DOCUMENTS
ILLUSTRATIVE OF ENGLISH CHURCH HISTORY

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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 Tregun-  
well, 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 docu-  
ment 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.