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ROCHESTER RECORDS.

BY ROBERT WILLIS BLENCOWE, ESQ.

By the kind courtesy of the Mayor and Corporation of Rochester, in freely laying open their Records to our investigation, when we held our annual meeting in their ancient city, we are enabled to present our readers with transcripts of two very interesting and valuable documents, viz. the ancient Custumal of the city, temp. Edw. IV., and an account of the expenditure of the Corporation during two years' mayoralty of Richard Harlowe in 1578–9 and 1579–80, the earliest memorial of that nature among their Records.

Both these documents are full of indications of the position which Rochester occupied as the great thoroughfare between England and the continent, and the consequent necessity of stringent laws for facilitating and regulating the traffic.

In the latter of these records will be found many very curious entries, relating to the visits of grandees and high officials, when, in their passage through the city, they were received by the Corporation and treated

¹ We gladly take this opportunity of specially thanking J. Lewis, Esq., the late Town Clerk of Rochester, and R. Prall, Jun., Esq., the present Town Clerk, for the assiduous attention and great facilities which they have rendered us, in carrying out the permission of search so kindly accorded us by the Corporation.

² Since these lines were in type we find that the length of the Custumal precludes us from printing it in our present volume without great curtailment. We prefer therefore giving it in its entirety in our third volume, and limit ourselves at present to the accounts of the year 1578-9.

with civic hospitality. Thus we have items for wine and apples and lambs, etc., as given to my Lord of Huntingdon, and my Lord Cheney, and my Lord Deputy of Ireland, at a costly price, considering the value of money in those days.

When Duke Casimir, son of the Elector Palatine, came to England, to try his chance with many others for the great matrimonial prize, the hand of Queen Elizabeth, he seems to have caused some trouble and no small expense to the loyal citizens of Rochester, as the entries relating to his reception and entertainment in these accounts bear ample testimony.

It will be seen, too, by this document, that the assizes were occasionally held at Rochester, and that it was clearly high time that the Court House there should be put in sufficient repair to receive the Judges, and for the trial of the prisoners. And there is a curious charge of 3s. for the erection of the gallows, that great engine of punishment, which in those days, called by some "the good old days," groaned under the weight of its wretched victims.

Some of the items in this account are of peculiar interest, as evidencing the troubled and anxious condition of public affairs in England, and the plots that were formed against the life of the great Protestant Queen; such as the entries of sums paid to pursuivants for bringing down proclamations against the dispersing of seditious books,—against the flying of rebels out of the realm,—those relating to parties prosecuted for speaking words against the Queen's majesty, etc.

The entry respecting the probate of Mr. Watts's Will, will be read with considerable interest by our friends at Rochester. The tradition is still current, that Queen Elizabeth, in one of her progresses, spent four or five days at the Crown Inn, Rochester, from whence she removed to Mr. Watts's house on Boley Hill; upon

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leaving which she gave it the name of "Satis," to intimate her perfect satisfaction with the reception he had given her. Without pausing to inquire into the authenticity of this tradition, we may well pass on to remind our Rochester readers that this Will, whose probate is here recorded, was that containing the well-known munificent bequest of alms-houses by Richard Watts, which still render nightly service to the houseless poor wayfarer. He died 10th September, 1579. His will was dated September 10th, and proved September 25th, in the same year.

The entry relating to the "Banckite given by Mr. More at his decease" seems to require a passing notice. It was a common practice in those days for a testator to direct by Will what hospitalities should be exercised at his own funeral. They were often upon a very large scale, and there was much drunken revelry. Ralph Guy, a yeoman of Yorkshire, in his Will dated 1550, directs that, for his funeral expenses, there shall be 7 sheep killed; xvs was left for bread; vijs for 4 gallons of ale; for 3 score gallons of beere, ivs; for spice and honey, iis-iiijd; for a quarter of wheat, viijs-vjd; a dozen of capons, vjs; 4 pigs, xs; and viijs-iiijd was to be distributed at the church door. And another yeoman, Launcelot Gale, a few years later, directed that all his friends and neighbours who should offer within one day of his burial should have a dinner at his house, and that his body should remain unburied one day and one night, if God would permit it, to give time for them to be gathered together.

Another series of charges, viz. those relating to the expedition to London to answer Martin Coatis's suit before the Lord Chief Baron, suggest a lively picture for the imagination. We may well fancy the mayor and his brother aldermen mounted on their horses in the

¹ See Richmondshire Wills, published by the Surtees Society, p. 70.

early morn, making their way to Gravesend; "their coats, gowns, and cloaks," as Harrison describes the attire of that day, "of brown, blue, or purple, with some pretty furniture of velvet or fur, or a doublet of old tawney, or black velvet, or other comely silk." They reach Gravesend in somewhat sorry plight from the miriness of the road, but the "ostiler" soon scrapes the mud from their begrimed boots, and enables them to repair on board the tilt boat in trimmed attire, suited to their dignity. Arrived in London, we may picture to ourselves the inn to which they would resort. The archway, the large courtyard, the galleries, one above the other, on which the chambers opened, and the horses stabled underneath; each chamber containing many beds, and each bed probably more than one occupant; and the common room, where they supped, crowded · perhaps with guests of all degrees. One item there is, the payment to the servants of the Lord Chief Baron, indicative of a private visit to the judge, and of evil omen to Mr. Martin Coatis, as to the result of the suit with the Corporation of Rochester, which brought them up to London.

But it is time that we admit our readers to the inspection of the accounts themselves, transcribed verbatim from the originals, as follows:1—

A note of all suche somes of money as have bine disbursed by me Richard Harlowe, major of the Cittie of Rochester, for the use of the saiede Cittie, anno domini 1578, as followeth:—

Item, p^d to Christofer Androwes, for his paynes about the buttes² v^{li}
Imprimis, geven to my Lorde Strange his players . vj^s-viij^d
Item, to a Pursevaunt y^t broughte downe the proclamacions for y^e prises of wine iij^s-iiij^d

² ? "butter,"—the last letter is hopelessly blotted.

¹ We confine ourselves to the disbursements. There is a single page of receipts; none of them, however, worth noting.

Item, spent upon the laste undershriffe, as touching	
matters for the Cittie	ij ^s
Item, for Timber and Ironwoorke for the bere belong-	
ing to St. Nicholas Churche, and for the makeinge	
of the said bere and Iron bowlts	vjs-viijd
Item, for xxviijte foote of Oken timber, for two Susters	
for the Stayers belonginge to the Towne Keaye and	
for a plancke for the foote	vij ^s -vj ^d
Item, for iiij litter loads of Chaulke for the filling of	
the towne keaye, at iiijs ye loade	xvj^s
Item, for one litter loade of gravell for the paveinge	
of the same keaye	$\Delta_{\mathbf{a}}$
Item, payed to John Nicolles, for makeinge and mend-	
inge up of the Seller doore, where Mr. Sackeford's	
butter laye, and for a newe ride and naylles for the	
same	$\mathbf{ij^s}$
Item, for makeinge cleane of the Seller and for Sande	vj^d
Item, payed to vj men for bringinge up of iiij score	
and ode barrells of Butter	iij ^s
Item, for a lincke yo same time	$\mathrm{iiij^d}$
Item, for wine and apples geven to my Lorde of Hun-	
TINGTON, and my Lo: CHENEY	$\mathbf{ij^s}$
Item, for wine and apples geven to my lorde deputie	••••
of Ierland	iij ^s
Item, for ij lambes geven to the saied Lorde deputie	xiij ^s
Item, for ij lambes geven to ducke Cassimere	ixs
Item, for one gallon of Sacke, and for v gallons of	xs-iiijd
gascoyne wine geven to him	xijd
Item, for a horsse hier for one of Bowles Searvants to	Alj
ryde to Gravesende to bringe woorde when ducke	
Cassimerus shulde come	xij^d
Item, for a horsshier for Wards mane to Gillinghame	223
to geyte Oysters for ye ducke	xij^d
Item, payed for halfe a Boushell and one gallon of	
oysters geven to the saied Ducke Cassimerus	viij^a
Item, for ij Lambes geven to my Lorde of A BURGA-	U.
VENNEY	ix^s
Item, for a horsse hier for Springfilde to carrye the	
saied Lambes my Lorde	xij^d
Item, for ij Lambes geven to Mr. Justice Southcote	viiis

Item, for fetching of the saied lambes at Dis of Clife	viij ^d
Item, pd for a hoshier for Edwarde Barker, to carrye	
those lambes to Gravesende	$viij^d$
Item, pd for apples and wine at the assembly of the	
Justices here at Rochester for the queenes majestes	•
affayers	$\mathbf{vj^s}$
Item, for wine, breed, and bere geven unto my Lorde	***
Cheffe baron	ij^s
Item, for wine geven to Sr William Winter and Mr	
HOULDESTOCKE, at the same time yt they graunted there goodwill for the Saylles for the assice howse	$\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{d}}$
Item, for wine geven to Mr Coppinger uppon a courte	XX
daye, when he dired at my howsse, viz. j pottell of	
Sacke, j gallon of gaskine wine, and halfe a pownde	
of sugar	iij ^s -vj ^d
01 50g 601	22) 21)
Charges bestowed uppon the ascehowse.	
Imprimis, for lathes	$ abla \mathbf{j}^{\mathtt{d}}$
Item, for Prigge and Trashe ¹	ij ^s -ij ^d
Item, pd to Thomas Sabine and his fellowe, for j dayes	
worke for to sawe rafters for the same howse	$\mathbf{i}\mathbf{j^s}$
Item, for v Bushells of Lyme	ij ^s -j ^d
Item, payd to George Ridsdale and his mane for	•.1
mending ye same howse	xvjd
Item, for a boushell of heire	iij ^d
Item, for dim hundred of ijs naylles	xijd
Item, for dim hundred of vjd naylles	iij ^d
Item, for iij dayes worke to John Nicholles Item, p ^d to Bartholmewe Roffe for iij dayes labour	iij^s
	h
there	xvj ^d xvj ^d
Item, for slyttinge of a pece of timber for the saiede	ŭ
rafters	iij^d
Item, to John Nicholles, for setting up of the gallowes	
Item, for vj boundells of roushes	xij^d
	xij ^d xij ^d
Item, for j C of iiijd nayele	xij ^d xij ^d iiij ^d
	xij ^d xij ^d

¹ Small nails and brads.

•	
Item, for j dosserl of flishe and for ye carringe of it to	
y ^e Judges	\mathbf{x}_{s}
Item, for ij Bousshelles of oysters	$\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{d}}$
Item, for ij gallons of gaskine wine and one pottell of	
•	iij ^s -iiij ^d
Item, payed for the fetchinge and caringe of the	
	ij ^s -vj ^d
Item, payede to those yt helped to cover ye howse wth	70 .0
the Sayles and to take theme downe for vitells at	
	j ^s -viij ^d
Item, pd to William Rawlinge and Hughe Arudell	1 -411
for kepeing and layeinge of ye coushings in the	
sice howse	ijs
Item, payed to Nichollas White for ceartayne paynte-	-D
ing done by hime aboute the assice howse	xv^s
Item, p ^d for dim C of Elme boarde for to boarde up	A .V
	is ::::0
	j ^s -iiij ^d
Item, pd to Edward Barcker, for iiij C of Osterye	
ffaggotts at iiijs the C, the weare geven to poore	
of the parishe	xvj^s
Item, pd to Thomas Corke of Maydstone, pavior, for	
xiij Loods of Stones delivered at Mayedstone at the	
	zij ^s -iiij ^d
Item, pd for the carraidge of ye same stones from	
Maydstone by watter to the Towne Keaye	viijs
Item, pd for the certificate into the Chauncery, for	••-
eateing of fleshe in the Lente season	$\mathbf{ij^s}$
Item, pd to Thomas Ffoule, masone, for ij dayes worke	
	s-iiijd
Item, pd to Thomas Waller, for iij ringells (? cingells)	
and iij Thimbles of iorne, wayeing xlviijlb, at ijd of	
the pownde	\mathbf{x}_{s}
Item, payed for a newe lande towe layeinge and for	
Timber	$\mathbf{ij^s}$
Item, payed to Thomas Cooke ye Pavior for the Pa-	
veinge of 100 yards of paveing at the towne Keaye x	x^s-x^a
Item, paied for one gooeinge up to London to put the	
certificate of the rate of Servant's wadges, and for	
his chardges ye same time	∇^{8}

¹ dosser, 'a basket.'—Halliwell.

Item, payed to yo Poursivante for bringing the proclamacions for caringe of gones and Longe Dudges ¹ . Item, payed to Johne Pendellton for his chardges to to the Courte at Richemounte, wt letters to the counsell there, for certayne woords, the which one Randalle Worsleye spake in Mr Edmunds howse	ij ^s -vj ^d
againste the Queens Maigestie (ij ^s -vj ^d) Item, paied for a new markite bousshell and for the	$\mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{s}}$
bindinge of the same	$\boldsymbol{v^s}$
due unto her at the feaste of St Michaell tharchan-	
gell, anno domini , and in the xx yeare of her maigesties Raigne	xiiij ^{li}
	ij ^s -vj ^d
of y ^e proclamacions for concealed lands Item, p ^d to the Poursivante for the bringeinge downe	ij ^s -vj ^đ
of yo proclamaciones for the ffree libertie of wines for to be brought into this Realme	ij ^s -vj ^d
gooeinge over of Woolles	ij ^s -vj ^d
A note of suche Vittells as was expended at the Admiral holden at Shiernas for the Cittie of Rochester, the xx of June, anno domini 1579, as hereafter followeth:—	l Courte j th daye
Item, payed for Beefe, boylled and rosted	viij ^s -ix ^d v ^s
	iij ^s -vj ^d
Item, for Rabetts, backed	xviijd
Item, payed for Courrants and Prevens	vj^d
Item, for Pepper to backe this meate.	ix^d
Item, payed for ijib of Butter	vj ^d
Item, payed for fflower	xij ^d ij*
Item, for v doss of Breade	1J° ∵5
Item, for one killderkine of beere, being halfe stronge	•
and halfe smale	iij^s

¹ Barrells.—Halliwell.

Item, p^d of one Pine of smalebeere	vj^d
Item, payed for Wine	ix^s
Item, payed for Vinier & Saulte	ij^d
Item, payed for Svegar	ijs
Item, geven to the mariners for there paynes in rowe-	·
inge of us downe to the Nasse and up agayne, and	
for ower drinckeinge at or comeinge to lande	vj^s
Sma inde, xlixs-ija	3
Item, payed for the dynner of the admirall courte	
holden by me, Richarde Harlowe, major of the	
Cittie of Rochester, for the saied Cittie, at HAWCKE-	
WOODE. The xvjth daye of October, anno 1578, as	
by the Recordes of the sayed courte dothe apper.	vis
Item, pd to the Pursivante for the bringinge downe	,-
of the proclamacions for appaerell, ssvardes, and	
	ij ^s -vj ^d
longe rouffes	£) _ (J
Lewen at the probate of Mr Wartes his will of	
Bollyhill	ij ^s
Item, payed to Mr Fraunces Hille, for his paynes in	-5)
goeinge up to London aboute the saied will of M	
	riiis iiiid
Watts	ZII) • III]
affirers dynner for affireing of the Lawedaye holden	
the Michaellmas before	iiijs
Item, payed for wine geven to my Lorde cheffe baron	ml
at his beinge at Rochester in the lente, comeinge	
frome his sircute	iiiis miiid
Item, payede to Richarde Claye for wine geven to my	mlvm
Lorde chefe barone at his going from Caunterburye	
	::a:d
to London	ij ^s -vj ^d
Item, payede to the Exchetters bayelie, for bringing	
of a parantarie daye for us to apper before the saied	*********
exchetor at Depforde	ijs-vj ^d
	e
coppie of Mr Watts will	Λ.,
Item, payed for the Banckite geven by Mr More at	
his decease, expended at yo Signe of the White	
Harte at Rochester, being more then ye saiede Mr	

Moore allowed	${\rm vij^s}$
	vij ^s

proclamacions againste the disspersinge of sedicius boks	ij ^s -vj ^d ij ^s -vj ^d
Monney layede owte by me, Richarde Harlowe, major of of Rochester, for the use of the saied Cittie, anno dom	
Item, payed for the Certificate of the Eeating of ffleshe made by the saied Maior in to the Chancery for you Lente	ij ^s
creasse of horsses	ij ^s -vj ^d
Salmons to my Lorde Cobhame's	xij ^d ij ^s
agaynste the queen's mati	ij ^s xiiij ^{li}
Monney expended the iiij th of Januairii, anno domini 155 gooeing up of me, Richarde Harlowe, maior, to Lon others of my Bretheren, to answer my Lord Chefebarothers uppon a sute made to the saiede Lorde Chefe I Martine Coatis.	don, and rone and
Item, geven to the poore of White ditche	iiij ^s -viij ^d iiij ^d
Item, geven to the ostiler at Gravesend for makeinge cleane of or bouttes	∇j^d
Item, for or Breakefaste there	v) V ⁸
Item, for a tilte boote up to London	iiijs
Item, for a wherie thoroughe the bridge to the blacke-	
friers	iiijd
Item, paied for or Supper yt nighte	vijs-xd
Item, geven to my Lorde chefe barone his Butler and	•
Portter	iij ^s
Item, for or Brekefaste uppon Tewsdaye	ij ^s

Item, for or dynner the same daye vij ^s -iij ^d Item, for ower beddes and other necessaries, and to to the maiedes of the Inne ij ^s -viij ^d Item, for our bote hier to Gravesende iij ^s Item, paied for M ^r Maplesden his horse meate at Gravesend, and to the ostiler xij ^d Item, for v horshiers for us to Rochester iij ^s -iiij ^d Summa inde, xliiij ^s -xj ^d
A note of the expences of Vittels ye wen was expended at the Admirall Courte holden at Shiernas the of June, ao domini 1580, by me, Richarde Harlowe, maior of the cittie of Rochester, for yo saied Cittie.
Imprimis, paiede for j lambe, bought of William
Wilkinsonne v ^s
Item, p ^d for dim Lambe, boughte in y ^e markit xx ^d Item, p ^d to William Wilkinsonne for xij stone of Beefe at xij ^d the stone, y ^e whiche was boylled and
rosted xij $^{\mathrm{s}}$
Item, pd Walter Powlter for one Loyne, one Shoulder,
and a breste of Veale $\ldots \ldots \ldots i j^s$ -v j^d
Item, for ij Pigges xx ^d
Item, for fflower and boutter to backe ye lambe xijd
Item, for courrants, pepper, and prevenes viijd
Item, for mousterde, viniger, and saulte iiijd
Item, to Thomas the baker for v doss of breed vs
Item, paied for xiij quartts of gaskine wine vjs-vjd
Item, paied to Barker for a bottell of Sacke of v quartts ijs-vjd
Item, paied for a gallon of Sacke fechte at Queenborowe ijs
Item, paied to the mariners went rowed in ij Pinsces
downe to ye Nasse and up againe iiijs
Item, for a Samone, expended the same time at
Shiernasse $ ext{vj}^s$
Item, paied to John Boutler for ij horse hiers to Can-
terburye ye same time that my Lorde Cheffe baron
sente for ceartyne Presoners to come before hime, in
the behalfe of the Queens Magestie to Canterburie vs
Item, pd to Willcox the same time for the hier of ij
horsses to Canterburie for those men vs
Item, payed for ij horse hiers to Birlinge for my selfe
G 2

and Springefild ye same time yt my Lorde of Abur-
GAVENNEY sente for me and certayne other Alldermen
to come to . at weh time he . alleged yt he hade
wronge for yt he hade not the placeinge of the un-
der stuarde of this Cyttie ij
Item, pd to Thoms Watters ye same time ythe carried
Becher and another younge mane to the conssell at
the counselle's Comaundmete xs
Item, geven to Ussher and his men for takeinge up
of a Samon upon the stadells, the w ^{ch} Samon was
geven to my Lorde Cobhame iijs-iiijd
Item, pd to my LORDE COBHAM his keper when he
broughte us halfe a boucke at the same time to be
merie $\mathbf{w^t}$ iij s -iiij d
Item, payed for the affirers dinner at the affiringe of
the lawedaye iiijs
Item, payed for a Courte dinner the 4 Julye, 1580 . vjs-viijd
$\mathrm{Sm^a},\mathrm{lx^{li}}$ - $\mathrm{iij^s}$ - $\mathrm{v^d}$
m 1 1 2 m 1 1
Then, in a different hand,—
Item, payed to Mr Wallis and others, aboute the pro-
bate of Mr. Watts's will of Bullyhill xx ⁵ -x ^d
Item, more Mr. Harlowe askethe allowance for his
dyett for ij yeres xviijii
Sum Totall, iij ^{xx} jli-iiij ^s -iij ^d
Soe the hole expences and allowances is iij ^{xx} xix ^{li} -iiij ^s -iij ^d
Whereof Mr Harlowe hathe R lxvjii-iis-vd
Soe there is dewe unto Mr Harlowe by the citie xiijli-j ^s -x ^d
More he askethe allowance for a dinner at the electinge
of Mr Hatter major
of M ^r Haulle major xij^s - iij^d Soe his hole dewe to R is $xiij^{li}$ - $xiiij^s$ - j^d
More Mr Harlowe askethe allowance for xxx ^{li} of leade,
at j^d the pownde iij ^s - j^d ob.
So that now the hole dewe to Mr HARLOWE owinge