

1603.

Feb. ?

42. Note concerning the estate of Sir Charles Danvers, attainted of high treason. A writ of inquiry was directed to the sheriff of Wilts, to find what goods he was seized of at the time of his attainder, and to seize his houses and evidences ; whereupon the sheriff seized the house at Dauntsey, and left certain persons in possession, who were violently expelled by Sir Edm. Carey's servants, and the evidences taken by them. The sheriff empanelled a jury, but had no counsel for the Queen.

A commission was then procured by Sir Edm. Carey, most of the commissioners being friends of Danvers ; they sat at Devizes, and a jury was empanelled, who for the most part never appeared ; for a plot was laid by Mr. Carey's counsel, and a *tales* granted, whereupon certain friends who were got to stand for the purpose were foisted into the jury ; so nothing could be found for the Queen, as they found him seized of neither goods, chattels, lands, nor tenements.

Sir Charles Danvers had a lease for 50 years from his mother, if she so long lived, made to Sir Robert Cecil, Justice Walmsley, Rich. Danvers, and Giles Danvers, to the use of her son Charles, who at that time was not pardoned nor restored for the death of Mr. Long. This lease was published to all the tenants of cos. Wilts and Gloucester, and Rich. Danvers kept court by virtue thereof, received the rents, and employed them as directed by Sir Charles, and appointed John Girdler as steward.

After Sir Charles was pardoned and had returned, an assignment of the lease was published to the tenants of Dauntsey, by Edw. Garrard, a new steward, who was placed by Sir Charles, and Girdler removed, which assignment was made by all or some of the lessees to Sir Charles. Thereupon, by a demand of his new steward, the tenants by way of benevolence granted him three years' rent beforehand, and yet paid their rents ; and Sir Charles was assessed for his lands in the subsidy ; made estates by copy and by lease to his tenants ; made fines, and sold woods to a great value.

Sir Charles having the fee-farm of the seven hundreds at Ciciter, placed a new steward, new bailiffs, kept courts in his own name, received all the profits and rents both of Sir Hen. Poole and others, and offered to sell this land to Sir Henry this last year, and yet they find nothing for the Queen.

The house at Ciciter is ancient demesne land, and passed by surrender to Sir Charles in his father's lifetime, and long before any of his attainders for felony or treason.

John Cawley had a deed of conveyance of Sir John Danvers' with divers uses, to the now Lord Burghley, by the name of Sir Thos. Cecil, and other feoffees, with proviso that if Sir Charles were pardoned, then the feoffees should stand seized to the use of Sir Charles and his heirs, and he afterwards had his pardon.

Sir Edm. Carey alleges that this lease made by his wife was done since her marriage.

Upon all these writs of inquiry and commissions, Sir Edm. Carey had counsel against the Queen, namely, one Laurence Hyde, who threatened the sheriff of Wilts that he should answer in some high