

Original Document.

Communicated by JOSEPH BAIN, F.S.A. Scot.

The following is one of the Returns to the Royal Writs to Sheriffs of Counties which were issued by Edward I. on the eve of his expedition to Scotland in the summer of A.D. 1300. Some of those relative to the western shires have been already given in vol. xxxiv, p. 443, of the *Journal*. It is made by the Sheriff of Northampton, and possibly some of the surnames of the persons named in it may still survive there. The writ is the same in its terms and date as those to Hereford and Worcester before alluded to. The Sheriff's return [in dorso] is as follows :—

“Juxta tenorem huius brevis | induci requisivi monui omnes mercatores bonarum villarum Balliue mee quod venire fecerint circiter festum Natiui [tatis] Sancti Johannis Baptiste victualia in quantum potuerunt venalia et fideliter promisi eis quod plena et prompta fieret eis satisfaccio pro victualibus suis et quod coiservarentur indemnes in omnibus et nomina eorum qui venire promittunt inuenientur inferius in hoc breui Nec inueni aliquem mercatorem in Balliua mea qui se voluit obligare prout breue istud exigit Et quo ad boues porcos multones vinum Gallinas pullos oua caceum et similia victualia providere non possum pro aliis diversis mandatis que recepi a Domino Rege versus dictam Gwerram providendam.

§ De Willata de Northampton.	
§ De officio Pistorum	{ ADAM DE WODHULLE, RADULFUS DE HAREWOLDE
§ De officio piscaer (?)	{ JACOBUS LE PESSOUR, THOMAS DE ALDENBY.
§ De officio regratorum	{ ADAM ANNSTAY. WILLELMUS DE COLENE SUTOR.
§ De officio Carnificium	{ ROGERUS PASSELEW DE NORTHAMP- TON.
	{ THOMAS NEUMAN DE BRACKELE.
§ De villata de Brackele	{ THOMAS filius THOME NEUMAN de eadem.

§ Plures non inueni in Balliua mea qui venire vellent nec aliquos mercatores inueni in predicta Balliua qui se vellent obligare.”

It would thus appear that the Sheriff prevailed on certain members of the bakers, fishers, regrators, and a butcher, of Northampton, and two “merchants” of Brackele, whose occupations are not named, to promise that they would set out for Carlisle at the time appointed with such “victualia” as they could procure ; but he was unable to find any “merchants” disposed to guarantee the due performance of the contract. Nor could he provide oxen, pigs, sheep, wine, hens, chickens, eggs, cheese, and the like victuals, on account of other mandates received from the King towards making provision for the same war. In fact it was a position of something like what lawyers term “double distress.” There is a town named Brackley some fifteen or twenty miles south-west of Northampton, across the border of Oxfordshire, which, possibly, may be the Brackele of the Sheriff's return.