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NOTE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF CRUMWELL
AS VICAR-GENERAL.

A commission—which from internal evidence may be dated as prior to the middle of December, 1534—was

issued to Thomas Crumwell, Chief Secretary, John Tregunwell, LL.D., principal judge of the Admiralty, and Thomas Bedyll, Archdeacon of London and Cornwall, to make a general visitation of churches and monasteries. In a document dated only '21 January,' but probably belonging to the year 1534-5, Crumwell is addressed as 'Chief Secretary and Master of the Rolls,' and is directed, by himself, to make a similar inquiry. These two documents are extant at the Public Record Office (State Papers, Henry VIII, vol. 8, Nos. 73 and 75). In a copy of a draft commission—not contemporary—at the British Museum (Cotton, Cleop. F. ii. 131) to a similar effect as the foregoing, Crumwell is styled Vicar-General: this seems to be the authority generally quoted for stating that Crumwell held the office of Vicar-General.