1399.

Membrane 4—cont.

chaplains, and sometimes more to celebrate divine service in the church of
the hospital for the king and his progenitors, founders of the same, and
others, and besides these other chaplains, seculars, to celebrate yearly services,
now there are only nine brethren, chaplains, and the master has hitherto
refused to fill up the number.

Also, that in the hospital there used to be thirty lay-brothers and more for
husbandry and the due custody of the manors of the hospital, and now there
are only three, and in the manors there are servitors, seculars, appointed
without the assent of the brethren.

Also, that there used to be a cellarer elected by common assent of the
brethren to supervise the goods of the hospital, and to be at the audit
of all accounts of the servants and give information in the chapter touching
the state of each manor, but the master for two years and a half has
withdrawn that estate.

Also, that where a brother used to be elected to the office of receiving the
moneys of the hospital and payment of expenses thereout, who certified his
confreres once a year of the estate of the house, the master now does not
permit this.

After hearing these articles and others added to them with the reasons
and answers thereupon by both parties, an agreement was come to in this
form.

To the first article set forth by the master, the brethren confess with one
consent that they are his obedientiaries, sworn on the Holy Gospels, and
will obey him in all things lawful, and grant that they will have nothing of
their own, and when required by him will shew any goods which they have
in their possession without his knowledge, and will conceal nothing from
him. And although they said in their articles that the master took to his
own use the tithe lambs and wool and profits of altars and courts of the
hospital, they are willing that he should have and dispose of these at his
will, because it is so contained in royal charters and letters. And as to
this, that the master set forth that they will not render accounts on oath,
they say that they are prepared to do this and to do all that is consonant
to reason herein and in all other things touching the hospital at the will of
the master, as subject to him and his obedientiaries, and they humbly pray
for pardon for any delinquencies against him in the past.

And as to this, that the brethren set forth that there used to be in
the hospital thirteen brethren, chaplains, or more; because the original
foundation thereof was only for the support of poor persons and the first
master and keeper of the hospital made by William II. received such number
of brethren, chaplains, and as many others and sisters as he deemed necessary
to tend the poor and celebrate divine service, and by this it appears that by
the foundation of the hospital the receiving and ordering of the brethren,
sisters and other servitors pertains to the master and keeper, and Master
Geoffrey de Aspale, late master and keeper of the hospital, who made a
statute that there should be thirteen brethren, chaplains, had not power or
authority to make such statute without licence of the king, and no such
licence is found, and in proportion as the number of brethren and sisters is
increased the number of poor persons must be diminished, it seemed to the
commissioners that to the master and keeper it pertains to order and receive
as many brethren and sisters as shall be necessary, if so it shall seem to the
king's chancellor. And the master grants that there shall be there more
lay-brothers for the husbandry and custody of the manors, when any suitable
person is met with.

And as to this, that the brethren set forth that a cellarer used to be
elected by common assent of the brethren, and a brother as receiver, it is
agreed that because in the royal charter and letters it is contained that the