

Original Documents.

ROYAL LETTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AMONGST THE MUNICIPAL RECORDS OF THE CITY OF EXETER.

Contributed by Mr. W. COTTON, F.S.A.

(Addressed to the Mayor and Corporation, and others.)

THESE interesting documents, addressed to the Mayor and Corporation, and others, were formerly scattered about amongst the numerous deeds and papers in the muniment room of the Guildhall. A few years since they were, with others of kindred character, gathered together, arranged, and bound up in the form of a book. They are in fair condition and some few of the seals are well preserved.

No. 1 is a letter from Henry the Seventh, and bears the date, 23rd day of June only. The year must be 1508, as the treaty mentioned in it was concluded at Paris on 21st Decr. 1507, and the marriage was to have taken place before the following Easter on pain of heavy penalties, but the illness of the King caused delay. The Prince of Castile was Charles, then Archduke of Austria and Prince of Spain, who afterwards became the celebrated Emperor, Charles the Fifth. He was then only seven years old, and the marriage was celebrated by proxy on 26th October 1508.

No. 2 is an epistle from Henry the Eighth to the Mayor, &c., of Exeter, dated 26th Feb. 1524, and is curious on account of the half-apologetic manner in which the collection of the subsidy is pressed. The impost referred to was evidently a distasteful one, and may have been the tax upon foreigners instituted in the previous year, to provide the means for carrying on the war with France in conjunction with the Emperor Maximilian and others. There were numerous foreigners established in Exeter at that time, in connection with the woollen trade, for which the city was celebrated. The memorial mentioned as enclosed is not to be found.

No. 3 is from Queen Elizabeth, dated 4th Novr. 1562.

In the previous reign the city of Exeter had been made a county of itself, and consequently could not be included in the shire of Devon. This consideration appears to have been overlooked upon a levy of five hundred men, for the public service, being made upon the county of Devon. The mayor very properly considered that it did not concern Exeter, and so forbore to contribute the quota demanded from the city.

Nos. 4 to 9 refer to the siege of Exeter by the Cornish rebels in 1549. The first of the series was written immediately after the raising of the siege by Lord John Russell, and at the commencement he confirms the statement of Hoker, that the rebellion would never have reached such a head but for the lack of energy shown by the county magistrates and gentry,

and he pays a tribute to the courage of the citizens in defending their city. The intended removal of the church bells shows an uneasy feeling as to the future. In his second letter he condemns those who were backward and lukewarm in the cause of loyalty, to contribute a larger share towards the expenses of the siege. Sir Peter Carew, who writes to his 'lovinge ffrindes,' the mayor and his brethren, offering the services of Mr. Sture, a lawyer, to be to them a continual counsellor, was at that time in military charge of the city. His seat, one of the best fortified places in the county, was at Mohun's Oterie, near Ottery St. Mary. Mr. Sture was Recorder of Exeter four years later. The next letter from Lord John Russell (who had been created Earl Bedford) reproaches the corporation for not providing a tilting-ground as he desired, on Southernhay, an open space outside the walls near his own residence, Bedford House.

The letter from Giulio Borgarney, refers to the manor of Exe-island, to which was attached some excellent fishing right, the river Exe being famous in those days for its salmon. The manor was given to the city by Edward the Sixth, in reward for the loyalty of the citizens during the siege.

No. 10 is a letter from Earl Bedford, the Ambassador to Spain, dated 26th June 1554, containing instructions for the authorities of Exeter, in the event of Philip of Spain, who was coming to England to marry Queen Mary, being driven to take refuge from sea-sickness at the first landing-place that might come in sight. The situation is described in Holingshed:—"To meet Philip were sent Earl Bedford, Lord Privy Seal, and Lord Fitzwaters, accompanied with divers noblemen and gentlemen, who, arriving at the Corone at Galisia, were received very honorably. And forasmuch the Prince was at Vale Dolido, distant near a hundred leagues (after numerous delays) the English Ambassador met him at St. James' de Compostella. After he had ratified the contract and sworn to observe the covenant, he departed to Corone where he embarked, and, accompanied with 150 sail set out for England," and ultimately arrived at Southampton, so that Exeter escaped the burdensome visit.

No. 11 is a Proclamation by Queen Mary against the King of France; date, 1556.

Nos. 12 and 13. These letters from King James and Mr. Hunter, are dated a few days prior to the time appointed for the trial of Sir Walter Raleigh, for his connection with the so-called main plot. It may be inferred from them that the Court expected some trouble in the western parts, particularly in the neighbourhood of, or even in the city of Exeter, near to which Raleigh was born, and where he was so well known. Raleigh, however, had too much to do with customs and licences and other privileges affecting commerce, ever to be a favourite with the Exeter merchants, hence Mr. Howell's assurance of loyalty; which may have been an agreeable surprise to the King.

No. 14 is another letter from King James. The Bishop of Exeter had endeavoured in vain to gain access to the country outside the walls, through a proposed opening from his own garden. At length he appealed to the King and with the success shown. The opening was through a bastion which is now standing, and through which there is still a passage.

WM. COTTON.

No. I.—HENRY VII., 1507.

II. R.

By the King. (Original.)

TRUSTY and welbeloved we grete you wle And doubt not but that ye have notice and ful knowlege howe that now of late a treatie, God willing, to be had and made betwixt the young Prince of Castile and our right dere doughter the lady Mary, was by o^r orators and thambassadors of the King of Romayns lately agreed determyned and concluded at o^r towne of Calais, whiche aliance is so honorable necessary and expedient for the universal weale suretie strength and defence of this o^r reame and the subjectes of the same, that a more honorable ne. yet more convenient coude any where be founde or devised, aswel considering the noble linage whereof the said young Prince is descended, which is of the grettest Kings and princes in Cristendom, as also remembering the regions landes and cuntrayes wherein by rightfull enheritance he shal succede, of which cuntrayes som be not fear distant from this our reame, by reason whereof manyfold comodities by fre entrecourse of merchaundises betwixt o^r and his subjectes shal ensue to the comon weale of booth parties And albeit that the same shalbe changeable yet we thinke that noon so noble a mariage can any wher be founde, And that by meanes thereof and thother aliance that we have with o^r good son the King of Scottes, that o^r reame is in maner compassed aboute with suche noble and mighty princes, o^r frends confederates and alies, that it is and soe by Goddes grace shal contynue in rest peax and welthy condicion, to o^r and thare grete honor comfort and rejoysing, and to the discomfort of al o^r ennemyes and evyllwillers. And to thintent that the said treatie of mariage so as above concluded, shalbe assuredly and inviolably observed executed and fulfilled on bothe parties at suche tyme as the said young prince and o^r daughter shal come to thare lawful ages for mariage, It is agreed and concluded that not only the said King of Romayns with a grete and honorable nombre of lordes cities and townes shalbe effectually bounden under thare signes and seales for the performance thereof for thare parte, but also that we o^r son the Prince and the said lordes citties and townes shalbe effectually bounden under thare signes and seales for the performance thereof for thare partie, but also that we o^r son the Prince and the said lordes cities and townes shalbe bounde for thaccomplishment of the said mariage on o^r partie (amonge whiche nombre that o^r citie of Excester is oon with other specified in the lettres obligatories whiche this berer shal shewe unto you). Wherefor and inasmuche as this bonde by you to be made shalbe to thonour and universall weale of this our reame and nothing prejudicial or hurteful unto you, We wol and desire you to cause the said lettres obligatories to bee in due and sufficient forme sealed with youre comon seale, so that the same may be brought unto us wth convenient diligence seing that it requireth good spede and celeritie so to be doon —Not failing thus to do as ye tender o^r pleass^r and thadvancement of soo good and honorable a matier as this is. Geven under o^r signet at our Manor of Grenewiche the xxiiij daie of Juyn.

(*Endorsed*) To our trusty and welbeloved the Maire and his brethern of o^r Citie of Excester.

No. 2.—HENRY VIII. 1524-5.

HENRY R.

By the King. (Original.)

Trusty and right welbeloved and trusty and welbeloved we grete you well, And where as in o^r laste Parliament holden at o^r cite of London and fromthens adiornd unto o^r Palays of Westm^r our loving subjectts the nobles and comons in the same assembled, in consideracon of our greate charge susteigned and to bee susteigned for the defence of this oure realme and mayntenance of our warres, gave and graunted unto us an honourable and ample subsidie, To bee had levied and taken in sundry yeres according to the teno^r and forme of an Acte thereuppon then made and establyshed, for the execution whereof ye were and bee by vertue of the same Acte and our Comission assigned and deputed to be Comissioners within that o^r Cittie. It is now comen unto our knowlege that partely by inadvertence and misexposition of the saide Acte and partely perca¹ by favour the same in diverse partes of this our Realme hath not been duely executed accordinge to the verraye teno^r and true meanyng thereof, whereby if it shuld soo passe unreformed not only we shulde susteigne greate losse, but also other our subgiettes in the parties where suche defaulte hath not been used, might have cause of greif and complainte, whereof as by your wisdoms ye may well considre diverse inconvenientes might ensue,—We having singular trust and confidence in your towardenes and fidelities, willing the defaultes in this behalf comitted to be reformed as to reason and congruence doeth appertaigne, have caused our officers in our Eschequier to put in suspense the entering of your certificates by any matier of recorde for discharge of the Comissioners and Collectors till suche tyme as by your good dexterities and wisdomes suche oversights and defaultes as have been comitted maye bee reformed and amended, the specialties whereof wth the waye and meanes howe to reforme the same bee mencioned in a memoriall which wee sende unto you herein closed. Wherefore wee woll and desire you (not doubting but that ye woll acqyute you herein accordinge to the speciall truste and confidence which wee have in your towardenes and conformable mynde to doo unto us acceptable service), groundely and substancially to note theeffecte and particularities of the saide memoriall, And thereupon eftesones deviding and alloting your selves in suche fourme and man^r (as ye lately have doon) ye by dulce amycable and goodly meances make overture of the saide defaultes and misexpositions unto suche and as many of o^r subgiettes as it shall appertaigne, shewing unto them howe yee not understanding the hool of the seide Acte have in some things mistaken the same, soe that by your policies and circumspections the oversights and things paste for lacke of perfete understanding omitted and comitted, maye be really effectually lovingly and conformably reafourmed and amended, according to the purpose iuste meaninge and entent of the saide Acte. And we duely aunswared of that whereunto by ten^r of the same and entent of our saide loving subgiettes we bee entitled, wherein ye shall cause suche ordre to be used aswell in pressing collection and certificate making as is conteigned in the seide Acte and memoriall afforeseid devised for the more full and perfete execution of the same, reatorning and testifieing your doing in the premisses with the particuler names of every person within the precincte of the seide

¹ *i. e.*, perhaps.

comission chargeable to the seide Acte, the valuacion of their goodes or landes, and the somes of money whereunto they bee taxed, holly fully and entierly without any farther tracte or delaye before *mense pasche* next ensuyng, At whiche tyme your former certificates shalbe delyverd unto you. And ye by vertue of these o^r lettres to bee clerly discharged from any daungers or penalties to ensue unto you by reason of suspending your seide form^r certificates for the tyme, ffaile ye not therefore effectually to endevo^r yourself t'accomplisse the premisses in discrete pleasaunte and loving man^r (as our special truste is in you) and as ye well desire o^r special thanks to bee hereafter remembered accordingly. Given under o^r signet at o^r mano^r of Grenewich the xxvith day of February the xvth yere of o^r reign.

(*Endorsed*) To our Trusty and wellbeloved the Maior of our Citie of Exceter, Sir Thomas Denys, Knight, Richarde Duke, and other o^r loving friends deputed for the subsidie within the same, and to every of them—

? 26 Feb 1524.

No. 3.—ELIZABETH, 1562.

ELIZABETH R.

By the Quene. (Original.)

Trusty and welbeloved we grete yo well. Where we gave ordre heretofore unto the Sherif and Justices of peax of o^r Countie of Devon to prepare the nombre of ffyve hunderd men to be taken wthin the body of that shere for o^r service, towards which nomb^r they required to have aide oute of the Citie of Exeter, understanding that you have forborne to minister any yo^r selves therein in respecte that the Citie is a Countie in itself, we nowe therefore thought good upon advertisement of the same from them to will and requier you that ye do upon receipt hereof contribute to the advaancement of o^r said service by setting furth of men and otherwise according as by conference with the said Shirif and Justices it shalbe in convenient sort accorded betwene you, and for the levieing and sending oute of the men in forme aforesaid we ar pleased that thes o^r lettres shalbe your sufficient warrant and discharge accordingly. Geven under o^r Signet at o^r hono^r of Hamptonco^{rt} the iiijth daye of November in the ffourthe yere of o^r reigne.

(*Endorsed*) To o^r trustie and welbeloved the Maior and Aldermen of o^r Cytie of Exceter.

No. 4.—Augst 1549. (Original.)

John Lorde Russell lorde previscale to the kinges maties lieuetenante generall in the west parties, To the Maior and his bretherne of the Citie of Exceter greting. Whear for lacke of good orders amongst suche as ought to rule the Commons as well in thes as in other partes of the Realme, ther have growen of late suche comotions and rebellions as the lyeke have not been harde of, insomuche that the rudest of the people contempninge ther superiours have attaigned so unnaturall libertie, that at length ther pryde and ignorance have provoked their naturall soveraigne lorde and kinge to use his sworde of justice against them, fforasmuch as it is nowe the more requisite to looke hensfurthe substanciallie to the good governaunce of evry quarter for the comonwelthe of the hole : I therefore have thought good in

the kinges mat^{ies} name to charge and commande yo^r immediately to peruse what men wthin the precinctes of yo^r auctoritie are metest the staie inconvenience appointing every man to knowe whome he shall folowe and them in suche sorte as no man be unreadye to do his duetie when occasion shall so require, Lyke as on thothersyde you must forsee that no man be so hardie upon payne of death to stirre or to medle in these cases onlesse he be thereunto specially appointed: And that according to such order as yo^u shall take in that behalfe. And forasmuch as upon the late triall of your faithfulness and good courage in the valiaunt maintaigning of this Citie to the Kings mat^{ies} hono^r and your owne comon welthe (wherein yo^u have deserved singuler praise and highe thanks) you wer neverthelesse brought to thuttermost pointe of miserie, yf by his highnes power you had not ben the rather relived. Considering the principall faulte thereof to have growen of the lacke of suche aide and assistaunce as the gentelmen of the countrey shoulde have given youe, in tyme or² ever the Comons had ben hable to straine youe as they did. I therefore have appointed Sr Peter Carew Sr Roger Blewet Knights Mr Pierse Courtney Mr Richard Chidleigh & Mr Anthony Harvye Esquiers to assiste you, being yo^r neighbours and gentlemen of such forwardnes towards this service as in case of nede will I doubt not so furder yo with their good counsell and so strengthen yo also with their powers that ye shall at all tymes be hable muche the better to resist the multitude if any suche ignorant violence shoulde happen to be offred againe. Wherefore lyeke as I have appointed them to be assistants unto yo, So I require and pray yo to use their advyse and helpe whansoever the case shall so require, Charging and commanding in the Kinges mat^{ies} name all maner of men what soever they be wthin yo^r liberties, upon paine of Death to obey and folowe all suche orders as ye by vertue of this Commission shall take in this behalfe. Also forasmuche as the rebels of this Countie of Devon have used the belles in every parishe as an instrument to stirre the multitude and call them together thinking good to have this occasion of attempting the lyeke hereafter taken from them, the said Commissioners appointed for the government of the shere and ther assistantes shall cause all the belles in every parishe churche or chapell wthin their said limits to be taken downe (the last bell in every ringe in every churche or chapell onely excepted). And takinge away the clappers of the saide belles from the place shall leave the same bells in the custodie and charge of some honest men of the parishe or nere neighbours thereunto, to be safely kepte unto the kings mat^{ies} use untill his graces pleasure shalbe further signified for order or disposition of the same otherwise at his most gracious pleasure. And in the practise therof to use suche discrete moderacon and honest perswasions as yt may be done wth as muche quietnes and as litell offence to the Comon people as may be.

J. Russell.

(*Endorsed*) To the Right Worshipfulles Mr John Tuckfild, mayer of the Cytie of Exceter, Mr John Blackhall, Mr William Hurste, Mr John Brycknell, Mr John Mydwynter, Mr Thomas Prestowde, Mr John Buller, Bretheren unto the said Mayer and his bretheren. And unto Sir Peter Carewe, Sir Roger Blewet, Knights, Mr Pierse Courtney, Mr Richarde Chidleighe, Mr Anthony Harvye, Esquiers, being especially appoynted as assistauntes and ayde unto the said mayre and his bretheren.

² *i. e.*, before.

No. 5.—15th Aug. 1549. (Original.)

Right Worshippfulles after my veary herty comendacons—Beeinge credibelye informed that whear as the defence of the Cytie hath been veary chargeable, and that although reason wholde that every citizen for his porcon and accordinge to his habilitie shoulde have been contributoure thereunto, yet nevertheless some of the said cytizens, for some synister affeccions they had in this cause beeinge a greate many of them of good wealthe and substaunce, have not only refused to be partakers of the chargies, but also have withdrawn them sealves frome doinge service at suche tymes as the same was most nedefull both for the defence of the cytie and the suretye of them sealves. I have therefore thought good to desire you to call before you all suche as have so demeaned them sealves or shalbe notified unto you for their slacknes in this behalf, and that you give order that all suche as hathe not hetherto boren their partes, be compelled by yo^r seyde order to be contributores withe the rest accordinge to their habilitias as reason is. Wherein I praye you in no wise to omytte that all suche as have refused to serve do paye the more for that they have not done their partes as became true subjectes unto the Kings mat^e. And this my letter shall give you full power and auctorytie to provide in this behalf. Geaven at Exeter the xvith of August 1549. Yo^r lovinge ffriende

J. Russell.

(*Endorsed*) To the Right Worshippfulles the Mayer of the Cytie of Exceter, and to S^r Roger Bluett, Knight, Mr John Hull, Esquier, and the rest of the Brethern of the same.

No. 6.—(Original.)

After my right hartie comendacons. Desiringe the furtheraunce of good and cercumspecte gouvernaunce of yo^r Citie I have according to my last communycacon with you in your Counsell Chambre moved Mr Sture to serve you as a continuall counsaillor, the comoditie whereof it may be affirmed wilbe as much to yo^r honesties as ever thinge that ye procured for thadvauncement of yo^r sealfes or the Citie, ffor even as yf yo^r Citie be ruled by knowledge men will reporte and accompte you wurthie the auctoritie that ye inioye. So if it be founde contrarie, You maie assure yo^r selves it will be both thought and spoken that yo have desired to make yo^r Citie a countie and thenlargement of yo^r liberties under a pretence to sunder good ordre, and do not in any parte accomlishe the same. By this man beinge both of honestie and larninge you maie attaine the good reporte of thone and avoide the reproche of thother. And even as his beinge amonge you shall be muche to yo^r furtheraunce, so if you do not liberallie see to his paines it can not be but much to his hinderaunce, ffor he shall not onelie be driven to leave his house where he is settled but also leave the practise of the common lawe in mattiers abrode, which you maie gesse is no speciall abatement of his living. That I maie therefore give him an answer I shall desire to be advertised from you what you mynde to give him to the counter-vailing of his charges. And thereupon will I wurke for yo^r comoditie as I can best desire. And thus flare you right hartelie well, from Mohuns Oterie the iiijth of June 1550. Yo^r assured ffriend

P. Carew.

(*Endorsed*) To my lovinge ffriendes the Mayo^r of Exceter and his Bretheren.

No. 7.—(Original.)

After my veary hartie commendacions. Whear I have heretofore directed my lettres unto you that ther mighte be a tilte buylded in Southinghaye according to the request of the gentilmen inhabiting thereaboutes nighe to yo^r Citie for th'honest recreation pastyme and sporte and the good exercise of ryding and other feates at armes, a thing not only most necessary to be frequented and used but also many wayes vearye comodious to th'ole citie. Fforasmuch as yf the thinge be well wayed there ought no delaye to be had therein but rather a willing towardnesse of your partes the maio^r and brethren to sette it further : Therefore I have estesones thought good to make my requeste unto you all, not to passe more of xx or xls by the yere then of that which so diverse wayes shall bringe occasion of greater profite then so small a rent to set asyde so honest a thing as that shallbe.

And herein I wolde ye made a direct answer to my servant Barnard Duffelde which ye will graunt, upon which we shall worke accordingly. Yf yo had graunted yt before yt shoulde have been ready by this tyme. Thus I rest upon yo^r good answer and furtheraunce therein and even so wish you all as well to fare as my selfe. Ffrom the King's Ma^{ties} Palaice at Westm^r the second of June 1550. Y^or lovinge frend.

(John) J. Bedford.

(*Endorsed*) To my veary loving frends the Maio^r and his Brethern of the Citie of Exeter.

No. 8.—9 Oct. 1549. (Original.)

This Bill made the ixth Oct. yn the therd yer of the reigne of oure Sovrayne lord Edward the Sext by the grace of God Kyng of England ffrance and Ireland defendaire of the ffaith and of the Church of England and Ireland yn erth the supreme head, Witnysseth that wher as wee William Drewrye and John Gefyld gentilmen, servautes to the right honorable lord Russell lord leve tenant yn this west parties, have receyved of John Tuckfield, mayor of the citie of Exon, and his brethren, upon the request of the said lord letenaunt ffor the King's necessirie affaires, twoo dubble cassys and iiij chambers parcell of the ordynaunce of the said cetie, to be redelyvred to the said mayor and his brethren a thissid the feast of Ester next ynsuing And wee the said Will^m and John Gefyld do by this present and be o^r heires and executers [promise] to redelyver the said twoo cassys and iiij chambers att Exeter a thissid the seid feist of Ester next ynsuyng, or twoo other doble cassis & iiij chambers yn their sted as mych in value as the said twoo cassis ar nowe worth. In witness whereof wee the said Will^m and John Gefild to this present have putt o^r seales the day and yer above writyn.

John Mitchell.

Wyll^m Drury.

No. 9.—(Original.)

After my hartye comendacions. The mayo^r and aldermen of Exeter have done me to understand by the lettres patents of Kyng Edward the Sixte under the great seale of Englande that the mano^r of Exilounde is given to them, and that the ffishynge of Exe and the rent reserved upon my copie for the same ffishynge is apperteyninge to the cittie as parcell of the said

manor, and so do requyre the rente of me. And for that I should be lothe to do any iniurye, this shall be to will youe and also to requyre youe, takyne of them assuraunce for my discharge and yours agaynste the Quenes maestie if that it shall otherwys fall out, to paye unto the said mayor and aldermen the said rente. And thus moste hartelie fare youe well, from London the xth of Julye.

Your assured frend

Guilio Borganey.

(*Endorsed*) To Robert Hunte and others my farmers of the Rever of Exe and to eny of them geve this.

No. 10.—26 June 1554. (Original.)

Right Worshipfulls, after my veary hartie comedacions. Forasmoch as I understande that the Prince of Spayne can veary hardlye endure long travayle uppon the Sea and that by reason thereof I am in doubt lest he wilbe desirous to lande at the next place he can come unto in Englande, as at Ffalmouthe or Plymouthe, I have thought meete to geve you advertisement hereof, to thintent youe maye be in suche a reddynes for the receaving of hym in to that Citie as maye be for the hono^r of the Quenes mat^e and the realme, and that he maye thinke hymself welcome in to the countrey: Praying you to frame yorselves herein as that uppon proffe of yo^r welldoinge I maye report the same unto the Quene's mat^e whom I doubt not by you shall fynde thankfull, therefore yt shalbe veary requysayte that you cause the Bisshopes house to be made in readynes for the Prince to lye there (if he shall fortune to lande in the west parties), also it shalbe well donne that youe provide some good thinges to present the Prince withall at his comynge. And that you provide all suche other thinges, as lodginge, vytayles, horses for carriages, and horses to convey the Princes trayne, being about iiij or v hundreth, besides ij hundreth that cometh with me, as you shall be best hable to the uttermost of yo^r powers. And yo^r diligence to be used therein I will have in good memorye, where so ever it shall be in me to shewe yo^r pleasure. Ffrom St. James Compostella the xxvith of June.

Yo loving frend

J. Bedford.

Post scripta. I write not this for that I am assured the Prince will lande in those parties but doubting the worst I have thought good to give youe some admonyshment thereof, for that all thinges might be in better order if he should fortune to arrive there, for the hono^r of the Quene's mat^r and the hole realme. Notwithstanding I will do all that shall lye in me to cause hym to arrive at Southampton where all thinges are prepared for hym, but wee all must be subiect to wynd and weather. The Prince wilbe at the Groyne the xxvijth of June, and there will stay only for wynde and weather for his navye, and all other necessaryes arre in a reddynes, being as fayre a company of shippes as ever I sawe.

(*Endorsed*) To the Right Worshipfulls and my veary lovinge frindes the maio^r and his bretherne of the Citie of Exett^r.

No. 11.—PROCLAMATION.

Marye the Quene. By the Quene.

Although at our first comenge to the Crown wee were geven t'understande that the notable and haynoust treason enterprised by the Duke of North-

umberland was supportied and furdered by Henry the French Kyng and his ministers by him put in trust, and that shortly after in the conspiracie moved against God and us by Wyst and his traiterose bande, the said Kyng's ministers dyd secretly practyse and geve their favorable comforts thereunto, contrary to the treaties of peax between booth the realmes, all good amytie and hono^r, yet the greate love we beare to the peax of Xtendom and to the quiet of o^r loving subjects moved us rather to impute the same to his mynsteres whom he used in service than unto himself, thinking even that by that o^r patience to have enduced him to beare us true amytie and to use good neighbored towards us and o^r subjects, for the which respect we were not only contented to beare such iniuries as to o^r self had been by hym doon, but also travayled to be a meane of pacificacion betwen Thempo^r and the sayd Kyng, sending o^r Ambassado^r to Calays for that purpose to o^r greate charge, as the world knoweth, which o^r travayl and good zeale was not sowel employed nor taken of him as of us ment, for not long after that tyme when the devyll had put in the hedds of Duddley, Asheton and other their complices to entre into a newe conspiracie agaynst us, the sayd Kyngs Ambassado^r was not onely pryvy thereof but also receyved them into his howse there, suffering them t'assemble and contrive their malyciose and delivishe enterprise, and although the sayd King were advised thereof by our ambassado^r with him resident, and also frendly desired not to support nor favor any suche doings, nevertheles the same conspiracie being afterwards detected and sundry of thoffenders confessing it by juste ordre of lawe executed, Dudley, Asheton and others flyeng into Ffrance were both receyved of the Kyng, and also maynteyned with annual pencons by hym gyven, contrary to his promesse which he made unto a personage of honor sent unto him from us, gyveing thereby a most dangerose example and perniciose to all prynces whose estate and lief cannot be sure yf traytors may be receyved and supported. The lyke mynde he declared towards us in receyveing sundry famous and notorious pirates enemyes of Xtendom and spoylers of our subjects, whom he maynteyned with men money and shippes t^e exercise their piracie. And to declare that no patyence or good demeano^r of our parte can move him to beare us good amytie, of late he sent Stafforde with other rebelles whom he had entreteyned in that Realme, furnyshed with armoure money municon and shippes, to surprise o^r Castle of Scarborough, not contented this long tyme to have borne with pirates and such as have robbed o^r marchauntes and other o^r subjects by seas and to have used dishonorable practyses for the surpriseng of Calays and other places on that syde, the mynsters whereof have been openly knowen, and the spialles taken, for the better mayntenance of wych ungodly doings and greter annoyance of o^r realme he hath contynually suffered in his countreys forgers of false moneyes and counterfaytors of o^r royme, for the which causes and also for that he hath with all hostilitie invaded the lowe countreys, to the defence and preservacon whereof we are bounde by speecal treatye, and considering that neyther by demanding redresse thereof we can obteyn any, neyther by good meanes which we have hitherto used, ne enioye any amytye or good neighborowed at his hands, neyther by promisse be assured of the same, we have thought better to have him knowen and taken for an open enemye of whom we maye be warre, then undre the pretence of amytye a secrete worker agaynst us and a pryvy enemye, such as we have hitherto found him, to the greate danger of o^r person and losse and damage of o^r subjects. And therefore we geve warning to all o^r loving subjects from hensforth

to forbere all traffique and contracting with any of that realme, and to repute the sayd french Kyng and his subjects as open enemyes, annoyning them by all such meanes as men maye and ar wont to do their enemyes. And although he hath used without juste cause or denouncing any warre to annoye o^r marchauntes and subjects, yet gyve we unto all his marchauntes and subjects forty days space after this proclamation to departe this o^r realme with such goodes as they have here gotten and may by o^r lawes cary awaye, to the which effect we shall gyve them or any of them o^r sauf conduyte and pasport yf they shall requyre it. Geven undre o^r signet at o^r palace of Westm^r the vijth of June the thirde and fourth yeres of our reignes (1556)

Frauncis Yardes.

No. 12.—(Original).

James R.

Trustie and well beloved wee greet yo well. Wee have bene credibillie enformed of your confident and faythful service always to oure progenitors, and of your good and comfortable acceptation of us in your speedie and cheerfull proclaiming of us and other dewtiful respects when as some (otherwise disposed) expected a more troublesome tyme, which albeit it was your dewtie, yet wee doe thankfully accept of yt, and withall doe give you assurance that wee wilbe also readye to yeald to any your reasonable suites that may be for your good, and somewhat the rather yff they shalbe preferred unto us by o^r well beloved servant John Howell one of your brethrene, of whose loyaltie and good services wee have experience, as also by him have received advertismet of the readynes of some of you in particular, which wee ar pleased to take more then ordinarie notice of with respect to remember thame as occasion shall requyre. And as wee tak comfort to hear of your carefull government in the tyme of owre late dearest sister, So wee hope you will hold on your good proceedings to the manteaning of verteu and suppressing of vice, Whereunto wee wilbe always also readye to give assistance as o^r gracious cair and affection ever shalbe to the wele and cherisheing of all o^r loving subjects.

To the Mayor and his brethren
of the City of Exon.

No. 13.—(Copy).

The Coppie of Mr. Will^m. Hunter's letter to this Citty.

Worthy Cittizens: Though I be unacquainted wth you but by the intercourse of Mr. John Howell his mat^{ies} servant your profittable trew citizen and my loyall frend, who hath byn a happy bee for your hyve, for by his labors he hath gotten you the great goodwill of so worthy and virtuou a prince, as witness his highness owne hand and secrett seale unto you. And as a secret (in your senate) conceale the same, for that yt ys written by secrett secretary, a Scottish man, his ma^{tie} ys not desirous that the secret love which he beareth to his secret frends should be publicly knowen, and as his M^{tie} hath professed unto you a tender love and a care of you and your sutes, so be as carefull that your comonwealth be concordant without controversy or faction: for that civyll sedition breedeth an unperfitt republick and consequently to their Prince slow service. As your

occasions do fall furthe so lett me be advertized by my loyall frend Mr. Howell and none other, for that his Matie (Sr Thomas Areskyne, only secretary to this proceadinge) and I do confidently put trust in hym. And I shall remayne at court your earnest and faithfull agent in all your affaires, with that sollicitude and cair as becometh a loyall frend to his masters frends. I keepe (and so am commanded) the register of such particular frends within your citty as he hath geven, and his matie hath taken notice of who in their due by me are to receave their particular thankes, and in the meane season stand fast and firme to your professed loyalty : I tak my leave comyttinge you to the Almighty. I rest your assured frend to my power

Wyll Hunter.

From the Court this 15th day of
November 1604.

To the Right wo^rfull the Maior Aldermen and Counsell of
the City of Exon.

No. 14.—(Original).

JAMES R.

Trusty and welbeloved wee grete you well. Whereas the Reverende Father in God the Bishop of Exeter hath humbly represented unto us that he hath no other house for his habitacon belonginge to his Bishopricke save onely one within the Cittie of Exeter, and that inclosed within the comon wall of the City, whereby he is debarred from taking the ayre abroad into the open feildes for his health and recreation unless he goe thorrowe a parte of the City ; And hath made knowne unto us that as some others have heretofore ben permitted by yo^r predecessers to have a doore through the wall for their more easie passage abroad, soe he hath requested you to have had the like permission from you, which notwithstandinge you have refused unto him Wherefore having recourse unto us for our gratious favor in that behalf, Wee tenderinge the welfare of his estate and findinge his request not unreasonable, have assented thereunto, willinge and requiringe you to suffer the said Bishop to make a convenient doore through the City wall and to have the use of it from tyme to tyme, he beinge readie whensoever any public urgent necessity shall require for the good and safety of the City to make it up againe. Geven under o^r signet at our Pallace of Westminster the sixt daye of Marche in the twentieth yeare of o^r Raigne of England Ffrance & Ireland, and of Scotland the sixe & fiftieth.

(Endorsed)

Georgius Munck.

To our trustie and welbeloved
the Maio^r and Aldermen of the
Cittie of Exeter
(large seal)