarum, ad veritatem, triplici confirmatione commendat; Est autem Sigillum primum illustris Regis Edgari; secundum Sancti Dunstani Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi; tertium Alferi Ducis Merciorum; sicut ex diligenti literarum impressarum inspectione evidenter accepi.* And it's reported by those which have searched the Records of *S^t. Denys Church* in *France*, there remain two Charters, the one of one *Offa*, the other of one *Edgar*, with Seals annex; the one of which I have seen cast off in Lead, and is about the breadth of a Shilling thick, and having a face on the one side. Likewise amongst the *Chartæ Antiquæ*, divers being reckoned *cum Sigillo*, others *sine Sigillo*; one is *cum Sigillo* of King *Cnut*, neither is there any colour of doubt but that the *Confessor* had his Seal, for the Print yet remains in part to be seen. But notwithstanding these singular examples of Kings Sealing in the *Saxons* times, it's most certain it was not a thing common then; neither could any in the Chancellorship be denominated from Keeping the Seal, nor in any other Office. Curiosity in some particular occasion swayed more in it, than any Custom; Although we admit those before mentioned for true, which may well be doubted, in regard of the frequent fraud and ignorance in committing it, which in the elder times possess'd the Church-men. But for the *Confessor's* Seal, that was without scruple certain, and thence may we confidently derive the Great Seal of England.

In the Register of *Croyland* it appears that the *Normans* brought in the use of Seals to Charters.

III.

Testimonies of the Chancellorship and Keepership joyned, in times neer after the Norman Invasion.

AS in the Monuments of the *Confessor Rembald* is named Chancellor; so under the first *William*, *Maurice* Bishop of *London*, and in the succeeding times others. Old Stories of the Monks sufficiently mention them. But little appears

4. r. m. f.
o. n. o. b. d. e. f.
y. a. d. e. l. i. a. n. o.
B. r. u. l. l. e. o. n. o.
W. i. l. l. i. a. m.
M. a. u. r. i. c. e.
B. i. s. h. o. p.
a. l. i. o. t. e. r.
a. l. i. o. t. e. r.

appears of the Office till the time of H. 2. under whom, one writing the life of Thomas Beckett that was Lord Chancellor, hath this most ancient testimony of it, and of Keeping the Seal also; *Cancellarii dignitas est, ut secundus à Rege in regno habeatur; ut altera parte Sigilli regii, quod & ad ejus pertinet custodiam, propria signet mandata, ut Capella Regia in illius sit dispositione et cura, ut vacantes Archiepiscopatus, Episcopatus, Abbatias & Baronias cadentes in manum Regis ipse suscipiat & conservet; ut omnibus Regis assit consiliis, etiam non vocatus, accedat; ut omnia Sigilliferi Clerici regii sua manu signentur: Item ut suffragantibus, ex Dei gratia vitæ meritis, non moriatur, nisi Archiepiscopus vel Episcopus si voluerit: Inde est quod Cancellaria non emenda est.* And another of the same time, *Cancellarius sicut in Curia, sic & ad Scaccarium magnus est; adeo ut sine ipsius consensu vel consilio nihil magnum fiat vel fieri debeat: verum hoc habet officium dum residet ad Scaccarium: Ad ipsum pertinet custodia Sigilli regii, quod est in Thesauro; Sed inde non recedit nisi cum Præcepto Justiciarii, (that is Chief Justice of England that was a Viceroy) ab inferiore ad superius Scaccarium, à Thesaurario vel Camerario deferatur ad explenda solum negotia Scaccarii; quibus peractis in loculum mittitur, & loculus à Cancellario consignatur, & sic Thesaurario traditur custodiendus. Item cum necesse fuerit, signatus sub omnium oculis Cancellario offertur, nunquam ab ipso vel ab alio alias offerendus. Item ad ipsum pertinet rotuli, qui est de Cancellaria, custodia per suppositam personam.* Another about the time of Edw. 1. *Officium Cancellarie viro provido & discreto ut Episcopo vel Clerico magnæ dignitatis debet committi, simul cum curâ majoris Sigilli regni, cujus substituti sunt Cancellarii omnes in Anglia, Hibernia, Wallia & Scotia. Omnesque sigilli regii custodes præter Custodem Sigilli privati.*

IM.

Of the Division and Conjunction of Lord Chancellor and Lord Keeper, till an Old Act made that they should be One.

BUT for that of Cancellaria emenda non est, an example not long after was, not only in truth to the contrary, but entred also in Publique Records; For Walter de Gray

Cart. 14.
Job. dorfo.
Walt. de Gray
Cancellar. &
alii missi ad
Othonem
Imp. nepo-
tem Regis
Johannis.

Gray of the Family of the Greys of Rotherfeld in Oxfordshire, in 7th. of King John, *Dat. Domino Regi quinque milia Marcarum pro habenda Cancellaria Domini Regis tota vita sua; & pro habenda inde Charta Domini Regis.* So are the words of the Roll, and the dayes of Payment are set down also; and in the Rolls of the same year occurs, *Hic recepit W. Gray Cancellaria.* Yet had he not alwayes the Custody of the Seal, for in the Charter Roll of that Year after the taking his Chancellorship there is but one Patent or Charter dated by him; as the fashion then was, with *Dat. per manum W. de G. Cancellarii nostri*, or the like.

rewe, Teste or Dat. per manum Radulphi de Nevill apud Buttevil 28 Julij an. 16. Pat. ibid. m. 4. Ric. de Marisco Cancellarius.

Those that both follow and precede, are *Dat. per manum Hugonis de Welles Archidiaconi Wellensis*, who, it seems, kept the Seal; and therefore he is expressly called the King's Chancellor in some Monks that writ of that time, as others are for the same cause: Neither was it ever heard of them to have the Chancellorship granted, yet the Seal still to Remain in another hand. For also while this *W. de Gray* was Chancellor, *Richard de Marisco* whom *Matthew Paris* calls Chancellor too; and others misreckon him for one had the keeping of the Seal, the Roll is *nono die Octobris anno regni Domini Regis 15. Liberavit Magister Richardus de Marisco Archidiaconus Richmond. & Northumbr. Domino Regi Sigillum apud Ospring;* and then on the 22. of Decemb. following, *apud Windlesores liberatum fuit Sigillum Domino R. de Nevill, deferendum sub Domino P. Wintoniensi Episcopo*, that was *Peter de Roches* or *de Rupibus* Chief Justice of England. But this here out of the infallible testimony of Records touching *W. de Gray*, differs not a little in time from the relation of the Monk, notwithstanding the Seal thus committed to *Ralf de Nevill* who had it also under *H. 3.* in the beginning of his Raign, *totius Regni ordinante consensu & consilio*; yet the Patent and other Charters and close Letters of the time, are, for the most part, *Per Restorem Regni*, or *Teste P. Wintoniensi Episcopo*, or *T. H. de Burgo* Chief Justice of England under *H. 3.* *Per eundem*; or *Per P. Wintoniensem Episcopum*, or the like. And yet also in Rolls of that time, where *Nevill* never at all makes the *Teste*, or hath his name added, mention is of him

In dorso fin.
7 Joh.
Pat. 14 Joh.
m. 5. Carta
Regis 14. de
Carrio de
domo sua de
Carrio &c.
Teste Will.
de Brimer
apud Westm.
21. Maii.
Carta Regis
Joh. facta
Mauricio de
Gant de Ma-
nerio de Ba-
p. 2. m. 8. Et
Pat. 17 Joh.
m. 2. R. de
Marisco
Cancellar.
28. Apr.
Et ibi in dor.
idem Cancell.
larius missus
Romam.
Cart. 18 Joh.
Rex dedit
Baldwino de
Guisne Ma-
nerium de
Benefeld &c.
Dat. per ma-
num Magistri
Ric. de Ma-
risco Can-
cellarii nostri
apud Nareus
30 Maii.
Pat. 15 Joh.
p. 1. m. 8. Et
fin. m. 5.
Walt. de Gray
Cancellar. Ib.
m. 5. Idem
factus fuit
Episc. Wigor.
Pat. 18 Joh.
m. 5. Ric. de
Marisco
Cancellar.
14 Julii.
Cart. 17 Joh.
m. 3. Ric. de
Marisco
Cancellarius.

for other uses as belonging to the Office of Chancellorship; as the delivery of the Counterbriefs to him and Fines, &c. mittend in Scaccarium, according to the use of that age. But although both Records and Story thus make R. de Nevill Lord Keeper from King John unto H. 3. yet had not he any Patent of either Chancellorship or Keepership till 1 H. 3. where both a Patent of the Keeping of the Seal for life, either by himself or Deputy, and another of the Chancellorship of England *toto tempore vite sue*, were made to him, both bearing the same Date.

An. 13 H. 3.

The King granted to R. Bishop of Chichester the Chancellorship for life, 16 Nov.

And likewise to the same R. the same office, An. 16 H. 3. 14 Julii. And by another Charter of the same date the Custody of the Seal for life also, to exercise that Keepership in person, or by an assignee.

Vide etiam Cart. 17 H. 3. pro eodem Episcopo de eiusdem Officii pro termino vite sue.

Yet after this also, through divers oppositions in State against the goodness and Noble Carriage of this Ralf de Nevill, the Seal was after unjustly taken from him, and restored again as his former right. And in 20 H. 3. the King would have had it from him, *Sed idem Cancellarius* (saith the Monk) *hoc facere renuit, videns impetum Regis modestie fines excedentem; dixitque se nulla ratione hoc facere posse, cum illud communi consilio Regni suscepisset. Quapropter nec illud similiter sine communi assensu Regni alicui resignaret*; Yet in 22 H. 3. the King violently took it from him, and committed it to one Godfrey a Templar, and John of Lexington; *Emolumentis tamen* (so sayes the Story) *ad Cancellarium spectantibus, Episcopo quasi Cancellario, redditus & assignatis*. Afterward one Simon Norman a Lawyer had it; and from him it was taken, and committed to Richard Abbot of Evesham, who kept it three years, and then resigned it in 26 H. 3. The Chancellor and Keeper (of right) Nevill was afterward reconciled to the King, and dyed 28 H. 3.

In the Acts of Parliament of which year, one is, That the Keeper of the Seal should be alwayes the Chancellor, and that all things sealed otherwise should be voyd. The words are, *Si aliqua interveniente occasione Dominus Rex abstulerit Sigillum suum a Cancellario, quicquid fuerit interim sigillatum, irritum habeatur & inane, Deinde Cancellario fiat restitutio*. And it appears otherwise that they alwayes took it unjustly done, if the Chancellorship and Keepership were not in one: By Reason whereof, before that, in a Charter of King John's yet extant in some hands, of the Moderation of the Fees of the Seal, no person is spoken of but the Chancellor and his under Officers

Officers; as if it could not have been but that who ever had the Seal, the same should only bee Chancellor.

According to that the Chancellorship and Keepership were joyned in all the Chancellors under *Henry* the 3. and *Edward* the 1. most of which being made Bishops, resigned their Seal and Office, although afterward under the succeeding Kings sometimes the Seal was committed to others hands upon some requiring occasions; and some Lord Keepers were created in later times before Sir *Nicholas Bacon*, in whose time that Statute of 5 *Eliz.* was made.



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A true CATALOGUE of the Lord Chancellors
and Keepers of the Great Seal of England, from the
Norman Conquest, untill this present Year 1671.

An. D. 1067.
1 Will. Conq.

Maurice (afterwards Bishop of London.)
Will. Malmsh. de Gestis Pontif. lib. 2.
f. 134. b.

Osmond (afterwards Bishop of Salisbury)
Godw. de Praesul. p. 389.

Anno 1073. Arfastus (Bishop of Helmham) Pat. 8 E. 2.
6 W. Conq. p. 1. m. 3. per Inspex.

Baldric; Pat. 8 E. 2. p. 2. m. 1. per In-
spex.

Herman Bishop of Shireburne.

Will. Wilson (Chaplain to the King) Chron.
Rob. de Monte.

Will. Giffard (Bishop of Winchester) Cart.
51 H. 3. m. 1. per Inspex.

Will. Rufus. Robert Bloet (afterwards Bishop of Lincoln)
R. Hoved. f. 265 b. n. 30.

Henr. 1. Will. Giffard (Bishop of Winchester) Text.
Roff. cap. 6.

Roger (afterwards Bishop of Salisbury) W.
Malm. f. 91. a. l. 2.

- Geffrey Ruffus (afterwards Bishop of Durham) H. Hunt. f. 220 b. 10.
- Randulph, H. Hunt. f. 218 b. n. 40.
- Geffrey (Bishop of Durham) Regist. Eccl. Elien. in Bibl. Cotton. f. 29 a.
- Steph. Alexander Bishop of Lincoln, Will. Neubrigensis lib. 1. cap. 6.
- Roger Pauper. Ord. Vit. p. 319 C. D.
- Anno 1153. Philip, Regist. Eccl. Elien. in Bibl. Cotton. f. 32 a.
- 18 Steph.
- Anno 1157. Thomas Archdeacon of Canterbury, R. Hoved. 281 b. n. 20. (afterwards Archbishop) Ro. Hoved. 282 a. n. 20.
- 3 H. 2.
- Anno 1173. Raphe de Warneville (Sacrist of Roan, and Treasurer of Yorke) Matth. Paris. in anno 1173.
- 20 H. 2.
- Anno 1181. Geffrey, natural Son to King Henry the 2d, R. Hoved. f. 349. n. 10. Chancellor.
- 26 H. 2.
- Walter de Bidun, Lel. col. Vol. 1. p. 38.
- Anno 1189. Will. de Longcamp (afterwards Bishop of Ely) R. Hoved. f. 375 a. n. 40.
- Anno 1198. Eustace Bishop of Ely, R. Hoved. f. 442 a. n. 40.
- Anno 1199. Hubert Archbishop of Canterbury, R. Hoved. f. 451 a. n. 40. Chancellor.
- Anno 1204. Hugh Archdeacon of Wells (afterwards Bishop of Lincoln) M. Paris. in anno 1205; Chancellor.

Anno 1205. *Walter de Gray, Cart. antiq. BB. n. 22. (afterwards Bishop of Worcester) Chancellor.*
7. Job.

Anno 1212. *Richard de Marisco, Mat. Westm. in eodem anno. Chancellor.*
14. Job.

Anno 1213. *Raphe de Nevill, Keeper of the Seal under Peter de Roche Bishop of Winchester, Pat.*
15. Job. p. 1. m. 6.

Anno 1223. *Richard de Marisco (Bishop of Durham) Cl. 8 H. 3. m. 25. Chancellor.*

Anno 1226. *Raphe Nevill (Bishop of Chichester) 12 Febr. Cart. 12 H. 3. m. 28. Chancellor.*

Anno 1230. *The same Raphe constituted Keeper of the Seal 14 Junii, Cart. 15 H. 3. m. 8.*

Anno 1238. *Geffrey a Templar, and John de Lexington, made Keepers of the Seal, M. Paris. in eodem anno.*
22 H. 3.

Anno 1239. *Simon Norman, from whom the Seal was taken, and delivered to Richard Abbot of Evesham, M. Paris. in eodem anno.*
23 H. 3.

Anno 1246. *Ranulph Briton, Mat. Paris. in eodem anno, Chancellor.*
30 H. 3.

Anno 1247. *Mr. Silvester, a Clerk of the Kings, executed the Office of the Chancellor, M. Paris. in eodem anno.*
31 H. 3.

John de Lexington had the Custody of the Seal, 18 Sept. Rot. Fin. 31 H. 3. m. 2.

John Mansell Chancellor of the Cathedral of St. Paul in London, had the Custody of the Seal, to execute the Office of Chancellor, M. Paris. in eodem an. & Pat. 31 H. 3. m. 2.

Anno

- Anno 1249. The same *John Mansell* Provost of *Beverley*
33 H. 3. had the Custody of the Seal untill the
Feast of St. Mary this year, *Pat.* 12 H. 3.
m. 3.
- Anno 1250. *Peter de Rievaulx*, and Mr. *Will. de Kilkenny*,
34 H. 3. had the Custody of the Seal, *Claus.* 34
H. 3. m. 15.
- Anno 1253. *P. Chaceport*, and *John de Lexinton* had the
37 H. 3. Custody of the Seal, by reason that Mr.
W. (de Kilkenny) was sick 15 Maii, *Rot.*
Fin. 37 H. 3. m. 9.
- XXII. Junii the Queen had the Custody
thereof, the King then going into *Gas-*
coign, *Pat.* 37 H. 3. m.
- Anno 1254. Mr. *Will. de Kilkenny*, the Kings Clerk, sup-
38 H. 3. plied the Office of Chancellor, *M. Paris.*
in eodem anno.
- Anno 1255. *H. de Wengham* Clerk, had the Custody of
39 H. 3. the Seal, *M. Paris. in eodem anno.*
- Anno 1258. VI. Maii, *W. de Merton* had the Custody of
42 H. 3. the Seal, by reason that *Henry de Weng-*
ham was sick, *Pat.* 42 H. 3. m. 29.
- Anno 1260. Mr. *N. Archdeacon of Ely* had the Custody
44 H. 3. of the Seal, *M. Westm. in eodem anno.*
- Anno 1261. *Walter de Merton* made Chancellor without
45 H. 3. the advise of the Barons, *M. Westm. in eo-*
dem anno, & Pat. 45 H. 3. m. 18, & 19.
- Anno 1263. Mr. *Nicholas Archdeacon of Ely* had the Cu-
47 H. 3. stody of the Seal, whilst the King was be-
yond Sea, *Pat.* 47 H. 3. m. 1.

Anno 1265. Mr. *John Chisbull* Archdeacon of *London*
49 H. 3. had the Custody of the Seal, *Claus.* 49
H. 3. m. 9.

On Wednesday next after the Feast of St.
Peter in Cathedra the Seal was delivered to
Mr. *Thomas de Cantilupe*, *Claus.* 49 H. 3.
m. 9. who was constituted Chancellor 16
Martii, *Pat.* 49 H. 3. m. 18.

W. Bishop of *Bathe and Wells* made Chancel-
lor 20 Aug. *Liberate de anno* 49 H. 3.
m. 2.

Anno 1267. Mr. *Godfrey Giffard* (afterwards Bishop of
51 H. 3. *Worcester*) had the Custody of the Seal,
Claus. 52 H. 3. m. 7. & m. 16.

Anno 1269. *John Chisbull* Dean of *London* had the Cu-
53 H. 3. stody of the Seal on Tuesday next after
the Feast of the Apostles *Simon and Jude*,
Pat. 53 H. 3. m. 29.

Richard de Middilton made Keeper of the
Seal on Monday next before the Feast
of St. *Peter ad vincula*, *Pat.* 53 H. 3.
m. 6.

Anno 1272. *John de Kirkeby* made Keeper of the Seal
56 H. 3. (upon the death of *Rich. de Middilton*
Chancellor) which *John* did thereupon
associate to himself in that trust *P. de*
Winton Keeper of the Kings Wardrobe,
Pat. 56 H. 3. m. 6.

Anno 1274. *Walter de Merton*, *Clause* 1 *Edw.* 1. m.
1 E. 1. 10.

Robert Burnell Archdeacon of *Torke*, (after-
wards Bishop of *Bathe and Wells*) made
Keeper of the Seal upon St. *Matthew*
E the

- the Apostles day , Pat. 2 Edm. 1.
m. 8.
- Anno 1284. This Robert going from *Aberconwey* to *Ac-*
12 E. 1. *ton-Burnell*, delivered the Seal unto *Hugh*
de Kendall and *Walter de Odyham* , Pat.
12 E. 1. m. 7.
- Anno 1286. He attended the King into *France*, being his
14 E. 1. *Chancellor*; and took the Great Seal with
him, on Munday next preceding the Feast
of *St. Dunstan*, Pat. 14 E. 1. m. 9.
- Anno 1289. On Friday next preceding the *Assumption* of
17 E. 1. our *Lady* he return'd with the King out
of *France*, and the Seal, Pat. 17 E. 1. m. 13.
- Anno 1292. *Walter de Langton* Keeper of the Kings
20 E. 1. *Wardrobe*, made Keeper of the Seal at
Berwick, on Saturday preceding the Feast
of the Apostles *Simon* and *Jude*, Pat. 20
E. 1. m. 2.
- Anno 1293. *John de Langton* made *Chancellor*, Pat. 21 E.
21 E. 1. 1. m. 23. afterwards *Elect Bishop* of *Ely*,
Pat. 26 E. 1. m. 10.
- Anno 1302. Mr. *Will. de Grenefeld* *Dean* of *Chichester*,
30 E. 1. made *Chancellor* on Sunday being the mor-
row after the Feast of *St. Michael*, *Clausf.*
30 E. 1. m. 5.
- Anno 1303. The Great Seal delivered unto him on Tues-
31 E. 1. day before the Feast of *St. Lucie* the Vir-
gin, *Clausf.* 31 E. 1. in dorso m. 18.
- Anno 1305. *Will. de Hamelton*, *Dean* of *Yorke*, made
33 E. 1. *Chancellor*, had the Great Seal delive-
red unto him 16 Jan. Pat. 33 E. 1.
p. 1. m. 21.

Anno

- Anno 1307. Rauf de Baudale Bishop of London made
35 E. 1. Chancellor, and Keeper of the Seal, Rot.
Fin. 35 E. 1. m. 1.
- Anno 1308. John de Langton Bishop of Chichester made
1 E. 2. Chancellor, &c. Rot. Fin. 1 E. 2. m. 9.
- Anno 1311. Walt. (Reginald) Bishop of Worcester had the
4 E. 2. Custody of the Seal 6 Julii, Claus. 4 E. 2
m. 6. in dorso.
- Anno 1312. He was the Kings Chancellor, Claus. 5 E. 2.
5 E. 2. in dorso.
- Anno 1315. John de Sandale (afterwards Bishop of Wint-
8 E. 2. chester) the King's Chancellor, Pat. 8 E.
2. p. 2. m. 2.
- Anno 1318. John Hothum Bishop of Ely, Pat. 11 E. 2.
11 E. 2. p. 2. m. 8.
- Anno 1320. John (Salmon) Bishop of Norwich, named
13 E. 2. Chancellor by the King in full Parliament,
received the Seal, Claus. 13 E. 2. in dor-
so, m. 9.
- Anno 1323. Will. de Ayrmin (Mr. of the Rolls in Chan-
16 E. 2. cery) had the Custody of the Great Seal,
John Bishop of Norwich being then sick,
Claus. 14 E. 2. m. ...
- Anno. 1324. Robert de Baldok Archdeacon of Middlesex
17 E. 2. made Chancellor 20 Aug. Claus. 17 E. 2.
m. ...
- Anno 1328. John de Hothum Bishop of Ely had the Cu-
1 E. 3. stody of the Great Seal 28 Jan. and to
do therewith what belong'd to the Chan-
cellor, Claus. 1 Edw. 3. p. 1. in dorso
m. 25.

Anno

Anno 1329. Henry de Clyff Mr. of the Rolls in Chancery,
2 E. 3. and Will. de Herlaston Clerk of the Chan-
cery, made Keepers of the Seal 1 Martii,
Claus. 2 E. 3. in dorso. m. 33.

Henry de Burghersb Chancellor of England,
Pat. 2 E. 3. p. 2. m. 34. to whom the
King committed the Custody of the Great
Seal 12 Maii, Claus. 2 E. 3. in dorso m. 26.

Anno 1331. John de Stratford Bishop of Winchester made
4 E. 3. Keeper of the Great Seal 28 Nov. Claus.
4 E. 3. in dorso m. 16.

Anno 1333. Mr. Robert de Stratford, brother to John
6 E. 3. Bishop of Winchester, had the Custody of
the Seal, whilst his brother was employed
upon the Kings business 23 Junii, Claus. 6
E. 3. in dorso m. 22.

Anno 1334. Will. Archbishop of York Keeper of the Great
7 E. 3. Seal, by the Kings command delivered it
to Henry de Ednestowe, Thomas de Baun-
burgh, and John de St. Paul, upon Thurs-
day the Epiphany of our Lord, Claus. 7
E. 3. p. 2. m. 4. in dorso.

Anno 1335. John de Stratford elect Archbishop of Canter-
8 E. 3. bury confirmed Chancellor the 6th. of Apr.
delivered the Great Seal unto Mr. Rob. de
Stratford his brother to be kept, Claus. 8
E. 3. m. 27. in dorso.

Richard Bishop of Durham being made Chan-
cellor had the Great Seal delivered to
him 28 Sept. Ibid. in dorso. m. 10.

Anno 1336. John Archbishop of Canterbury made
9 E. 3. Chancellor had the Great Seal delive-
red to him 6 Junii, Claus. 9 Edw. 3.
m. 23.

Anno

- Anno 1338. Mr. Rob. de Stratford Archdeacon of Canterbury, and elect Bishop of Chichester, made Chancellor and Keeper of the Great Seal 23 Oct. Pat. 11 E. 3. p. 3. m. 11.
- Anno 1339. Mr. Richard de Bynteworth elect Bishop of London made Chancellor and Keeper of the Seal 6 Julii, Cl. 22 E. 3. p. 2. in dorso m. 23.
- Anno 1340. Upon the death of this Richard the great Seal was committed to the Custody of John de St. Paul Master of the Rolls in Chancery, Mich. de Wath and Thomas de Bannburgh 8 Dec. Claus. 13 E. 3. p. 3. in dorso m. 11.
- Anno 1341. John de St. Paul solely constituted Keeper of the Great Seal 13 Febr. Claus. 14 E. 3. p. 1. m. 42. in dorso.
- John Archbishop of Cant. made Chancellor and Keeper of the Great Seal 28 Apr. Claus. 14 E. 3. p. 1. m. 27. in dorso.
- Robert Bishop of Chichester the Kings Chancellor delivered up the Great Seal to the King upon Thursday being the Feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle, Claus. 14 E. 3. p. 2. m. 12.
- Anno 1341. Sir Robert Burgchier Knight being made Chancellor on Thursday next following St. Lucie the Virgin, had the Great Seal then delivered to him by the King, Claus. 14 E. 3. p. 2. in dorso m. 20.
- Anno 1342. Robert Parnyng the Kings Chancellor had the Great Seal delivered to him by the King 27 Oct. Cl. 15 E. 3. p. 3. in dorso m. 13.
- Anno 1344. Robert de Sadington made Chancellor had the Great Seal delivered to him upon Michaelmasse

- chaelmass: day, Claus. 17 E. 3. p. 2. m.
20. in dorso.
- Anno 1346. Mr. John de Offord made Chancellor, had
19 E. 3. the Great Seal delivered to him upon the
26 of Octob. Pat. 19 E. 3. p. 2. m. 7.
- Anno 1347. John de Thoresby had the Great Seal delive-
20 E. 3. red to him 2 Julii, John de Offord the
Kings Chancellor then going beyond Sea,
Claus. 20 E. 3. p. 2. in dorso m. 26.
- Anno 1350. John Bishop of St. Davids made Chancellor,
23 E. 3. had the Great Seal delivered to him 16
Junii, Claus. 23 E. 3. p. 1. in dorso m. 8.
- Anno 1357. Will. de Edington Bishop of Winchester made
30 E. 3. Chancellor, had the Great Seal delivered
to him 19 Febr. Claus. 30 E. 3. in dorso m. 4.
- Anno 1363. Simon de Langham Bishop of Ely had the
36 E. 3. Great Seal deliver'd to him by the King
19 Febr. Cl. 30 E. 3. in dorso m. 39.
- Anno 1368. Will. de Wickham Bishop of Winchester made
41 E. 3. Chancellor 17 Sept. Cart. 41 E. 3.
- Anno 1372. Sir Robert de Thorpe Knight made Chancellor
45 E. 3. 26 Martii, had the Great Seal then deli-
vered to him by the King, Claus. 45 E. 3.
in dorso m. 35.
- Anno 1373. John Knyvet made Chancellor and Keeper of
46 E. 3. the Great Seal, Claus. 46 E. 3. in dorso
m. 12.
- Anno 1377. Adam de Houghton Bishop of St. Davids made
50 E. 3. Chancellor 11 Jan. On which day the
Great Seal was delivered to him, Claus.
50 E. 3. in dorso. p. 2. m. 7.
- Anno

Anno 1379. Sir Richard le Scrope Knight made Chancellor,
2 R. 2. had the Great Seal delivered to him, Pat.
2 R. 2. p. 1. m. 24.

Anno 1380. Simon de Sudbury Archbishop of Canterbury
3 R. 2. made Chancellor and Keeper of the Great
Seal on Munday next after the Converse-
on of St. Paul, Claus. 3 R. 2. in dorso
m. 22.

Anno 1381. Will. de Courtney Bishop of London made
4 R. 2. Chancellor on Saturday being the Feast of
St. Laurence, Claus. 5 R. 2. in dorso
m. 35.

Anno 1382. Sir Richard Scrope Knight made Chancellor
5 R. 2. and Keeper of the Great Seal on Wed-
nesday next after the Feast of St. Andrew
the Apostle, Pat. 5 R. 2. p. 1. m. 1.

Anno 1383. Robert de Braybroke Bishop of London made
6 R. 2. Chancellor, had the Great Seal delivered
to him on Saturday being the Eve of St.
Matthew the Apostle, Claus. 6 R. 2. p. 1. in
dorso m. 24.

Sir Michael de la Pole Knight made Chan-
cellor, and Keeper of the Great Seal 13
Martii, Claus. 6 R. 2. p. 2. in dorso,
m. 12.

Anno 1387. Thomas de Arundell Bishop of Ely made
10 R. 2. Chancellor, and Keeper of the Great Seal
24 Oct. Claus. 20 R. 2. m. 35.

Anno 1389. Will. de Wickham Bishop of Winchester a-
gain made Chancellor, had the Great Seal
delivered unto him 4 Maii, Pat. 12 R. 2.
p. 2. m. 7.

Anno

- Anno 1392. Thomas de Arundell Archbishop of Canterb.
15 R. 2. made Chancellor 7 Sept. had the Great
Seal delivered to him, Pat. 15 R. 2. p. 1.
m. 19.
- Anno 1397. Edmund de Stafford Bishop of Exeter made
20 R. 2. Keeper of the Great Seal 23 Nov. Claus.
20 R. 2. p. 1. in dorso m. 22.
- Anno 1400. John de Scarle Master of the Rolls in Chan-
1 H. 4. cery made Chancellor and Keeper of the
Great Seal 15 Nov. Pat. 1 H. 4. p. 3.
m. 27.
- Anno 1401. Edmund Bishop of Exeter made Chancellor
2 H. 4. and Keeper of the Great Seal 9 Martii,
Claus. 2 H. 4. p. 2. in dorso m. 3.
- Anno 1404. Henry Beaufort Bishop of Lincoln Chancellor
5 H. 4. Pat. 5 H. 4. p. 2. m. 28.
- Anno 1405. Thomas Langley Bishop of Durham Chancel-
6 H. 4. lor, Godw. de Præsul.
- Anno 1407. Thomas Archbishop of Canterb. made Chan-
8 H. 4. cellor and Keeper of the Great Seal 30
Jan. Claus. 8 H. 4. in dorso m. 23.
- Anno 1410. John Wakering Clerk, Master of the Rolls in
11 H. 4. Chancery, had the Custody of the Great
Seal 19 Jan. Claus. 11 H. 4. in dorso
m. 8
- Sir Thomas Beaufort Knight made Chancellor,
had the Great Seal delivered to him 31
Jan. Claus. 11 H. 4. in dorso m. 8.
- Anno 1414. Henry de Beaufort Bishop of Winchester made
1 H. 5. Chancellor and Keeper of the Great Seal,
Claus. 1 H. 5.

Anno 1417. Simon Garnstede Clerk, Master of the Rolls
4 H. 5. in Chancery, had the Custody of the
Great Seal from 4. Sept. untill the 12th.
of Oct. Claus. 4 H. 5. in dorso m. 13.

Henry Bishop of Winchester had the Great
Seal delivered to him 12 Octob. Claus. 4
H. 5. in dorso m. 13.

Anno 1418. Thomas de Langley Bishop of Durham had the
5 H. 5. Great Seal delivered to him by the King
23 Junii, Claus. 5 H. 5. in dorso m. 15.

Anno 1423. Thomas Bishop of Durham made Chancellor
1 H. 6. by the advice and consent of all the Coun-
cell in Parliament, Pat. 1 H. 6. p. 4. m. 19.

Anno 1424. Henry Beaufort Bishop of Winchester, made
2 H. 6. Chancellor, had the Great Seal delivered
to him 16 Julii, Claus. 2 H. 6. in dorso
m. 2.

Anno 1426. John Kempe Bishop of London made Chan-
4 H. 6. cellor, &c. . . . Martii, Claus. 4 H. 6. in
dorso, m. 8.

Anno 1432. John Stafford Bishop of Bathe made Chancel-
10 H. 6. lor &c. 28 Febr. Claus. 10 H. 6. in dorso
m. 8.

Anno 1433. John Hank Clerk, Master of the Rolls in
11 H. 6. Chancery, received from John Stopington
Clerk on the behalf of the Lord Chancel-
lor of England the Great Seal to use and
exercise 22 Apr. Claus. 11 H. 6. in dor-
so m. 12.

Anno 1450. John Archbishop of Yorke, and Cardinal,
28 H. 6. made Chancellor 31 Jan. Claus. 28 H. 6.
in dorso m. 7.

- Anno 1454. Richard Earl of Salisbury made Chancellor 2
32 H. 6. Apr. Claus. 32 H. 6. in dorso m. 8.
- Anno 1455. Thomas Bourchier Archbishop of Canterbury
33 H. 6. made Chancellor 7 Martii, Claus. 33 H. 6.
in dorso m. 9.
- Anno 1557. Will. Wickham Bishop of Winchester made
Chancellor 11 Oct. Claus. 35 H. 6. m. 10.
in dorso.
- Anno 1460. George Nevill Bishop of Exeter made Chan-
cellor 25 Julii, Claus. 38 H. 6. in dorso
m. 7.
- Anno 1468. Robert Stillington Bishop of Bath and Wells
7 E. 4. made Chancellor 8 Junii, Claus. 7 E. 4.
m. 12. in dorso.
- Anno 1473. John Alcock Bishop of Rochester made Kee-
per of the Great Seal 20 Sept. Claus. 12
E. 4. m. 16. in dorso.
- Anno 1474. Laurence Bishop of Durham made Chancellor
13 E. 4. &c. 5 Junii, Claus. 13 E. 4. m. 3.
- Anno 1475. Thomas Rotherham Bishop of Lincoln made
14 E. 4. Chancellor, Godw. de Præsul.
- Anno 1484. John Russell Bishop of Lincoln made Chan-
cellor 26 Nov. Claus. 1 R. 3. in dorso.
- Anno 1485. Thomas Barow, Master of the Rolls, made
3 R. 3. Keeper of the Great Seal 1 Aug. Claus.
3 R. 3.
- Anno 1486. John Alcock Bishop of Ely made Chancellor
1 H. 7. upon Munday 6 Martii, Cl. 1 H. 7. in dorso.
- Anno 1487. John Morton Archbishop of Canterbury made
2 H. 7. Chancellor 8 Aug. Pat. 2 H. 7. p. 2.

Anno 1501. Henry Deane Bishop of Salisbury (upon the
16 H. 7. death of John Morton) had the Great
Seal delivered to him 13 Octob. Claus. 26
H. 7. in dorso.

Anno 1502. Will. Warham Bishop of London, elect of
17 H. 7. Canterb. had the Great Seal delivered to
him 11 Aug. and was made Chancellor 1
Jan. following. Claus. 17 H. 7. in dorso.

Anno 1516. Thomas Wolsey Lord Cardinal and Archbi-
7 H. 8. shop of Torke, had the Great Seal delive-
red to him 7 Decembr. and was made
Chancellor, Claus. 7 H. 8. in dorso.

Anno 1530. Sir Thomas More Knight made Lord Chancel-
21 H. 8. lor, had the Great Seal delivered to him
on Munday 25 Octob. Claus. 21 H. 8. in
dorso.

Anno 1533. Thomas Audley had the Great Seal delivered
24 H. 8. unto him on Munday 20 Maii, and then
Knighted, Claus. 24 H. 8. in dorso.

A New Seal made and delivered to him up-
on the 6th. of Sept. following, Ibid.

He was made Chancellor the 26th. of Jan.
ensuing, Ibid.

Anno 1545. Thomas Lord Wriothesley Lord Chancellor
36 H. 8. of England had the Great Seal delivered
to him 3 Maii, Claus. 36 H. 8. p. 1.

Anno 1547. Sir Will. Paulet Knight, Lord St. John of
1 E. 6. Basing, had the Great Seal delivered to
him 29 Junii, Pat. 1 E. 6. p. 4.

Sir Richard Riche Knight made Chancellor of
England 30 Nov. Pat. 1 E. 6. p. 3. m. 14.

Anno 1551. Thomas Goodricke Bishop of Ely made Chancel-
5 E. 6. lor of England 19 Jan. Cl. 5 E. 6. p. 5.

Anno

- Anno 1553. *Steph. Gardner* Bishop of *Winchester* made
1 Mar. Chancellor of England 21 Sept. Pat. 1 M.
p. 8.
- Anno 1555. *Nicholas Heath* Archbishop of *Torke* made
3 M. Chancellor of England on Wednesday 1
Jan. Claus. 2 & 3 Ph. & Mar. in dorso
part 11.
- Anno 1559. *Sir Nicholas Bacon* Knight, Attorney of the
1 Eliz. Court of Wards, made Keeper of the
Great Seal 22 Decemb. Annal. Camd. &
Pat. 1 Eliz. p. 3.
- Anno 1579. *Thomas Bromley*, the Queens Sollicitor Gene-
21 Eliz. ral, made Chancellor of England, 25 Apr.
Claus. 21 Eliz. p. 4. in dorso.
- Anno 1587. *Sir Christopher Hatton* Knight made Lord
29 Eliz. Chancellor of England 29 Apr. Claus. 29
Eliz. p. 24. in dorso.
- Anno 1592. *Sir John Puckering* Knight, Serjeant at Law,
34 Eliz. had the Great Seal delivered to him 28
Maii, Claus. 34 Eliz. p. 14. in dorso.
- Anno 1596. *Sir Thomas Egerton* Knight, Master of the
38 Eliz. Rolls in Chancery, had the Great Seal
delivered to him 26 Maii, Claus. 38 Eliz.
p. 14. in dorso.
- Anno 1603. *Sir Thomas Egerton* Knight, had the same
1 Jac. Great Seal delivered to him by appoint-
ment of King *James* 5 Apr. Claus. 1 Jac.
p. 12. in dorso.
- Upon the 29th. of *June* following that Great
Seal was broke, and the New Seal of King
James delivered to him, Ibid.
- And on the 24th of *July* being advanced to
the dignity of Lord *Ellesmere*, he was made
Lord Chancellor of England, Ibid.
- Anno

Anno 1616. Sir Francis Bacon Knight, the King's Attorney General, had the Great Seal committed to his Custody 7 Martii, Claus. 16 Jac. in dorso part 15.

Anno 1617. The same Sir Francis (then Lord Verulam) made Lord Chancellor of England 4 Jan. Claus. 16 Jac. in dorso p. 15.

Anno 1620. Henry Vicount Mandevill Lord President of the Councell, Lodowike Duke of Richmond, William Earl of Pembroke, and Sir Julius Cesar Knight, Master of the Rolls, had the Great Seal committed to their Custody in Lent.

Anno 1621. John Williams, Doctor in Divinity, and Dean of Westminster, (afterwards Bishop of Lincoln) had the Great Seal committed to his Custody 10 Julii, Claus. 19 Jac. p. 13. in dorso.

Anno 1625. Sir Thomas Coventre Knight, Attorney General to the King, made Keeper of the Great Seal 1 Nov.

Anno 1639. Sir John Finche Knight, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, had the Great Seal of England committed to his Custody 23 Jan.

Anno 1640. Sir Edward Littleton Knight, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, had the Great Seal of England committed to his Custody 23 Jan.

Anno 1645. Sir Richard Lane Knight, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, had the Great Seal of England committed to his Custody 30 Aug.

Anno 1657. Sir Edward Hyde Knight, Chancellor of the
9 Car. 2. Exchequer to King Charles the First, had
the Great Seal of England committed to
his Custody 13 Jan.

And was made Lord Chancellor of England
at Bruges in Flanders 29 Jan. follow-
ing.

Anno 1667. Sir Orlando Bridgeman Knight and Baronet,
19 Car. 2. Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Com-
mon Pleas, had the Great Seal of Eng-
land committed to his Custody 30 Aug.

Sir Julius Caesar Knight, Master of the
Rolls, had the Great Seal committed to
their Custody in Law.

Anno 1681. John Williams, Doctor in Divinity, and
Dean of Westminster, (afterwards Bishop
of Lincoln) had the Great Seal commi-
ted to his Custody 19 Jan.

Anno 1685. Sir Thomas Coventry Knight, Attorney Ge-
neral to the King, made Keeper of the
Great Seal 1 Nov.

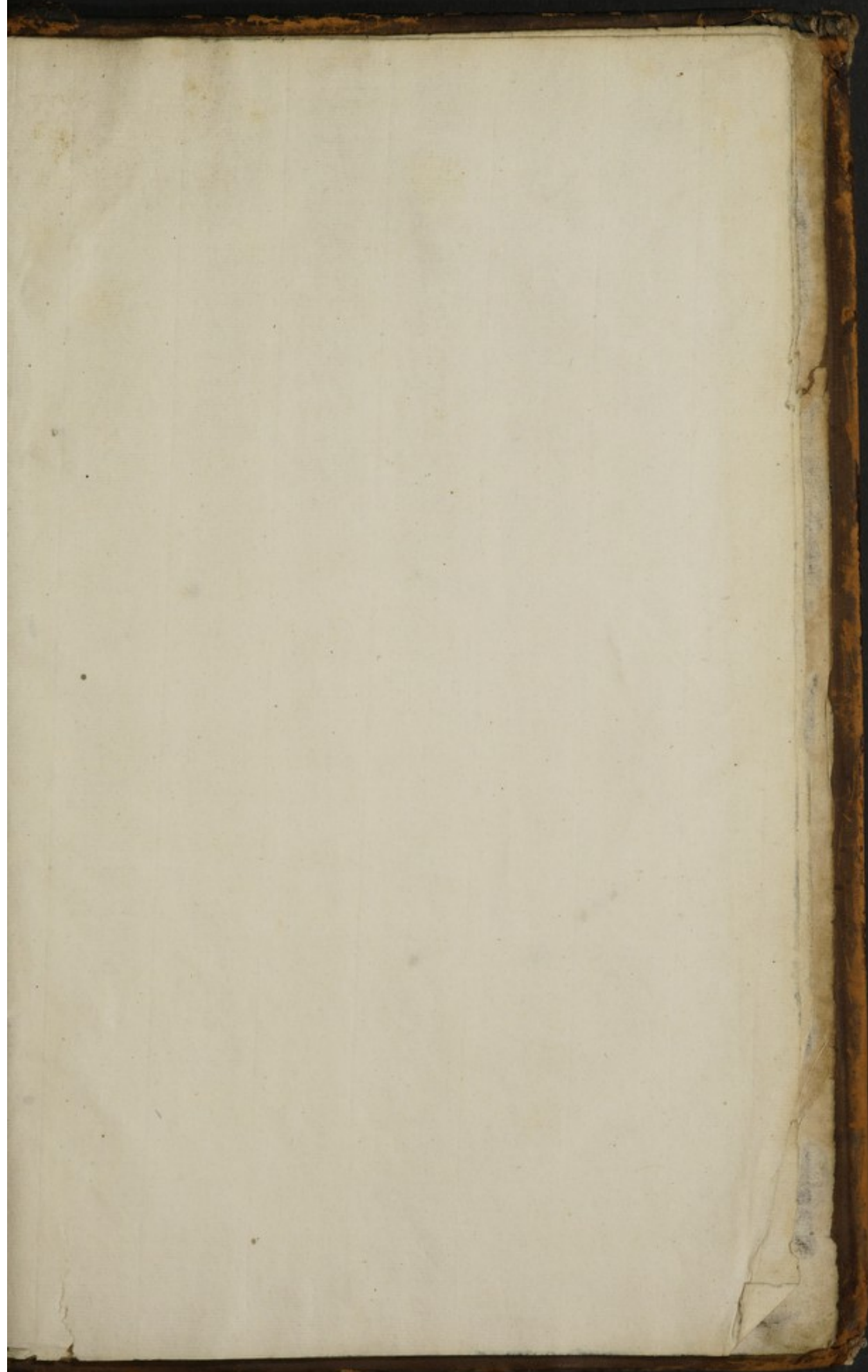
Anno 1689. Sir John Fombur Knight, Lord Chief Ju-
stice of the Court of Common Pleas,
had the Great Seal of England com-
mitted to his Custody 23 Jan.

Anno 1690. Sir Edward Littleton Knight, Lord Chief
Justice of the Court of Common Pleas,
had the Great Seal of England committed
to his Custody 23 Jan.

Anno 1695. Sir Richard Lane Knight, Lord Chief Baron
of the Exchequer, had the Great Seal
of England committed to his Custody
30 Aug.

Anno 1696. Sir John Mordaunt Knight, Lord Chief Baron
of the Exchequer, had the Great Seal
of England committed to his Custody
30 Aug.

F I N I S.



1566. Sir Edward Kille Knight, Chancellor of the
Exchequer to King Charles the First, had
the Great Seal of England committed
in Custody 13 Jan.
And was made Lord Chancellor of England
at Bruges in Flanders 27 Jan. following.

1567. Sir William Bridgesman Knight and Baronet,
Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Com-
mon Pleas, had the Great Seal of En-
gland committed in Custody 30 Aug.

