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# THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS OF TENTERDEN.

## PART I.

BY A. H. TAYLOR.

THE Borough of Tenterden—the only corporate town in the Weald of Kent—is situated eighteen miles south-east of Maidstone and ten miles north of Rye. It may be said to have derived its importance as such owing to the fact that it was in the fifteenth century called in to the aid and help of Rye, that port having been selected by the King's enemies as the object of many violent attacks and burnings, insomuch that the town being in great decay and ruin, Henry VI., by Letters Patent issued under the Privy Seal, decreed that Tenterden should be separated from being one of the "Seven Hundreds" in the Weald, and united to the most ancient town of Rye, and so annexed to the Cinque Ports under the title of "Bailiff and Commonalty of the Town and Hundred of Tenterden," to be a body corporate of themselves, and to have perpetual corporate succession with power to elect a bailiff on the day of the decollation of St. John the Baptist, being the 29th of August, for ever, etc. This is the earliest date of incorporation of the town that I have met with, although Kilburne\* states that before the time of this charter it was incorporated by the name of "Barons of the Town and Hundred of Tenterden." These Letters Patent were issued at Winchester, 1st August,

\* *Topographie of Kent* (1659), p. 270.

27 Hen. VI., 1449, and were confirmed\* by Edward IV. in the third year of his reign—at Westminster, 24 June 1463—“For forty shillings paid into the hanaper.” By this charter Tenterden was governed until the 42nd year of Queen Elizabeth, although, as the town increased in prosperity and importance during that Queen’s reign, efforts appear to have been made to obtain a new charter and to raise the status of the Corporation. This is confirmed by a note found in the Rye Corporation MSS. under the date 1589. The Mayor of that town, Henry Gaymer, being in London on business, he heard “news,” and accordingly wrote home to the Deputy Mayor, William Tolken, that “Tenterden is taking a new charter, how far we may be prejudiced therein I pray you think upon and send me your minds.” Nothing, however, appears to have been decided definitely till 1600, when Queen Elizabeth granted a new charter “at the humble supplication of the now Bayliffe and Commons of the Town and Hundred,” which changed the style of the Corporation to that of “Mayor, Juratts and Commons of the Town and Hundred of Tenterden.” In this charter the then bailiff, John Hales, Esq., was appointed to continue in office as the first mayor, and twelve jurats were appointed by name, nine of whom succeeded and served as mayor in the order in which they are named. This charter was dated at Westminster the 16th day of August in the two and fortieth year of Q. Eliz., 1600, and from the records of the proceedings at the

\* It would appear that there was some uncertainty as to bringing into operation the charter of Henry VI., the following items being recorded in the Rye Chamberlains’ Accounts:—

- A.D. 1449. Paid the expenses of the Common Clerk to go to Tenterden to tell them that one of us and of them should go to London to labour for the saving of the franchise of Tenterden . . . . . vjd.  
 Paid for three felt caps (caleptris) given to Younge of Bristow and to Lacon and Elam that they might the sooner be friends to us and to the franchise of Tenterden . . . . . ij s vjd.  
 1451. Paid for a stock of fish for Richard Witherton, Lieutenant of Dover, to be a good man to us in the matter of Tenterden, by John Tregoos . . . . . iij s.

(*Royal Commission on Hist. MSS.*, 5th report, 1876.)

Common Hall held on the 29th August yearly, it was handed to the newly-elected mayor to be kept in his custody. Whether it was so kept in 1661 is open to question, for in that year, on the 19th March, the Court Hall was burnt down and the charter and other records were destroyed. This was a loss to the town of the day, and a greater loss to posterity, for there is no doubt that much interesting material thereby perished which would have been of great service in compiling a history of the town. The destruction of the charter appears to have placed the Corporation occasionally in an awkward position, for as in these days, so in times gone by, there were those who delighted in litigation, and one Robert Gibbon of Beckley, co. Sussex, was one of these, judging by his numerous actions against the Corporation. Eventually, in 1664, it became necessary to take some steps to get the charter exemplified "for the better enabling us to make our defence at the trial of Robert Gibbon his action against this Corporation in the Court at Faversham," but the efforts made and the furnishing of moneys by the Chamberlain do not appear to have succeeded, and it was not till 1700 that William III., in the twelfth year of his reign, granted the exemplification of Elizabeth's charter.

To go back a few years, it should be mentioned that, on Tenterden being constituted a member of the Cinque Ports, it became naturally a necessity to have some agreement in black and white so that both head port and member should know exactly their position and the privileges which Tenterden was to share, as well as the pains and penalties. Accordingly an elaborate agreement was drawn up in 1493, termed the "Composition between Rye and Tenterden," in which the articles agreed upon were set forth at length. This occupies ten pages in the oldest record book in the possession of the Corporation, and a recital in these pages, although perhaps interesting, would be tedious owing to the numerous legal repetitions, etc. It will therefore suffice to give a few of the more important clauses, and the whole may be seen in Jeake's *Charters of the Cinque Ports*. The

composition notwithstanding, as time rolled on, many questions and debates for and against the annual payments and contributions arose, and in 1655 especially this was the case. Among a bundle of detached documents and papers is the actual letter addressed by the Mayor of Rye to his brother of Tenterden attempting a settlement of the dispute; this will be given further on.

Having thus given a brief outline of the principal matters of historical interest, I will endeavour to give some account of the records which still exist. The principal MS. volume at present in the possession of the Corporation is an old record book, which was apparently commenced, and a great part written, in the time of Q. Mary during the years that Stephen Cowper was bailiff, 1557-58, as his name occurs in many instances in which the draft of an ordinance or decree is given. It is unfortunately in a tattered and mutilated condition, the leather binding being torn, and many leaves have been wantonly abstracted; it has also been rebound on some remote occasion and many of the leaves cut rather closely. This, however, was done at some period prior to the year 1842, as the book was carefully examined in that year by Mr. William Grisbrook, Mayor in 1842-3, and his notes shew that the missing leaves had been abstracted before that date. Some of the earliest entries are very finely illuminated, and include the Arms of England and France, Tudor roses, crowns, human faces, and ornamental details drawn by the pen of a skilful and clever artist. It commences with the fragment of an index having reference to folios xliii to lvii. The first nine folios (eighteen pages) are filled with the copy of a charter to the Cinque Ports granted by Edward IV., commencing:—

“Eddwarde, be the grace of god kinge of Englonde and Lorde of Irelonde. Unto all and singuler Admiralls, etc., and unto all other oure Ministers and subiects whatsoever they be as well w<sup>th</sup>in o<sup>r</sup> liberties as without, greatinge, etc.

Wittnesseth oure selfe at Westemester the xxxj<sup>th</sup> daye of Marche, anno primo.” (1461)

Folios x, xi, xii are torn out. Folios xiiij to xvj<sup>a</sup> contain the first charter granted to Tenterden, beginning thus:—

“Henrye by the grace of god kinge of Englonde and ffrance : and lorde of Irelande to all and singuler unto whome theis oure l’res shall come, greatinge :—

to th’enhabitans & tennents resident & not resident, and unto th’other resident in the towne and hundred of Tenterden in the Countie of Kente, that from the feaste of seinte John the baptiste nexte cominge, thafforsayde towne and hundred of Tenterden be of one Bayley and Bayleywicke and Com’inaltie of the same Towne and hundred of Tenterden for euer, and corporat for euer.

In wittnesse whereof we haue caused theis oure l’res to be made pattent, wittnesse oure selfe at Westmester\* the firste daye of Auguste in the xxvii yere of our Reigne.”

At folio xvij commences the “Composition,” but the copyist has used nearly the whole page to form the initial letter *C*:—

“This indenture made the xxi daye of the moneth of September in the eighte yere of the Reigne of Kinge Henrye the seaven after the conquest of Englonde. BETWEEN Henry Swane of the Porte and Towne of Rie, Mayo<sup>r</sup>, and the Commons of the same Towne of th’one pertye. And Hugh Parker, Bayleye of the Towne and hundred of Tenterden and the Commons of the same Towne and hundred of th’other ptye. WITTENESSITH, etc.

That is to saye yf or as often when o<sup>r</sup> soverayne lorde the Kinge of Englonde shalbe disposed to passe over the seas . . . that then the Maio<sup>r</sup> and Commons of the seide Porte and Towne of Rie shall within three dayes next after the receipte of the same (writ) wryte unto the seid Bayley and Commons of the Towne and Hundred of Tenterden. And the seid Bayley and Commons shall and oughte to prepare and fynde one shipp and men in the same shipp accordinge unto the number afforsayd of their owne proper costes and charges and expenses . . .”

\* This is a mistake of the copyist. It should be Winchester. See also *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, Hen. VI., 1446—52, p. 276.

At fol. xxij is the conclusion :—

In wittenesse whereof to one pte of theis Indentures remayninge with th'afforseid Maio<sup>r</sup> and Commons of the Porte and Towne of Rie, th'afforsaid Bayley and Commons of the Towne and Hundred of Tenterden afforsayd have sette their common Seale. And unto th'other p'te of theis Indentures remayninge with the seid Bayley and Commons of the Towne and Hundred of Tenterden, th'afforsaid Maio<sup>r</sup> and Commons of th'afforseid porte & Towne of Rie have putte their common Seale. Geaven at Rye the daye and yere above wrytten.

Fol. xxij<sup>a</sup> is filled with decorative work and this heading :—

Here followeth the liberties & frainchises & also the coustomes & usages of the five Portes in the seid period of tyme whereof no mynde remayneth, used, ratified, confirmed, and graunted to the Bayleue & Comminaltie of the Towne and Hundred of Tenterden, and by oure soueraine Lorde the Kinge Henrye the sixte at Westmester, the firste daye of Auguste in the xxvii yere of his reigne as bi his l'res pattens thereof by him made playnelye appeareth.

Folios xxiiij to lvi contain the decrees and ordinances, of which the following is the commencement :—

Firste by the seide lres they haue graunted emonge other liberties and fraynchices to the Indwellers and Householders residentes & their heiers and successors in the Towne and hundred of Tenterden dwellinge euery yere in the daye of the decollacon of seinte John the Baptiste maye chose of themselves one able and sufficient person within the seide Fraincheise dwelling euery yere for to be Bayley of the seide Towne & hundred for the gouernaunce and safegarde of the same which Baylei so chosen hath power for to hould a courte before himselfe or his sufficient Deputie within the seide Towne & Hundred of Tenterden . . .

Fol. xxiv<sup>a</sup>. Election daye.

. . . the seide Barons of Tenterden by vertue of the same graunte have used for to make the eleccon of thei<sup>r</sup> Bayley after the usages and coustoumes in other places of the five portes of time whereof no minde remayneth used in the ma<sup>n</sup>er folowenge. That is, on the Sondaye nexte before the daye of eleccon of the seide Baylei, proclamacon by the Common Sergiaunte in the

churche yearde of the seide Towne betwene mattens and masse of the same daye shalbe made to all the comons freemen resiantes of the seide Towne & Hundred. Then shall assemble at the seide daye of elleccon at the nienth hower before none for to make theire eleccon of the seide Baylei for the good governance of the fraynchices of the same Towne and Hundred . . . .

Fol. xxv. The othe of the Bayley:—

I, Stephen Cowper, Bayley chosen, shalbe faithfull and trewe to the Kinge of Englande and to his heires Kinges of this lande, and trulye kepe the peace and ma'ntayne the fraynchise coustomes and usages of the five Portes graunted to this Towne and Hundreth of Tenterden. And equall righte and Justice do to riche and power, as god me helpe and all sayntes, and kyse the booke.

Fol. xxviii. Fines uppon Jurats and Com'ons that comythe not to the Baylei by summoninge.

Fol. xxxiiij. Of a man founde deade.

Fol. xxxv. "The Precept" for holding an inquest:—

Stephen Cowper, bayley of the Libertie Towne & hundred of Tenterden, and Cōner of our soueraine lorde the Kinge within the seide Towne and hundreth beinge of the libertyes of the five Portes; to Robert Ruddoll his Sergiaunte to the masee (*sic*) within the same Libertie sendeth greatinge. In the behalfe of oure soueraine lorde the Kinge I straightlye commaunde and iniune\* the, that thou doest cause to come and appeare before me this present Mondaye at Bursile,† eightine good and lawfull men of the boroughe of Castweasell,† by whome the trewth best maye be knowne and enquired uppon diuerse artikles toweching & concerninge our Souerayne lorde the Kinge. And furthermore receaue & do that which in the behalfe of oure soueraine lorde the Kinge to them there than shalbe enioyned and that there y<sup>e</sup> haue the names of them y<sup>t</sup> be sommoned and this precept also. Geven at Tenterden.

The artist, in drawing the initial letter for the foregoing precept, has embellished the "S" with three forms of

\* A note in the margin reads: Iniune standeth for charge.

† The Hundred of Tenterden is divided into six "boroughs": Town, Boresile, Castweasle, Shrubeote, Reading, and Dumborne.

violent death, for which an inquest would undoubtedly be necessary. One figure in an upright position has a sword thrust upwards and through his body, the point appearing above the right shoulder; another lies at his feet pierced with arrows; while the third is in a recumbent position with the head lying at a different angle some distance from the body.

Fol. xlvi. The abjuration of a felon :—

“ Christopher W. Hosier the xx<sup>th</sup> daye of Julye in the ij yere of the reigne of King H. did flye to y<sup>e</sup> Church of Seint Mildred for the defence of th<sup>e</sup> afforseide church for felony. And desiereth y<sup>e</sup> Coron<sup>r</sup>, and uppō this S. C. Baylei and Coron<sup>r</sup> of o<sup>r</sup> Soueraine lorde y<sup>e</sup> Kinge in y<sup>is</sup> parte went to y<sup>e</sup> aforeseide place before whome at the day and place aforesayde he knowleged himselfe to be a felon of o<sup>r</sup> Soueraine lorde the Kinge and confesseth that on Sondaye beinge the fouerthe day of June in the yere aforeseide he feloniously stole one horse of the price of xxx<sup>s</sup> of Thomas Gerveis of Tenterden aforeseid. And he asked accordinge unto y<sup>e</sup> lawe & coustome of this Realme of Englund y<sup>t</sup> from ye accon he may be deliv<sup>ed</sup>. And uppō this he was led to the Church gates before y<sup>e</sup> same Coron<sup>r</sup> at y<sup>e</sup> daye aforeseid & forswore the Realme of Englund which Coron<sup>r</sup> appointed him his porte for passage at Dover.”

Fol. xlv describes the manner in which “fleers to the Church for felonye” were to make their abjuration :—

And at the eande of fourtie dayes he shalbe leade to the Church gate of the church yearde withe a crosse of woode in his hondes, discharged and stripped, and his heade bare, and for to go in his cote yf he have enny . . . .

Folios lvii to lix<sup>a</sup> contain the decrees, a set of bye-laws founded on the Customal of the town under the following heading :\*—

Memorandū that the fouerth daye of Maye, in the sixte yere of y<sup>e</sup> reigne of Kinge Edwarde the sixte, etc. Will<sup>am</sup> Gerueis baylei of the Towne and Hundred of Tenterden . . . . Jurats . . . . free men and comminers of the seide Towne and hundred . . . . did

\* A photograph of this page is here given.

assemble and come together in the MOTE HALL at Tenterden afforsayde for the reformaçon of certayne articles and poyntes conteyned in the Custimall of the seide Towne to be reformed and amended for a good uniforme order and rule from henceforthe to be had and used w<sup>th</sup>in the seide Towne and Hundred . . . .

One of the articles of the Customal thus amended or reformed follows :—

Fol. lxi. The Assise of breade :—

Also it used to haue Assise of breade within the ffraunchis ; and when it shall liste and please y<sup>e</sup> Bayley for to waye the breade he shall sende his two sergiaunts of the ffraunchis to their howses for to featche their breade : the which sergiaunts oughte to entre and take a breade of euery man'er of breade, and that shall beare to the baylei or to his deputie into the courte haule, and the bakers shoude be warned to followe for their breade. And fouer or two men at the leaste shoude be warned for to be at the Courte haule for to present the assise of the breade. And he that is soñned, come not he shalbe amersed sixe pence. And when the bayley or his deputie w<sup>th</sup> two of the Jurats be come in the Courte he shall charge them that were soñned for to make the presentment ; and for to go leke wise to gether and by the othe that thei haue made for to certifie the Courte of the greatest price, and the middell price, and the lesse price of the sale of the Cornes at the laste daye of the markett. And when they haue satisfied the Courte the bread shalbe wayed by the middell price, after the assise of the statute thereof made and that bi one true balance. And yf the breade of him that is a freman and resciant way lesse then the assise by two shillings, be he amersed twelue pence, and his breade forfeit. And the seconde time be he amersed two shillings and his breade forfeit, and at the thrid time he shall be amersed three shillings and his breade forfeit. And yf he be no freman be he euerie time amersed doble. And yf eny baker be fautie more then three times he shall make a fine with the bayley at his discrecion or his oven shalbe drawne downe and he shall forswere the crafte for a yere and a daye.\*

\* The Customals of some of the Cinque Ports towns are given in Lyon's *History of Dover*, vol. ii., but in only one instance, the Customal of Romney, p. 337, is the assize of bread mentioned, and it would be interesting to compare the two ordinances.

Fol. lxx has another quaint ordinance, "The Courte of Pepouders," followed by "Of plees Reall . . . and matters of nouell desseyson . . ." to fol. 67, when folios 68 to 74 have been cut out. At fol. 75 commence new ordinances and constitutions as follows:—

Villa et hundred de Tenterden in Comitatus Kance.

Ordinances and Constitutions for the better gouernment of the said Towne and hundred and the Inhabitants there, made by the Mayor, Jurats and Comunalitie of the sayde Towne and hundred as namelie: Anthony Whetenhall, gent. Maior (nine jurats and forty-nine commoners named) all beinge freemen of the sayde Towne and Hundred. At an assemblie the ffourteenth day of July in the Three and fortieth yeare of the Reigne of our most gratyous Soueraigne Lady Elizabeth the Queene's Mat<sup>ie</sup> that now is (whom God longe preserue) beinge therunto authorised by her Mat<sup>ies</sup> letters patents of new incorporation; Dated the sixteenth day of August in the Two and fortith yeare of her highnes reigne as ensueth . . . .

The oaths to be taken by each member of the Corporation are set forth in detail: the Mayor; John Tylden, Jurat; William Curtis, Justice of Peace; Humphery Wightwicke, Towne Clerk; Thomas Hatch, Chamb'len; Peter Glover, the first Serjant; Amos Collyer, the 2 Serjant; Freeman, Borsholder, etc.

Fol. 89. A further set of new ordinances\* was enacted on the 30th March, 16 Jac. I., 1618, the second of which reads thus:—

Item itt is decreed and ordayned, That whereas all the Jurats of the said Towne and hundred are Justices of peace by the Charter of the Kinge's Mat<sup>ie</sup> that now is bearinge date at Westme'ster the thirtyth day of January in the second yeare of his highnes' Raigne of England, that every of the now Jurates as also every other Jurate hereafter to be elected shall for the better execucon of his Office of Justice of Peace take such an Oathe as followeth: And if any of them shall refuse to take the same; That then hee shall forfayte to the Maior, Juratts, & Co'ialty of the saide Towne &

\* See photograph facing this page.



hundred the some of twenty pounds to be levied also in such manner as other penalties and forfeitures are by former Constitutions appointed to bee levied, the tenor of w<sup>ch</sup> oath is as insueth, viz. . . . .

Fol. 90 has only one item complete, three-quarters of the page having been cut out, likewise folios 91 to 95.

Folios 96 to 112 are filled with a copy of the Charter granted by Queen Elizabeth.

Fol. 113<sup>a</sup> contains an interesting resolution passed at the Court Hall shewing an early desire to preserve carefully the records of the town :—

Att an assembly att the Corte Hall of the Maior, Juratts, and Comons of the Towne & Hundred of Tenterden aforesaid, the xxix<sup>th</sup> day of August, In the second yeare of the reigne of our Sov'eigne Lord James, By the grace of God, of England, ffrance and Irelande Kinge, defender of the ffaieth, And in the xxxviii<sup>th</sup> yeare of his Mat<sup>ies</sup> reigne of Scotland, 1604.

Itt is att this assembly decreed and ordered that all the Records and munim<sup>ts</sup> of the Towne & hundred of Tenterden shalbe p'sently removed and laid in the presse p'vided for that purpose ; Except ye Charters and customall which shall remayne in the custody of the Maior for the time being. And except all such Books and Records which the Towne Clerke for the time being shall dailie use or have use of. And the fowre keyes of the said presse shalbe kept in mann<sup>r</sup> and forme following (vizt) : the firste key by the Maior for the time being, the second key by suche Jurate as shalbe the succeeding Maior, the thirde key by the Towne Clerke, And the 4<sup>th</sup> key by the Chamberlayne for the time being. And that it shall and may be lawfull for ev'ry ffreeman of this Towne and hundred, ev'y co<sup>rt</sup> day holden in the after noone of the same day, the Co<sup>rt</sup> being ended, to goe and see ev'y Reccord, decree, or other matter whatsoever w<sup>ch</sup> shall concerne himselfe freely. And everie stranger therefore to pay his ordinary ffee to the Towne Clerke.

Fol. 115<sup>a</sup> being left blank, a later hand has inserted "The names of the Maior, Juratts & Comons of the Towne and Hundred of Tenterden, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1655."

Fol. 116 commences a list\* of the Freemen of Tenterden from the 20th Hen. VIII., 1529. 124 names are given, twenty of which have the word "Bayleff" added to their names, signifying that they had "passed the chair." This list contains many well-known names in the history of the town, including John Lomas, who was one of the Marian Martyrs, suffering for his faith at Canterbury, 31 Jan. 1556. The list, which is signed "per me Richardū Homan"—probably the then Town Clerk—ends at the year 1558, Stephen Cowper, the last one shewn as a "Bayleff," then holding office.

Folios 118 to 131 are filled with decrees and ordinances of various dates, some bearing date 4 November, 6 Jas. I., 1608, are made "w<sup>th</sup> the consent of the right ho<sup>ble</sup> Henry, Earle of Northampton, Baron of Marnehill, then and now Lord Warden of the Cinqz Ports."

At fol. 132 is the copy of a letter addressed "To the right wor<sup>ll</sup> our very loving Brethren Combarons & ffriends, the Maior & Juratts of Tenterden," ending on fol. 133, "And even soe wee leave you to the p'tection of th'almighty. Dated at Rie aforesaid under the Seale of office of Maiorallty there, the firste day of ffebruary In the yeare of the reigne of our Sov'eigne Lord Charles, Kinge of England, Scotland, ffrance and Ireland, defendor of the ffaieth, the sixte, 1630.

Yo<sup>r</sup> very loving Brethren, Combarons, and  
ffriends the Maior and Juratts of Rie."

Folios 134 and 135 have bye-laws made at a "Corte" or "Assembly" held on 21st December 1632, but the action of the ink has rendered many words illegible, the paper being completely eaten away.

Folios 136 and 140 each contain the names of the bailiffs from 1449 onwards. The list on fol. 140 is the oldest, and was made out in 1558, the names up to that year being in the same handwriting, after which they were entered in various hands from time to time. In 1632, the pages beginning to get somewhat dilapidated, a new list was

\* See photograph facing page 290.

*ms. 14 p. 1*  
Item it is ordeined that from henceforth each  
upon the daie of election of Mayor of the said Towne  
and hundred three shalbe chosen out of the freemen of  
the said Towne and hundred who shalbe and be called  
Chamberlaine of the said towne and hundred of London  
for that yere to come and to execute the office of Cham-  
berlaine And that the said Chamberlaine shall not be  
called to execute the said office of Chamberlaine to yeres

Item it is likewise ordered and provided that where  
 secret mention is made of the Mayor in all or any  
 the said ordinances or constitutions one intent and  
 meaning is that it shalbe construed as well to his  
 deputie as to the Mayor him selfe in every place

*firmation  
ment  
wanted* { Thus it is likewise ordered as aforesaid that all ex-  
emonies formerly had or made before the renewing of  
the said Charter is this Do we granted so farre  
forth as the same be not repugnant to the lawes  
of this Realme the severall Chartiers is this  
Do we granted the customes and lawfull wherres  
of the Portes or the Constitutions and ordi-  
nances made at this assembly are and shal be

villa et hundred de Ouderden.  
in parochia sancti

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

And if /

made according to the following note: "This being much torne I thought good to take out and newe write—E.B." This was Edward Boys, a freeman of the town for many years, and Churchwarden in 1657-8. He deserves our thanks for his laudable work in preserving the civic roll, as, although the old list yet remains, in some places the names are illegible owing to the edges of the paper being worn and cut. Those responsible for keeping the list up to date also thought it well to record notable events in chronological order; some are of local, others are of national interest, and a transcript of the whole may be considered interesting. The heading is as follows:—

The names of the Bayles of the Towne and hundred of Tenterden from the beginninge of the libertie, begone in the twentie & seauenthe yeres of the reigne of Kinge Henry the sixte.

xxvij <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Petlesden <sup>1</sup>	undecimo	John Harwarthinge
xxviii <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Petlesden	duodeci <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Pette <sup>4</sup>
xxix <sup>o</sup>	William Hilles	xiii <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Harry
xxx <sup>o</sup>	John Davye	xiiii <sup>o</sup>	William Pers <sup>6</sup>
xxxj <sup>o</sup>	Robert Brikinden	xv <sup>o</sup>	Henry Gerves dieth & William Pers s'veth
xxxij <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Heynes <sup>2</sup>		
xxxiiij <sup>o</sup>	Robert Donne	xvj <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Strekinbolde
xxxiiiij <sup>o</sup>	John Harwarthinge <sup>3</sup>	xvij <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Pette
xxxv <sup>o</sup>	William Harenden	xviii <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Carpenter <sup>7</sup>
xxxvj <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Petlesden	xix <sup>o</sup>	William Preston
xxxvij <sup>o</sup>	John Davye <sup>5</sup>	xx <sup>o</sup>	William ffoughill
		xxj <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Strekenbolde

[This yere Sharley More brake owte.]

The firste yere of Edwarde the fouerthe.

primo	John Davy
secundo	Robert Brickenden
tertio	Thomas Harye
quarto	William Preston
quinto	Henry Gerveis
sexto	Thomas Whitehed
septimo	John Hales
octavo	John Hales died & Thomas Whitehed s'ved
nono	William Preston
decimo	John Harwarthinge

[Yis yere Isak Cade did ryse.]  
xxij<sup>o</sup> Thomas Pette

The first yere of the reigne of Richarde 3.

primo	Laurence Haffenden
secundo	Thomas Blackbourn

The yere of the reige of Henry the seuenth.

primo	Thomas Strekenbold
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[This yere the frenchemen came to San'wiche & there laye one night and a daye.]

# 296 THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS OF TENTERDEN.

secundo	William Preston	xv <sup>o</sup>	John Parker
tertio	Thomas Pette	xvj <sup>o</sup>	George fflowle
quarto	Thomas Carpenter	xvij <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Woodd dieth
quinto	Thomas Pette		& George fflowle
sexto	William Deye		s'ved
	(Davy)	xviii <sup>o</sup>	John Parker
septimo	Robert Brickenden	xix <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Asherenden
octavo	Hughe Parker	xx <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Iselande
nono	Hughe Parker		dieth & Thomas
decimo	Robert Davy dieth		Asherinden s'ved
	& Hughe Parker	xxj <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Austen
	serveth	xxij <sup>o</sup>	John Baker <sup>12</sup>
undecimo	Thomas Carpenter	xxiiij <sup>o</sup>	John Austen
xij <sup>o</sup>	John Brickenden	xxiiij <sup>o</sup>	John Parker
xiiij <sup>o</sup>	John Rogers	xxv <sup>o</sup>	John Woode
xiiiij <sup>o</sup>	William Browning	xxvj <sup>o</sup>	William Brikenden
xv <sup>o</sup>	Richard Widerden	xxvij <sup>o</sup>	John Fowle theyong <sup>r</sup>
	dieth & William	xxviiij <sup>o</sup>	John Brickenden,
	Browning s'veth		junior
xvj <sup>o</sup>	Moyses Pette	xxix <sup>o</sup>	John Austen th'elder
xvij <sup>o</sup>	Moyses Pette		[This yere y <sup>e</sup> xxviiij of Auguste
xviiij <sup>o</sup>	John Hoigges		Kinge Henry viij came to Ten-
xix <sup>o</sup>	John Hoigges		terden.]
vicesimo	John Hales	xxx <sup>o</sup>	Edward ffelippe
xxj <sup>o</sup>	John Roger	xxxj <sup>o</sup>	John fflowle ye yong-
xxij <sup>o</sup>	William Brickenden		ger
xxiiij <sup>o</sup>	Henry Adam	xxxij <sup>o</sup>	John Austen th'elder
xxiiiij <sup>o</sup>	Edward ffelipp		dieth & John Fowle
			s'ved
	The yere of the reigne of	xxxiiij <sup>o</sup>	John Parker
	Kinge Henrye VIII.	xxxiiiij <sup>o</sup>	George ffelipp
primo	John Gage, esqre <sup>s</sup>	xxxv <sup>o</sup>	Richard Alcock <sup>13</sup>
	[Sharley More made.]		[This yeare Bolen won.]
ij <sup>o</sup>	John Gage, esquier	xxxvj <sup>o</sup>	Edward Hales
iiij <sup>o</sup>	John Donett	xxxvij <sup>o</sup>	Edward Hales
iiiij <sup>o</sup>	John Hoigges <sup>s</sup>	xxxviiij <sup>o</sup>	George ffelipp
v <sup>o</sup>	John Hoigges		The yere of Kinge Edward VI.
vj <sup>o</sup>	Barthelmewe fflowle	primo	Edward Hales
	[The which yere Smalithe was	ij <sup>o</sup>	John Brickenden
	burnte on the last day of Jule.]	iiij <sup>o</sup>	William Gerveis
vij <sup>o</sup>	Barthel' fflowle	iiiij <sup>o</sup>	William Gerveis
octavo	William Brickenden	v <sup>o</sup>	John Woodd
nono	Robert Brickenden	sexto	Thomas Austen
decij <sup>o</sup>	Robert Brickenden	vij <sup>o</sup>	Peter Shorte
xj <sup>o</sup>	Thomas Woodd		Tempore Mariæ.
xiij <sup>o</sup>	Edward ffelipp <sup>10</sup>	primo	Peter Shorte
xiiij <sup>o</sup>	Edward ffelipp		[Hoc anno surraxit Wyatt.]
xiiiij <sup>o</sup>	John Parker <sup>11</sup>		

secundo Thomas Austen  
 iiij<sup>o</sup> John Whitefield  
 iiiij<sup>o</sup> Thomas Austen

[Qui'ta s won (*sic*).]†

quinto Stephen Cowper<sup>14</sup>  
 [This yeare Callis was loste.]

sexto Stephen Cowper

Tempore Elizabeth Regine.

primo Edward Hales, gent.  
 secundo Edward Hales  
 tertio William Gerveis  
 quarto John Crotholl  
 quinto John Whytfyld  
 sexto Stephen fforde died

& Edward Hales,  
 esq., s'ved

septimo Edward Hales  
 octavo Peter Shorte  
 nono George Castlen  
 decimo Edward Hales  
 undecimo Edward Hales  
 duodecimo Edward Phillips  
 decimo t'cio Thomas Stace  
 xiiij<sup>o</sup> Edward Hales

[This yeare aboute Barthil-  
 mewe tide the Queene's Mat<sup>e</sup>  
 was at Rie, Hempsted, and Sus-  
 synghurste.]

xv<sup>o</sup> George Castlen  
 xvj<sup>o</sup> Peter Shorte  
 xviij<sup>o</sup> Stephen Cowper  
 xviiiij<sup>o</sup> Edward Hales  
 xix<sup>o</sup> Robert Ashenden

[This yeare was a blasing starr  
 in November in the evening  
 towards the west.]

xx<sup>o</sup> Thomas Stace  
 xxj<sup>o</sup> George Castlen

[This yeare was a gret earth  
 quake the vj<sup>th</sup> day of Aprell  
 about v or vj a klok at after-  
 noone.]

xxij<sup>o</sup> Edward Hales  
 xxiiij<sup>o</sup> Peter Short  
 xxiiiij<sup>o</sup> Peter Short  
 xxv<sup>o</sup> Edward Short  
 xxvj<sup>o</sup> William Austen  
 xxvij<sup>o</sup> William Austen  
 xxviiiij<sup>o</sup> John Tilden  
 xxix<sup>o</sup> Edward Gervis

[Thisyeare the Spanyshe fleete  
 came for Ingland aboute Saint  
 James tide, 1588.]

xxx<sup>o</sup> Robert Bygge  
 xxxj<sup>o</sup> Robert Stace  
 xxxiiij<sup>o</sup> William Curtis  
 xxxiiiij<sup>o</sup> William Austen  
 xxxiiiiij<sup>o</sup> Thomas Brownedyed  
 William Austen  
 served

xxxv<sup>o</sup> John ffuñell  
 xxxvj<sup>o</sup> John Short  
 xxxviiij<sup>o</sup> John Short  
 xxxviiiij<sup>o</sup> George Phillips  
 xxxix<sup>o</sup> Thomas Curtis  
 xl<sup>o</sup> John Hales  
 xli John Hales, esquier,

baliffe & first Maio<sup>r</sup>  
 by o<sup>r</sup> new Charter

xlii Anthonie Wheten-  
 hall, maior  
 xliii John Tilden  
 xliiii Edward Gerveis

[Queen Elyzabeth dyeth thurs-  
 daye mornynge the xxiiij of  
 Marche 1603. Kyng James  
 proclaymed Kyng the sayde  
 daye.]

The yere of the Raygne of  
 Kyng James.

primo William Curtis  
 2 George Phillips  
 3 John ffunnell  
 4 Thomas Curtis  
 5 George Shortt

[\*This yeare was the great Frost.]

† This expression is rendered as "Quintain was won" by the late Mr. H. T. Riley, who reported on the Corporation records in 1877, but with no explanatory remark. May it not refer to the battle of St. Quentin which was fought in France in 1557, a few months before Calais was lost?

# 298 THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS OF TENTERDEN.

- 6 Erasmus Giles
- 7 Percival Brett
- 8 Simon Girdler
- 9 William Brickenden
- 10 Thomas Shortt
- 11 Robert Crotholl
- 12 William finche
- 13 Robert Woolball
- 14 James Skeets
- 15 Daniel Shortt
- 16 John Witherden

[This yeere in November and decemb' was seene a blasing star riesinge towarde the East in the mornyng stremynge forwarde.]

- 17 ffreegift Stace
- 18 Thomas Shortt
- 19 Stephen Curtis
- 20 Nathaniel Tilden<sup>15</sup>
- 21 John Tilden
- 22 John Reade

[Kinge James died the 27<sup>th</sup> daye of Marche 1625, & Kinge Charles p'claymed Kinge the same daye beinge Sundaye.]

Caroli primo.

primo William Curtis

[\*This year was the great Plague.]

- 1626 William finche
- 1627 Samuel Curtis
- 1628 James Skeets
- 1629 Daniel Shortte
- 1630 Robert Woolball
- 1631 John Austen
- 1632 Robert Curtis
- 1633 William Plummer
- 1634 John Austen
- 1635 John Witherden
- 1636 George Curteis
- 1637 Samuel Curteis
- 1638 John Edwards
- 1639 Thomas Short
- 1640 Robert Pope

[\*In December, St. John's Day at night was a very great

Wind and Tempest and much hurt done.]

- 1641 Thomas Huckstepp
- 1642 Thomas Brett
- 1643 James Skeets
- 1644 William Stretton
- 1645 Joel Burges
- 1646 ffreegift Stace
- 1647 John Edwards
- 1648 Samuel Curtis

[January 30<sup>th</sup> 1649. The Govern<sup>t</sup> changed into A Common Wealthe.]

- 1649 Thomas Plummer
- 1650 Peter Short
- 1651 John finche
- 1652 Daniel Shorte
- 1653 Stephen Curtis

[The Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell sworne Decemb' 16<sup>th</sup>.]

[Stephen Curtis Dyed Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> & ffreegift Stace served till Aug. 29<sup>th</sup>.]

- 1654 Richard Haffenden
- 1655 William Stretton
- 1656 John Sharpe
- 1657 John Edwards
- 1658 George Curteis dyed and Robert Pope served

[Sept. 3<sup>d</sup> Oliver L<sup>d</sup> Protector Dyeth & Richard his eldest son p'claymed.]

[1659 May 16. The sayd Richard Deposed & the latter part of the long parl<sup>t</sup> called togeth<sup>r</sup> agayne.]

- 1659 Thomas Stace

[May 25, 1660. K. Ch. 2<sup>d</sup> landed at Dover. May 29, 1660, came to London.]

- 1660 Richard King

[March 19 (1661). Our Co<sup>rt</sup> Hall was burnt down.]

- 1661 John Plummer

[King Charles 2<sup>d</sup> Crowned.]  
[Feb. 17 (1662). A greate & fierce Wind.]

[July 20. Anoth<sup>r</sup> greate & fierce wind.]

1662 Anthony Bodle, mayor-elect

[Aug. 28, 1662. Were removed by the Comission<sup>rs</sup> for Regulating Corporacons from being Juratts, Richard Haffenden, William Stretton, Anthony Bodle (next day to have beene chosen maior) and William Curteis. And plac'd in their places Mr W<sup>m</sup> Short (but hee would not stand), Mr Edward Short, George Tilden and Robert Stace.]

1662 Edward Curteis, Maior

1663 Samuel Stace

1664 Edward Short

1665 George Tilden

[The greate Plague.]

1666 Robert Stace

[Sept. 2<sup>d</sup> begun the greate fire in London and continued 5 dayes.]

[July 1667. The Dutchsunke, fired, & tooke divers of o<sup>r</sup> ships in our harbours.]

1667 John Plummer

1668 Edward Curteis

1669 John Plummer

1670 John Plummer

[\*The first President of a Mayor two years successively in this Corporation.]

1671 George Tilden

[\*In September a great flood and storm of wind which Destroyed some houses and people and much catle at Divers places.

Doing very great Damage to the Nation by Sea and Land.]

1672 Thomas Stace

[Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>. Benenden Steeple & Church and 5 houses burnt, set first on fire by lightening.]

[Feb. 17 (1673). A greate & fierce wind when Staplehurst Spire was blowne downe & many barnes about y<sup>e</sup> country.]

1673 Walter Pemble

[W<sup>m</sup> Stretton agayne chosen Jur.]

1674 Henry Barnes

1675 Edward Short

1676 Robert Stace

1677 Walter Pemble

1678 Edward Curteis

1679 John Plummer

1680 John Plummer. He died during his Mayoralty and Thomas Staceserv'd y<sup>e</sup> yeare out

1681 Walter Pemble

1682 Walter Pemble

1683 Samuel Curteis

[\*A violent frost from the middle of Decemb. (1683) to the beginning of February. Destroy'd about a Third Part of Sheep; this Spring an extream Drought, Little Rain from the great frost to September following. Pasture and Meadow much Dried and Burnt up. The winter following hay sold for 3, 4 and 5 shillings per hundred. Beefe 6 shillings p. score.]

1684 John Mantell

[Feb. 6 (1685). King Charles y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> died & his Brother King James y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> succeeded.]

1685 James Whitfield

[July 14, y<sup>e</sup> Rebell Monmouth Beheaded.]

# 300 THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS OF TENTERDEN.

1686 Robert Stace	[Decemb. y <sup>e</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup> Quene Mary
1687 Robert Stace	y <sup>e</sup> 2 <sup>d</sup> died of y <sup>e</sup> small Pox.]
1688 John Mantell	
[Nov. 5. The Prince of Orange w <sup>th</sup> his Army landed in Devonshire.	
Decemb. 13.* The Prince of Orange's Declaration read at Tenterden with Solemnity.	
Feb. 13 (1689). The Prince of Orange & the Princess were proclaimed King and Queen.]	
1689 Walter Pemble	1695 Robert Stace
1690 Robert Haffenden	1696 Jeremiah Curteis
1691 George Curteis	1697 Jeremiah Curteis
1692 Robert Stace	1698 John Mantell chosen maior but Jere <sup>h</sup> Curteis served the office y <sup>t</sup> yeare for him, he refusing
1693 John Mantell	1699 George Curteis
1694 John Pemble died and Robert Stace served out his yeare	1700 Robert Stace
	1701 Robert Haffenden who died, & Robert Stace serv'd out his yeare
	[1702 March y <sup>e</sup> 8 day, King William died; and Princess Ann of D-nmark Proclaimed Quene that day.]

The next three folios have been abstracted, but the list of Mayors is continued in other records, and is complete to the present time. A few notes on some of the early civic rulers may not be uninteresting:—

(1) Thomas Petlesden, the first holder of that office, was a munificent benefactor to the building of the church tower, which was then in course of erection.†

(2) Thomas Heynes was one of a number who took the oath not to maintain peace breakers.‡

(3) John Harwarthinge and (4) Thomas Pette were each concerned in the Lancastrian rising under Falconbridge, the object of which was to release Henry VI., then in the Tower. They, with others, having made "fine and ransom to the King of all offences committed by them before the 7<sup>th</sup> of July last," received a general pardon.§

(5) John Davy died in 1467. He was a large owner of land in Tenterden and neighbourhood; according to his will|| he appor-

\* Events in the foregoing list marked with an asterisk \* are taken from a list of the Bailiffs and Mayors preserved in an old MSS. in the possession of Mrs. Peel of Heronden in Tenterden, who has kindly permitted extracts to be made.

† *Arch. Cant.*, XXXI., 268.

‡ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, Henry VI., May 1434.

§ *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, Edw. IV. and Hen. VI., Nov. 1471.

|| P.C.C. Will, 25, Godyn.

tioned nearly all Smallhythe between his four sons, two of whom also held office, William (1490) and Robert (1494).

(6) William Pers. In the early part of the reign of Henry VI. there was a small colony of aliens living at Smallhythe who, having taken an oath of fealty, were permitted to inhabit the realm peaceably and enjoy their goods. One of these was William Pers, born in Issilstayne in Holland.\*

(7) Thomas Carpenter. A Commission was issued to the King's kinsman, Richard, Earl of Warwick and Salisbury, Constable of Dover Castle and Warden of the Cinque Ports, or his lieutenant, to arrest Thomas Carpenter of Tenterden and bring him before the King in Chancery. His offence is not, however, stated.†

(8) John Gage. A King's Court of the Vill et Hund. of Tenterden was held before John Gage, the Bailiff, and Jurats there, 18 August 1511, concerning land in Tenterden which formed part of the endowment of a chantry in old St. Paul's.‡

(9) John Hoigges and (10) Edward Phillips each received a warrant from the Constable of Dover Castle for levying the subsidy in the Cinque Ports and their members.§

(11) John Parker. Grant to John Parker of Tenterden, cloth-maker, for protection, going in the retinue of Arthur Plantagenet, Viscount Lyle, Deputy of Calais. || Westminster, 12 July 1535.

(12) John Baker. His son Peter Baker, M.A., was Vicar of Tenterden ¶ 1539—1544.

(10) Edward Phillip. The timber used in building Sandgate Castle included oak trees from the lands of Edward Phylyps of Thenderden.\*\*

(13) Richard Alcock. Sir John Dudley, Kt., granted to Richard Alcock the office of under-steward of his manors in Kent and Sussex, together with an annuity issuing out of land in Tenterden and Ebony.††

(14) Stephen Cowper, writing from Tenterden 18 April 1540 to Cromwell (Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex), sent him seven

\* *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, Hen. VI., April 1436.

† *Cal. Pat. Rolls*, Edw. IV., May 1465.

‡ Queen Anne's Bounty Records, Hist. MSS. Com. Report 1881, I., 634.

§ *Cal. State Papers*, Hen. VIII., 1514.

|| *Cal. State Papers*, Hen. VIII., 1535.

¶ *Arch. Cant.*, XXXI., 218.

\*\* *Arch. Cant.*, XX., 238.

†† Decrees of the Court of Augmentation, 1541.

couple of "herynshawes" (young herons), and desired to know if he should send the rest of the herynshawes and young "shovelers" (ducks) when ready. He also requested to have the rangership of Halden Park granted to him.\*

(15) Nathaniel Tilden was born in 1583. Chamberlain to the Corporation 1614-15. Emigrated to New England in 1635 and settled at Scituate in Massachusetts,† where, having been Town Officer and Ruling Elder, he died in 1641.

The salaries of the principal members of the Corporation during the seventeenth century were fixed at: the Mayor £4, Town Clerk £3 6s. 8d., Chamberlain 20s. The first or eldest Sergeant 46s. 8d., the second Sergeant 20s. The fee for the Counsel of the Town and Hundred was 40s., and the same was also allowed for Mayor's Counsel. The Town Clerk and Chamberlain also received fees. In 1693 the Town Clerk's salary was raised to £6. Occasionally the Mayoral salary was found to be inadequate, as the following entry in the Chamberlain's account for 1639 testifies:—

Itm. to Mr Samuall Curteis w<sup>ch</sup> hee was out of  
pursse the laste yere, beinge Maior . . . 10 8 3

(To be continued.)

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\* *Letters and Papers of Henry VIII.*, vol. xv., 1540.

† *New England Hist. and Geneal. Reg.*, vol. lxx., Oct. 1911.