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## ON THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS OF DOVER.

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I HAVE undertaken, by request, to give some account of the Dover Archives; though I feel that a dry, matter-of-fact, legal mind is not so well qualified for the task demanded on an occasion like the present, as one more accustomed to gather flowers suitable to amuse as well as inform.

The Cinque Port of Dover was one of the nine Roman ports put under the government of a *Comes Littoris Saxonici*. But I must preface my paper with the remark that its position as the centre, or head-quarters, of the Norman institution of the Five Ports, has not proved favourable to the conservation of its archives within its own limits. The Lieut.-Governor of the Castle and Deputy Warden was a person of power and considerable influence, and he received great deference from the local authorities. Whatever other causes (and doubtless there were others) may have tended to their loss or destruction, it is indisputable that most documents of value or importance, with indeed everything that could be acquired, found their way many years ago to Surrenden-Dering, the seat of one of those officers. But, as Mr. Lambert Larking, in the notes to his valuable edition of the Domesday Book of Kent, has dwelt on this subject, I will not further refer to it, than to observe that Mr. Larking traced thence, up to a certain point, the disposal of the Domesday Book of the Cinque Ports.

Certain it is that the records of the Town, as well as those of the Castle, have been largely and widely dispersed, and are lamentably deficient. Some I find were once in the Lansdowne collection. But they, I believe, together with many from the Dering collection, have now happily found a safe resting place in the British Museum.

It would be foreign to the object of this paper to enter upon anything like a succinct history. But I must shortly refer to the great

Domesday Book of England, which is said to represent the state of the country at the end of the reign of Edward the Confessor.

The Kent portion of that record opens with Dover, and amongst other things it says—"In Dover there are 29 houses of which the King has lost the custom. Of these William son of Goisfrid has three, in which was the *Gihalla* of the Burgesses." Whether this *Gihalla* (Guildhall) was a municipal hall, or that of some commercial guild, I do not presume to say. This William FitzGodfrey seems to be mentioned as the "prepositus," which some translate *Reeve*, and others *Mayor*. When the English title of Mayor was first given to the chief officer of Dover I have not yet discovered. But Mr. Jeake, in his *Charters of the Ports* (p. 78), states that King Henry III. in the tenth year of his reign associated with Willm. de Averenches in the custody of the Ports, Fergusius, *Provost* or *Mayor* of Dover. I find that in the forty-second year of that king there was both a prepositus and a mayor; and it is certain that the latter title was in general use in the succeeding reign of Edward I.

The earliest records which the Town Council now possess relate to the *Domus Dei*, or the Hospital of the Maison Dieu, in the Refectory Hall, of which we have to-day partaken of our repast,—a repast not, I trust, inferior to that with which the Master and Brethren were wont to regale the pilgrims who resorted to their hospitable board. This hospital was founded in the reign of King John, by the great Hubert de Burgh (with whose descendants I may be permitted to claim relationship by marriage); and King Henry III. is said to have been present at the dedication of a chapel, subsequently added to it, in the year A.D. 1227. The present Court Hall is supposed to have been part of that chapel.

The hospital was doubtless instituted to meet a felt want. The influx of pilgrims, to pay their devotions at the shrine of St. Thomas of Canterbury, must have considerably increased, and have sorely taxed the energies and hospitality of the adjacent Priory of St. Martin, which was the only establishment in the town for housing them, and in the Refectory Hall of which we are now assembled. We may well conceive that the great Earl of Kent founded his *Domus Dei* for the relief of the Priory, and for supplying the need of the vast number of pilgrims making this port their route to the metropolitan city.

Soon after its foundation we find King Henry III., in the eleventh year of his reign, making a grant for its support—Hubert de Burgh being one of the witnesses to the charter; and subsequently granting to it other franchises and liberties.

The King describes himself as Henry by the Grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and Earl of Anjou. He says, Know ye that we have granted, and by this our present charter have confirmed, to God and the Hospital of Dover, which our beloved and faithful Hubert de Burgh Earl of Kent Justiciary of England founded in honour of God and the blessed Mary, the gift which the same Earl made to the aforesaid Hospital, of the Manor of Eastbridge with the advowson of the church and with all their appurtenances, for the support of the poor and strangers coming thither:—saving to the same Earl and his heirs the knight's fee, etc., as of the same Manor. Wherefore we will and firmly command that the Master and brethren of the aforesaid Hospital have and hold the aforesaid Manor with all its appurtenances, except the Knight's fee which to the aforesaid Manor pertains, peaceably, freely, and quietly, with all the liberties and customs to the same Manor belonging; as by the charter . . . which the aforesaid Earl heretofore caused to be made, to the aforesaid Hospital, will more fully appear. The witnesses are E. London\* and J. Bathon (Bath),† Bishops; H. de Burgh Earl of Kent our Justiciar, Ranulph Earl of Chester and Lincoln, William Marshal Earl of Pembroke, William Earl of Albemarle, Richard de Argentine our Seneschal, William de Wales, and others. Given by the hand of the venerable Father Ralph Bishop of Chichester‡ our Chancellor, the eleventh day of July in the eleventh year of our reign.

The next charter, granted by the same King in his thirteenth year, gave sundry liberties and franchises. It reveals to us the then prevailing motive for such benevolences. In the Book of Job, we are told, one said, "Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life." But the King's charity was far more extensive; for it embraced, in addition to his own spiritual well-being, that also of his *ancestors*, long before dead and buried, as well as his future *heirs*! After the usual beginning, it runs—Know ye that we, in reverence of God and for the health of our soul and the souls of our ancestors and heirs, have granted to the Master of the Hospital of the House of God of Dover and the brethren of the same Hospital, that they and their men and land and tenements be for ever freed from suit of shires, hundreds, leets, and law-days, from "aids" of sheriffs and their bailiffs, from view of frankpledge, from ward, works, or fences, of castles parks and bridges, from passage pontage stallage tallage lestage, and wreck of sea.

\* Eustace de Fauconberg.

† Josceline de Welles.

‡ Ralph Nevill.

In his nineteenth year King Henry III. made another charter, confirming to God and the Hospital the Manor of Eastbridge, almost in the same words as that made in the eleventh year.

The other documents relating to the Maison Dieu are—

1st, a deed made in Dec., 42 Hen. III. by which Hugh le Coit, Alice Bedell, and others, quit-claim to the Master and Brethren of the Hospital of the blessed Mary of Dover, all right to a tenement, situate within the liberty of Dover at a place called Stonebrook, and in Attertry. The witnesses to which are Thomas son of Byrhi now prepositus Dovor, James Lucas now Maiore, William de Dovor clericus, and many others.

2nd. A deed given at Dover (circa Edw. I.) whereby Henry le Gold grants to the Master and Brethren a piece of land in exchange for other lands. Among the witnesses is John the Alderman.

3rd. A deed dated 5 February, 1280 (6 Ed. I.) by which Thomas Fitz Gabriel quit-claims to God, and the Hospital of the blessed Mary, all right in half an acre of land in the tenure of the same brethren in the village of River.

4th. A deed dated October, 19 Edw. II., by which John, son of Alesis Venesoun of Dovor, grants to Francis John, Master of the Domus Dei, and brethren of the same place, a Rent of 40<sup>s</sup> out of a tenement in Horspole Ward. The witnesses being Lord Robert de Kendale Constable of Dover Castle, John de Mari Mayor of Dover, William Vyrigile, Bailiff, and others.

5th. A deed dated 10 Dec. 30 Hen. VI. whereby Dionysia Yeo of Bokeland quit-claims to Thomas Moys, Master of Domus Dei Dover and his confraternity, all right in one acre and three quarters in Bockeland at the Melle land.

All the deeds before mentioned shew a vesting of property and liberties in the Hospital. In addition to these there are two deeds of lease; one made by John Barber, Master, and the confraternity, in 12 Edw. IV. of two mills in River, for eighty years, to Robert Sither, meller; and the other made by John Willis, "Master of the Hospital Domus Dei" in 31 Hen. VI. of 8 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres of land in Coldred, for ten years, to John Gatebe.

Such are the documents in our possession relating to this famous house. It is a satisfaction to feel that the town possesses so noble a relic of it as their present Town Hall, which was restored a few years since at a large expenditure, which no one, I believe, has ever grudged.

The NAVY of the Cinque Ports has been celebrated from a very early period. Earl Godwyn made use of it in the reign of the

Confessor, and it was subsequently organized by royal mandate. Dover bore a large share of the burden, having to find twenty-one ships, with their crews, for the service of the king and the realm—Dover itself furnished nineteen, and its members, Folkestone and Faversham, one each. All the ports, the two ancient towns (Rye and Winchelsea) and their members had special liberties accorded to them for the service so rendered.

Edward I., who has not inaptly been described as a great and wise king, and the first constitutional monarch of England, probably instituted the organization. About the sixth year of his reign, he prepared a naval force for the subjugation of Llewellyn King of Wales, which sailed from the Cinque Ports, made a descent upon Anglesea, and took possession of that island. In 1293 (fifteen years afterwards) a Norman ship and an English one having sent their boats ashore for water near Bayonne, a contest arose as to the preference, in which blows were given, and one of the Normans was killed. Vexed at their defeat, the Normans carried a complaint to the French king, who, in a moment of incautious irritation, told them to avenge themselves. So encouraged, the Normans boarded an English ship in the Channel, and hanged up one of the sailors as a reprisal for the loss of their comrade at Bayonne. But the sailors of the Cinque Ports were not likely to submit to such treatment; fresh encounters soon took place, and the Channel became the scene of unauthorized and lawless warfare. Ships were captured and recaptured, and blood was constantly flowing. Edward sent an ambassador to the Court of France, but Philip was a haughty prince and disliked to admit his error. While his answer was waited for, a fleet of about 200 French ships, laden with wine, was met by some 60 or 80 vessels of the Cinque Ports, and a collision taking place, the French fleet was nearly destroyed, and several thousand seamen killed or thrown overboard. For the next year or two hostilities raged with augmented fury. The English commanded the channel, landed where they pleased in Normandy, and ravaged the towns and villages near the coast. They took and burnt Cherbourg. Philip equipped a fleet of 300 ships, and this large force succeeded, for a time, in doing some injury to the Kentish coast. But the French had no great cause for triumph. The 'Chronicle of London,' now in the British Museum, briefly records, under the date of the year 1297, that "the Normans came to Dovaur, and brent a great part of y<sup>e</sup> towne; but *they were slayn every moder's son; ther eschaped none.*"

Such were some of the exploits of what has been deemed the infant navy of England!

The first charter in our keeping connected with this subject is one granted by Edward III., in his second year, confirming a charter of his own given in the previous year, as well as one of 26 Edward I. It recites by *inspeximus* his own charter of confirmation "which we have lately made, under the Seal which we then did use, to the Barons of our Cinque Ports," and by *inspeximus* the "Letters Patent of the Lord Edward of famous memory some time King of England our grandfather," in these words, "considering that our shipping of the Cinque Ports cannot be maintained without great costs and expenses, lest the Shipping should fail or perish, for the future we have granted, for us and our heirs, that all they of the Cinque Ports aforesaid and others whosoever calling themselves of their liberty, and henceforth willing to enjoy the same, shall contribute every of them according to their ability [*facultates*] to the service of us and our heirs with their ships, when this from us or our heirs they shall have in commandment. And because upon the said general words that every of them should contribute according to their faculties, before these times various dissensions have arisen, We (that the Barons of the Ports aforesaid may be able more commodiously to do the service aforesaid to us and our heirs in times convenient) of the counsel of our prelates, Earls, and Barons and of the commonalties of our kingdom in our present parliament called together, have granted for us and our heirs to the same Barons of the Cinque Ports, that all they of those Ports and others whatsoever calling themselves of their liberty, and willing henceforth to enjoy the same, shall contribute to maintain and do the shipping and service aforesaid, of all their goods and chattels, as well without the liberty of the Cinque Ports aforesaid as within (and to this by the Mayors and Jurats of the Ports aforesaid and also by the Constable of our Castle of Dover if need shall be they may be compelled), and that the goods and chattels of the said Barons and others, whether they shall be without the said liberty or within, which are taxed to maintain and do the said shipping and service, in no wise shall be taxed to tallages, or other charges whatsoever, with the goods and chattels of other men."

In speaking of the establishment of the *Domus Dei*, we have stated that it was for the accommodation of pilgrims resorting to England. It appears that the flow continued, for King Edward III. found it necessary for the safety of his realm, in the ninth year of his reign, to make a provision for their embarking, as I find by a charter of King Richard II. in his fourth year, which recites by *inspeximus* the charter his grandfather made with the consent of his parliament:

“That no pilgrim shall pass out of our Realm to foreign parts except from Dovor under the penalty of imprisonment for one year.” And the king wills and grants that the ordinance “as it tends to the common weal of our kingdom may be held inviolate and strictly observed.”

A subject, which seems to have been regarded as one of great importance to the kingdom, was the passage between Dover and the coast of France. If we may judge from the royal ordinances that were made in reference to it, it was one of no little difficulty. So early as the reign of Edward I. we find it attracted the royal attention. The first charter respecting it in our possession is one made by King Edward II., in the sixth year of his reign. After reciting that “whereas debates contentions and riots have often taken place in the town of Dovor, to the great peril and loss of the whole commonalty of the town, so that by them many have been impoverished & likely to be ruined, because they could not pass with their ships, nor gain, like as the powerful & rich did,” it states that “it is agreed & assented by all the members of the company called fferschip (fellowship), that is to wit (here follow the names of twenty-one persons) that from henceforth no passenger ship pass except in turn, that is to wit, each ship then fares as soon as it can well be done. And after three fares are done & completed that ship shall not pass or make passage until all the passenger ships which are in the company of the fferschip have made in the same way their three fares, so that the said ships be found good & sufficient by the wardens who for that purpose shall be chosen & assigned. The Indenture then enacts a penalty, on breach, of 100<sup>s</sup> to be paid to the use of our Lord the King, the same to be levied by the Bailiff, & delivered by him to the warden of the Cinque Ports.

This ordinance of Edward II. is succeeded by another, made by Edward III. in his seventeenth year, which recites an indenture made in the seventeenth year of Edward II. under the seals of the Commonalty, “of our beloved and faithful Edmund Earl of Kent our most dear brother late constable of our Castle of Dovor and Keeper of our Cinque Ports” and certain combarons of our port aforesaid, setting forth that contentions and controversies had been caused, between the society called the fferschip having ships called Passagers, and other combarons, concerning the profits of the passage had between Dovor and Wytsand, and that they were at length settled through friendly intervention thus—that the Society shall give, in aid of the Commonalty, out of every ship freighted with horses 2<sup>s</sup>, with foot passengers 12<sup>d</sup>, to be collected before leaving the shore and deposited in a common box by the Mayor and Jurats.



The charter then confirms the one recited, in order to provide for the tranquillity and peace of all of the port, with the addition that all who have ships or boats of this kind of passengers may have them, and shall make contribution as above said, the money to be put aside into some common box in the church of St. Martin, in aid of the service to be made by the port "to us and our heirs, and for better supplying the other necessities of the same port as they shall occur."

We have before referred to the privileges and franchises which the Cinque Ports enjoyed, as some compensation to them for the maritime burdens which they were required to bear. Those privileges were wont to be confirmed by succeeding kings, and one charter we have, granted by King Henry IV. in his third year, confirming the liberties and freedoms of the Barons of the Cinque Ports, by the charters "of our ancestors formerly Kings of England granted," with liberty not to plead otherwise than they were wont to plead, in the time of the Lord King [Henry III.], the great grandfather of the Lord Edward [III.] late King of England our ancestor.

The privileges, however, to which we have referred, did not exempt the Cinque Ports from the service of war. For we find a royal warrant, issued by King Henry V., in the fifth year of his reign, directed to the Constable of Dover and Warden of the Cinque Ports, requiring his subjects to provide themselves with sufficient and convenient "harness," as he intended by God's sufferance to pass on the seas into the realm of France, and there to make war against Lewis the French King, and his adherents, not only the enemies of Christ's Church, but also usurpers and unjust retainers of the king's possessions, rights, and inheritances, unto his crown of England rightfully appertaining.

In the following reign it would seem that the ancient walls of the town had fallen into decay. For King Henry VI., in his eighteenth year, granted a charter confirming the privileges which the town had had, for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the walls against the sea, as was requisite for their preservation, "as from the time when the town of Calais was conquered and acquired by our noble ancestor Edward, and that they of the same town lately by great charges and disbursements which they from time to time for the conservation of the passage from the same supported, their Liberties and franchises had and held for their own use, viz.: that they of Dover should make their passage to the said Town of Calais and not to any other place, nor they of Calais their passage to any place other than to Dover, unless prevented by great or sudden tempest, or by Royal precept, except

merchandize which did not belong to the passage . . . . the said Town of Dover having the special charge of the passage, and to regulate the conduct of the same and the ships thereof," etc.

Notwithstanding the favours thus conferred by the Crown, it would seem that differences had arisen or offences been committed by the Barons. For I find that the same king, in the twenty-fifth year of his reign, issued Letters Patent, granted by the king in parliament, pardoning and remitting to Ralph Toke, mayor, and Walter Nysham, bailiff, and the commonalty, all manner of transgressions, offences, misprisions, contempts, and impeachments by them before the 9th day of April last past, against the form of the Statutes concerning the liberties of clothes and hoods, done or perpetrated. And this lengthy charter contains releases of all imaginable offences, of every conceivable kind, *excepting* however out of its operation a daughter of a soldier, a blacksmith, the keeper of Nottingham Gaol, a felony concerning the death of a soldier lately perpetrated, and sundry government officers.

It does not appear that the Barons were much better behaved in the succeeding reign, for its liberties and franchises had been "for reasonable and lawful causes" seized unto the king's hands, and Edward IV. by a charter in his eleventh year "for the good and decent government and happy rule of the town, and its members, and our people of the same, and for the security of others resorting to the same," appointed Thomas Hexstall the Custos of the town and its members, with power to rule and govern the same, and to have the keys and administration, even as the mayor hitherto had had.

With these nautical and national matters we find a little bit of domestic history, in a warrant issued by King Henry VIII. in his twenty-sixth year to George Duke of Rochefort, Constable and Warden, and others. It directs them "to take from the Inhabitants of the Town and its Members, under the powers of the Statute, an oath of Fealty to the King's Majesty, and to the heirs of his body by his most dear and entirely beloved lawful wife Queen Anne."

As with the passage across the channel (not counted by the mariners of that day but a "silver streak" dividing the two coasts), so has the *Harbour* been deemed a matter of national importance. It was not always on the same site. In Roman days it consisted of the estuary of the river Dour—a river which still flows through the town within narrowed limits. It appears, from an old drawing, that in the reign of Henry VIII. it ran, after leaving the Town Mill, *directly* out to sea. But in consequence of an extensive fall of cliff eastward, it was turned by a frill of beach, which had collected from the westward, and formed

a harbour at the foot of Archcliff Hill, for many years afterwards known as Paradise Pent, now built over. Seaward of it, Henry built two round towers. The foundation of one of them was exhumed a few years since by the railway works, and some of its semicircular stones I have preserved *in memoriam*. It was afterwards extended and enlarged, from time to time, and a commission issued by Philip and Mary in their second and third years gives us an insight into what was felt then. This was a commission, or Royal Brief addressed to all Bishops and Curates, granting "licence to the Mayor and Jurats to raise money for the repair and prevent the ruin of the Harbour, which had hitherto been a good Harbour, and served to great purpose for the safeguard of both our loving subjects and others, and the destruction of which would turn out not only to the danger and peril of all such as traffic and use the narrow seas, or pass into our towne and Marches of Calais, but also to the great loss hindrance and decaye of our whole Realm." And on April 8th, 1556, the Mayor, Jurats, and Commonalty made an appointment, under the above commission, of Jn<sup>o</sup> Harris and Tho<sup>s</sup> Dawe to collect monies of all their Majesty's subjects.

Queen Elizabeth, in her twenty-fifth year, issued Letters Patent to the officers of her Exchequer, reciting Letters Patent of her twenty-second year, for better help and encouragement of the Mayor etc. towards the mending and building of the haven in the Port, granting "licence to buy 4000 tons of beer or else brew the same, 30,000 Q<sup>rs</sup> of wheat, 10,000 Q<sup>rs</sup> of barley or malt or both, and transport the same into foreign ports," and adds "that we greatly tendering the perfecting of building and reparation of the said haven as a matter of great importance to the weal and defence of this our Realm, and whereof we have a princely and earnest care," inhibit the buying in the counties of Kent, Essex, Suffolk, Dorset and Hampshire of any wheat to be transported beyond the seas, except by virtue of the licence for Dover, and for victualling the City of London, extending the right for Dover to buy in any county in England, so as the price of wheat do not exceed in the usual markets 22<sup>s</sup>.

In the succeeding reign, the Corporation surrendered all their harbour rights and lands to the Crown, and King James vested them in a special Board, consisting of the Lord Warden, his Lieutenant, and seven assistants, who were not to be residents of Dover. This Board continued until a few years since, when it was superseded by another Constitution created by Parliament.

## EXTRACTS FROM RECORD BOOKS.

The earliest record now extant commences 3rd Oct<sup>r</sup>, 5 and 6 Philip and Mary, and the proceedings entered continue to July in second year of Elizabeth, from which date they are wanting down to 1 James I.

In the reign of Philip and Mary the Corporation consisted of the Mayor, Jurats, and all the freemen, called the Commonalty, and the assemblies of the Corporation were summoned by the blowing a horn, which horn is still in existence, and carried, together with the mace, on state occasions before the Mayor and Town Council. This fact will explain a minute which follows. The horn blowing was in practice in 1670.

The following are a few extracts, giving one only of the same character, as examples of municipal management, and administration of justice, in those days:—

*Authority to Mayor to sett prices in Market, 5 and 6 Philip and Mary.*

That the xxviiij<sup>th</sup> daye of the Moneth of October Annis Regnor' D'nor' Regis et Regine Phillippi et Marie dei gra' v<sup>o</sup> et vj<sup>o</sup> by the Worshippfull Thomas Collie maier of the Kyng and Quens Maiistys towne and port of Douor, Thomas Warrey, Thomas Bussyngboone, Thomas Burnell, and Thom's Pepper, Jurats by whom and by thiye holle assents concents and agreements according to the Lawes of this Re'me yt is agreed condycended and concluded that the said Mayer shall and hathe power and authoryte to sett a pryce being clark of the markett of all shuch p'sone or p'sons as well ffremen as fooryners as hathe or shall bryng in any heryngs or other victell to be solde w<sup>h</sup>in the lyberte of this towne.

*Freeman's mark to be a moiety.*

And every firemans mark sal be of the one halfe or moyety of shuche victell as he bryngeth at the discretion of the said mayor.

*A freeman fined for taking a non-freeman as partner in trade.*

Also The daye and yere w<sup>th</sup>in written that is to say the xxix<sup>th</sup> daye of October byfor the maior and Jurats within written yt is condicended concluded and agreed by the said Maier and Juratts That Thomas Wood beer brewer shall paye to the chamber of the towne the sum of iiij<sup>li</sup> and Cornelis the some of x<sup>li</sup> for that the said Thomas being a freemens hathe and dyd coller the said Cornelis being

a foren<sup>r</sup> to be his p'tener and to taicke halfe gaynes w<sup>th</sup> him as a freman contrary to o<sup>r</sup> orders and decres of this towne for the w<sup>ch</sup> offe'e they to pay the said somes as is a forsaide.

*A committal to the prison wall for unfitting words to the Mayor.*

That the last daye of October in the said yeres of their Maisties Raynegs came James Broker byfor the said Maier and Juratts whoe for sarten vnfyting woords spoken to the said Maier in the p'sence of court yt ys agreed by the sayd Juratts That the said James for his evill demenur shall remayne vnto the Wall called the prisone ther to remayne vntell iij off the klok in the afternone of this day and then to depart vnto his dwellyng for this tyme.

At a *Comyne Horne blowing* holden in the courte halle of the towne and porte of Douor the ix<sup>th</sup> daye of the moneth of October Annis Regnor' D'nor' Regis et Regine Phillippi et Marie dei gra' v<sup>o</sup> et vj<sup>to</sup> at the whiche appered the Maier Jurats and Comynalt<sup>e</sup> of the same towne of Douor.

Also it is condicended concluded and agreed by the assents concents and agreements of the said Maier Jurats and comynalt<sup>e</sup> That all the landes shalbe leavied and gathered to paye the marryners and victellers that hathe boren and farry'd at the last transportation of the Kyngs Maistie and also all those that are fremen and hath noe lands to bere towards the charge of the mayntenance of the Navy at every transportation as they shalbe taxed by the maior and collectors of the same wards for the tyme beinge.

*The stablyshement of y<sup>e</sup> xxxvij tempore Thomas Colleye maior.*

Also it is condicended concluded and agreed by theyr assentes concentes and agreements That ther shalbe xxxvij p'sones or by the assents and concents of the more p'te of them shall maike good and civell orders at theyer good discreations and to maike auns<sup>r</sup> vnto all shuche matters or causes as shalbe aleaged vnto them for and in the name of the holle comynalty in as ample maner and forme as the holle comynalty were together present and yf anye of the Jurats dye and that they Jurats doe wayn't for the furneytin of the beynech that they the said xxxvij p'sones shall elect and chose doble the p'sones so wantyng out of the said xxxvij p'sones and p'sent them to the maier and Jurats and of them to be taken and furnish the beynech as Jurats except and resawyd to the holle comynalt of the same towne the

election of the Mayer the choyse of the officers the election of the burgi'ons to the p'liament and the bayllyefs to Yarmoth and as the fremanes seal to be at the comyne assembly and by a horne blowene by the holle comynalt of this towne of Douor.

*Richard Shoueler adjudged y<sup>e</sup> Pilary for a cut purse.*

That the xix<sup>th</sup> daye of the moneth of November Anno Regni Regine n're Elizabeth primo came Richard Shoueler byfor the Worshipfull Thomas Collye mayer Thomas Foxleye Thomas Mauncell Thomas Fynnett and Adriano Whitt Jurats whoe byfor them was justely accused to be a comyne cutt purse and thereof condemned Wherfor thus is his Judgment That he shall goe to the pyllary and ther the Bayllyes Officer or his Deputy shall nayll one of his eares to the pillary and geve him a knyffe in his hand and he him leafe to cut hof of or els stande styll ther—thus to be done in the open faice of marktett w<sup>th</sup> a paper on his heade.

*Proclamation on the Accession of Queen Elizabeth.*

Oyez.—That the last daye of the moneth of November Anno Regni Elissabeth Anglie ffrancie et hiberne Regine fidei defens<sup>r</sup> &c. &c. primo yt was condecended concluded and agreed by the Worshipfull Thomas Collye maier of the toun and porte of Douor<sup>r</sup> Thomas Foxleye Thomas Fynnett Adriano Whitt John Robbynes and Thomas Burnell Jurats That as vpon the p'clamation of the quenes maisty the Chamberlaynes of the same shall sett in the marktett plaic a hoghed of wyne a tonne of bere and a bone ffyere to be made to the quenes maists honor and to the prayse of God for her masts Raynge.

*Canopy Bearers at Coronation of Queen Elizabeth.*

Douor—At a Comyne horne blowyng and anessemblye holden in the Courte halle the xxx<sup>th</sup> daye of the moneth of December Anno Regni Regine n're Elizabeth p'mo at the w<sup>ch</sup> appered the Maier Jurats and most parte of the Comynaltye of the same towne of Douor<sup>r</sup>.

At the which horne blowing and comyne assemblye By theyer assentes concetes and agrements yt is condicended concluded and agreed That M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Warren and M<sup>r</sup> John Robbynes shalbe and are elected to be canapye berers over the quen's Maistye for this toun of Douor<sup>r</sup> and also shalbe and are elected to be Burgion'es of the P'liament at the next P'liament.

*A Jurat to redeliver a parcell of gold.*

Oyez.—The last day of March Anno 1<sup>st</sup> Eliz.

Also it is condicended and agreed by the said maier and Jurats the daye and yer above said That Thomas Warren one of the Jurats of the said toune shall redlyuore vnto one Agnes Bennett of the said toune ther p'cell of gold as ensueth w<sup>ch</sup> he receavid of the said Agnes as she saieth w<sup>th</sup> out delay xij old angelles v old Ryalles one Doble Duckett and halfe a croune of the some of v<sup>s</sup>.

*1<sup>st</sup> Eliz<sup>h</sup>. "Toun Comysson."*

Oyez.—That the xv<sup>th</sup> daye of the moneth of Ap<sup>r</sup>ill Anno Regni Regine n're Elizabethe p'mo &c. came Thomas Keyes and Will'm Hannington esquires byfore the Worshipfull Thomas Collye Mayer of the towne and port of Douer Thomas Foxley (and 7 others) Jurats whoe being Commissioners appoynted by the Lords of the quens maist<sup>ys</sup> honorable Councell by vertu of theyr leatters vnto them directed to enquier of all maner greffes discords and dissentiones by twyne the said Maier Jurats and comynalt of this toune of Douer at the w<sup>ch</sup> daye The said leatters was read byfore the said Maier Jurats and comynalt thene assembled and in the p'sents of the said Thomas Keyes and Will'm Hannington Comyssoners at whiche time and Inquitio'en maide the saide Maier Jurats and Comynalte were all in p'feact amyte peace and concord thankes be yeoven vnto God and hathe openlye p'mised soe to contynewe by God's grace.

*Two women fined for scolds.*

Oyez.—That the iij daye of the monethe June Anno Regni n're Elizabeth p'mo yt is concluded condycended and agreed adinged by the Worshipfull Thomas Collye Mayer (and 4 Jurats) That Thomas Paickeman shall paye vnto the chamber of the said toune xx<sup>d</sup> for a fyne for his wyffe's offence dewly approved to be a scolled and also Rob<sup>t</sup> Elliott for his wyffe's offence being lyicke wise offended x<sup>s</sup> and at the mediation of the Jurats is now moderated vnto v<sup>s</sup>.

*The banishme'tt of Clement Baker and his Wyffe for their evell demeanour and behaviour.*

Oyez.—That the xxx<sup>th</sup> daye of the monethe of June (A. R. R. n're E. p'mo) came Clement Baker and his wyffe by for the Worshipfull Thomas Colly Mayer (and 6 Jurats) whoe then and ther for divers good and just considerationes vs movyng haue concluded condicended and agreed That the said Clement Baker and his wyffe shall for theyr

evell demenur and behavior dep't this toune of Douor as a banishment for the space of one holle yere and a day w<sup>th</sup>in this xiiij<sup>to</sup> dayes next ensuing the datt her'ff and not to come w<sup>th</sup>in the same towne vpon payen of shuche punishment and fyne as shall happen.

In the year 1634 a new ducking or cucking stool was provided, but previously in the year 1614 occurs an entry, respecting the old ducking stool, which I will extract as a specimen of many others of a similar kind. After the conviction for scolding and otherwise, the record proceeds thus,—“And afterward viz<sup>t</sup> about 4 in the afternoon, the said 3 woemen were lead to the havens mouth (it beyng then high sea). And at the Tymber w<sup>th</sup>in the said haven a certen mast of a Bote was ffastened hanging over the water and at the end thereof the cucking stoole w<sup>th</sup> a pulley was hanging, And the said 3 woemen towed in a Boat vnto yt and the said Whyttyngham his wife was first putt into the said stoole and well ducked and putt into the boate agayn, And next vnto her the said Elizabeth Sands 3 sev'all tymes and taken into the said Boat But forasmuch as the said Anne Boys her fault was not so great as the others, Therefor she was carryed to the said cucking stool and made to kisse yt and so was remitted from beyng ducked for this offence.”

The following order in 1605 might probably be well followed now. Henry Wolton was ordered to stand “w<sup>th</sup> his hands locked in the post, at the markt place appoynted for Drunkards.”

I will only now allude to one other class of cases.

In the last year of Philip and Mary “Agnes Jarman Widdowe” “was accused and thereof justely approved That she one Symon and Judy\* daye at night being Fryday did Rost a legge of motton for her geysts to be eaten and the same soe taken, for the w<sup>ch</sup> offence yt was condicended concluded and agreed by the said Maier and Jurats that the said Agnes shall duryng the tyme of the markt sett in the open markt place in the stocks w<sup>th</sup> the said Sholder of motton afore her one the spitt and afterward to be comytted to prisone ther to remaine vntell the ordinar taicke further order therein.”

In accordance with this principle I find the following fines (among many like ones) received,—

5 Ed. VI.	Of keping victellying in the Sarvice tyme	v <sup>s</sup>
6 Ed. VI.	Of breakyng of a comandment for breaking his fast in a dwelling house	xij <sup>d</sup>

\* St. Simon and St. Jude, 28th Oct.



6 Ed. VI. Of dice playing	iijs iiij <sup>d</sup>
2 & 3 P. & Mary. Of opening his Shope wyndes on the Sunday	xx <sup>d</sup>
1 Eliz. Of opening of his Shoppe on the Saboth, and for his batt'	xx <sup>d</sup>

Three persons for Card playing, xij<sup>d</sup>; v<sup>s</sup>; vjs iiij<sup>d</sup> respectively.

Several persons "of bowlyng on the Sabothe daye" ij<sup>s</sup>

The revenues of the Corporation appear to have been derived principally from taxes on wines, coals, salt, bridges, on freemen admitted, for opening of shops, fines, landing money, an assessment on the inhabitants, on killing of hogs, and a few small rents.

The CHAMBERLAIN'S ACCOUNTS begin in the last year of Henry VIII., and are regularly continued. The disbursements were of all kinds. We can notice but a few. One of the annual charges seems to have been at this time such as the following :—

1 Ed. VI. Paid to my lord Warden's mynstrell	v <sup>s</sup>
Item paid to my Lord of Suffolk players	ij <sup>s</sup> viij <sup>d</sup>
Item paid to the Kyngs players	x <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
Item paid to the Dochess of Suffolk of	vij <sup>s</sup>
Item paid to the Kings Deaves	v <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
2 Ed. VI. Imprimis paid to the latte Katerynd's players	vjs viij <sup>d</sup>
Item more to y <sup>m</sup> for wine and other . . . .	xviij <sup>d</sup>
It'm p <sup>d</sup> to my lord protectors graces players and for drynk to them	ix <sup>s</sup> iiij <sup>d</sup>
It'm p <sup>d</sup> to the Kyngs Jesters	v <sup>s</sup>
It'm p <sup>d</sup> to my Lord Admiral's players"	vjs viij <sup>d</sup>

(with others)

We shall not be surprised to find that considerable payments were made from year to year for Mayor's dinners and for wine to the Mayor and others; and apples and beer to the Commonalty on special occasions, such as the Mayor's election, and the Sovereign's Accession, and Coronation, &c. But their liberality was extended to others, such as—

"Geyftes gevuen to Noble men. 3 Ed. VI.

"It'm geven to my lord protectors grace X cople of capons	xvjs viij <sup>d</sup>
"It'm more xij cople of conynes	vij <sup>s</sup>
"It'm more ij p . . . (perhaps pheasants)	x <sup>s</sup>
"It'm more for ij dozen of woodcocks	xiiij <sup>s</sup>
"It'm vij parterges	ijjs vj <sup>d</sup>

" It'm iij dosen and a half of larks	ij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>
" It'm more for selbies pa	xij <sup>d</sup>
" It'm more geven to him for his paynes to go to Callice	ij <sup>s</sup> vj <sup>d</sup>
" It'm more a baskett and the bryng	vij <sup>d</sup>
" It'm more for a p'sent geouen to amembasstor"	xiiij <sup>d</sup>

N.B.—Presents to the Lord Warden and his Deputy of wine, capons, etc., were numerous.

There is an entry at this date that "The hole com' of bedds in the toune of Dover is iij<sup>e</sup> l and beddes after iij men in a bed will lodge a thousand xxxij men." And another entry gives the names of the freemen householders, the list containing 108 names,—a number which seems to have increased from year to year—and another which gives the names of the ten "Kynges hacneymen," and the horses which each was to keep, ranging from two to six.

In the second year of Edward VI. an order was made "That the pyxe and belles of syllver and geylt shalbe sold to the most advantage. And the moneye ther of shal be to paye the deatts that the toune dothe owe which said picks and belles doth waye liiij ounces." And another entry shews that the sum received for "lij ounces and a half at v<sup>s</sup> the ownc was xiiij<sup>ii</sup> ij<sup>s</sup> vj<sup>d</sup>."

The receipts for fines were considerable, and a very frequent one was for "bludwppe" upon another, and sometimes upon a wife, the amount of fines varying from v<sup>s</sup> to ij<sup>s</sup>

Among the payments I may note the following (a<sup>o</sup> 1 Mary):—

" It'm paid for the charges of the Comis'aynes being here	v <sup>s</sup> ob.
" It'm paid for the dyner made and yeouen to the chancellor to the Cardinal's grace the lord byshoppe of Douor the comyssary and the Archdeacon of Canterbury at the visitation here in Douor in O <sup>r</sup> Ladye Church May xxiiij <sup>d</sup> liiij <sup>s</sup> iiiij <sup>d</sup>	
" It'm paid for wyne and othere things geouen to the Comyssioners w <sup>ch</sup> satt in comission at O <sup>r</sup> laddye Church at theyre being here	vij <sup>s</sup> jd"

These extracts could be considerably extended, but I fear that my paper has already gone to too great a length, and has not afforded you such a feast as the materials could have given, in more able and imaginative hands, and so have induced you to patiently bear a longer infliction. I have been obliged to compile it away from home, without a power of reference to books which I should like to have had at hand, and must, in conclusion, beg you to extend your indulgence to my feeble effort and look over all its faults,