

RECORDE OF THOMAS LAKE,  
BAILIFF TO YARMOUTH FROM HASTINGS,  
AND  
HENRY LENNARDE,  
BAILIFF TO YARMOUTH FROM DOVER, IN 1588.  
BY THOMAS ROSS ESQ.

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THE following passage, taken from Jeake's *Charters of the Cinque Ports*, will best explain how it was that the Jurats of Hastings and the other Cinque Ports had power and authority to interfere so decidedly (as from the following pages it is clear they did), in the local administration of affairs in the town of Yarmouth, during the forty days of the great Herring Fair, which was held there. Speaking of Yarmouth, he says:—  
“Hither resort the fishermen of the ports, and other sea towns, every year in the fishing season for herrings, who, by a wonderful and rare providence, having their constant course once a year round this island, about the Autumnal Equinox, begin to keep their quarters on these coasts. And to repress and prevent disorders arising among the multitude upon the sale and delivery of the herrings brought ashore there, for want of a settled government in that town, or, as hereafter noted, for want of a town built, the Ports used to send thither yearly, certain men as their bailiffs, that during the time of this Herring Fair they might abide there, and govern all that fishing season; but the fishing trade continuing, and proving profitable, quickly is supposed to have built a town there, or if built before, so to enrich it as to procure thereto a government by some Portreeve, or Provost, and Bailiffs, which it had in the time of Edward I.; between whom and the Ports bailiffs contests did often arise; these endeavouring to keep their ancient jurisdictions, rights, and privileges, and the other to wrest them out of their hands; so that oftentimes the Ports have complained to their sovereigns for redress and remedy, and yet sometimes been sufferers by the outrage and insolencies of the people, and their head officers there; so as one of

the Ports' bailiffs doing his office there, was by one of their bailiffs killed, for which he as deservedly was hanged; and that town, as a badge of such an infamous fact, yet pays a certain number of herrings yearly to Windsor Castle (as I have heard) or a sum of money instead thereof."

Those who were present at the coronation of George IV., cannot fail to remember the conspicuous part played on that occasion by the Barons of the Cinque Ports; their prominent position in the great ceremonial as the supporters of the canopy over the head of the sovereign,<sup>1</sup> their handsome, singular, and picturesque dress, indicating the high and dignified office, which they once held, and the great importance of the towns which they represented. The Cinque Ports were the most important in the kingdom; from their situation they were regarded as the gates of the nation, and great were the privileges granted to them; in return for which they were bound, at any time when called upon, to furnish a certain number of ships<sup>2</sup> for the defence of the kingdom. "Among

<sup>1</sup> The canopy held over the head of George IV., was yellow, of silk and gold embroidery, with curtains of muslin and tissue, upheld by steel rods, and surmounted by silver balls instead of bells, which was generally the case. The dresses of the Barons at the coronation of James I., George III., and George IV., are given in Holloway's *Rye*, p. 72, and Cooper's *Winchelsea*, p. 239. They consisted of large cloaks of garter blue satin, with slashed arms of scarlet and red, stockings of dead red, presenting, according to the words of the writer, who records it from the *Hastings Archives*, "an appearance perfectly unique." The gold lace with which the canopy was trimmed was very massive. The most interesting of these canopies was that of Charles II., for the possession of which there was a severe struggle between the King's servants and the Barons, in Westminster Hall. There is a long account of this affair written by the Barons, deposited in the Romney Chest.

On this occasion, the Barons of the Cinque Ports stuck to their colours gallantly. Bishop Kennett gives the following account of the struggle:—"No sooner had the barons brought up the King to the foot of the stairs in Westminster Hall, and turned on the left hand (towards their own table) out of the way, but the King's

footmen most insolently and violently seized upon the Canopy, which the barons, endeavouring to keep and defend, were, by their number and strength, dragged down to the lower end of the Hall, nevertheless still keeping their hold; and had not Mr. Owen, *York Herald*, being accidentally near the Hall door, and seeing the contest, caused the same to be shut, the footmen had certainly carried it away by force. But in the interim speedy notice having been given to the King, one of the juerries were sent from him with command to imprison the footmen, and dismiss them out of his service; which put an end to the disturbance. These footmen were also commanded to make their submission to the Court of Claims, which was accordingly done, and the Canopy delivered back to the barons." Whilst this was going on, the upper end of the first table, which had been appointed for the Barons of the Cinque Ports, was occupied by the bishops, judges, and others, and the barons were obliged to eat their dinners at the bottom of the second table, below the Master in Chancery, and others of the Long Robe.

<sup>2</sup> "By the last accounts," says Jaekes, "that I have seen, every of the ports, towns, and members thereof, stand charged to find as followeth, Hastings 3½; Winchelsea 5; Rye 4; Romney 3½; Hithe 5; Dover 20; Sandwich 10½; Seaford 1½;

other privileges," says Blackstone, "the Cinque Ports, or the five most important ones, viz., Dover, Sandwich, Romney, Hastings, and Hythe, to which Winchelsea and Rye have since been added, have similar franchises in many respects with the county palatine; and particularly an exclusive jurisdiction before the mayor and jurats of the Ports, in which exclusive jurisdiction the King's ordinary writ does not run. A writ of error lies from the mayor and jurats of each port to the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in his Court of Shepway to the King's Bench." They possessed also, as we have before shown, the delicate and dangerous privilege of interfering in the local management of other towns, as in the case of Yarmouth, during the forty days in which the great Herring Fair was held there. In selecting Thomas Lake as bailiff, who with his colleague, Henry Lennarde, bailiff from Dover, were sent to Yarmouth, in the year 1588, the town of Hastings made choice of one very able and willing to defend the rights of those who had sent him there, and to recover those which he saw had lapsed in consequence of the carelessness and negligence of his predecessors in that office; and very amusing is the account he gives of the struggles of the civic dignitaries to maintain their respective rights and privileges.

The following extract from an Indenture in the time of Henry VII., referring to an Act of the four previous reigns,

Pevensey, 1½; Tenterden 3; Lydde 3; Folkstone ½; Feversham 1; Fordwich ¾; that is together 62½; and it may be further noted, that since the nation hath increased the Royal Navy in the number of great and warlike ships, there being small, (sufficient as appeareth, to be manned with twenty men and a boy) this number of fifty ships hath not been exacted; but sometimes two or three or more which notwithstanding, to equip, hath been equivalent to the charge to the fitting out of the Old Total, considering their burden, and, moreover, how chargeable soever this service hath been to the ports, they, from time to time hath faithfully performed it. For not only upon all occasions have the navy of the ports been ready to guard the narrow seas from pirates infesting the coasts, (by which, as some say, and firmly believe, from traditions of their ancestors, they first obtained their privileges,) but employed in frequent transportations of the King's forces, if not person and

family during the long differences and wars between England and France; so as it seems to be the chief of the Royal Navy, till the state provided a bigger and better, and that wherein the kings of old did much confide for assistance, as our histories intimate." The crews of these vessels consisted before the change alluded to above, of twenty-one men, when employed in the kings' service. A list of the vessels in the different ports, and of those appointed to serve her Majesty in 1587, will be found in Vol. VIII. of the *Sussex Archaeological Col.* p. 210. By a return made to the Bailiff of Rye, in 1641, it appears that there were thirty-three vessels gone to fish at Yarmouth; of these, sixteen were of thirty tons burden, of which three bore the auspicious name of Elizabeth, the Great Elizabeth, the Little Elizabeth, and the Luxam and Elizabeth. The crews generally consisted of twelve men and two or three boys.

explains the causes why a place like Tenterden in the interior of the county became a member of the Cinque Ports. "Because the mayor and commonality of the port and town of Rye, by great destruction, devastation, exile, and impoverishment of the same town, as by the flowing and re-flowing of the sea, and by the fire of the enemies of our lord the King, oft made, were not sufficient to bear and find the charge of themselves, of their own estates without their insupportable expenses the Lord Henry, late King of England the VI., granted by his letters patent, that the town and hundred of Tenterden may be a member annexed and united to the town of Rye."

The first mention that we have in our local records of the writer of the following journal, is, that of his return as one of the representatives of Hastings to the Brotheryeld, or House of Assembly of the Cinque Portes in 1570; his name after this appears in almost every return to the House up to his death, as filling many important offices. He was M.P. for the town and port in the parliaments of 1585 and 1586, but perhaps his most important appointment was as one of a commission on the part of the Cinque Ports to meet those of Yarmouth, being "empowered as well to hear, determine, and finally to conclude, all and singular strifes, debates, controversies, contentions, matters, and things whatsoever, between the parties." The articles of settlement are ten in number, admirably drawn up and acknowledging all the rights and privileges of the Cinque Ports, signed the 31st May, 1576. At what time bailiffs were first sent to Yarmouth from the Cinque Ports is not known. Manship the historian of Yarmouth, 1619, says "it is in my opinion very clear, that from the landing of Cerdicus in *anno* 495, now 1124 years past, the sand by defluxion of tides by little and little lift his head above waters, and in so short time after sundry fishermen, as well of this kingdom, viz., the five ports (being then the principal fishermen of England) resorted thither, where they continued in tents made for the purpose, by the space of forty days."

Edward the Confessor granted in his Charter to the Cinque Ports the right of Strond and Denne<sup>1</sup> at Yarmouth, which

<sup>1</sup> The right of Strond means the liberty the fishermen of the ports had to use the shore and the key at Yarmouth, and to land their herrings freely there during all the fishing season; and the liberty to all

fishermen to mend and dry their nets upon the marsh lands (which are still called the Dennes) during all the season. — *Jeake's Cinque Ports.*

right appears to have been infringed by Robt. Leasinge, Bishop of Norwich, who, in 1101, built a small chapel in the Dean or Downe of Yarmouth then being sand. "But the very next year after the same was finished, the barons of the five ports coming thither, as usually they did, to fish there, they being then (as hath been before declared) the principal fishermen of England, did bring their priest with them, who did remove, expel, and evil entreat the bishop's priest, there formerly placed, &c." This is the earliest account we have of the quarrels and jealousies that ever after existed between the men of the Ports and the men of Yarmouth, at times rising to a fearful height, as in 1296, when Edward I. passing into Flanders to aid the Earl against the French, "was no sooner at land, but that through an old grudge betwixt the Portsmen and Yarmouth, and of long time depending, they fell together and fought on the water in such earnest wise (notwithstanding the King commanded the contrary) that twenty-five ships of Yarmouth, and their partakers, were burned by the men of the Ports." Manship says that they killed 171 men, and destroyed goods to the value of £45,360.

The number of bailiffs sent to Yarmouth in 1285, was ten (Lawrence de Winfongers represented Hastings), which number was continued until 1347; the following year only seven went, and for four years after that, nine. In 1361, four were commissioned by all the ports, from Hastings, Winchelsea, Rye, and Romney. The number continued to vary until 1555, when four were returned, and the year following three; after which period the return was two bailiffs only, one to represent the west or Sussex ports, Hastings, Winchelsea, and Rye, the other, the east or Kent ports, which number continued up to 1662, when the ports ceased to send bailiffs to Yarmouth, as appears from the following entry:—

"It is thought fitt and soe ordered by this house that the yearely service of the cinque ports and two ancient townes to the towne of Great Yarmoth bee suspended for a time (after this yeares service) in case our councell shall advice the same not to bee prejudiciall to the comon wealth, or to the damage of the cinque portes two ancient townes and their members."

The ceremony of their appointment is thus described in an old record, called the Black Book.

“At the comon assemble of the town held in the month of June or July, the barons, combarons, and comoners are elected to the general assembly or brotherhood of the cinque ports usually held on the Tuesday after the Feast of St. Margarett, and generally at New Romney. The bailiffe to Yarmouth was elected from the jurats by the votes of the freemen. The first business of the house is to call upon each port to produce their comission under their comon seal. The laws regulating the proceedings of the house is then read by the speaker's clerk, such as the following, that each member is ‘to have power for the tyme to assigne genallie and singlerlie one after another to reason and speake in mater and maters to be conceived of, in such assemblies,—no man to interrupte hym in the tyme of his resoninge or speakinge uppon payne of 20*d.* to be levied forthwith and employed to the com expenses of the comerce to such assembles equalie to be divided, &c. &c., 1484.’” The barons elect to Yarmouth are then summoned to the barr, and if approved of and legally elected, were “admitted, allowed, and confirmed bailiffs to Yarmouth,” £10. was granted for their expenses, but we find occasionally such entries in the Hastings chamberlain's accounts as “Item to the bayliffe to Yarmouth, £17. 2*s* 6*d.*, and to a ton of bear to him in further gratuity, £3. 10*s.*, &c.” These bayliffes were accompanied to Yarmouth by their “learned counsel, town clerk, two sergeants bearing white rods, a brasen horn sounder, one carrying a banner of the arms of the ports,<sup>1</sup> and a jailer.”

The ports also elected quest men, or inquest men. On the first court day, a party inquest was held which was called the “Quest of the Free Fair,” and was composed of six men of Yarmouth and six Portsmen, who were charged and sworn to inquire of all misdemeanours at Yarmouth, or within the liberties, committed or done during the fair, with many other things expressed in Articles delivered to them and taken from the dite<sup>2</sup> of the ports.

From what we read in Lake's *Journal*, we must not conclude that the meetings of the Yarmouth and Cinque Ports

<sup>1</sup> The last of these banners is now in the chest at Romney ; it is of green silk with the arms painted on it, bound with a fringe of green and gold ; it was carried like a Chinese flag, with spear-head and

cord, and tassels attached—it is very much decayed.

<sup>2</sup> From the Latin word *Dictum*, a royal ordinance, from which is derived the word *Edict*.



BANNER OF THE CINQUE PORTS,  
*made pursuant to resolution of 20<sup>th</sup> July 1632.*

Bailiffs, were all of the same quarrelsome and unpleasant character as those in which he was engaged, "This daye," says Robert Wood, bailiff from Rye, in 1597, "after dynner we receaved of the bailiff of Yarmouth our accustomed fee, who came likewyse with divers of the burgesses there to drink with us, and soe did take their leaves of us very courteously, and wee of them, findinge noe other but courtesy at their hands during our abode with them;" and Manship in his *History of Yarmouth*, says, "Without partiality or wrong doing may I not overpass with a silent pen the exceeding bountifull fare, feasting, and royal cheer, and as it were open house-keeping wherewith the com-baron's bailiffs aforesaid in a fair house which they do hire to that intent as is before remembered, do give entertainment thereat, in, by, and during the one-and-twenty days of their abiding at Yarmouth, as well for gentlemen of Yarmouth, and the country adjoining, as also for a great number of their own countrymen, who during that season do fish at Yarmouth, and at their pleasure do come to make mony with them, and that the same may be better performed, they do commonly bring sixteen or eighteen hogsheads of excellent beer from home with them."

"Besides the aforesaid com-baron's bailiffs by way of requital, or of a kind farewell to Yarmouth, do solemnly hold a very costly and sumptuous feast in the third week of their abiding, which they do most especially prepare for the bailiff's aldermen, and other the substantialist sort of the inhabitants of Great Yarmouth, with their wives also, yet be not any good fellows excluded the company, and at which all sorts of delicacies be provided which may be had for money."

By a decree of the house, the assemblies of the towns at which the Yarmouth bailiffs of the past year resided, were bound under a heavy penalty to elect them to the first brotherhood held after the Free Fair, when appearing at the bar of the house they were called upon by the speaker to "give an account of their stay at Yarmouth," which, if approved of by the house, they handed over their journal to the clerk, and were admitted to take their seats at the right hand of their respective mayors for the ensuing twelvemonth, not only in the brotherhood house, but in their assemblies at home. If the relation was not approved of at the bar, a committee was formed



to examine and report to the house, which sometimes ended in a heavy penalty; on one occasion Mr. Thomas Delves was called to the bar of the general board held at Sandwich, and fined thirty pounds, he, however, pleaded physical infirmity as the cause of his neglect and default in the discharge of his duty, and a portion of the fine was remitted. It is scarcely necessary to add that neither Bailiff Lake nor Bailiff Lennarde incurred the penalty.

“A true Recorde of the Interteynmente orders and causes as now proceeded w<sup>th</sup> at the towne of Great Yarmouth by Mr. Thomas Lake of the towne and porte of Hasting Juratte, and Mr. Henry Lennarde of the towne and porte of Dovor Juratte, Bayliffs of the Barons of the cinque ports to the towne of Great Yermouth, this yere elected and commissioned duringe the tyme of the Free Fayre there, togeather w<sup>th</sup> Mr. Austine Peirse and Mr. Bennett Cubitte, Merchant Bayliffs of Yarmouth afores<sup>d</sup> this yere Anno Domine, 1588, Anno Regna Elizabethe now Queen of England 30th.<sup>1</sup>

“MICHELMAS EVE the 28 *daye of September Saturday. Entrance into Yarmouth*:—This daye after wee had dyled at Lastocke within six myles of entrance into Yarmouth, wee toke horse and proceeded on the reste of our journey, and drawenge nere towardses Yarmouth bridge, there attended our coming diverse sorts of poore, lame and disceased people, whoe cryed unto the Bayliffs of the portes for some reliefe, on whome we bestowed some several pieces of money, and soe riding over the bridge about two of the clocke in the afternone (somewhat earlier then our cominge was expected), notwithstandinge there gathered and flocked together, great store of people, whoe verry friendlye badd us welcome, to whome we gave thanks and passed forwardes into the towne, alonge by the keye, and there toke our lodginge which was appoynted for us at one Mr. Dامتts house as of the 24 daye of the same terme, where

<sup>1</sup> A great portion of the following record appeared in print in a local paper, the *Hastings and St. Leonard's News*, in 1858. It is hoped that our readers will forgive us for having collected together the scattered fragments, and preserved them in our volume. A similar relation of John Conye and John Tooke, bailiffs in

1603, was read by T.W. King, Esq., F.S.A. now *York Herald*, before the Society of Antiquarians, in January, 1848, (*Proceedings*, vol. xxii. p. 229); and it is printed at length in the continuation of Manship's *History of Great Yarmouth*, by Charles John Palmer, Esq., F.S.A. ii. p. 67.

we were verye courteouslye entertained, and havinge remayned there about two houres, and understode that the Bailiffe and their companie weare verrye bussie in their counsell house, and soe that we weare very desirous to have some private conference with the ould and newe bailiffe, or newe bailiffe only, for that the matter concerned them especiallye uppon certein articles which would growe in question betwene us and them next day if happelye they weare not prevented or agreade uppon; we sent, therefore, our townclarke unto the said bayliffe with commendacons unto their worshippes desiringe that we might have some conference with them that nighte, if it pleased them, for that we had matters to imparte to them from the whole ports, whereunto they condisceded, and afterwardes the said two newe bayliffs, viz. Mr. Peirs and Mr. Bennett came unto our lodging unto us, and very courtiouslye saluted us, and badd us welcome, sayenge, we have such occasion of busines this nighte, as we should scarce have sene you until the morrowe, but that you sent to nighte some matter unto us; soe thanckinge them for that curtesie, we took them by the handes and placed them at a syde bourde there, one at the one syde, and the other at the other, on the upper hand of eyther of us, and with great reverence used the one to the other, we sayd—for that diverse abuses and discourtesies had bene offered of late by the bayliffe of Yarmouth unto the bayliffs of the Ports, as by the relacion of their successe at the Brotherhoode house appeared, touching the setting under the Canipie and the Queene's Armes in the church, and at the tollhouse as had bene accustomed, our meaninge was therefore, 'said we,' to nighte, this much unto you, from the bodye of the whole ports, (whose commissioners we are in that behalf;) that you may confer with your bretheren, and so give us your determined answers hereuppon, viz.—

“*First*—that in the church as in the tollhouse as we are equal with you in the reall justice doeing—so we may lyke equally be placed with you in place, and that the Quene's armes might be indifferently betwene you and us.—*Secondlye*, that we might have the prisoners delivered and brought before us to take viewe of them, more solito, without any fraude as has bene thought to have bene used heretofore, by takinge the prisoners out of the prison, and bestowing them at your

pleasure, on purpose to derogate our liberties.—*Thirdly*, that tomorrow beinge Sunday and Michelmas day, and we beinge accustomed to make our proclamacon on the Sonnday after Michelmas day with us we should now soe doe, before the nexte Souday the Fayre woulde be halfe ended.

“Upon all which these bayliffs quested us to confer with their brethren, and to give us their determined aunswers next morninge, and soe we rising went with them to the further entrye of our lodging, and the young bayliff—the bayliff Bennett, inviting us unto his house, next daye we gave him thanks and soe departed.

“*The 29th daye of September, 1588, Sunday, Michelmas daye.*

“The same daye betymes in the morninge by reason of the busines that followed. Bayliff Bennett came unto us to our lodginge to declare unto us what was determined towching our demands.

“*First*—that we should have indifferent and equall place with them under the Queene’s armes, both in the church and in the tollhouse, but, says he, the cloth is very scant, and we have accustomedly used to have our learned stewarde Mr. Stubbes, to sitt with us, and betwene us, under the said Queene’s armes, for that he is a very grave and wise gent, and one they were verry beholding unto, they would be loth to displace him nowe to make you rome, and that my partener and I, sayth he, should sitt without them, I am sure is not your meaninge, but, saith he, ye shall have such, and so much rome under them indifferentlye as we have, and the like, which you have had eyther by authoritye or of curtesie heretofore, the lyke we grant you nowe. To whom we answered, nay Mr. Bayliff, that is more than we crave, for whereas heretofore, we had the privilege and prerogative of stile in court and proclamacon and divers other things which we might exact, and did use. By reason of hartburning and grudge there-uppon for quietness sake we were content to alter and to give you indifferencye with us therein,—But touchinge the question of the place, said wee, we thincke not well of Mr. Stubbes his sittinge directly under the Queene’s armes, he is noe justicer in that place, and therefore doth usurpe the place, there are onlye two chosen of you, and two elected and comissionate of us, and wee four are jointly to occupie that place,

and therefore, pray tell him, if he will not give place, we are determined not to take anye place, but will return and make relacion thereof unto our masters of the cinque ports by whome we are sent : with muche other speach tending thereunto, we shewed what we were determined to doe if he would not remove, and we to have our places in church with them under the Queene's armes at their right hand, as had bene accustomed ; whereuppon the said Bayliffe Bennett, making some doubt as it semed, what to answeare, or some haste to enforme his companie what we had determined, aunswered us nothings to the matter, but wishing we might be well, somewhat smilinge tooke his leave, whereby we gathered that the said Mr. Stubbs was placed there by them of purpose to put us by the seate.

“Afterwardes we went to church, and for that we weare informed that sermon was further spent than we weare aware of, we went directly into the church, and soe not stayenge for any messenger to come unto us, we went up unto the seates where the bayliffe of Yarmouth, and the twenty-four satt, where we weare of some of them very curteuslye receaved, untill we drewe nere unto the place where we were wont to sitt next unto the ould bayliffe, and seinge they neither offered us seats nor made us rome, findinge a voyde place within six persons of the said ould bayliffe, we satt us downe, and sermon beinge ended, as the bayliffe passed by us, we desired them after they had fynished their owne busines at the tollhouse to send for us, which they promised and desired yf it pleased us to accompany them thither, which after some consideracon we refused, sayinge we would attend on them at oure ost his house, and soe they departed, leavinge us in the church, and afterwards we came to our oste his house, where havinge stayed about two howres they sent for us, by one of their sergients, and at our cominge to the tollhouse we found bothe againste the dore in the street, as alsoe in the house a great multitude of people assembled, and havinge rome made for us to passe thorough, we entered the barr, and reverence done unto the bayliffs of Yarmouth there sittinge, accompanied with Mr. Stubbes, their learned stewarde, whoe satt in the middle betwene their doctor, byshopp, and divers others, the bench full in scarlett gownes, Mr. Bayliffe Lake signified the cause of our cominge

and preferred the comission firste for the easte ports, to occupie the place, for that his owne man could not gett thorough the presse with his; which Bayliffe Peirse receyved, deliveringe it to Mr. Stubbes, and he unto his under stewarde to be read; which comissions beinge reade, he delivered lyke-wise the other comission for the weaste ports, which in lyke sort receyted and read, Mr. Stubbes stode upp, and in the name of the reste, tould us our comission were allowed, and we hartely welcome, and soe desired us to come upp and take our places. But there, Bayliffe Lake seinge Mr. Stubbes in the middle behind the two bayliffs, and he together with them to occupye almost the whole place under the Quenes armes, which everye yere they strove for, aunswered that they would hardly lyke well of his sittinge in that place, for, sayth he, you sitt in the middst showeing yourself to be as cheiff justicer there, where in truth after our admittance you have nothinge to doe, and though you have bene permitted by these gents for suretie soe to doe, yett you cannot compell us to condiscend thereunto besydes the incumbrance of the place, whereby we are in a manner of purpose (as we must take it) detremented, we thinck that the Quenes armes beyinge there sett to shewe the authoritye of the place, there ought noe persons to be included within them, but those that were lawfully and authorised to represent the Quenes person in riall justice doeing, of which number you are none. To which the said Stubbes being thus taken upp confused in his self almoste what to aunswer, for aunger, at last very mildlye sayd. It is not unknown to the bayliffe and the reste of the masters of this towne, that I am by office both justice of peace and Quenes, and in that respect may in some sort beseeme the place; but to the matter sayth he, touchinge the jurisdiction of the place, I aunswer that yerely upon certen needful and necessarye affaires and busines for the towne this daye to be done, they have alwayes a learned stewarde to advise and direct them therein, whereunto of late yeres myself was chosen, and am called to this place yerely by them for thys purpose. Nowe for that the matters of the towne are onlye handeled here this daye, wherein I am assistance with them your admittance only excepted, which is alsoe an authority in them lykewise, and you of noe authority as yett, untill eyther your proclamacon

made or some act in court done. I see not, sayth he, but I may by their leaves sett here as yett without your controle therein. But notwithstanding, if it shall please them, whoe placed me here, soe lykewise nowe to displace me againe, I am very well content, if not, sayth he, in truth I am and will sett here; whereunto Mr. Bayliffe Lake replied again, and asked him after the time he spake of he would give them place, he aunswered, he would not be tyed to our wills, but still harped uppon this string, if he weare displaced there by them by whome he was placed there he was contented. Then said Bayliffe Lake, if that be it you stande uppon, lett that be a question among the masters here whether you shall sett there or noe, that I may be resolved whither you doe it of your owne authoritye, or by their appoyntment, that I may knowe of whome to complayne. And soe after much speach there-uppon having noe other aunswer from him, and being requested againe to take our place, for that we woulde see what rome they would make us, we went upp, and they made us noe more rome, then that one of us might scarcely sett under the cloth of the Quenes armes; which wee perceavinge, refused to sitt downe at all, first challenging by authoritye of the Kings dyte, and the composicon betweene them of Yarmouth and us of the Ports to our accustomed place, which they denied us, saying, Will you both sett on the upper hand of us? we aunswered; we accustomedly used soe to doe, and for that the provinces and style in court belonged unto us nowe this yere we sought to have it. And further sayd that longe hitherto we had taken a royall othe, to mayntayne to our power the libertyes and free customes of the ports, and especially beinge nowe a speciall matter of charge in our comission we tould them playne if we might not sitt as we were wonted to sitt, we willed that they declined us our comission agayne and we would departe, for we neyther would nor could agree to the contrary. They aunswered us touching our comissions if we would take them agayne out of the court, we might, but they would deliver none unto us, and further if we weare soe willinge to be gone, God spead us well. And soe with many other speches more troublesome then necessary, we departed without nameing our officers or taking view of the prisoners as had bene accustomed. And cominge alonge unto our oste his

house, Bayliffe Bennett the young bayliffe, whoe the night before had invited us to dyne, sent his sergente unto us to pray us to dyne with him, but Bayliffe Lake somewhat grieved at the discourtesie which had bene offered, then made this answer. That they had given him such sharpe sauce as he had no stomock to disgest their meete. I must be playne sayth he, and soe tell him. Afterwards there came another sergent with the lyke messuage, and debating uppon the matter, least they should think us to obstinate, we returned thancks unto his master, cravinge pardon for our forepassed message, we sayd we would come, and soe went thither to dine, and after diner went with them to the service agayne in the afternoone, where we tooke our places on the one side of the Quenes armes under parte of them; and sermon ended, we walked and talked verve familiarlye togeather, and weare bidd that night unto Mr. Bayliffe Peirs his howse to supp, where we supped, and nothing more that day.

“*Ultimo daye, September, 1588, Mundaye*:—Memorand that this morninge we were sent for by the bayliffs to come unto them at the tollhowse, and at our cominge we went upp unto the seate, where we found the two bayliffs of Yarmouth sittinge with the Quenes armes wholye betweene them twoe, Mr. Stubbes beinge not there, and they desired us to sitt us downe, leaveing only a small place for Bayliff Lake on the right hande, under the cloth of the Quenes armes, under which he could scarce sitt, and no room at all for Bayliff Lennarde. To whome Bayliff Lake aunswered, I could think well to sitt here with you as in joynt authority, soe I thinck you leave us not sufficiente rome whereby the comon sorte may perceive the same. Then Bayliff Bennett aunswered, You have as much place offered you as your predicessors have had before you, and more you gett not, and further said, What Mr. Bayliff Lake, you take too much uppon you, you come rather to wrangle then otherwise, for yesterday you presumed to thruste before me from church, which was more then you ought to doe, and more then I will suffer hereafter. To which Bayliffe Lake aunswered, first sayth he, what my predecessors have had and agreed unto, of late, by constraint, shall be no president for me, if they have neglected to mayntayn our custome and keape their place, they have done us injury, I meane the whole ports,

in whose names they were commissionent to the contrarye, and given way unto your wills to make this question worse there-uppon. But you shall not have the lyke president of me, and to be short, will you know the truth, sayth he, uppon their relacion of late whome you meane our predecessors unto the Brotherhoode house, of the like injury done unto them which is now offered unto us in this respect, it was agaynst their wills, and not by their consent, and soe it is a question still, and noe custome; we commissionate nowe, takinge the advise of our learned counsell thereuppon, with the consent of the whole ports, are directed thus to doe, to take our several places and further we will not goe, and less we will not have. Secondly, said Bayliff Lake, In that you call me wrangler, for challenging our own right, I am sorrye my masters of the ports had no better judgement then to send a wrangler here unto you, and is all my trouble and service done to my great coste to make this quietnes, that soe longe hath continued between you and us nowe for challenging our wanted places, termed wrangling—well, and Thiredlye, sayth he, touching my thrusting before you from church, in truth you doe me wronge, for I offered noe such disorder in thrustinge, but for my going before you, I am sure that havinge this yere the provinces in court, my authoritye is greater than yours, and soe may well take place of you; besydes that, sayth he, as for you, Mr. Bayliff the younger, you sitt here with us but of curtesie by our last composicon, and if we should goe to the words of the Edite, we are to take noe knowledge of you nor your authoritye, for we are sent here to a provoste bayliff, and not to bayliffs or provosts, and yet the more curtesie we offer you by our composicons, the more you eneroche still, and seme to cavill with us. To which he aunswered, that they had no provoste, and that he was as ould a bayliff as I, and that they were incorpate by name of bayliff, and that the one had no more authoritye than the other, but weare joynt. Bayliffe Lake aunswered, that were strange that the Kinge should grante an Edict, and knowe the officers of the place, and direct us to a provoste, and there be noe provoste; but letting passe the name, I think, sayth he, you doubt whither the Kinge could make any such grante of edict; one of those within the bar, aunswered, they doubted not of that; Then there is noe more to



doubt of, sayth he, but whither he hath graunted any such or noe, which is your doubt, you shall see it here under the great seale—and soe showed it fourth; and afterwards urginge still the words of edict, tould them that the edict beinge of greater antiquitie and authoritye then their corporacon thereon graunted manye yeres agoe, from king to king of this realme, and confirmed by her majestie that nowe is quene of this realme and your corporacon; but of late had yelded to the contrarye, the edict beinge before and above their corporacon we weare to take knowledge but of one provoste; Whereuppon their grew some speach and questions amongst them, and then it was aunswered by their under stewarde, that the wordes of the edict weare not soe, but as he remembered we weare directed thereby to the provosts or propositi in the plural number. To aunswer them thereunto, Bayliffe Lake referred them to their edict, which they refuseyed, and makinge little accompt of, refused to reade unto the place, and sayd they could not find it. Oh, quoth Bayliffe Lake, you finde something there, I proove you lyke not very well of, and soe you will not read it. And soe, after much speach thereuppon used, at last the elder bayliffe, Bayliffe Peirce, said unto us, My masters, sayth he, hearinge all these speches, what is it you require? Bayliffe Lake aunswered, Our request, sayth he, is first to sitt and have the Quenes armes indifferently betwene ye and me; and yours and mine partner to sitt at eyther side of us, as near as they can under the clothe—this is our request, and this we are commisionate to challenge by the wishes of the whole ports, according to our custome. Then the younger bayliff asked if we would thrust them out of their places, they satt there before we came, and would keape their places. Bayliffe Lake aunswered, Noe, I will not thrust you out of your places, sayth he, but require our places equally with you, and there is difference betwene thrustinge and requestinge. And further, sayth he, if you would have me sitt more then indifferent amonge you, I would not. They aunswered again, the bayliffs both, and the reste of the bench, that they know of noe such customary place as we spake of, that we should sitt otherwise then was profered us—This, said we, we doe, as may appear by the records of others which we have of their proceedinges from tyme to tyme in this place, and myself alsoe,

quoth Bayliff Lake, our bayliffe hither before, can testifie the same, which they would not grant unto us nowe, we doubt not except of the contrarye, but would departe, and make declaration unto the ports there. They aunswered, we might departe if we woulde, and more rome they would not make us. And as we weare ready to goe awaye, Mr. Eacher, one of the counsell of the towne, stode upp and sayd, Mr. Lake, I am sure you are not ignorante that you are commissionent hither by the ports for this service, now to be done, which by you beyng lefte undone, you stand in danger of losse of all your liberties, by express wordes in the court. To whome Bayliffe Lake aunswered, Mr. Eacher, I can ensure ye, sayth he, that is not soe, for if our liberties stode upon it, I would rather suffer stripes than I will give any occasion to make any littell breache of them for our auntient charters and customes of the portes cannot be taken away from us, but for great reasons. But if you meane this libertie of holdinge the Free Fayre, in truth we had rather lose it, in challenging our rights, then enjoye it with such disquiet and disgrace, and for ourselves, sayd he, we resceyve noe profitt by it, and therefore may very well be without it, for our people of the ports, by their Greate Charter, shall be still free of stran and den of buieinge and sellinge, and of sendinge their witherman, for wrongs done, notwithstandinge. Then one Mr. Drewrye, sitting on the bench with his cappe on his heade, controlling us with other wordes than might beseme him, which I remember not, beinge, as we weare, ready to departe, was aunswered by Bayliffe Lake that he was not to direct anye speach unto him, but to the bayliffes, and, therefore, he might hould his peace—he told him againe, he was not in my place of justice, and therefore he might saye as much; Bayliffe Lake replied, Belyke, sayth he, I have noe authoritye except I have my place, which you denye me; and they, in truth, with lyke reason maye denye me my authority, with other words to that purpose—cravinge our comissions againe as the daye before, which they woulde not give us, we soe departed.

“*Eodem die.*—The same daye in the afternoone the bayliffe of Yarmouth sent Mr. Eacher, and one other to signifie unto us, that there was a person taken upon suspicion of felony, and desired our company to have him exmined; we aunswered

that our officers weare not named, nor ourselves excepted as we thought, for that we weare not admitted to our places as yett, we woulde not meddle or deale in any matters, but woulde departe and certifie what discourtesie had been offered us in prejudice of our accustomed libertie, and contempte of our commission where they must answer it, with manye other wordes, *for et contra*, between us and them, to that purpose, and with this aunswer they departed, and we determining indeade the next daye to ryde to Lastock as though wee would have ridden home agayne, as we tould them we weare so comissionate to doe by the consent of the whole ports if they desired us, as they had Mr. Manwoode the last yere, our place that of right belonged unto us and there to stay some tyme and soe returne agayne, which wee might very well doe without prejudice of our liberties for that wee could not make our proclamacon for the Free Fayre until the Sondaie followinge. But this we devised to doe of purpose to put it to the uttermoste plunge to see if their stomacks weare soe greate they would lose rather the bennefiytt of the Free Fayere, which towards them was verrye great, and which they could not hould without us, and would let us goe."

There are no historical documents more illustrative of the habits and customs of the people at different periods of our history than the proclamations which were occasionally issued, and the minute directions given for the regulation of every-thing connected with the traffic of man with man; and the following Proclamation, together with "the Charge unto the Judge at Yarmouth during the Fayre there," are not among the least curious and interesting.

"**The Baylybes** of the cinq portes with the provosts and baylyffes of the burge and libertie of the Queenes Majesties towne of Great Yarmouth, in the name of our Sovereigne Ladie Elizabeth, the grace of God of Englund, Fraunce, and Ireland, Quene Defender of the Faythe, &c. chargeth and commaundeth that all persones shall in the tyme of the Free Fayer here to be holden at the towne of Greate Yarmouth from the Feast of St. Michael last paste, duering the tyme of fortie deyes kepe the Queenes peace. And that all bakers and bruers shalle bake and brewe good sufficient and holesome breade, ale, and bere, and that they kepe the lafull assises therof. And that all victulers that shall sell wyne, bere, ale, or any other kind of vyttells, that theye putt none to sale but suche as ys goode and holsome; and not for any

excesse, lucre, or gayne, but for reasonable gayne. And that all persons shall use good and trewe weytes and lawful measures; and make trewe tale of herringes, and of all other things taleable. And that noe persone weare any weapon in disturbance of the Free Fayre, and that every persone kepe good rule, and be in his ostes howse at his lodging every knyghte before 8th of the clocke, or else aborde with in his or their shippe or shippes. And that noe persone nor persones shall putt to sale noe thinge in the markett upon the markett deye, within the towne of Great Yarmouth before the ringing of the market bell there, under the payne of the ordenaunce provided and made within the same, and that no manner of persone charge or discharge any manner of merchaundize or putt to sale any freshe herrings or other marchaundyse in the tyme of the said Free Fayer at any place within seven lewks of this towne of greate Yermouthe, but only at the same towne of Great Yermouthe under the payne of forfeiture of shippe and goodes.

### God save the Quene.

“The charge unto the Jurie at Yearmothe during the Fayre there.<sup>1</sup>

Fyrst they shulde enquiry of assaultes, affrayes, riotts, and suche as did weare armour.

Allso of taverners, cookes, and other vittullers which solde unwholsome vytayle, and of taverners and tipplers that sold with meesurs unsealed.

Allso of suche as selle with busshell, gallon, yerd, elle, or any other measure not agreeing with the standerd.

Itm. of cowpers whether there barrells were lawfull.

Itm. of forestallers and regraters of vytayles comyng to the markett.

Itm. of the fyers at the haven mouth to be kept as they ought.

Allso of them that deny to paye 2*d.* upon evry vesselle comyng into the haven.

Allso yf any thing be taken for fenestrage or stallage.

Itm. of purprestures in Denne and Stronde.

Itm. Allso ye shall enquiry of them that delyver ther freshe hearings at any other place then Jermouth being within seven myles of the same.

Itm. of any that buye hearringes upon the seas before the shippe be within haven, and theyre mored.

Itm. yf any Oste disturbe any fyssher to selle his hearringes to whome he list when he is in the haven, or disturbe any man to buy freely.

Itm. when one is in talke with any fyssher to buye his hearringes yf any other man doe truble hyme to rayse the price before theye have ended.

Itm. of them which doe forestalle hearringes upon the sea or londe pvyllie or openly.

Itm. yf any botes cauled pycardes be within the haven whereby the price of hearings is the dearer.

Itm. yf the fysshermen be disturbed to buye their necessaries where they lyst freely.

Itm. yf any hearrings be delyvered out of the shipp before they be solde.

Itm. yf any merchaunte of this towne, or of London, refuse to selle the 1000 of hearings to the comon people after the rate which they paye for the last.

<sup>1</sup> This charge is similar in many things to the ordinary charge at that time to the Juries at Courts Leet.

Itm. of these whiche knowe felonies upon the seas, and doe not cause the offenders to be taken at the nexte porte where they arryve.

Itm. yf the fysshermen be disturbed by their hostes to selle in Kirkeld Rode and other places upon the sea coastes to pycardes so mutche hearrings as to them shall be sufficient so that the seid fysshers bring the rest to Yermouth.

Itm. of those which selle in Jermouth rode, and hang not out a flagg or a wayfte, finis. Anno Domini 1570.

“1588, *1st daye of October, Tuesday.* This daye in the morninge they sent againe unto us to knowe the cause why we did soe estrange and withdrawe ourselves from them now in this servicc for the Free Fayre, and to know what discourtesie had been offered us, or if at anythinge we felt ourselves agrieved more then for the place. Bayliffe Lake aunswered them.

“*First* for the place, and besyeds the right we have to it, the bayliffs themselves sayeth he promised we should have soe much seat with them under the Quenes armes as any our predecessors have had, which they nowe denye us, and which we find both in auntient and latter records within these four yeres thus discoursed unto us the provost or head bayliffe of Yarmouth, together with the bayliffe of the more auncient towne of the two east ports indifferently to sitt under the Quenes armes, and their parteners close on eyther syde of them as might appear by the same records.

“*Secondlye*, for that they had straungers at our entraunce into the tollhouse on the bench the Sondaye before our admittance, to controle us, namelye doctor, bishopp, and others.

“*Thirdlye*, for that on Sondaye the younge bayliffe cominge out of the church, semed to pull me back, goeing out after the elder bayliffe, and before him.

“*Lastlye*, for that he called me yesterday wrangler in the open hall.

“To which they aunswered, Is this all? and soe stayed awhile, and then began agayne to tell us their message further was that if the place were the chiefest matter, they were willed to signifie unto us that the bayliffe could yield unto us rather in that, and give us more rome then any our predecessors before tyme had had, then to growe in questions for it, and be an occasion perchance of greate charge, both to the ports and them, and wished to continue in amitye and friendshippe, as they had done heretofore. We aunswered, That is our desire, and we woulde be sorrye of the contrarye, and sorrye in hart that this

great controversie muste happen in our tyme ; and with this aunswere they departed, askinge us that if it pleased the bayliffe, to send for us if we would come unto them, and we aunswered we would with all our harts. And soe booted and spurred as we weare we caused our horses to be made ready to give more showe of our departure.

“After dinner they sent againe their sergent unto us to signifie that there were matters to be handled at the tollhouse at afternoone, concerninge the Free Fayre, where they desired us to be present, wee aunswered it is straunge they will send for us to that end knowinge that wee have neyther officers yet allowed us, nor places given us to speake our authoritye. But if they woulde have us come unto them we woulde. The messenger departed to deliver them our aunswer, and wee followed ymediately after to the tollhouse.

“At our cominge the bayliffes weare gone unto their movements, leavinge worde if we came on, to come for them, and to tell us they woulde come streight unto us, and for that they stayed somewhat longe, and we supposinge that they did it of purpose to mocke us, we went our waye, and in the meane tyme they weare come, of which havinge worde we returned agayne, and found the said bayliffes sitinge as the daye before, not offeringe such place as they had promised us, but sufferinge us to stande with our cappes in our hands before them, which Bayliffe Lake perceavinge urged their promisse, and craved their places accordinglye, moving much speach thereuppon ; whereunto they aunswered nothinge to anye purpose, but desired us to come and take our places on the bench and not to strive for soe smaul a matter as a littell cloth ; we aunswered, It is not the cloth we strive for, we confesse we have noe propertie nor righte of challenge thereunto, but we crave indifferente place with you which you denye us : if we shall finde noe cloth here at all we shoulde be contented, soe as you let us sitt before the barr in the face of the court equivelent with you, and soe that you make soe small a matter of the place, we must make greate accompte thereof, soe that not only ourselves shall suffer disgrace nowe, but you will make us alsoe a president for ever hereafter to prejudice them, my masters of the ports I meane, which we will never consent unto, and therefore desiringe them to remember what had passed betwene

us and them, and offering them sight thereof, observed and drawne by our towne clarck, and a cople if they would, for that it should growe in further question as we tould them, they offeringe to take us by the handes we accepted their curtesie, and bade them farewell, they beinge loth as it semed to lett us goe by their often sendinge for us. But they weare soe encouraged towards themselves by their president, Mr. Haye, and Mr. Manwood, who had lette them take places at their appoyntement, rather then they woulde lett us nowe recover it agayne, they lett us goe, and soe we tooke horse presentlye to Lastock, where we laye that night all Wendsdaye, and Thirsday, in the eveninge reterved agayne to Yarmowth.

*“ Wednesdaye and Thursdaye, 2nd and 3rd days of October. Nothing done.*

*“ Fridaye, Fourth October, 1588.* This day in the morninge we sent our towne clarck unto the Bayliffe of Yarmowth to knowe when their pleasure was to appoynt some tyme to be at the tollhouse, and we would come and give them knowledge of our officers, and he meating with Mr. Peirs the elder bayliffe informed him thereof, whoe aunswered he woulde talke with his partener and give us worde thereof presently; soe we hearinge there was a sermon, went to church, and in the meane tyme there came a messenger from them to tell us that presentlye after sermon they would meet us at the tollhouse and anon after, they came lykewise to church, and seinge us sitt in the chaincell where indeed we had taken upp our places for certen especialle causes, they sent their sergent unto us to desire us to come and take our places with them. We returned thanks and badd him tell them that we weare very well there, and had taken that place of purpose, for that we would not give any occasione of offence. Service ended, we went presently, and havinge stayed there about three quarters of an hour, and they not cominge as they promised, we sent our town clerck agayne to signifie our staye there for them, and they returned us this aunswer that it was dinner tyme nowe, and they must have a tyme to dyne, and after dinner they would be there; nowe for that they did it, as we thought to delaye us, or rather to mocke us, and we havinge divers matters to call in question, which we could not doe without our known officers, and the tyme beyinge soe far spent we went up to the

bench, callinge the jaylor to witness wheare we satt, least they should saye we intruded ourselves, and which was Bayliffe Lake under the lyons in the same cloth, and Bayliffe Lennarde altogether without the cloth, both on the right hand of the Quenes armes, and we of ourselves called and chose our officers, and caused our town clerck to insert and sett downe a recorde thereof in manner followinge. A copy whereof we determined to send unto them and give them knowledge of our proceedings, viz. :—

“Memorand that this instant 4th daye of October, 1588. Before the worshippfull Mr. Thomas Lake of the towne and port of Hasting, Juratte, and Mr. Henrye Lennarde of the towne and port of Dovor, Juratte, Bayliffs of the Barons of the Cinque Ports commisionate to the towne of Great Yarmouth this yere for the Free Fayre there, were elected and chosen by their then officers followinge, viz. :—

“Richard Trucher, Sergt. at the Banner of the Queens Ports.

“James Gilmer, to winde the brazen horne of saylence.

“Anthony Daffell and Thomas Fyneas, two sergeants at Mace.

“Which done, we departed thence to our ostis, to dine with our officers in such order as hath bene used, shewinge our authoritye and their admittance, and beyng but newly sett at dinner, the said bayliffs sent their sergent to signifie unto us they were come unto the tollbowse, and taryed for us, and desired us to come unto them, we badd him certifie them we were at dinner as himself coulde certifie, and after dinner woulde presentlye repayre thither—which we did, accordinglye, where we founde the said bayliffe accompanied with divers of the aldermen; we went directly to the bench, and they friendly badd us welcome, and there fynding such rome as they had granted us before, we satt us downe, Bayliffe Lake declaringe what we had proceaded with, but without them, and the cause, offeringe them a cotype and sight thereof, thereby to take knowledge of our officers. They seemed somewhat discontented therewith, and said we ought not to have done it without them, and that they woulde not allow them in that sort; we aunswered what we were sure they doubted not, but that we might doe manye things without them, and for that they used us so hardlye; looke, sayd we, what we



may doe by authoritye of the edyte, we will exert it fullye to effect; you cannot denye our admittance, and beinge admitted there is noe question but we may chose our owne officers. You are to take knowledge of them which we offer you, but you cannot denye or refuse them. Then they requested us, without any farther proceedinge, to give them a daye—untill the next morninge, to be advised what might be done therein, least our president might prejudice their customarye recorde aforesaid; we answered againe, their request was dilatorye, and that their day to advise was to noe purpose, for, sayth Bayliffe Lake, we have done it, and if otherwise than we ought to doe, we must answer it; and the question is not nowe whether we have infringed your customary recorde by it, but whether we may doe it by the edict yea or noe; and if we have no warrante there for it, we have done you wronge; but you cannot right it of yourselves, but it must and shall growe in further question, where it shall be better determined, and therefore let us procede nowe. And soe, after much speache in the end, they prayed yett for order sake, sith they coude not cause us to reverse and alter it that our officers might be called agayne by the same recorde we had taken, which beyng done, they accepted and confirmed the same, without further questions. Afterwards, the place beinge silent, Bayliffe Lake moved this speach unto the younger bayliffe: Sir, sayth he, you promised us both at our first cominge, and at diverse tymes sithence, that we should have such place as any of our predecessors have had, and that you have not performed the same shall appeare by diverse books of late years related in the Brotherhood-house at their sittinge; and soe caused to be read the poynts in Mr. Woodes Booke of Sandwich, and Mr. Fynetts of Dovor, and others where, in truth, are notable presedents for the controversie of the place, and the description thereof, and howe it was concluded upon, by their owne consents as patent; which beinge read, they denied some, and graunted othersome, and sayd it was done of curtesie. Well then, sayd Bayliffe Lake, we showe you not this to enforce anye reformation here, but that you maye see thereby you are not soe goode as your words, but praye, sayth he, lett us have noe more speach touchinge the place, the tyme passeth awaye, you *will have us sitt here, and therefore it is done*; and soe de-

manded sight of the prisoners, and they desired us to stay untill Monday, for that their stewarde was not at home to keape any recorde thereof; then we craved bond of the jaylor as had bene accustomed, which they denied us; then we desired them that they woulde give us their wordes for such prisoners as they had resceyved theare, from the beginninge of the Fayre until Monday when we had charge of the gayle, which they acceded unto, and concluded to have the first court on Monday next, being the 7th day of October, and that warrant should go out for the appointment of the enquest under our handes and seales, directed unto Arthur Doffell, Serjeant at the rodd.

*“Saterdaye, 5th day of October, 1588.* This day beinge markt daye, we went into the markt, and toke viewe of the bakers’ bredd, and sett downe theire names and several markes, and soe proceeded farther; we mett with the jaylor of the towne, and demanded of him who was clarck of the markt; he aunswered, the Bayliffe of Yarmowth. We demanded then whoe was the clarck appoynted under them; he aunswered, he was; then, quoth Bayliffe Lake, we discharge you for this tyme, for we are nowe to have rule and governe thereof, as well as they, unleast you be appoynted and authorised likewise by us thereunto; he aunswered nothinge but that he would inform the Bayliffe of Yarmowth thereof. Afterwards we mett with the said bayliffs, and they began very angrily to reprove us for intermedlinge so far in the markt, sayinge we weare too busye, and that we had nothinge to doe in the markt; but, said they, for that there is noe place here to talk of such matters, we desire you, say they, to be at the tollhouse in the afternoone to confer thereupon; and soe, after dinner, they sent for us accordinglye unto their tollhouse, and we went thither, where was much speach moved thereupon, but when done it was thus concluded by them—that we had no authoritye to displace their officers, nor anything to doe ourselves in the markt, and that they were sole clarcks of the marketts, and that we weare only bayliffs with them for the Fayre; then, sayth Bayliffe Lake, your meaninge is belyke that havinge two markt dayes here, weekley, and in the term of the Fayre they are exempt; and not included within the meaninge of the Free Fayre, and you have

sole authoritye there without us. They aunswered, both, they had; then, quoth Bayliffe Lake, soe we are but two persons with a fewe in our companie, we can but demande it, and if you denye it, we dare not make any further challenging of our righte, leaste we lose our hedds; but praye, sayth he, let it be sett downe in recorde what you denye us, that cominge in question you may aunswer it without denienge it, where this controversie will be sone decided; but, saith he, if we have nothings to doe in the markett, there, with like reason, we have nothings to doe in the Fayre, for on the daye which may be a markett daye, if the cuntrye will come in, you will not denye them; and then why hath the edict and the proclamation such speciall words for assyse of bread and beere, weights and measures, ordinances for ringing of a bell; but what you will, must be, sayth he, for this tyme, I perceave; and soe they departed for that tyme without any further matters handled.

*“Sondaye, 6th day October, 1588.—*This daye beinge Sondaye, we went to sermon, and goeing towards the chauncell dore, there were certen of the aldermen goeing towards the other dore perceaving our intent to withdrawe ourselves from sittinge with them, desired us verye earnestlye to come and take our accustomed places with them; we aunswered, we were loth to give occasion of offence to any; why, said they, we hope noe bodye will be offended thereat; but, said Bayliffe Lake, I am loth the lyke discourtesie should be offered me agayne in pullinge me back by the gowne, goeing out of the church. And soe for all their intreatye, we went forwards and toke our places nere the pulpitt, where we found an anciente man, whoe verye curteuslye gave us rome, and would have avoyded the seat but that we badd him sitt still where he satt, at the farther end thereof if he woulde. But sermon ended, we went out of the church, where we founde our men on horseback, with their instruments readye in the aecustomable manner, to make proclamacon; we tooke our romes next unto our officers, and anon after came the Bayliffs of Yarmouth, and intruded themselves betwene our officers armes and us, on the upp hand; then said Bayliffe Lake, my masters, me think you doe us great wronge, we are proclamors of the proclamacon, and not you, where you need not come unleast you will; and we bringe our officers and ordinants with us for that purpose, we

must proclaime, we are tyed unto it, and you to suffer it; the younger bayliffe, hearinge these wordes of himself, went on the other hande beneath us both, and Bayliffe Lake tooke his former place agayne, and then the elder bayliffe would have stode betwene us, but Bayliffe Lennarde sayd that they had a joynt comission, and lyke authoritye, and came together, and therefore ought not to be separated. Then they, and the aldermen there present, seeinge that especially our custome, and Mr. Drewry spake unto the Bayliffe of Yarmouth, and sayd they did them wronge, speakinge of themselves, and alsoe themselves discreditt, and willed them take their places as before, which they did; soe as they both stode betwene our armes and our officers on the right hand of us; perceavinge this there obstinacye and harde dealing toward us, we willed our officers to putt upp their instruments, and departe, seth we were in such sorte disturbed; then Mr. Drewry aunswered, if they did, they would proclaime the proclamacon themselves; we aunswered, we doubted of that; and soe, after much speach, at last we willed our officers to come somewhat on the other haunde of us, to shewe our authoritye somewhat more then theirs, we proclaimed then our proclamacon, and at other the accustomed places, viz., the Church Gate, the Markett Crosse, the Havens-mouth, the Crane, and the Bridge-foote.

“GREAT YARMOUTH. *Mundaye*.—At the Court of our Lady, Queen Elizabeth, there held on Monday the 7th day October, in the seventh year of her reign, during the time of the Free Fayre, in the Court of Thomas Lake and Henry Lennarde, Bailiffs of the Barons of the Cinque Ports, &c., for the time being; Augustus Piers and Benedict Cubitt, Bailiffs of our said Lady the Queen of the Free Fair. Then follow the names of the Jury. No presentments, and the Court adjourned till Friday, the 12th October, between the hours of one to three in the afternoon.

“Same day we tooke a view of the prisoners:—John Nevers, Thomas Collens, Henry Johnson, George Anferer, taken upon suspicion of felonye.

“Four other Spanyerds their comitted by order of the Quenes Shippes.

“Thomas Fareborne comitted to prison for breakinge the

peace uppon one Margarett Davison, in sermon tyme; and Margarett Davison comitted lykewise, for her evill behaviour towards the said Thomas. This day also, we gave sondry pasports to divers poor people whoe came hither on herringe fayer busines, and could not be sett aworke, received our pasport to departe.

“*Tuesdaye, 8th October.*—The same daye, Roger Luse, of Ipseidge, *damy*e weaver, came before us and complayned that Thomas Sarde, of Yarmouth, had taken in, kept and detayned, his apprentice, Stephen Janyens, almoste these two yeres, contrarye to the statute, and craved to have him delivered to him agayne. And afterwards sendinge for the said partyes, and examininge thereuppon the premisse, finding it as indeed complayned of, we caused him forthwith to be delivered to his sayd master agayne, accordinglye.

“Same day.—Thomas Fareborne committed to prison as aforesaid, for breakinge of the peace was releassed of his imprisonment, and orderyed to departe the towne with his wyffe, and childer by Christmas next comminge.

“And also the same day, Margaret Davison was also released of her imprisonment, and bonde by recognizance in £10. to departe the towne by Frydaye next.

“The same day alsoe, Robert Whyte, and Thomas Browne, committed to prison for breakinge the peace uppon each other and makinge an affray, weare fyned *iiis. iiiid.* apece, and soe released, payenge the officers duties, *viz. viiid.* apece, whereof one moyety was to the jaylor for the ports, and the other to the bayliffe for the towne, as is accustomed.

“*Thursdaye 10th daie of October, 1588.*—John Runshe of Yarmouth, inholder beyng complayned on for ill rule in his house, at unaccustomed and unlawful houres, was bounde anewe for his victualling and better rule in his house in verbis usuales, to be kept hereafter duringe the tyme of the Free Fayre.<sup>1</sup>

“The same daye alsoe, Thomas Dowell and Thomas Mathie, comitted to prison for makinge an affraye were fined *iiis. iiiid.* apece, and undertooke each for other in £10. in the form

<sup>1</sup> There is a curious exception in favour of some parties in an Old Charter of the Cinque Ports, regulating the proceedings at Yarmouth. “In right of minstrels

and of women of misliving, we say and will that our Barons of the Ports, for those of Yarmouth take nothing.”

aforesaid, to be of good behavior dueringe this Free Fayre, and soe payeng their fees as aforesaid, were released.

“The same day, Nicholas Tand for same, fined at 3*s.* 4*d.* paid his fine and was discharged.

“The same daye, John Woodgrewe of Dovor, and his companie havinge complayned that a man of Yarmouth, and his companie had insulted them at the sea, and in the harbour, both companyes being sent for and enquired at large, before us, and beinge found in them, that there was ingurye done, and harme received on both partyes, the Yarmouth men being found beginners thereof, and had done most wronge unto the men of Dovor, were content to give thereof, Woodgrewe and his companie a barrell of beere in recompence, and soe weare made friends.

“The same daye was brought before us a very poore ould man of the country who had been comitted to prison, without our knowledge, and there lyen from Wensdaye until this day noone, by the Bayliffe of Yarmouth as it seemed, whoe had undertaken and challenged as aforesaid to be sole clercks of the markett themselves, soe regratinge and forstalling the markett of certen rome, as was supposed, and noe such matter proved nor founde agaynst him uppon examinacion before us, was by us sett at libertie. Bayliffe Lake usinge these words in the open court. ‘Goe thy waye, Father,’ sayth he, ‘whosoever hath comitted thee to prison hath done thee wronge, and if thou shouldst bringe an action of wrongfull judgement agaynst him he could not aunswer it.’ At which wordes the bayliffes of Yarmouth weare somewhat offended, as it seemed by their speches thereof afterwards, complayning of our discourtesie in that behalf.

“Farther, the same daye Thomas Dowell aforesaid, complayned unto us that he had lost his purse in the jayle laste night, whereuppon the jayler was called upp, and by the good meanes of Bayliffe Lake, threatininge them and shewinge them the right of the case if they denied it, and favour to be shewed them if they confessed it, it was found amonge them and to him agayne.

“The same daye alsoe John Arnold of Donnage sayler, convicted of speakinge leude and unreverent wordes agaynst us by the oth of him that enformed us thereof, was by us comitted unto prison, there to remayne.

“*Fridaye the 11th October.* No presentment.

“The same day was brought before us the said John Arnold, and for that the matter concerned ourselves we lette him over to the Bayliffe of Yarmouth, whereuppon examining of the matter, would have psentlye putt him into their house of smaale ease, as they termed it, a verye uneasye and small premises. But that we of pittie towards the poore fellowe uppon his submission, confessing the speeches, and sayinge, as indeed it was testified by the rest of his company that he was not in verye good temper at that tyme, and that we could not prove it to be of mallice toward us, for that as he sayd, he never saw us, we desired to have him released from any further punishing, but to have him bounde in recognizance, and the master of the boat with him, wherein he went for his good behaviour in the penal sum of £10.

“Afterwards the same day, *sedente curiá*, Bayliffe Lake began to use this speech unto the bayliffs of Yarmouth, and Mr. Eacher their counsell, and other there present. It is complayned unto us,<sup>1</sup> sayth he, by the haven men of the towne, that our men of the Ports refuse to pay certen ffyre money, I would fayne knowe whither by your last composicon with us we are not free of the same; they aunswered we were not; then we caused the two latter articles therof to be read. And they demaunded wherefore they had deducted out of the £6. we shoulde receyve of the yerelye sum for toll and custome 1s., if not onlye in lue and discharge therof, as also the wordes themselves imported; firste, sayd they, there was no such matter ment, will you be ffreer then ourselves who paye it; and soe began to wreste the meaninge of the composicon, and in conclusion sayd, that they remembred well the lyke questions had bene moved heretofore, and that then it was consented unto to be payd by our bayliffs that then weare, but they could not name them; but, said Bayliffe Lake, whatsoever they did, I am sure our and their comissions was allowed, and that the liberties and free customes of the Portes are always saved and reserved therein, and soe havinge noe authoirtye to do it, you can make noe president of it; but, said he, I will not wishe any of our men to paye it, and if your havens man will needs have it under you, and challenge it in your right,

<sup>1</sup> Concerning the ports men refusing to pay fire money.

let him distreyne for it, if he thincks good, and soe with other speeches for that tyme they parted.

“*Sattdaye, October 12th, 1588.* Nothing.

“*Sundaye.* This daye we made our proclamacon, beyng Sondag, at the usuall places in manner as is before discribed.

“*Mondaye, 14th Oct., 1588.* Presentments of the Jurye.

“*Imprimis.*—We present Mr. Glenne, of Norwich, for annoynge of the key with his barke or shippe called the Mathew.—It., we present Mr. Paynett for annoynge the key with his shipp called the Gifte of God.—It., we present Thomas Harris for the lyke with his newe boate.—It., we present Thomas Poynett, for drawing of blode the 7th of October last past, and strikinge with his fiste one Cooke of Colchester, Mr. of a catch.—It., we present the same Cooke for the lyke agaynst the said Thomas Poynett.—It., we present Thomas Dowell, of Newhaven, for makinge of an affraye with Nicholas Tanner, of Birthhemsteade, the 9th of October, with his fiste.—It., we present Nicholas Tanner for the lyke uppon Thomas Dowell, the same daye and tyme.—It., we present Charles Starne, of Chichester, for the lyke affraye making among those persons.—It., we present John Bakesse for affraye, makinge with Henrye Tydiman at the sea.—It., we present Henrye Tydiman, for the lyke with John Bakesse at the sea.—It., we present John Karle, of Rye, for denieng to paye to the ffyre 2*d.* called ffyre pence.<sup>1</sup>

“Which their presentments sene and read, B. Lake tould the jurye that he thought they had scarcelye performed their dutye and discharged their othe, if they coulde fynde noe other matters to present then these, for, sayth he, I am sure it is a speciall matter of your charge to seethe den and stron cleaned and avoyded, and that nothings remayne ther eyther to the incombrance or anoyauce of the same, and you may see horses and kyne and other cattell there, the place soe full as men can noe sooner lay his netts abroad, but they are amonge them readye to teare them with their ffeet, as I am not onlye informed of, sayth he, but myself have sene it, with other things belonging to your charge. I wish you look unto it, or else you are lyke to aunswere it where you would be loth; which they aunswere with many troublesome speaches at the ffirst, but in the end concluded that they were not yet discharged, and if any matter were comitted sithen the ffayre September, they might present them yett. Bayliffe Lake aunswere

<sup>1</sup> “In right of the monies which our barons of the ports demand for sustaining the fires. We will and say that the bailiffs of the barons of the ports receive, and have the twopence of the masters of ship accustomed, which are called fire pence

for sustaining the fires at the places accustomed for securitie of the arrival of ships by night so long as they shall maintain the fires.” Extract from one of the Charters of the Cinque Ports. *Jeake's Cinque Ports*, p. 14.



agayne, they might doe soe, and they should have to that endd another day given them, for he would not accept of their presentment. Then sayd Mr. Eacher, the jurye can goe noe farther than the articles of their charge, and the woordes of the articles is, as I remember, sayth he, the stron and den to be avoyded of ffeinestragd<sup>1</sup> and stallage,<sup>2</sup> and caused the same to be read in the roll of articles they had delivered unto the jurye; and it was found soe in deade, and defyned the meaninge therof. Nowe, sayth Bayliffe Lake, it is apparaunt howe you delude us, contrarye to the true meaninge of the Dyte, it is sayd there, in deade, that nothingshal be taken for ffeinestragd nor stallage in the town of Great Yarmouth dureinge the tyme of the Ffree Ffayre; but not in that place, nor mentt upon the stron and den, but the woordes of that article should be by the dyte, of perprestures and avoidences in stron and den, but sith you deal thus with us, in that you have used to give the charge, we will have the charge given hencfourth out of the dyte, and soe willed the juryemen and theirs to peruse the dyte itself, shewinge them the place, and charged them to have especiall regarde therof.

“The same daye also their grewe some questions betwene us and them for that they had by their Water Bayliff arrested the foresaid Thomas Browne, in the haven, without our knowledge, being for a matter growenge in the Ffree Ffayre, and soe within our jurisdiction, they aunswered lykewise that neyther our nor their sergeants had any thinge to doe upon the water, and it belonged onlye to the water bayliff of the towne. I admitt, sayth Bayliffe Lake, it were not within the libertie of our sergeants, which I doubt being in the haven, at above watermarcke, yett it were reason we weare made acquainted with it.

“*Tuesdaye.* This daye we had the bayliffs of Jermouth, the preacher, and diverse others of that towne to dyne with us.

“*Wednesdaye.* The same daye, there was nothing done worth the writinge of recorde.

“*Thursdaye.* Memorand, that this day we gave price unto John Fenda, of Colchester, to sell his oysters 3*d.* the pack, and caused a tickett, conteyning the price foreseid, and our

<sup>1</sup> An arrest made by the Water Bayliffe. in fairs and in markets, and stalls with

<sup>2</sup> Money paid for the setting up stalls windows.

admittance and allowance of him to be sett upp on the mast of his boat with our names herunto.

“ Here follows the usual notice for holding the Court.

“ At which court the jurye appeared, and for that Bailiff Peirs, the elder bayliff, was not there, nor could be founde, we refused to take their verdict, and therefore removed (ourselves) agayne untill next day . . . of the clock in the forenoon.

“ *Frydaye.* The usual notice for holding the Court. At which court the jurye alsoe appeared, and beyng demanded if they were agreed upp on anye more presentments, they answered noe, whereuppon Bayliffe Lake, perceyvinge, as he thought, they did it rather of purpose, and weare agreed to spite him therbye for that he had threatned them soe upp on their last presentment, tould them that it semed they had smale care of their charge, and less regarde of their conscience seinge, or that they might see at least such continuall recourse of cattell upp on the stron and den with a number of other abuses within the compasse of their charge, and well knowen unto them, but yett they woulde not present them. But, sayth he, seinge you deal thus obstinatlye with us, and will see and present but what you liste, if the bayliffs of Yarmouth will agree and consent with us herein, we woulde bynde you over to appear in the Star Chamber, to aunswer there your contempt; whereunto Mr. Eacher, their learned counsell, answered that they knewe so such cause to consent unto anye such matter. Then said Bayliffe Lake, I can but crave their assistaunce therein, if they denye it me, lett them aunswer me soe themselves and I am satisfied; they tould us then playnely theye neyther sawe cause for it, nor would agree unto it.

“ Afterwardes we toulde them we entended, on Mundaye morninge next, God willinge, to take our leave of them, and therefore demaunded veive of the prisoners agayne, which weare the same persons only forenamed, and for that there weare diverse made means unto us for the enlarging of one of them, for that he for whose cause he was apprehended and imprisoned woulde laye nothings to his charge as he sayd, it was our motive therefore that he might be acquitted by proclimacon in open court nowe upp on the deliveringe uppe of the jayle; whereunto Mr. Eacher aunswered that we had nothings to doe to deliver any prisoners, we might apprehende ffellons, but

neyther punishe nor discharge anye. I am to take noe such aunswer from you, Mr. Eacher, sayd Bayliffe Lake. The Bails for the Portes denyed to have power to punish or discharge any prisoner! But if the Bayliffs of Yarmouth will aunswer me soe, lett it be recorded and sett downe what you denye us and we shal be content. Then quoth the Bayliffs both of Yarmouth, Mr. Eacher is our learned counsell, and our mouth, and like what he hath said herein, the same saye we alsoe."

The last record in Bailiff Lake's Journal states, that on Sondaye the 20th of Oct., 1688,—“ We made our proclamation againe in like manner as before, and received our fees of £3. 10s., according to the juste composicion due unto us.”

The term Brotheryield or Brotherhood having been so frequently employed in the course of this journal we proceed to quote from Jeake's valuable book the following account of the origin and constitution of the two ancient courts of the Cinque Ports, the Brother-Yeild and the Guestling:—

“The Cinque Ports (Hastings, Hythe, Dover, and Sandwich), and two ancient towns (Rye and Winchelsea) being alike and equally privileged, and under the joint charge of shipping to be provided according to their charters, it could not be long, but of necessity they must enter into a joint association and brotherly community one with another; \* \* and this assembly of them is now called a Brotherhood. \* \* Besides the staple trade of these towns consisting much in fishing, not only of fresh fish at home, but of herrings every year in the season thereof at Yarmouth, where bringing them to shore in the sale and delivery among the multitude, divers differences and stirs more for want of a settled order in that town, or as tradition still reports before there was any town, or any other shew of a town than some butts or cabins set up neare the waterside, the Ports were enforced to agree and join together yearly to send thither their bailiffs to abide there during the herring season, allowing them a certain sum for their expenses; and the approbation of these bailiffs and hearing the reports of their proceedings there, and the raising there allowances were other necessary causes of their arrearng this their Court of Brotherhood; and moreover for joint advise and assistance one of

another in all emergencies, prudent policy enforced them to acquaint each other with the state and condition of their affairs in relation to their charters and customs, and to a unanimous defence thereof. \* \* These things also with others, made it necessary sometimes for these ports and two towns, to have conference with their members, whereupon arose another ancient court called a Guestling, where the members that are corporate as guests invited, appear and sit with those of the ports and ancient towns to consult about the general state of their affairs. \* \* The usual times for the General Brotherhood were formerly two in every year, viz., the Tuesday after the close of Easter, where was heard the report of the Bailiffs of Yarmouth at the fishing season last before, and the Tuesday next after the Feast of Saint Margaret, where the bailiffs elect to be at Yarmouth, the next herring season after were approved, at the end of which Brotherhood the General Guestling begins when one is summoned, to be holden, "the number of persons to appear at these courts were of every corporation of the ports and the two towns seven, but afterwards by a decree of the court they were reduced to five by the mayor or bailiff, two guests and two commoners. In both these courts the head officer or his deputy of one of the Cinque Ports or two Towns sits as chief, and is called in speeches addressed to him, Mr. Speaker. On each side of him sits next the other mayors and bailiffs, then the Bailiffs to Yarmouth, below them the other jurats, the clerks in their places about a table, and the other freemen below the jurats. The speaker-ship goes orderly through the Cinque Ports and two ancient towns, and continues a year in each town. It begins at Hastings, goeth to Winchelsea, so to Rye, then to Romney, &c., and after that Sandwich hath been Speaker a year, it returns to Hastings again."

The last Brotherhood and Guestling was held at New Romney on the 29th and 30th Oct., 1857, Hastings, Speaker. The members returned from the respective Ports assembled at the Town Hall, and from thence proceeded to the church according to their respective order to be observed in sitting. The speaker being supported by the recorder and the chaplain. It is highly gratifying to find in the earliest records of this deliberative assembly (older than the Houses of Lords and

Commons), that in the most turbulent times all their proceedings were opened with prayer. The chaplain on the present occasion preached an excellent sermon, not forgetting to mention the ancient glory of the ports. The principal portion of the church was set apart for such meetings, and in this instance it had a very striking appearance; a long table covered with crimson cloth, around which were seated the mayors, bailiffs, barons, combarons, and clerks of the various ports, most of them in their costume of office, with their maces and wands<sup>1</sup> before them of every variety, from the small one of Seaford, to the large and massive pair of Rye (silver gilt), and in the back ground were placed the various mace bearers, forming a group very gratifying to the eye of a Sussex Archæologist. What was the cost of the journey to Romney in 1857, does not appear, but the bill of charges incurred two hundred years before on a like occasion, may not be without interest.

They are extracted from the Chamberlains Account, 1654, expences in journeying from *Hastings* to the Brotherhood at Romney:—

“Disburst as to the Brotherhood att Winchelsea Towne, 2s. 10d., Itm., att Winchelsea Ferry, 1s., 2d., Itm., att Rye Ferry, 1s. 2d., Itm., att Guldeford Ferry, 3s., Itm., att Guldeford Ferry House, 2s. 3d., Itm., to Mr. Crompton in ye Brotherhood House, 10s., Itm., to Mr. Pepper, 3s. 10d., Itm., to the Doore-keeper there, 4s., Itm., for three quarts of Sack and one of Clarrett, 7s., Itm., to the servants of the house, 9s., 6d., Itm., for Diett and Horsemeate, £11. 7s. 5d., Itm., att Guldeford Ferry House on ye returne thence, 1s. 4d., Itm., att the Ferry there, 3s., Itm., spent att Rye, 11s., Itm., att Rye Ferry, 1s., Itm., to ye [O] stler att Rye, 1s., Itm., att Winchelsey Ferry, 1s. 6d., Itm., to Little as Sumpter man, 6s. 8d., Itm., payd for two mall Girts, 1s. 4d., Itm., for mending ye Mall, 6d., Itm., for ye tenn horses to the Brotherhood, £2.”

The members appointed to attend these courts were privileged from arrest, going and returning. In the words of an ancient record as old as 1464:—“They shall have free comyng from the place that they or he beyng dwellinge, into the said court, thoroughe all the Portes and their members, and from thence to resorte to their own, repayre through the same if hym lyste, withouten any arrest, molestacion, or inguictiacon to them, or to hym done in body or goods.”

<sup>1</sup> The Mayor of Sandwich appeared without his staff, which is black, as a mark of disgrace set on the town for a riot which

occurred in early times, in which tradition says the mayor of that day took an active part.

With the following bill of fare and the account of the Civic Feast in 1500, at Romney, we close our paper :—

Feast of St. Margaret, Romney. “At this present Brother-yeld, was adjudged the expenses and costs of Maister Lief-tenant, with diverses of the mairs, bailiffs, and jurats with him theire being at dyner. First for Hastyng, 6*s.* 8*d.*, for Wynchelsey, 6*s.* 8*d.*, for Rie, 6*s.* 8*d.*, for Romney, 6*s.* 8*d.*, for Hithe, 6*s.* 8*d.*, for Dover and Feversham, 6*s.* 8*d.*, for Sandwiche, 6*s.* 8*d.*; sum total, 46*s.* 8*d.* Whereof paid in diverse parcells of expenses, as hereafter folowith—First for bread, 14*d.*; Item, for ale, 3*s.* 6*d.*; Item, for clarett wyne, 2*s.* 8*d.*; Item, for white wynes, 2*s.* 4*d.*; Item, for beefes, 6*d.*; Item, for moton and lambe, 16*d.*; Item, for four pyggs, 20*d.*; Item, for four gese, 20*d.*; Item, six caponys, 6*s.*; Item, for six copill of conyes, 2*s.*; Item, spies (wine spices), 6*d.*; Item, in flour, 6*d.*; Item, for wod, 12*d.*; Item, for salte and otemele, 3*d.*; Item, for the torner of spitts, 4*d.*; Item, for seven pasties of moton, 7*d.*; Item, for horse-mete, 2*s.* 4*d.*; Item, for the coks labors, 3*s.* 4*d.*; Item, for three gils of wine after dynner, 6*d.*; Item, for the making of the cofre for the custodie of the charters, 10*s.*; Item, in reward to the Chamberlayne of Hastyng and Sandewich to do all things ordayned, 8*d.*; sum total, 43*s.* 4*d.*; and so remayneth in surplusse, to the comyn Cheste, 3*s.* 4*d.*”

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