

my friends, to avoid the shame of my table, if I should not have to bid my neighbours to a piece of flesh ; when most part of my brethren be better furnished in this provision than I am ; and if I might as boldly speak to the Queen's Majesty, for taking away my park in Sussex, to recompense me with three or four bucks in her park at Canterbury ; as I did find grace in Queen Ann's favour in such like request, I would offer my suit. Marry, because I doubt in these days, neither bishops or ministers may be thought worthy to eat venison ; I will hold me to my beef, and make merry therewith, and pray for all my benefactors, &c. Your honour must pardon importune beggars.

Your's at all times,

MATT. CANTUAR.

*Endorsed by Cecil, Jan. 3, 1563.*

*Myles Coverdale to Sir W. Cecil, 1563.*

My duty considered in right humble wise unto your honour, these are in like manner to beseech the same, that whereas my lord bishop of London tendering as well my age, as my simple labours in the Lord's harvest, hath very gently offered me the pastoral office and benefice of St. Magnus, in London, therefore so it may please your honour to be means for me unto the Queen's most excellent Majesty, that in favorable consideration not only how destitute, I have been ever since my bishoprick was taken from me, and that I never had pension, indemnity or stipend of it this ten years and upwards, but also how unable I am either to pay the first fruits or long to enjoy the said living ; I going upon my grave, and not able to live over a year, her majesty at the contemplation thereof may most graciously grant me the first fruits of the said benefice. When her highness nevertheless might receive them again anew when I am gone.

Heretofore, I praise God for it, your honour hath ever been my special help and protector in all my rightful suits : if now, (that poor old Myles may be provided for) it please your honor to obtain this for me, I shall think this *enough* to be unto me as good as a *feast*. Thus most humbly beseeching your honour to take my boldness in good part, I commit you and all yours to the most gracious protection of the Almighty.

M. COVERDALE, quondam, Exon.

*From London, 6th February.*