1272.

Membrane 20.

Feb. 26. To Stephen de Penecestre, constable of Dover castle. Because, by reason of the discord that has arisen between the prior of Dover and the sub-prior and convent of that place, the king wills that the priory and its goods be kept by him, and two monks of the house to be elected with the assent of the said Stephen and the convent; so that the prior be provided for as his estate requires in a separate chamber, and the convent be maintained in the usual way, he commands the said Stephen to have all the goods of the priory kept safely, so that the prior and convent have reasonable sustenance as above and the rest of the goods be converted to the utility of the house.

Commission to the mayor of London and Master John de Sancto Dionisio, king's clerk, keeper of the House of Converts, London, reciting that, on behalf of the poor of the converts of London, it has been shewn to the king and council that, whereas they have nothing whereby they can be maintained and there is no one to come to their help in anything, they are compelled to beg their bread from door to door and die of hunger as it were, and that whereas the king has caused certain rents to be assigned for their sustenance in London and elsewhere, they take nothing of these but other rich converts having other rents and possessions, who also do not stay and are not conversant in the house, take these for the most part and convert them to their own use at their will, which the king will no longer endure and ought not to endure, especially as he caused the rents to be assigned not for the rich but for the poor and needy; and commanding them to make diligent enquiry by the oath of good men of the city and suburb what the said rents and goods are, how much they are worth yearly, who takes them and by whom and in what manner they have hitherto been distributed and dispensed, and to correct without delay what they shall see to need correction and reformation: provided that such goods and rents be assigned to the converts who most need them. Also touching the things which concern the reformation of the service and due state of the chapel and the house, they shall provide as they shall see to be expedient, and it is the king's will that, as the rents were specially assigned to the house for the sustenance of those dwelling therein, so also they shall be carried to the said house by the collectors of the same and be distributed there. If they find any resisting or speaking against them or the ordinance, they shall curb these by sequestration of their portions and otherwise as they shall see necessary.

Feb. 28. To the dean of Chichester, guardian of the spiritualities of the bishopric of that place. Whereas, by reason of the account which Master Robert de Wintonia, canon of Chichester, is bound to render of the time that he was collector of the tenth granted by the pope to the king and Edmund his son in aid of the Holy Land, in the bishopric, under Master Rostand sometime papal nuncio in England, and by reason of arrears wherein the said Master Robert is bound to the king of the said money, the king lately commanded that all the fruits of the prebend of the said Robert in that church and of his other benefices in the bishopric should be sequestrated and sold and the money arising therefrom sent to the king by the dean; and whereas the said Robert is staying at present in the court of Rome, so that he cannot come before the king or answer him thereof; for