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MEDIÆVAL FOLKESTONE.

FOLKESTONE gives its name to one of the Hundreds of Kent, and was the site of a nunnery (said to have been the first in England), founded in the seventh century by Eadbald, King of Kent, the father of St. Eanswith, its first Abbess. These facts prove that the town was in earlier times a place of some importance, but very little is known respecting its history, prior to the Middle Ages.

It is evident that the name, spelt Folcstane in the earlier records, was given by the Saxons,* and that it was derived from the natural peculiarities of the place, its stone quarries having always played a conspicuous part in its history. They are mentioned in two extents (or valuations) of the manor of "Folcstane" which were made in the reign of Henry III. In the first of these, dated 1263, we read that "there are there certain quarries worth per annum† 20s." The second gives us further information; it is dated 1271, and says "the quarry‡ in which mill-stones and handmill-stones are dug" is worth 20s. per annum. Such peaceful and useful implements as mill-stones were, however, by no means the only produce of these quarries. When Edward III., and his son the Black Prince, were prosecuting their conquests in France, some of the implements of war were obtained from Folkestone. On Jan. the 9th, 1356,§ the King ordered the Warden of the Cinque Ports to send over to Calais|| those stones for warlike engines which had been prepared at Folkestone. The accounts of Merton College, Oxford, record the fact that "six great stones, to lay under the granary of Elham Rectory, were obtained from Folkestone," in 1330. Their carriage thence to Elham cost 6s. In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as we shall presently see, no less than 100 labourers were employed in these quarries excavating and hewing stone for Dover Haven; and during

* Compare the words "folcland" and "folcmote." The derivation, "Fulke's Town," suggested in Murray's Handbook for Kent, is clearly inadmissible. Fulke is a Norman name; and the last syllable of the Saxon town's name was always spelt "stane" not "tun" nor "ton."

† 'Archæologia Cantiana,' iii., 257.

‡ *Ibid.*, vi., 241.

§ Rymer's 'Fœdera,' iii., part i., p. 315.

|| Calais had been captured by Edward III. in 1347 after a year's siege. The French endeavoured to regain it about this time, 1356.

the Commonwealth large quantities of Folkestone stone went to Dunkirk, for the harbour there. The uppermost, of the four subdivisions of the Lower Green Sand, crops out at Copt Point, and furnished the stone which was quarried here during the middle ages. It is very inferior to the well-known Kentish ragstone,* which lies lower down in the same series.

Of Folkestone during the eleventh and twelfth centuries we know very little more than the names of its possessors, whose descent has been clearly traced by Mr. Thomas Stapleton, F.S.A., in a paper read at Canterbury in 1844 before the British Archæological Association. Upon the death of William de Archis, or Arques, the Norman Lord of Folkestone, his widow, Beatrix, entered upon his smaller and subordinate manor and house at Newington as her dower, and the bulk of his property was divided between his two daughters. Matilda, who was the wife of William de Tancarville, inherited his estates in Normandy, which came from Gozelin, Vicomte de Arques. Emma, the other daughter, wife of another Norman named Nigel de Moneville, inherited the Folkestone estate. Her husband, de Moneville, died leaving but one child, Matilda, who married Rualinus de Averanches. He was Sheriff of Kent in 1131, and died before 1147.†

Emma de Moneville, on the death of her husband, married the Comte de Guisnes soon after A.D. 1100, and brought to him the manor of Newington, upon which some of her descendants, Comtes de Guisnes, are said to have resided. Newington Church she gave to the Abbess and Convent of Guisnes, in Artois. Thus Newington Manor, and Newington Church, became alienated from the Honor or Barony of Folkestone, the one for a time, the other for ever.

De Moneville's daughter, Matilda, inherited the diminished Lordship of Folkestone and brought it in dower to her husband, Rualinus de Averanches, whose son William is said to have founded the church upon its present site about 1138. Mr. Stapleton says, that in the year 1191 William's son, or grandson, Simon de Abrincis, or Averanches, Baron of Folkestone, claiming to be rightful heir to the whole of the English estates of William de Arques, gave 100 marks to have trial at law for the purpose of obtaining certain lands in Kent of which he had been disseised by Baldwin Comte de Guisnes. Within ten years from that time the case was decided by "Wager of battle" in favour of the equal division of the Manor of Newington between the two

* Henry VI., by his will, directs "all the walls of Eton College of the outer court, and of the walls of the precinct about the gardens" to be made of the "hard stone of Kent."

† Planché's 'Corner of Kent,' p. 261. Dugdale's 'Mon. Ang.' i. 680.

claimants. ('Arch. Cant.,' ii., 267.) Newington was included in the extent of Folkestone Manor made in 1263.

We do not hear much of Folkestone until the time of King John. Then it obtained the right of holding a market every Thursday. This right, first granted to Jeffrey Fitz Peter in 1205, was renewed to William de Averanches, son of Simon, in 1215. In the same year, says Mr. Planché, Simon's widow Cecilia sold one of her manors to raise money for the ransom of her son William, who had been taken prisoner by the king's forces.* During the following year the intestine strife between King John and his Barons came to a crisis, and Folkestone was for a short time the King's headquarters. He had hired from the Low Countries a large number of mercenaries, to swell his army. When these foreign soldiers were sailing to Dover, which was occupied by the King's party, a storm shattered their fleet and many of the men were lost. A considerable number, however, reached our shores, and as Dover would be crowded with the army and its appurtenances, King John came to Folkestone. Here he took up his abode with his court, on three occasions, during the month of May, 1216, remaining altogether about twelve days. Then occurred an event which happily is without parallel in the annals of our country. A French Prince, Louis the Dauphin, at the invitation of the English Barons, landed at Stonar in Thanet on the 21st of May with an army that had filled 680 ships. He then proceeded to Sandwich and Rochester, and made a series of successful attacks upon all such towns in Kent as were occupied by the King's friends, so that, as Matthew Paris says, he took all Kent, save Dover, which he vigorously besieged.

Upon the approach of the French Prince, King John withdrew rapidly to Winchester, leaving Folkestone and Dover to their fate. After his departure the Lord of Folkestone, William de Averanches, is said to have been guilty of great excesses. The Register of St. Rade-gund's Abbey (quoted by Hasted, viii. 150) states that he spoiled Hawkinge Church, while the Dauphin was in England, that he and his followers plundered the bodies of the dead, and that he deprived Hawkinge Church of all the tithes and oblations due by his tenants. He caused them to give their oblations four times a-year in his Hall, at Folkestone, before they went to the Priory there. It is a remarkable coincidence, that about three hundred years afterwards, we find the representatives of Hawkinge Church complaining, at Archbishop Warham's visitation, in 1511, that "the Prior of Folkestone withdraweth certain householders

* 'A Corner of Kent,' p. 262.

from the parish of Hawkyng by which the said church is likely to decay.”* The Prior, however, denied being responsible for any such withdrawal.

The above-mentioned Hall of William de Averanches was probably the house at which King John stayed with his court when at Folkestone. We have no description of it as it then appeared, nor can we say for certain that it was the “castle,” within the precincts of which the church formerly stood, and the site of which is marked by the spot still called the Bail. We may suppose, however, that it was so, and it certainly was the same building which, fifty years later, was described in the valuation then made of the Manor of Folkestone. This William de Averanches, like many of the Lords of Folkestone, had no son. He was succeeded in the Lordship by his sister Matilda, who married Hamo de Crevecoeur, and their only children were daughters. When Hamo died, in 1268, a valuation of the manor was made, in which the Lord’s Hall is described as “a capital messuage, sufficiently well built, and enclosed with a stone wall.”† Within the walled precinct there were, a garden, a court yard in which was herbage, and a dovecote. The large park, about a league and a half in circuit, extended nearly to Sandgate, and was surrounded by a hedge or fence. This fence the tenants of eighteen knights’ fees, held of the manor, were bound to keep in repair; doing, cutting, and carrying, the fencing for 360 perches every four years.

The park contained so many deer, and other wild creatures for the chase, that if they had been destroyed the portion allotted to them would have afforded pasture for 100 cattle. There were also three fishponds in the park, the value of which was reckoned at 13s. 4d. per annum; but they were so large, that had they been fully stocked they would have been worth 40s. a-year, which was as much as the annual value of twenty acres of mowing meadow. Nor was the park deficient in good timber. No less than fifty acres of it were covered with large oaks and great white-thorns. Underwood covered other ten acres, upon which it was allowed to grow for five years together, but so well was it regulated that two acres could be cut every year, and the underwood so cut was worth 4s. an acre. Twenty-two acres were devoted to mowing meadow; and the pannage or pig pasture under the trees of the park was worth 50s. per annum.

The demesne lands of the Lord of Folkestone comprised 825 acres of arable, pasture and meadow land; of which 710 acres were in Folkestone and 115 in Newington. The woodlands were also

* ‘Warham’s’ Register, fol. 50. † ‘Archæologia Cantiana,’ iii., 257.

extensive at Herstling, Reynden, and Newington. Reynden wood comprised 150 acres, and its timber was worth £300. There were likewise rabbit and other warrens worth 20s. a-year. Perhaps the most curious portion of the description is that of two fields, called Bromfeld and Gorst, which comprised forty-one acres, whereon broom and furze were grown. They were so managed as to be worth as much as pasture land, or 12d. per acre per annum. The Valuation* says, "be it known that in those forty-one acres broom and furze grow, and may be cut always at the end of seven years, and afterwards they may be ploughed and sown for two years, and the crop of each acre of broom and furze may be sold for 7s."

There are some remarkable touches yet to be added to this outline sketch of Folkestone six hundred years ago. It had three "very poor" water-mills and there was one windmill (at Terlingham) on the manor lands; hens were then valued at 1½d. each, and a fat capon at 2d.; among the annual assised rents paid to the Lord of the Manor were 376½ hens. Hens' eggs were worth from 3d. to 3½d. the hundred, and eight hundred were yearly received as rent by the Lord. Lambs were valued at 8d. each, and the Lord received 42 of them as rent every year. Pepper, however, of which he received in rent 2½ lbs. yearly (1 from Folkestone and 1½ from Newington) was worth 1s.† a pound in 1271; that is to say, 1 lb. of pepper then cost as much as a lamb and a half, or eight hens, or 342 eggs; in 1263 it cost only 8d. a lb. Among the other assised rents of the manor were 2 lbs. of cumin seed worth 2d. a lb. in 1271, but only worth 1½d. in 1263; 21 seams of oats, counting 16 bushels to a seam, worth 3s. 4d. a seam in 1271, but only 2s. in 1263; and two seams of fine white salt worth 2s. a seam in 1271, but only 1s. 8d. in 1263.

The Romescot, or annual payment for Peter's pence, upon the Feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, amounted to 32s. 10d., or 394 pence; of which 17s. 6d. was due from the Alcham limb of the Manor, while only 15s. 4d. was payable from the town and the Middle-hundred of Folkestone.

In the valuations of the Manor it is specially stated that the Advowson of the church is in the gift of the Lord of Folkestone and is worth, one year with the other, 60 marks per annum, *i.e.*, £40. Likewise, "the Priory of Folkestone, which is a cell of the Abbey of Lulley, is of the foundation of the Lord of Folkestone, and he has the custody of the same Priory as often as it may be vacant by the

* 'Archæologia Cantiana,' vol. iii., p. 259.

† The Goldsmiths' Company, for their Feasts, paid for Pepper in 1517, 1s. 2d. per lb.; in 1518, 1s. 10d.; in 1527, 1s. 6d.

death of any Prior." Five courts were held by the Lord of the Manor. One for the Hundred, the fees and perquisites of which were 40s. a-year; one for Folkestone, with fees of 5s. per annum; one for Alcham with fees amounting to 13s. 4d.; one for Newington and the Marsh, with annual fees of 30s.; and one for Achangre in Cheriton, of which the fees were worth but 2s. per annum; these particulars are from the valuation* made in 1263.

There was one fee or custom which was very seldom demanded by the Lord of Folkestone; it was a contribution or "aid" of £21. 14s. 9d., from all tenants in socage, towards making his eldest son a knight. Often however must the parallel custom have been enforced, which required those tenants to pay the same aid upon the marriage of the lord's eldest daughter. These customs we learn from the valuation† made in 1271, when the husbands of Agnes and Alianore de Crevecœur, two of the daughters and co-heirs of Matilda de Averanches, were joint owners of the manor of Folkestone with its appurtenances, Newington, Walton, Terlingham, Achangre, and Alcham. Their husbands were Sir John de Sandwich and Sir Bertram de Crioll.

At the end of the 13th century, in the 28th year of Edward I. (1299-1300), we find in the King's Wardrobe Accounts an entry of the payment of £6. 1s. 6d. to Simon Adam, Master of a Folkestone "coga," or cock-boat, for himself and twenty-four companions, for eighteen days' service with the fleet. The king had then no ships of his own, and those employed for national purposes were supplied by the Cinque Ports. In this particular year Dover had furnished seven ships for the Royal Service; Sandwich 3 (St. Spirit, La Sauvege, and St. Thomas); Hythe 3 (St. Cross, La Blithe, and Waynepayn); Romney 2 (La Ryche and La Godelyve); Faversham 1 (The Nicholas); and Folkestone 1 coga. The Admiral of this Cinque Port Fleet was Gervase Alard, who received 2s. a-day. The Captains of the Dover and Sandwich ships were paid 1s. a-day; shipmasters 6d.; the chaplain of the fleet 6d.; and the seamen 3d. a-day.‡

Philipot states that in 1338 (11 Ed. III.) Folkestone was bound to furnish four of the six men who formed the night watch for the coast at Sandgate ('Villare Cantianum,' p. 4).

During the 15th century, in 1450, we find the Bailiff (Ballivus) of Folkestone, John Browne,§ joining in Jack Cade's rebellion, and surviving to be pardoned. He seems to have acted alone, no other

* 'Archæologia Cantiana,' iii., 263.

† *Ibid.*, vi., 242.

‡ 'Liber Quotidianus Contrarotulatoris Garderobæ,' printed by the Society of Antiquaries, London,

§ 'Archæologia Cantiana,' vii., 237.

Folkestone man being mentioned; among the rebels there were one Dover man and two gentlemen of Sandwich, but Jack Cade was joined by very few of the inhabitants of that part of Kent in which Folkestone stands.

Vineyards seem to have been cultivated at Folkestone. In the grant of tithes, made by William de Averanches to the Priory, he especially names the tithe of Vines or Vineyards (*vinearum*). In 1472 John Cowper, by his will, bequeathed to his wife an acre and a half of land "*in le Wyneyerd*" at Folkestone. It is rather interesting to trace the signs of vineyard cultivation in Kent. We find the name (as used at Folkestone) "the Vineyard" still clinging to certain spots, at Leeds Castle and at Tong; Domesday Book mentions the Leeds Vineyard, and also another at Chart Sutton or Certh. Accounts of St. Augustine's Abbey shew that, in the time of Edward III., that Abbey possessed vineyards* at Nordhome, in St. Martin's parish at Canterbury, and also at Chister. Mr. Godfrey Faussett has, in volume vi. of our 'Archæologia,' pp. 327-329, called attention to the Bishop of Rochester's vineyards at Halling, and perhaps at Snodland; to one at Godington; to several belonging to Christ Church, Canterbury; and to Hasted's mention of others at Quekes Court, Thanet; at Hall Place, Barming; and at Tunbridge Castle. The charters of Faversham indirectly prove the existenee of local vineyards, for they speak of wine made in that town, which might, under certain conditions, be carried by sea free of duty.

In 1474 one of the worthies of Folkestone, named John Hert, shortly before his death, felt moved with compassion for young and industrious maidens. By his will he left the sum of 40s. to form marriage portions for poor maidens of this town.

The ancient names of some of the Wards of Folkestone are mentioned in a valuation† of the possessions of the Priory in 1537. Therein we read of Cliffe Ward, Waterditch Ward, Coldam Ward, a wood called Upping Well Ward, Eastbrook Ward, and Haukyng Ward. These, however, were not all in the town; Coldam and Hauking were boroughs of the Hundred, not of the Parish of Folkestone.

In 1514, when a subsidy was levied upon the Cinque Ports, John Tong and Thomas Eden, or Uden, were appointed by the Lord Chancellor's warrant, to collect it at Folkestone.‡

* 'Archæologia Cantiana,' ii., 226.

† Dugdale's 'Monasticon,' iv., 675.

‡ Dom. State Papers, 5 Henry VIII., No. 4996 in Pub. Record Office. Similar warrants were issued, for Faversham, to Wm. Norton and Robert Meycote, and for Hythe, to John Honeywode and Clement Holwey.

In illustration of the early hours at which our ancestors held their courts and meetings, we may quote a citation* received by the Mayor and Jurates of Folkestone on the 24th of June, 1519. The Mayor of Dover, Sir Thomas Vaughan, therein desires them to send eight discreet men, sailors and others, to meet the Lord Warden, Sir Edward Ponynys, at Dover on Tuesday, the 5th of July, at eight o'clock in the morning, then and there to inquire into causes touching the Admiralty. This was not then considered to be an early hour; in the reign of Edward III. the Houses of Parliament were accustomed to assemble at eight o'clock in the morning.

If, however, our forefathers were early birds, they would not permit a fisherman to forestall his fellows by fishing before sunrise. One Matthew Lewce was guilty of thus striving to be the earliest of early birds. Consequently on the 28th of June, 1521 (13 H. VIII.), at an Inquisition,† or Court of Inquiry. held on the sea shore at Hythe, on the part of the King, by Sir Edward Ponynys, Warden of the Cinque Ports, the said Matthew Lewce was "presented" for fishing with his nets before sunrise, about the Feast of Pentecost or Whitsunday. As this conduct was contrary to the ordinance and statute in that case provided, the aforesaid Matthew was fined. At the same inquest, or inquiry, two men (William Andrew, servant of Nicholas Mott, and one Strogell of Lydd, a butcher) were fined for taking and carrying off a salmon, out of the net of John Sutton of Folkestone, about the Feast of Corpus Christi in the same year—a feat which, I suppose, it would be very difficult to perform at the present day.‡ In 1498 no less than 20s. were paid for a large fresh salmon by the Goldsmiths' Company; a smaller one at the same time cost 11s. In August, 1539, when Henry VIII. was entertained at Wulfhall, Wilts, by the Earl of Hertford, five salmon were bought for 20s. and eight grilse for 16s. ('Wilts Arch. Mag.,' xv. 169).

Nor was this salmon theft the only remarkable presentment made at the same inquiry. The jurors reported that a fish called a "Porpeys" had been found by the parish priest of Dimchurch, one "Adam, a clerk," and they added that they could not tell the value of the fish. This porpoise was probably a young one, that had been washed ashore by the tide. The flesh of porpoises, however, was used as a dainty food by our forefathers. In 1466 the corporation of Lydd paid 9s. for a porpoise, which they presented

* Dom. State Papers, 11 Henry VIII. in Public Record Office.

† *Ibid.*, 13 H. VIII. No. 1372.

‡ In 28 Ed. I. forty salmon, salted or pickled, were bought at 8d. each by the constable of Jeddeworth Castle (King's Wardrobe Account, p. 13).

to "Mayster Scotte;" and in 1468 they bought another for six shillings. During the reign of Henry VIII. a porpoise was served up among other fish at one of the banquets of the Goldsmiths' Company, and Brand says that porpoises were sold in Newcastle market so late as the year 1575. Certain nets called Flewes are at the same inquiry valued at 3s. each. It was "presented" that William Truelove had in his custody, for the use of the Lord Admiral and Warden of the Cinque Ports, fifteen nets called Flewes, which were worth 45s.

Towards the close of the following year, 1522, the fishermen, whether early or late, cast their nets under the influence of fears and alarms, occasioned by the French. These alarms induced the Archbishop of Canterbury himself to visit Folkestone, Sandwich, Deal, Dover and Hythe, that he might cause efficient means to be taken for the defence of those towns. He wrote to Cardinal Wolsey on the 31st October, assuring him that watches and beacons should be set up all along the coast, and that he would himself proceed upon the Wednesday next after the Feast of St. Thomas, to visit the ports above mentioned.*

Such alarms were frequent at Folkestone. On the 4th of April, 1558, Sir Henry Jernegan, who was Lord Lieutenant of Kent and Master of the Horse to the Queen, wrote from Canterbury to the Council that he had committed the Downs and Folkestone with the level of Romney to Mr. Kemp to defend, with such force of the adjoining towns as might be soonest ready, and most apt to serve.† Eight days afterwards, on the 12th of April, he appointed Sir Thomas Moyle and Sir Thomas Kemp to see that beacons and watches were organized and repaired, and to discover the approach of any enemy in the hundred and town of Folkestone.‡

In 1565 we obtain a glimpse of the town, in some returns made respecting the Cinque Ports. They shew that Folkestone then contained 120 inhabited houses, that 70 of the men were fishermen, and that the fishing vessels and boats of all sizes were 25 in number.

About seven years later we find, from a note of the number of men composing the general and the select bands in the Five Ports, that the Folkestone general band numbered 55 men, while the select band had but five men less.§

* Brewer's State Letters and Papers, vol. iii., part 2, page 1121.

† Green's Cal. State Papers, 1601-3, pp. 472, 473.

‡ *Ibidem.*

§ The numbers were for Dover, 255 and 117; Sandwich, 255 and 154; Romney, 72 (with 4 horses) and 56; Lydd, 175 (with 10 horses) and 64; Tenterden, 148 (with 4 horses) and 100; Faversham, 110 and 91; St. John's,

No doubt the Folkestone band was called out in the following year, 1573, not to guard the coast, but to escort the Queen's Grace. Her Majesty did not actually visit the town of Folkestone, but she passed close to it, and her presence attracted to the Hill, called Folkestone Down, a wondrous array of lords and gentlemen. It was in the genial month of August, that having spent two days with Mr. Tufton at Hothfield, Queen Elizabeth proceeded to her own house at Westenhamer (of which Lord Buckhurst was then the Keeper), and remained there during four days. She left Westenhamer on the 25th of August, and having dined at Sandgate Castle, started thence for Dover. As the Royal cavalcade ascended the hill to Folkestone Down, a gay and glittering array was seen awaiting the Queen's approach. There was Archbishop Parker, who had come over from Beakesbourne, near Canterbury, with a great train of attendants. There also was Lord Cobham, Warden of the Five Ports, with a goodly gathering of friends, officials, and dependants. There also was Holiday, the Mayor of Folkestone, with the jurates, and their petition; there too were all the flower of the East Kent knights and gentlemen, more than 300 in number, and there too, doubtless, was the select band of Folkestone, 50 strong. The spectacle must have been glorious, and imposing in the extreme, when the Royal cavalcade, having been received and welcomed by these many hundreds of the men of Kent, mingled its forces with them, as they gaily escorted the magnificent Elizabeth, all the way from Folkestone Down to Dover Castle. The Queen did not fail to carry off a very useful memento of her welcome on Folkestone Down. A handsome horse, belonging to Archbishop Parker, excited her admiration, to such an extent, that his Grace was constrained to offer it to Her Majesty as a gift, which she most graciously accepted.* When, a few years later, works were commenced for making a Haven at Dover, we find that they furnished employment for several years to the people of Folkestone in their quarries, and in other ways. Some particulars connected with the provision made for building this Dover Haven are of considerable

St. Peter's, and Birchington in Thanet, 204 and 170. (Green's Cal. State Papers, 1566-1579, page 437).

* Nichols's 'Progresses of Queen Elizabeth,' vol. i., pp. 335, 336, 345, 348, 350. He quotes a contemporary account thus: "Tum cum ad Doveriam festinasset, in itinere in Castello Sandownensi pransa, Folkestonam montem conscendit; in quo monte Archiepiscopus Cantuariensis qui tum Beakesbourne morabatur, et Dominus Baro Cobham Maritimis portibus Præfectus cum magno famulitii sui grege, suæ Majestati ob viam ibant Milites atque Generosi Cantiani amplius trecenti cum famulorum equis insidentium turnis ac catervis eo convenerunt. Quibus a montis Folkestonæ fastigio fere ad Doveriæ oppidi fines late distinctis et extensis regina, ad Doveriam transiit," p. 348.

interest. The method in which the needful funds were to be raised will seem to us remarkable. The Queen could not grant any sum at all sufficient for the work, for her finances were always at a low ebb, but she empowered the Mayor of Dover to export, free of customs duty, an immense quantity of beer, barley, and wheat. By a grant dated August 6th, 1580, she empowered the Mayor thus to export 4,000 tuns of beer, 30,000 quarters of wheat, and 10,000 quarters of barley,* upon which no customs duty should be claimed by the Crown.

The manner in which this license worked may be illustrated from an offer, made to the Mayor of Dover, by one John Phillpott, about March 1582. He desired to contract for the uttering of 6,000 quarters of wheat† under the Dover license, provided that until these 6,000 quarters were uttered, no other wheat should be permitted to be sent out of Kent, except to London only. Under that condition he contracted to pay to the Funds of Dover Harbour, 3s. 4d. for every quarter of wheat exported. The instalments he proposed to pay in the following manner—£200 in cash beforehand; £200 after 1,500 quarters had been exported; and £200 at the exporting of every 1,500 quarters afterwards. He stated also that he would complete the export of the whole 6,000 quarters in three years. Whether this John Phillpott was one of the Folkestone family of that name, we cannot certainly decide, but it is probable that he was.

That Phillpott's contract was accepted we do not know, but from its presence in the State Paper Office we may infer that it probably was so. At all events the price offered by him, 3s. 4d. for each quarter of wheat, was that which had been actually received. A return of "the money‡ receyved from the xvth of September 1580 until the xxth of December A^o pr^{ed}" shews—

"For xi hundred quarters of wheat, at iijs iiij^d

the quarter clxxxvij^{ll} vjs viij^d

* Lemon's 'Calendar of Domestic State Papers,' A.D. 1580, p. 670.

† Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, vol. clii., No. 79. In No. 93 of the same volume the names of the Commissioners for Dover Haven are recorded thus:—Lord Cobham, Sir Thos. Scott, Sir Jas. Hales, Mr. Ed. Boys, Mr. Partheriche, Mr. Hy. Palmer, Mr. Barrey, Mr. Wilford, the Mayor for the time being, and Mr. Digges.

‡ Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, vol. cxliiij., No. 55. The working of this license for Dover Haven affected all corn-growing counties more or less. We find for instance that letters were addressed in Nov. 1581 to the Commissioners for Somersetshire asking what store of wheat, barley, and malt could be spared out of that county to serve the Dover license. They replied that wheat there sells at from 3s. 4d. to 4s. a bushel, and that none could be spared out of that countie. (S.P., vol. cl., N. 84.)

"For viij hundred and twentie quarters of
mault, and ten quarters of barley, at ij^s viij^d
the quarter cx^{li} xiijs iiijd
"Somme totalis of the money receyved. . . cclxxxxviijs^{li}."

In the following year, 1581 (23 Elizabeth), Parliament voted further help towards the funds for Dover Haven. By the new Act the Commissioners were empowered to enforce from every ship, of more than twenty tons burden, a tonnage due whenever it passed the port of Dover. The revenue from this tonnage duty is said to have amounted to £1,000 per annum. It seems to have been collected at the port from which the ship started or to which it came, and to have been afterwards handed over to the Commissioners for Dover Haven. Thus, in volume clii. of Domestic State Papers of the reign of Elizabeth, in document No. 77, there is a note of the collection in the port of London, "towards the making of Dover Haven, from ships entering from, or passing out beyond the seas."

The same accounts in the Public Record Office, from which we have taken the extract respecting money received for the export of wheat, furnish particulars of the wages paid and the work done at Folkestone, in connection with Dover Haven. Mr. Trewe, who was the general surveyor of the works, was paid 10s. a-day, reckoning seven days to the week. His clerk of the works at Folkestone got 7s. a-week. The wages of hard-hewers of stone were 6s. a-week, and of the labourers 4s. In December, 1580, there were 100 men at work, of whom 40 were hard-hewers at 1s. a-day, and 60 were labourers at 8d. In addition to these wages the cost of sharpening tools amounted to 5s. a-day (nearly three farthings for each man). So that the total payment for labour, in the Folkestone quarries, was £29. 7s. a-week, in December, 1580. The same account states that Mr. Trewe requires two boats to be made in London of 40 tons burden, "with engyns and ropes for the ladynge of stone at Folkestone, and the unladynge thereof at the woork at Dover." He estimates that these boats with their furniture will cost £200. He likewise orders 100 labourers to be sent to dig and hew chalk at Dover, wherewith to make lime and to fill the wall of the work at the pier; the men's wages to be 8d. a-day. He adds that the seacoal wherewith to burn lime, together with the carriage of the chalk from the pit to the pier, will cost £3 a-day.

When we remember that there were but 120 inhabited houses at Folkestone in 1565, we can understand how great an increase, to the business and population of the place, must have been made by the influx of 100 quarry labourers, with their followers. A few years later,

in 1588, the number of adult inhabitants (called communicants) was 430.*

What amount of stone was actually hewn at Folkestone is not recorded, but we find a statement of that which remained there at the end of 1581. It is endorsed "stones remayninge at Folkestone hewed by the order of John Trwe for the harbor of Dover."† This measurement was taken by William Hunt, clerk of the works at Folkestone, on the 8th of December, 1581. It shews how the work was done. Of hewn ashlar there was "74.50 foote," and of ashlar "broken oute and scapeled ready to be hewen" 6,500 foote. We cannot be certain as to what is meant by the "74.50 foote," whether $74\frac{1}{2}$ feet or 7,450 feet. This measurement shews that the 60 labourers broke out the stone and scapelled it, after which the "40 harde hewers" would shape and smooth and square it. Three years afterwards there arose a question, as to whether this system should not be given up. It was suggested that scapled stone laid without mortar, would serve as well as, or better than, smooth-hewed stone laid with mortar.‡

In or about December, 1581, John Trew, the surveyor, was dismissed. Mr. Thomas Digges, one of the Commissioners for the Harbour, says that Trew had wasted vainly 2,000 marks, and that if not dismissed he would have spent £10,000, and have done nothing but spoil the harbour for ever. This gentleman seems then to have himself acted as General Surveyor of the Works, but he declined to accept any pay, although offered 10s. a-day. He succeeded in making the pent for the backwater with earth walls or bays, notwithstanding that others (Hawkins, Burrow, and Pett) said it could only be made with piled and planked works.§

It was probably under Mr. Digges' direction that a paper was drawn out in December, 1581, respecting "Provisions|| for Dover Haven." Among these provisions is a direction that the stone at

* Hasted, viii., 187.

† Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, vol. cl., No. 87.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. clxxi., No. 17.

§ *Ibid.*, vol. clxxi., No. 13. I.

|| Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, vol. cl., No. 92. Among other requirements stated are—

"A ramer of iron of 8 hundred waight presently to be made to drive in the pyles.

"1,000 Tunnes of Timber to be provided and brought unto Dover by the ende of Aprill next.

"That there be provided 40 Tunnes with chaines and all things unto them belonging against the next springe, as well to bringe works to the Peere to defend the force of the seas from the olde Peere as the works that lieth in the waie where the haven's mowthe is to be laied.

"That there be 12 Acres of wood made into Bavins to be in a redines

'Fowlkeston,' hewed and squared by John Trew, should be brought to Dover, as soon as wind and weather permit.

I have not found any record of work done at Folkestone in 1582, but at the end of the following year it transpires that the Lord of the Manor had refused to supply any more stone from Folkestone.*

The reason of this refusal was, probably, a proposition for building a mole, to make a harbour, at Folkestone instead of at Dover. Naturally the Lord of the Manor would advocate the Folkestone project, and argue that there the stone was on the spot, so that carriage would be saved. We find Mr. Digges writing about this proposal in June 24th, 1584. He tells Walsyngham that "the proposed mole at Folkestone by Sir Richard Greynville could not be erected for less than £200,000."†

On the 6th of August following, Sir Richard and Mr. George Greynville write to Walsyngham from Penheale, about the same project. The letter encloses an account of the expenses of re-edifying the quay and pier at Botreaux Castle, in Cornwall, in four months, together with a note by Sir Richard Greynville of the mode of executing the work, which (he says) might serve for an example for Dover or Folkestone, whereof Capt. Hoorde could give more information.

The Greynville proposal drew forth the following criticism from Mr. Thos. Digges,‡ in a postscript to a letter to Walsyngham, dated 23rd June, 1584. "Touchinge Foulstone Mole Sir Richard Greynville is greatly abused for an hundred thousand powndes is not able to make any sute mole there but every ebb eny of her Majestyes great shippes shoulde breake out ther Reck on the rokkes. Wheras at Dover for £10,000 it may bee doone indeede serviceablye. But hee is my good freend, and allyed kinsman, and therefore in curtezye [I] may not reprove him openlye. But lest eny sute Toye might

to prevent all sodenis that may happen by Tempest or otherwise."

In connection with these "Bavins" we find a letter from the Mayor of Dover (John Garrett) and the Lieutenant of Dover Castle (Richard Barrey) saying that "the 3 *Flemyns* and John de Grave, sent down to repayer 7 or 8 rodds of the old dekeyed peere of Dover with Baven work, have finished 5 rods and can do no more this wynter, as no further of the old tymber will bear this repair, new timber being required. The wages of the Flemings are 8^s a day, and Englishmen can do the work as well at 3^s a day. Had not the Flemings better be sent home?" (Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, vol. cl., No. 82.)

* Lord Cobham writes, on 12 Nov. 1583, to Walsyngham, saying, "Mr. Herdeson refuses to supply stone from Folkeston." (Domestic State Papers, A.D. 1583.)

† Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, Anno 1584.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. clxxj., No. 49.

gieve impediment to the Proceedinge of this important serviceable Platt of Dover I thought it requisite to enfourme your Honor my knowledge heerein, as at your Honor's good Leysure by Platt I will make evident."

The proposal to make a haven at Folkestone ultimately fell through, and then the Lord of the Manor seems to have withdrawn his refusal to send stone to Dover. Accordingly we find that, in 1584, among a number of memoranda as to work to be done, the tenth and eleventh items are as follows:*

10. Item to make some profe whether the cariage of the stones from Folkston to be laid uppon the black Bulwark wilbe performed with lesse charges by the use of the Tonnes or by Hoyes.

11. To take awaie the timber that standeth in the decaied worke on the Black Bulwark and to lay the stones brought from Folkston there uppon that Bulwarke.

[N.B.—As to this, we do not think it convenient that the timber should be removed from the black bulwark, for that it may serve instead of pyle to keep the rocks together and may be doon hereafter uppon any sodayn if need require.]

About June, 1584 we hear of Scarborough men being brought from their northern home to Dover, and coming thence to Folkestone. The record is as follows:—

"Our Skarborough men are all come, and beinge very desyrous to doo some of their worke, they have hearde saye that at Folstone were tonnes, and cheynes for the same tonnes to worke with all. Where-uppon they went thether and Captaine Warde, beinge Mayor there, made a generall searche through oute the Towne and founde no tonnes, but good store of cheynes, and the fragmentes of Tonnes; so that nowe it resteth to have Tonnes made for them, and then the men would presently go in haunde with their work. For the which may it please your honnor to gyve oute your good helpinge woord, that tonne timber may be presently provyded and sent hether, that this fryvolous twig worke may be sett a syde and constant rockwork come in place."†

* Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, vol. clxxj., No. 16. The ninth item bears upon the position of the new haven. "Item to cense the mouth of the haven between the Crane and the Timber Jettie." In the same volume of State Papers, No. 13. iv., gives considerations "wher and how the harbor mouth is to be made on the *East* side of the Black Bulwark Ledge" as decided upon by the Privy Council and the Commissioners.

† Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, vol. clxxj., No. 81. In the same paper occur the following interesting entries:

"There was landed at Dover, the xxth of May laste, owte of M^r Barnes hoye

I do not find any further mention of Folkestone in connection with the construction of Dover Haven. The townspeople seem to have turned their attention to a very different matter in the following year, 1585. It appears that the inhabitants of Folkestone united in a petition to the House of Commons, against, what they alleged to be, abuses in the ministry of the bishops. Their petition was presented to the House by Mr. John Moore, and upon the 15th of February a discussion took place respecting it. The proceedings are recorded in the State Papers,* but do not require more than a passing mention here.

In the year 1586 Folkestone began to feel the effects of those alarms, respecting a Spanish invasion, which culminated, two years later, in the appearance of the Spanish Armada.

The Warden of the Five Ports issued a precept that no ship, bark, nor other vessel, should pass to the seas, whose voyage or absence may be above six weeks out of England. This precept was sent to the Mayor and Jurates of Folkestone, with a request that they would return a list of all the craft belonging to the town. The Mayor's letter, acknowledging receipt of the precept and signifying that he has issued the necessary orders, encloses a list of the vessels, masters, and mariners of the port, dated Feb. 4th, 1586-7, and is addressed to the Lieutenant of Dover Castle, Mr. Richard Barry. The return named four vessels, two of twenty tons burden and two of fourteen tons—the smaller boats seem to be omitted. It states that the "Able masters" are nine in number, and "able mariners" thirty-five.† Of the four vessels, only one was at home, the other

from S^t Owseys in Essex xxx^v tonne of Timber and xii foote accomptinge xl^v foote to the tonne.

"The seconde of June owte of John Trowtes hoye from S^t Owseys xij tonne of Timber and xxxvj foote, whereof more cel foote of iiii ynche planke.

"The vth of June from Arondell oute of M^r Barnes hoye xvj tonne and xvij foote of Timber.

"M^r Pet's men shewes us small expedicion in settinge upp our crane . . . to unlade the tymber," &c., &c.

* Elizabeth, vol. clxxvj., No. 55.

† Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, vol. cxviii., No. 6. I.

A trew certificate of all such Barkes, shippes, and other vessels bellongyng to the town of Folkstone 4 February 1586 [1586-7].

1. The Peter 20 tunne in burthen now hyred to Dover to one Rychard Hawet ther.

2. The Elen 20 tunne in burthen now in Dover hyred to Henry Tydeman.

3. The Gregory 14 tunne in burthen now upon the stade in Folkston.

4. The Spedewell 14 tunne in burthen now hyred to Dover to Ja^s Cooke.

9 Able Maisters:—Ric. Crystofer; Jno. Miller; Hen. Clarke; Barth. Salmon; Jno. Tydeman; Hen. Badle; W^m Hare; Edw^d Leecse; Tho^s Kennett.

35 Able Maryners:—Laur. Mynter; Jno. Mynter jun^r; Jno. Wraight; Hen. Sharnold; Ralph Lovelye; Geo. Peter; Tho^s Worme; W^m Atom

three were "hired to Dover." At this time when no more than four vessels were returned as belonging to Folkestone, Sandwich* had 43, of which the total tonnage was 1,226; Faversham,† 20, total burden 340 tons; Ramsgate,‡ 16, total burden 192 tons; Hastings,§ 15, total burden 478 tons; Hythe,|| 11, total 201 tons; Deal,¶ 6, total burden 16 tons; and Walmer,¶ 5, total burden 11 tons. Among the Sandwich vessels there was one named "The Grace of God," which was of 100 tons burden, two were of 60 tons, three of 45, and two of 50. One of the Hythe barks, of 25 tons, had a very remarkable name, it was "The Jhesus."

But along the Kentish coast the land forces were as narrowly examined and mustered as the ships, barks, and vessels of all kinds. In April, 1588, we find returns** made, which state that Sir Thomas Scott had 300 "trained" men, of whom 120 were provided with shot, 120 had corslets, 60 had bows, and 9 had bills. The total number of trained men furnished by Kent was 2,958; and of untrained men, 4,166. This was not a complete muster of all the "able men" of the county (who were 10,866 in number); but this total of 7,124 comprised all that were actually furnished and mustered in the trained and untrained bands of the county. The horsemen were 64 lances, under Captain Sir James Hales; 80 light horse, under Captain Thomas Palmer; and 84 petronels, under Captains Wm. Crowmer and Roger Tysen [Twysden]. There were also 300 argolets under Captain Thomas Scott and Captain Sampson Lenard of Chevening; and 1,077 pioneers.

As the time of invasion approached, we find Sir William Wynter dating a letter to Walsingham "*Off Folkestone,†† July 27, 1588.*" He therein advises that ships should be placed at the Nore to defend Sheppey and the Thames. This advice he gives after conference with Captain Borough. Next day Captain William Borough himself writes to inform Walsingham that the two fleets are between Folkestone and Boulogne; the English being anchored off Skale Cliff, and the Spaniards at anchor between them and Calais. Lord Henry, he says,

Wm Greene; Wm Hall; Robt Edgar; Jno. Duck; Wm Golder; Jno. Christofer; Wm Tydeman; Ezechias Mynter; Robt Harris; Edw^d Ingram; Baldwin Badcock; Jno. Miller jun^r; Robt Sedbrooke; Edw^d Taylor; Jno. Smythe; Silvester Wood; Jno. Beane; Wm Boxley; Jno. Tanner; Tho^s Magik; Ric. Trappam; Wm Jenyns; Wm Chapman Ric. Goddyn; Hen. Andro; Hen. Tydeman; Tho^s Gybson.

* Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, vol. xcvi.iii., No. 5.

† *Ibid.*, No. 47.

‡ *Ibid.*, No. 5.

§ *Ibid.*, No. 9.

|| *Ibid.*, No. 10.

¶ *Ibid.*, No. 5.

** Harleian MSS. 168, folio 168, a.

†† Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, A.D. 1588.

is with all his fleet plying to windward, and will probably sight the fleets before night; but he has himself been ordered by Lord Henry to go with his galley to guard the mouth of the Thames. He adds, that a fleet of thirty or forty good ships will be sent from Flushing to assist Lord Henry.

The great Armada had been sighted first, a week before this, on July 19, off the Cornish coast. It was next seen, as a curved line of huge ships, stretching over seven miles of ocean, by the Admiral, Lord Howard, on the 20th (when his fleet made their way out from Plymouth). It had been assailed by the English off Portland on the 23rd, when the contest lasted throughout the day; had been again engaged off the Isle of Wight on the 25th; and had ultimately, as Captain Borough says, come to anchor off Calais on the 27th. Sir Henry Seymour, of whom Borough speaks, was in command of a squadron on the Flemish coast, whence he hastened down the Strait of Dover to join the Admiral, Lord Howard of Effingham. On the 29th of July, the day after Captain Borough's letter was written, the huge Armada was confronted by the combined English fleet, numbering about 140 vessels. That night the English fire-ships did their work, and the vast Armada was soon a disorganized mass of burning hulls, and flying monsters, making for the north coast of Scotland. Much of the firing, the conflagrations, and the flight, must have been heard and seen from the heights of Folkestone.

The dispersion of the Armada relieved the nation from all anxiety, but the people of Folkestone and the neighbouring coast were often put on the *qui vive*, by engagements with Spanish expeditions of a less formidable nature. Fourteen years after the destruction of the Armada, we find Sir Thomas Fane writing to the Warden of the Cinque Ports (Lord Cobham) about some Spanish galleys, which were at the hour of writing, after 5 P.M. on 24th of September, 1602, "over against Folkestone." He says Sir Robert Mansell, with two of the Queen's ships and two Hollanders, had, at 5 o'clock that afternoon, discovered six galleys, two leagues apart from each other. The Queen's ships lost no time in attacking the Spaniards, for at 10 o'clock the same night Sir Thomas Fane wrote a second letter, saying, "the Queen's ships have fought with the galleys and dispersed them, and greatly hurt them. Three of the galley-slaves leaped into the sea, over against St. Margaret's at Cliff, and swam ashore. I have put them into Dover Castle." From these galley-slaves the story of the expedition was learned. The galleys were under the command of Spinola, and were bound from Lisbon to Sluys, having on board thirty-six chests of treasure. Each

galley was propelled by fifty oars (twenty-five on a side) pulled by two hundred men, four at each oar; but in Spinola's own galley there were five men to every oar. Sir Robert Mansell had been commissioned to unite with the States fleet in "impeaching" all such Spanish galleys. With three ships he rode about Dungeness: further westward he placed two flyboats; and other vessels on the look-out rode before Dunkirk and Sluys. On the Thursday in question, one of the flyboats met the galleys steering N.E., so the flyboats worked across the Channel after them. At last the galleys bore up close to the English shore within the Goodwins, towards the Downs. Five Flemish vessels, riding in the Downs, heard the report of guns, set sail ahead of the galleys, and crossed them during a great storm. As the galleys made over towards the Flemish coast, three of them were fired into and sunk. Then a fleet of sixteen or seventeen vessels riding before Dunkirk and Sluys, weighing anchor, chased the fugitive galleys, and drove them eastward from Sluys. All "men assure themselves that all the galleys are cast away, such was the storm on Thursday night," that the men-of-war which chased them "had much ado to live themselves."*

At the same period began a curious dispute and consequent lawsuit (which lasted for two years or more) between the Lord Warden and Mr. John Herdson, Lord of the Manor of Folkestone. Mr. Herdson claimed all wreck of the sea upon the shore within his manor of Folkestone, and in assertion of his right he caused a wrecked boat, and certain barrels of tar, to be seized and sold on his behalf. The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports had, however, for very many years enjoyed this right to all wreck of the sea in every member of the Five Ports. In favour of the Lord Warden's right, there were the depositions of many aged men belonging to Folkestone. On the 17th of August,† 1602 (43 Elizabeth), five of the oldest and most respectable of those acquainted with the customs of the shore, deposed that they had dwelt in Folkestone all their lives, but had never heard of any one, other than the Lord Warden, who demanded wreck of the sea, until of late years Mr. Herdson had done so. These worthy experts were William Jenkins, a jurate, aged seventy-seven; John Chapman, also a jurate, aged sixty or thereabout; John Miller the elder, mariner, aged about sixty-four; Christopher Pysinge, shoreman, aged fifty-nine; and Robert Holliday, aged fifty. There was a vast correspondence respecting the matter between Henry Brook Lord Cobham, Sir Thomas

* Domestic State Papers, Elizabeth, A.D. 1602, Sept.

† Domestic State Papers, James I., vol. vi. No. 41. II.

Fane, Mr. Packnam, and many others. The manorial documents and public records were all searched, and there seemed to be clear evidence for a claim to be made to the same right by both parties. The Lord Warden* claimed under letters patent, dated 4 Feb. 25 Hen. VI. (1447), by which the King created James Fiennes, Knight, to be Baron of Say, and for the maintenance of a baron's state granted to him the office of Constable of Dover Castle and Warden of the Cinque Ports, with rights to "wreck of the sea" in all those ports. These rights were granted by Edward IV., in the first year of his reign, to Richard, Earl of Warwick, in like terms.

On the other hand it was indisputable that the official extents of the manor of Folkestone, taken in 47th and 55th of Henry III., included† wreck of the sea. The same liberties of wreck pertained to the manor by writs of "Quo Warranto" in the 7th and 21st of Edward I., and in the sixth year of Edward II. The manor had been possessed by Lord Clinton and Say, and afterwards by Henry VIII. and Edward VI. The latter, on the 23rd of May, in his seventh year (1553), granted it to Edward Lord Clinton, who by deed dated 22nd of September, 1553, surrendered it to Queen Mary, and she regranted it to him (Edward Fynes, Lord Clinton and Say) for the sum of £4,231 10s. 5d., by letters patent, dated‡ 27 April, 1554. The manor was, in the same year, purchased of Lord Clinton by Mr. Henry Herdson, an Alderman of London, the father of that John Herdson who, in 1602, claimed the right to "wreck of the sea." It had passed to him, not directly from his father, but through his brother Thomas, by whom likewise it had been possessed, and who had disparked the ancient park here. A tomb in the south aisle of the chancel in the old parish church commemorates these Herdsons. Their dispute with the Lord Warden is interesting, from the light which its details throw upon the later history of the manor.

During the reign of James I. strict precautions seem to have been taken against foreign spies and Jesuit emissaries. The State Papers narrate many incidents connected with these precautions. For instance, on the 26th April, 1610, John Reynolds writes to Lord Salisbury that he had caused one Hunt, with whom he crossed from Dieppe, to be examined at Folkestone. The officials of that town seem to have been easily satisfied, and allowed Hunt to proceed. Reynolds, however, declared to Lord Salisbury that he had seen Hunt in Rome,

* Domestic State Papers, James I., vol. vi., No. 41.

† 'Arch. Cant.,' iii., 258; vi., 241.

‡ Domestic State Papers, James I., vol. vi., No. 41.

in pilgrim's weeds; that during the voyage across the Channel he assumed the manners and talk of a simple and ignorant person, but that he now professes to be a rich lawyer from Norfolk.*

Another example occurs in 1620, when Sir Henry Mainwaring† enclosed to Lord Zouch (the Lord Warden) on the 3rd of April, the report of his examination of one Anthony Lynch, who had been arrested by the Mayor of Folkestone, Thomas Philpot, and sent to Dover Castle. The examination shewed that Lynch was an Irishman of Galway, who went to Rouen on his way to England, but had declined to take the oath of allegiance to James I., and still persisted in his refusal, because he said he did not understand it.

During the same year, 1620, an expedition was sent out to act against Pirates. The King's Council commanded the Lord Warden to impress 100 mariners in Kent, to serve in this expedition, which was to sail on the 1st of August. The service was not a grateful one: there was great difficulty at Folkestone in obtaining so many men as the town was required to furnish. Only four men were sent; and the Mayor wrote to Lord Zouch, on the 4th of August, saying that the Folkestone vessels and mariners were at sea, but that on their return the deficiency might be supplied, if it were not then too late. Other towns seem to have sent similar replies and excuses, for on the 9th of August the number (100) was not completed, and the Lord Warden ordered the Justices of Kent to cause search to be made throughout the county for mariners who had fled inland from the coast.‡

In the matter of watching the coast, Thomas Philpot, when Mayor of Folkestone, had proved himself to be vigilant, by the arrest of Lynch, the Irishman, who came through Rouen to England. Four years later, however, in 1624, Sir John Hippisley complains of negligence in watching here. On the 22nd of May, he writes stating that three or four Frenchmen landed, between Folkestone and Dover, and would have got clear off if some man had not by chance been near the spot. The coast, he says, should be better watched.§

Soon after Christmas, in 1624, Folkestone people were startled at hearing that a large body of troops was coming to be quartered on the town. It seems that no less than 14,000 soldiers had been sent to Dover for embarkation. They could not be shipped for six or eight days, and Francis Wilford writes to Secretary Nicholas on the 27th of

* Domestic State Papers, James I., vol. liij., No. 126.

† *Ibid.*, vol. cxiii., No. 60.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. cxvj., Nos. 54, 62, etc.

§ *Ibid.*, vol. clxv., No. 24.

December:—"It is hard on the town to send 14,000 soldiers to Dover only; they kill the sheep in abundance, and threaten to burn the town if left in want." Three thousand of these very unpleasant and destructive visitors were however ordered to favour Folkestone and Sandwich with their presence, so that Dover was relieved, at the expense of her sister ports.*

When Charles I., under Buckingham's influence, plunged into a war with France, and sent large bodies of troops across the Channel, the towns upon the coast nearest the Continent became apprehensive of their danger from French retaliation. They therefore solicited that cannon might be sent for their defence. Sir John Hippisley,† writing on the 26th of February, 1627, says that Folkestone, Hythe, Rye and Margate have sent in requests for ordnance. He adds that thirteen or fourteen Dunkirk ships were expected to come forth in the following week, and that on our side the necessary oath, required from all who take out Letters of Marque, discourages adventurers.

On the 24th of March the Council ordered the Master General of Ordnance (George Earl of Totness) to send two pieces of ordnance to Folkestone, and the like number to Rye and Margate. When the Duke of Buckingham failed lamentably in his attack upon the French in the Isle of Rhé, July 9, 1627, the people of Folkestone would doubtless derive some comfort from the possession of their two pieces of ordnance. That there was great fear of the guns being needed, we may infer from an order issued by the Justices of Kent, on the 1st of September following. They directed that all landing places between Dover and Folkestone should be made impassable, and that the beacons should be carefully watched. Buckingham did not return from his luckless expedition until November. His desire to retrieve the fortunes of the war by another campaign, in the year 1628, was frustrated by his murder on the 23rd August, when he was on the point of starting from Portsmouth to aid Rochelle and its Protestant defenders. Lord Lindesay took his place at the head of the English forces, but their efforts were unavailing, and Rochelle was taken by Richelieu's army. Twelve months afterwards, the effects of the war were still felt at Folkestone, and along the coast. On the 28th of July, 1629, Captain Plumleigh wrote to Secretary Dorchester, that two or three small sloops of Gravelines were pestering the narrow seas between Blackness and Dungeness, and were daily taking English and Dutch vessels. So great was the terror caused by these sloops, that

* Domestic State Papers, James I., vol. clxxvii., No. 33.

† *Ibid.*, Charles I., vol. lv., No. 19.

Calais merchants did not dare to pass their goods over to Dover, from fear of them.

At this time Folkestone was suffering greatly from the damage done to its "stade or station" by the sea. The fishermen and others were deprived of the means of securing their barks. The Mayor and Jurates therefore determined to state their unhappy condition to the king, and petition him to grant them license to build a pier. Their petition was considered at the Court at Theobald's on July 26th, 1629, and its prayer was graciously granted by the king. Its details are somewhat interesting, and will be found in a note below.* Eight remarkable bricks which were discovered, in 1808, among the foundation stones of an old harbour at Folkestone, may have formed part of the ancient stade which was swept away in 1629. They are described by

* Domestic State Papers, Charles I., vol. cxlvii, No. 41 :—

To the King's most excellent Majestie

The humble petition of the Maior, Jurates, & Co'saltie of the Towne of folkstone and others charitably disposed and well affected to the place.

Humbly sheweth that the Towne of folkstone in the Countie of Kent, hath heretofore flourished by meanes of fishing and trade by sea, and hath furnished very hable Pilots and Mariners for the Kingdome's service, and from time to time hath contributed great summes of money towards the setting forth of shippes; but is now of late fallen into great decay and the Inhabitants become very poore; by meanes the sea (working some alterations upon the Coast) hath of late fetched in, and carried awaie their ancient stade or station, where their vessells were used to be layd up in safety. So that they are altogether deprived of the meanes to secure their barques, and consequently of conveniency of trade and fishing; and the sea likewise by washing, beating, and undermining the Cliffs hath incroached and woon soe much upon the land that it is approached within seaventie paces of the Church, which standes upon the said Cliff, soe undermined, and threateneth in short time to winne the same (as heretofore yt hath fetched in two other churches there) if speedy course be not taken to stoppe the breach upon the shoare and defend the violence of the Sea.

Your said Peticioners therefore humbly crave that your Majestie wilbe gratusly pleased to give licence by roiall graunt under your Majestie's great seale unto your said Peticioners for building a Peare and harbour there at theire owne charges with like rights dutyes benefitts and priviledges as other places of harbour have obteyned and doe enjoy from the roiall bountie of your Majestie or your Majestie's predecessors. And in regard of their povertie & that they have undertaken the charge of soe great a worke chiefly out of charitie of others well affected to the common good, They further humbly praie that your Majestie will give order by yo^r prencely commaund that your said roiall graunt in that behalf may be passed by ymediate warrant and without fees. Your Majestie shall thereby cause that the church shalbee secured, the fishing and trade restored, the number of Mariners increased, your Majestie's customes advanced, and a multitude of poore people by their lawfull endeavours relieved. And your peticioners shall contynually praie for your Majestie's long and happie raigne.

At the Court at Theobald's 26 July 1629.

His Majestie for soe good & charitable a worke is gratusly pleased to graunt the Petitioners this their suit as in the Petic'on is desired. And his Majestie's Attorney Generall is to prepare a graunt accordingly ready for his Majestie's roiall signature.

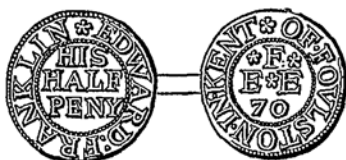
Theo : Suffolke.

Captain Ricketts, R.N., as being 14 inches long, and 6 inches broad, they weighed 14 lbs. each, and were stamped with a coat of arms surmounted by a coronet.* Of the old harbour, among the foundations of which they were found, "no tradition remains." They were brought to light by the works set on foot for laying the foundations of the Pier in 1808.

I will bring these gleanings to a close with the mention of three facts, which, although they do not belong to mediæval times, may not be altogether out of place here. When copper money was not coined at the Royal Mint, the necessities of trade compelled tradesmen to issue penny and half-penny tokens of their own. The custom was at last forbidden by the Government in 1672. Mr. J. Stone Smallfield, who has paid great attention to the subject of tokens, has been so obliging as to inform me that, in 1670, a Folkestone tradesman named Edward Franklin issued such tokens, each being one half-penny in value. An engraving of his token will be found at the end of this paper. Franklin must have been a man of enterprise, with an extensive business in Folkestone. Mr. Boys, who, in his *History of Sandwich*, published a list of the Mayors of Folkestone, mentions Edward Franklin seven times in that list. He seems to have served the office of Mayor† in 1658, 1665, 1670, 1676, 1677, 1681, and 1682. Mr. Smallfield adds the information that when, in 1811-13, there was a shortlived issue of silver tokens, the only silver shillings struck for Kent were those issued by John Boxer, of Folkestone.

The third fact is that in, or about, the summer of 1726 the Fishery, or Fishermen, of Folkestone sustained such severe damage that its amount was estimated at £3,598. Whereupon a Royal Brief for collections to be made in churches was obtained on behalf of the Folkestone Fishery. In obedience to that brief a collection was made in the church of Maresfield, in Sussex, upon the 21st of August, 1726.‡

W. A. SCOTT ROBERTSON.



* 'Archæologia,' vol. xvi., p. 364.

† 'History of Sandwich,' pp. 816-21.

‡ 'Sussex Archæological Collections,' vol. xxi., p. 215.