the town of Glastonbury wherein the old church of the Moth
of God was placed, which is held for certain as the fount ar
origin of all the religion of England, should be more free the
others, with its islands, to wit Becaria, called Little Irelan
Godeneia, Martinesseia, Ferramere, Patheneberga and Adridesia, so th
none, king, archbishop, bishop, justice, sheriff, forester or oth
bailiff or minister or any other, should dare to enter the said plac
to plead or search or seize or do any other thing contrary to tl
dignity of the church, but the abbot only and the convent shou
have power, in causes, known and unknown, in small and great, an
in all businesses whatever, to treat and determine, and that the
should have the same authority and power to punish and let go de
linguences as the desmesne court of the king's said progenitor ha
and as much as pertains to the royal majesty; and whereas th
present king, by charter, confirmed the charter aforesaid and dive
other charters of liberties; the abbot and convent have now mad
petition to the king praying that, whereas the town and manor G
Glastonbury and the six islands aforesaid were at the time of th
foundation of the church and long afterwards in the hands of th
monks and others serving God there, as their own desmesnes, an
afterwards some lands in the town and manor and in three of th
islands, to wit Martinesseia, Patheneberga and Adridesia, before a
well as after the making of the charter had been demised by th
abbot and convent and other presidents there to tenants to hold c
them, and so the three islands called Becaria, Godeneia and Fer
ramere, the town and manor and the three other islands, are no
of the abbot and convent either in desmesne or in service, and they
by virtue of the charters aforesaid, have always hitherto exercises
jurisdiction and royal liberty in the town, manor and islands, are
in the belief that they by the royal power which they have used as
above could acquire lands in the town, manor and islands from
tenants into whose hands these had come from the time of the th
foundation and could alienate these and other lands, without the
king's licence, nevertheless, because there is not special mention
of this in their charters, they fear that they may be impeache
hereafter on this, he will declare the charter of King Henry, gran
to them by express words that they may so acquire and alienate
and pardon them for any trespasses on account of the causes
foresaid; and the king in consideration of the premises and of
this that Walter, now abbot of the said place, will pay 100 marks
in the chamber for such declaration, declares that all demises and
acquisitions of lands made by the abbot and convent from the foun
dation of the abbey were duly made and that he ratifies the same
and makes restitution of any lands taken into his hands on account
of such alienation, demise or acquisition, because these were made
without licence: and for their greater security he has granted
licence for them, by virtue of their charters and liberties,
to alienate or demise lands in the said town, manor and six islands,
and acquire the same again without having to pray for licence from
him or his heirs: and for the removal of all ambiguities he has granted
licence for them and their successors to acquire lands in the town,
manor and islands from any tenants and to grant lands to any
tenants there without having to obtain licence from the king.
Furthermore he has pardoned to the abbot and convent and their
successors all forfeitures, issues and profits, which could be said to