

SOCIAL CONDITION OF SUSSEX IN 1631—1632.

BY WILLIAM DURRANT COOPER, F.S.A.

THE Historians of England have given the most meagre accounts of the condition of the people prior to the 18th century. The materials for a true narrative are abundant; they have, however, been but little referred to, and still less digested and used; and I have thought it well to notice in our volumes the state of our own county during one of the most depressed periods of plague and scarcity.

The poor law of 1601 had been in force for the same period as the amended law of 1834, and it is interesting to note how far the old law, with our own knowledge of the changes produced in our day, had alleviated the evils to meet which it was passed; and to mark how much care was needed to make its provisions effectual in the emergency which had occurred at an early period of its operation.

It is not necessary here to inquire what political importance is to be attached to the sufferings of the labourers from the joint influence of a wide spread disease, and a most unseasonable spring and summer, followed by a harvest so deficient as to double the price of corn. More weight, however, than has been usually given ought to be attached to the element of general distress, at a time when the King had dismissed his parliament, and was ruling without any constitutional check. The pages of our volumes are not a fit place for more than these brief remarks, which will not be deemed unnecessary by those who remember our county in 1830, with its riots, its 'Swing,' and its midnight fires.

In 1630 the extreme eastern portion of the county suffered most from the want of corn, but the upper part of the rape of Pevensey was relieved by the employment given to women and children by the clothiers in the neighbouring parts of Kent, and to the stronger bodied workmen in the iron works. The average price of wheat, except in seed time, had been 32s. a quarter; but it jumped up after the bad harvest to 64s., whilst the store was diminished by a supply to Surrey, where the price was at least one fourth higher than in Sussex; London was supplied largely from that county, and at the same time Surrey, Sussex, and Kent were allowed to send wheat to the London bakers. This, however, would have been of less importance to the labourers of Sussex, had it not been that those near the Downs lived largely on barley bread, and that barley went away also, and rose in price from 16s. to 40s. a quarter.

To lessen the suffering thus occasioned, the magistrates encouraged subscriptions to a common stock for the purchase of corn to supply the different parishes; employing 'Badgers' to buy it and re-sell it to the poor at 1s. a bushel less than it had cost, the subscription stock providing the difference; they prevented waste by malting; and they compelled the sale in public markets, and at hours convenient to the poor, of such corn as was not sold by the growers at home.

The Justices also vigorously enforced the law against vagrants by whipping and imprisonment, adding a new house of correction at Petworth for the purpose, nearly 100 being punished in Hastings rape alone; unlicensed public-houses were put down; the able poor were set to work; children above 10 years of age were apprenticed in considerable numbers (80 in Arundel rape, 50 in Chichester rape, 40 in Hastings rape, within 3 months); the charities were applied to the pious uses for which they had been left; and the Highways were put in order, in some places with 'cinder and rubbish stone.'

The orders of the Privy Council (for which I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Robert Lemon, jun.) and the extracts from the Justices' returns, preserved among the State papers in the Record Office, will be best understood by a short reference to the then state of the law.

The Statute of the 5, Edw. VI., which prohibited persons not allowed by the Justices from keeping a common ale-house, or tipling-house, or commonly selling of ale or beer, had not wrought the reformation intended, because the fine of 20s. was seldom paid, and many offenders, by reason of their poverty, were neither able to pay the fine nor bear their own charges of conveyance to gaol; and, moreover, they left a great charge of wife and children upon the parish wherein they lived. Accordingly an act was passed in 1627 (3, Chas. I., c. 4) for inflicting on any unlicensed person selling ale, beer, cyder, or perry, a fine of 20s. to the use of the poor of the parish, to be levied by distress; and, if the offender had no goods, or did not pay the penalty within six days after conviction, he was to be committed to the constable to be openly whipped. For a second offence, the punishment was committal to the house of correction for one month, to be dealt with as an idle, lewd, and disorderly person; and for any subsequent offence, the like committal till an order of the Justices in General Sessions for delivery from gaol.

The act (c. 5) of the same year continued and enlarged the acts of 43rd, Elizth., for binding children apprentices by the overseers, and enabling churchwardens and overseers, with the assent of the Justices, to set up, use, or occupy any trade, mystery, or occupation for the setting on work and better relief of the poor only; and it continued also the acts of 1st and 7th, James, for punishing rogues, vagabonds, and sturdy beggars, and other lewd and idle persons.

It was further provided that corn and grain might be exported or bought to sell again in market or out of market where the prices did not exceed for wheat 32s. a quarter, rye 20s., peas and beans 16s., and barley or malt also 16s. This was an average price in 1627, but the act was soon practically useless, since the price of wheat, from 1630 to 1640, was never lower than 44s., sometimes it reached 56s. or 58s.; in 1631 it rose in some places to 68s., and 1648 it was at 85s. Although the prices might be under those set forth in the Statute, power was reserved to the crown to prohibit the exportation, and inasmuch as the summer of 1630 was very unseasonable, and the hopefulness of the next ensuing

harvest was very much endangered, by which and by former exportation the store of corn would be shortened, the King, by proclamation, prohibited the exportation of corn, though the price might be below that set forth in the statute.¹

And at the council held at Whitehall, on the 11th June, 1630, letters of the tenor following were directed to the Justices of the Peace of the several counties of England and Wales. "Whereas it is generally observed that in most partes of the Kingdome all sorts of grayne doe this year prosper soe ill, as that there is just cause to feare a dearth to ensue. And we well knowing that those partes beyond the seas from whence we were wonte to be supplied with corne are soe wasted and troubled by warres and otherwise as that we cannot reasonably expect that supply from thence as formerly. Have, therefore, by his Ma^{tes} expresse comaund (whose princely care and providence herein for the good of his people and Realmes we cannot but with comferte acknowledge), thought good for the better husbanding and preserving of the Grayne within the Kingdome to recommend unto you these direcons following, viz. :—

Take especiall care that no corne of any kind whatsoever be exported out of that county into forraigne partes.

That all possible restraunte be made of makeing of maulte (to the end that sorte of grayne may be the more preserved for bread corne) not onely by suppressing the number of maulsters, but by lymitting those that shalbe allowed of, to convert onely such a portion of barley into maulte as shalbe needfull, and that twoe or more of you the justices next adjoyneing, take a weekly account thereof from them.

That the unnecessary number of alehouses be carefully suppress in all places within that county, and that the dependances of tenants or servantes to gent: in the country (which is generally observed) give not any connivance herein.

That the lawes provided as well against brewing or spending of strong ale or beare in innes and alehouses be strictly put in execucon, as lykewyse against ingrossers, forestallers of corne, &c., and for the regulating of the marketts in the

¹ This order was renewed on the 25th March, 1631.

prizes of grayne, and that you cause the graynaries of those to be visited who are noted for ingrossers, and see that they supply the marketts according to the lawes.

And generally that you use all other fitt courses and remedies either provided by lawe or w^{ch} you by your experience knowe best or can finde out for the preservacon and well husbanding of the grayne within that county in such manner as that there may be sufficient from tyme to tyme to supply the necessities of the country. Lastly, we expect and require that you have an account of your doeings and proceedings herein to the judges of assize, in their next circuite, unto whom his Ma^{tes} pleasure hath bene alreadie signified, to call upon you for the same, and from whom His Ma^{tie} and this board will require an account at their retourne from their said circuits. And soe expecting and not doubting of your best cares and endeavours herein, as in a matter highly importinge the public good wherein yourselves are not a little interested, we bid, &c.”

Archbishop Laud in his diary says that the winter before “was extreme wet, and scarce one week of frost. This harvest scarce; a great dearth in France, England, and the Low countries.” And after the result of the harvest had become known, further letters were, on 11th November, 1630, directed to the High Sheriffs of the several counties of England and Wales.

“You have long since received His M^{tes} proclamation and booke of orders, wherein out of his gracious care for the good of his loving subjectes hee hath bene pleased to set downe those direcons that were conceived to be most fit and requisite for the preventing of the dearth of corne which was then feared. And as wee hope that you and the Justices of the Peace have diligently performed that duty w^{ch} you owe to His Ma^{tes} commandes and the publike good, in the carefull execution of those direcons, so wee doe now expect an account thereof. And doe accordingly will and require you to certifie your proceedings, and particularly how that county is furnished and what price each severall graine doth beare in the market. And wee doe alsoe further require you to signifie from us to your successor that wee expect the lyke account from him once everie fourty daies that we may acquaint his M^{tie} therewith. And so, &c.”

On 16th February, 1627-8, a proclamation was issued for the execution of the statutes made against rogues and vagabonds, by which, after reciting the unsufferable swarms of rogues and vagabonds in every street, highway, and place, especially in and about London and Westminster and suburbs thereof and counties adjacent, and referring to the laws passed for suppressing and punishing of this sort of lewd and incorrigible people, and for the relief of the indigent aged and impotent poor, it was ordered that the laws should be enforced, and the justices in every county were required once a month to give a certificate in writing to the Lord Lieutenant, who was to make a return every two months to the Privy Council.

On 17th May, 1629, another proclamation issued for the execution of the laws for setting the poor to work, for the relief of the indigent and impotent poor, for binding out apprentices, and for providing of stocks, under which the justices were required to meet to understand the true state of the poor and report to the General or Quarter Sessions. After the bad harvest these directions were repeated and a strict watch and ward was ordered.

On January the last, 1630-1, other letters were sent by the Privy Council to the High Sheriffs of the Counties of England and Wales.

“After &c. His Ma^{tie}, in his princely care and love to the administracon of justice, takes notice that many disorders are growne in this kingdome through neglect or faint execucon of those lawes that tend to the releiving of impotent poore people, setting to worke those that are able, and punishing such as are idle and vagrant. And to stir up all others to activeness and diligence in their places (for what greater motive can be than to see such zeale of justice in a King) hath pleased to express unto us what he dislykes and what he desires to be done both for his own better informacon and the more due execucon of those lawes. To w^{ch} ende after mature deliberacon his Ma^{tie} with the advice of his Privie Councill hath thought of a way which will appeare unto you by the tenor of a comission and by orders and direcons w^{ch} herewith wee send unto you put into bookes in print, that so the same may be better published, executed, and

obeyed, willing and requiring you, the Sheriff of that county presently upon receipt thereof, to make the same knowne to the Justices of the Peace of that County, and they to make divisions amongst themselves in such sorte that what is thereby required may be exactly performed. And of such their divisions as shalbe made, that you returne the severall names of the justices of each division unto us that so wee may the better discerne upon that your returne the dilligence or negligence used in this service. Whereof his Ma^{tie} will require a good account at our hands, and so, &c.”

The returns of the justices I have arranged in the order of the several rapes from east to west.

HASTINGS.²

Sussex.—Accordinge to his Majesties orders in all obedience thereunto, wee have within this devision of Hastinge rape caused the constables, churchwardens, and overseers to give theirre monthly accompt of the performance of theirre severall offices, and wee have caused severall somes of money in the severall parishes to be raised by severall taxations of the inhabitants as well for providinge stocke to sett the poore to worke as for releife of impotent and disabled inhabitants, and have caused the said officers as much as in them lyeth to see the said poore inhabitants be dewly kept to worke and have fitting materialls provided for them, and that the idle bee dewly punished and the impotent releived; and wee have hitherto found the said officers willinge to make theirre presentments. And in this devision since the publishinge of his Ma^{ties} said orders there hath bin putt out apprentices in the severall parishes in this devision, seaventeene persons, viz., in the parish of Ticehurst, six; Plaiden, one; Peasmersh, one; Beckley, one; Montfeild, one; Wartling, two; Heathfeild, three; Saleherst, two.

There hath also binn apprehended as vagabonds in the severall hundreds within this devision three-scoare and tenn persons who have received correction and bin sent to the places by the statute in that case appointed.

² State Papers, Domestic, vol. 188, No. 34, indorsed 8th April, 1631.

Such persons allsoe as by the lawe were to bee sent to the houses of correction have bin thither sent, where they have received punishment by the statute appointed, and have been sett to labour, and we have seene to the convenient maintenance, government, and well ordering of this house of correction within this devisiion.

And wee have caused the forfeitures to bee levied of tenn severall unlicensed ale-house keepers (beinge all have binn convicted) and that wee can take notice of ; and the moneyes leavied upon them disposed of to the poore of the severall parishes where the said offences were committed.

These have beinn the severall offenders, and these offences punished in this devisiion. For the other offences menconed in the said orders there hath beinn none presented to us, nor that wee can learne guilty thereof; but as the same shall be comitted and presented to us, or that wee cann take notice of, wee shall indeavor his Ma^{ties} said orders bee dewly executed, and wee shall doe and performe what in us lyeth in the dewe execution of his Ma^{ties} said comaund.

THOMAS SACKVILL,³ RO. FOSTER.⁴

Rapa de Hastinge.⁵—To the Right Honorable the Lords and other of his Majesty's most honorable privie counsell.

WHEREAS wee received letters from yor Lordshipps, for a searche and viewe of the quantity of corne within the countye of Sussex, we, whose names are heereunto subscribed, doe herby certefye that wee have accordingly performed the said service within the rape of Hastinge (beinge the place of our devisiion), with all dilligence, and wee finde by the presentments of the veiwers that there is not a sufficient quantetey of all manner of graines to suffice the inhabitants there by a full third parte, by reason whereof our markets are not soe well stored as they ought, neither, as we conceive, is it altogether soe fitting for them that have a little to spare to bringe it to market as to sell it at home to their poore neighbors, whoe beinge very poore and farre from markt will be much more disabled by losse of time, neither have they money

³ Of Sedlescombe, K.P.

⁴ Of Battle, youngest son of Sir Thos. Foster, Justice, C.P.—See Foss' Judges,

vi. p. 157. This Robert was afterwards C. J. of King's Bench.

⁵ Domestic, vol. 190, No. 51.

to buye in time of the markett, but are constrained by reason of their necessity to buye when they have money; besides wee find those whoe have any corne to spare sell it better cheape at home to their poore neighbors then in the markets, and in those parishes which have not wherewith to supplye the wants of the poore, we have, by our earnest investigations, perswaded the able men thereof to provide corne to be layde in at every several parische for the poore; the which heitherto they have done, and are still willinge to doe the same, soe y^t corne may be procured for money: soe y^t now we become petitioners unto yor Lordships to give liberty unto us to have free passage by sea, to fet corne from those parts where it is more plentyfull, otherwise it willbe soe scarcie and deere that the poore will not be able to live. As for all other things which are contained in his Majesty's booke of orders we have punctually observed, and, God willinge, intend to continew in the observation thereof, and shallbe ever redy to fulfill whatsoever his Majesty or yr Lordships shall farther command us. Soe, leavinge all to yr Lordships' consideracions, we rest

Your Lordships' servants, to be comanded,

THOMAS SACKVILL, RO. FOSTER.

Dated this 9th of May, 1631.

On this application the following satisfactory order was made by the council on the 13th of May, 1631:—

“Their Lps. haveing been informed that within the Countie of Sussex at large, there is such plentie of corne, as it may serve to supply the wants of some places within the said Countie, where they have not sufficient to serve their tournes, and that if the poore that want should be forced to go from place to place to buy their provision within the Rape of Hastings, (where there is not sufficient to serve the inhabitants of all manner of graine by a full third parte), it would be very inconvenient and a great hindrance unto them. Their Lps., therefore, doe thinke fitt and order that corne may be provided in anie place within the Countie of Sussex, to supply the wants of the Rape of Hastings, and that the same may be carried by sea or land to anie place within the

said Countie, provided that Sir Thomas Sackvill, kt., and Robert Foster, Esquire, Deputie-Lieutenants of the said Countie and Justices of the Peace (who have certified the Board of the wants of the said Rape), doe give their warrant for the carrying by sea or land of such provisions as shall be bought for the use of the Inhabitants of that Rape, and doe take good securitie that it shall not be transported out of the kingdom or to anie other place but to the Rape of Hastings.”

And a week afterwards, on 20th May, 1631, a letter was sent by the Council “to the Justices of the Peace in the Countie of Sussex, next adjoining to the Towne of Hastings, or anie two of them, and to anie other Justices whom it might concerne.

“ We have bin informed by a peticon of the Jurats and Comonalty of the Towne and Port of Hastings, that whereas they have bin accustomed to buy such quantities of corne and graine within the countie of Sussex and elsewhere, as should be needfull for the necessarie supplie of their towne, and to transport the same by sea or otherwise to their said Towne of Hastings, that at this present their said towne is in great distress for want of corne, and they cannot be suffered to transport the same as they were wont by reason of the late published orders, forbiding the transporting of anie corne out of the said countie. These are therefore to signifie unto you, that you or anie two of you may authorize anie pourveyor that the Towne of Hastings shall appoint, to buy within the said countie of Sussex, such a proportion or quantities of wheat or barley as shall be needfull and requisit for the sustenance and reliefe of their said Towne, and to embarque the same at anie of his Ma^{tes} Ports, provided that good securitie be given not to transport the same to anie other place but to the towne of Hastings, and that it be sold therein in open markt, and not converted to the use or comoditie of anie one private man. And in case they shall have occasion to provide anie corne for the use aforesaid out of the said countie of Sussex, anie two of the Justices of the Peace next adjoining to the place where the said corne shall be bought and transported, may by virtue hereof give the like licence as aforesaid and upon the same condicions

and the shewing of these our letters shall be to you and them sufficient warrant. And so, &c."

(Signed)

Lo. Privie Seale, (Earl of Manchester).	Lo. Bishop of Winton, (Rich. Neale).
Ea. Marshall, (Earl of Arundel).	Mr. Trer, (Sir Tho ^s Edmondson).
Ea. of Suff.	Mr. Comptroll ^r (Sir Henry Vane).
Lo. Visc. Dorchest ^r	Mr. Sec ^v Coke.
Lo. Visc. Wentworth.	Mr. Chanc ^r of the Excheq ^r (Fras. Cottington).
Lo. Visc. Falkland.	

The town of Rye was also assisted in like manner.

PEVENSEY.⁶—UPPER DIVISION.

THE certificate of Sir Henry Compton, Knight of the Bath,⁷ Sir Thomas Pelham, Barronett, Sir Richard Michebourne, Knight,⁸ Robert Morley,⁹ and Anthony Fowle,¹⁰ Esqs., of their proceedings in the pursuite of the orders and directions given by the King's Majestie to the Justices of the Peace.

We have in our division, being the *wildish parte* of the rape of Pevensey, before the publishinge of the King's Majestie's orders, and ever since kept our monthly meetinge att Uckfield, viz., the first Tuesday of every month, where wee have given the overseers in charge to make provission for the poore more plentifully, which in most places hath beene performed.

And forasmuch as upon our Inquiry of the Store of Corne within our devision wee could not finde sufficiente by a greate quantity to suffice the same, wee therefore dealt with the most substantiall inhabitants of those parishes, where the poore did most abound, to afford some liberall helpe to their poore people; who, partly by the persuasions of us, and of their

⁶ Domestic, vol. 192, No. 99, indorsed May, 1631.

⁷ Of Brambletye, 2nd s. of Lord Compton.

⁸ Of Stanmer.

⁹ Of Glynde.

¹⁰ Of Rotherfield.

ministers, and of their owne charytable dispositions, have laid downe in some one parish about 30 pounds, in another 20 pounds, some lesse, accordinge to the extent and abilitie of those parishes, and above their assessments, have appointed badgers to buy corne, and to sell it to the poore twelve pence in everye bushell better cheape than itt did cost, untill the somes of money soe given weare run out; which being done accordingly hath yeelded great reliefe to the poore, and wee hope will hold out in that measure till harvest.

Apprentices have been put out within these three months to the number of 30^{tie} or thereabouts.

As for worcke for the poore, our parte of the contrey affordeth great plenty of its owne nature, by reason of our vicinity to the clothiers of Kent, who sett one worcke the weemen and children; and by reason of our Iron workes, which yeelde employments for the stronger bodies.

Alehouses licensed wee have suppressed in our devision to the number of 16teene; oure devision contayninge about 18 parishes.

We have levyed the penalties upon divers unlicensed Alehouses, and transferred the forfaytures to the use of the poore; the like wee have done to many haunTERS of alehouses.

Vagabonds and rogues have beene by the constables soe well looked into that wee thinke the contrie hath noe cause to complayne of their number, and some have beene punished for harbouringe of them.

And for high waies, the time beinge now for the amendemente of them, wee purpose to take fitting care for the same.

HENRY COMPTON, ANTH. FOWLE.

LOWER DIVISION.¹¹

To the Right Hoble the Lords of his Majesties most Honorable privie councell, Thomas Parker,¹² Knight, and Thomas Chowne,¹³ Esq., Justices of his Majesty's peace within the county of Sussex, doe humblie certifie That wee have in the East part of the Downes of Sussex,

¹¹ Domestic, vol. 192, No. 98, indorsed May, 1631.

¹² Of Ratton.

¹³ Of Frog-firle, Alfriston.

and the parts adjoining within the division wherein we dwell, indeavored, with all diligence, the performance of those directions given by his Majesties proclamacons and book of orders. Wee find that the unwonted scarcyty in the *wyldish* and other parts of this kingdome occationd by the unseasonableness of the Winter and Springe foregoing this hath drawne from hence great quantities of wheate, but especially of barly, to London and other places. In regard whereof wee have, according, as wee weare commaunded, caused a restrainte of maulting, forbidden sale of corne at houses, and appoynted the markets to be weekly supplied with those stores of graynes that are left. Which wee find to bee such as wee hope will supply the greater parte of this county adjoining to these our Downes; if in the markets it bee not bought upp for London and the Inhabitants of Kent, distant at least twentie myles from us. Wee find not anie overplus. That the rate holds soe high, viz., of wheat, at eight shillings, of barly, at fyve shillings the bushell, wee thinke to proceede from excessive prices in the countyes adjacent, and not from anie extraordinarie want of grayne, or of good orders taken in theis our parts. Concerning the assize of bread and beere, forstalling, badgers, providing for poore of parishes, putting out of apprentices, keeping of watches, punishing of rogues, and the rest, wee have taken all requisite courses and doubt not to find the successe in some sort answerable. Wee shall continue our monthly meetings, and remayne

At y^r Ho^{ble} Ld^{ps} farther commaund,

THO. PARKER, THO. CHOWNE.

LEWES.¹⁴

Right Honourable.—According to His Majesties good orders and direcons and in performaunce of our duties wee have with all due respect and care called the constables and divers others of the better sorte of inhabitants within the rape of Lewes, in the county of Sussex, before us and caused a perfect veiwe to be taken and presented unto us of all the corne and graine within the said rape. And thereuppon

¹⁴ Domestic, vol. 189, No. 15.

wee finde that there is sufficient to serve the people within the said rape, and to helpe the *wildish parts* of this county with corne; besides divers good quantities of wheate, barley, and maulte, that have beene carryed out of this rape to Rye and other places, in this county, and into some of the *wildish parts* of the county of Kent; and uppon veiwe taken and presentment made wee have allotted and allowed reasonable proporcons to the severall housekeepers for their families and bringing in of their next harvest, and ordered that out of the residue the poore of every parish should be served with soe much as will serve for them and all the rest to be brought by weekely proporcons to the marketts of Lewes and Brighthelms-ton, there to bee sould and in the sales to sell out small quantities betweene eleaven and one of the clocke, and afterwards the remaying corne to such others as shall come to the marketts to buy; and none to bee sould before eleaven of the clocke. Wee have restrayned the making of greate quantities of maulte, because the poore buy cheifely barly for their breade, which is sould in the said marketts att five shillings the bushell, and wheate att eight shillings the bushell by most sellers; but some other charitable well disposed persons sell to the poore att lower prices, and wee endeavour to abate the said prices to lower rates as farr as in us lyeth. And soe in all humblenes wee take our leaves, and rest most humbly at your Lordps comaund.

WM. COUERT,¹⁵ RIC. AMHERST,¹⁶

CHR. SWALE, ROBERT MORLEY.

Lewes, 23 Aprilis, 1631.

To the Right Honble. the Lords of His Matyes most Hoble. privy counsell.

BRAMBER.¹⁷

PLEASE your Lordships to receive certificatt from John Middleton and Edward Michell, of Horsham, in the county of Sussex, Esquires, for the Rape of Bramber, in the said county.

Wee have made our monthlie meetings, and have there

¹⁵ Of Slaugham.

¹⁶ Of Lewes.

¹⁷ Domestic, vol. 189, No. 16.

called before us the constables, churchwardens, and overseers for the poore. Wee have ordered that the impotent poore in some parishes should have their weekly allowance dobled ; in all parishes increased accordinge as wee found cause. Wee have compelled some that have misspent their tyme to fall to labor, and have provided worke for them and others that alleaged they wanted worke.

Wee have caused the overseers to put out to serve as prentises the moste of the children that are fitt to be put forthe.

Wee have caused watch and ward to bee sett, and therein apprehended many idle wandering people, whom wee caused to be dealt with all accordinge to lawe, and therby have so ridd the countrie of them that there are verie few (if any) that nowe wander in the rape.

Wee have put downe the unlicensed ale-houses and have lessened those that solde by allowance, and have ordered the brewers that they shall not serve them in any stronge beere. April the 23rd, 1631.

JO. MIDDLETON,¹⁸ EDW. MICHELL.¹⁹

Henry Goringe, of Hidowne, was long and dangerously sicke, by meanes wherof hee could not intend ye service.

THE certificatt²⁰ made the 7th of October, 1631, by the Justices of the Peace of the Rape of Bramber, accordinge to his Majesties late Booke of Instructions.

In performance of our duties to his Majesties said booke of instructions wee have observed the monethlie meetings and doe finde no complaint against constables, tythingmen, or other officers, mentioned in the booke of orders.

Wee have caused the constables and other officers to keepe a stricte wache and ward and to make diligent searche for the aprehendinge, punishinge, and sendinge away of rogues and vacabonds accordinge to lawe.

Wee have punished the disorders of innes and alehouses and made warrant for the leviinge of the forfeitures accordinge to lawe, and have put downe all alehouses in villages, and in places convenient.

¹⁸ Of Horsham.

¹⁹ Of Stammerham.

²⁰ Domestic, vol. 201, No. 34.

Wee have caused the poore children of everye parish to bee bounde apprentices that are fitt to bee bounde, and have ordered by increase of the sessments good releife to the impotent poore.

We have charged the Surveyors for the heigh wayes that they should speedely mend the heigh wayes, and they have sithence presented that they are mended.

EDW. MICHELL, JO. MIDDLETON, HEN. GORINGE.

ARUNDELL.²¹

THE certificatt of S^r William Goringe, Barronnett,²² S^r John Leedes, Knight,²³ Walter Bartlott,²⁴ and Ralfe Cooper,²⁵ Esqrs., his Ma^{ties} Justices of the Peace for the Rape of Aroundell, made the 16th day of May, 1631.

SUSSEX. *f/s.*—In performaunce of our duties to his Ma^{ties} late book of instructions, we certefie that we did assemble ourselves together, and did call before us the High Constables, Petty Constables, Churchwardens, and Overseers of the Poor in the severall parishes within our devision, and wee did enquire, as in the said book of orders is directed, and have untill this time continued our monethly meetings.

1. We find no complaint or neglect in any of the said officers, but that they have discharged ther duties according to Law.

2. We have no presentments brought unto us concerning the abuses of Inns and Alehouses, nor the frequenters of them, (though we have given strict charge to the officers, and promised rewards to the informers,) wherby no penalties hath been levied accordinge to the Statutes.

3. We have caused the poor children of every parish that are aged 10 yeeres or above, and fitt to be apprentices, to be provided masters and have likewise also taken a particular note of all the children above the age of eight yeers w^{ch} are yet unfitt to be put forth, wth the names of the ablest inhabitants in every parish which are fitt to receive them, that as they grow of yeers fitt to be put forth, they may be putt to them according to the Statute, and have likewise taken a particular note

²¹ Domestic, vol. 191, No. 45.

²² Of Burton.

²³ Of Wappingthorne in Steyning.

²⁴ Of Stopham.

²⁵ Of Stroode, in Slinfold. He was an ancient of Grays Inn.

of the number of impotent people that are to be releevd in every parish.

4. We have caused the taxations for the releefe of the poor to be raised in every parish in this time of scarsetye, and have likewise caused stocks of money to be raised in every parish to buy materialls to sett the poor a woorke, and we have caused the statute of laborors to be inquired after, and to be putt in execution.

5. We have caused watch and ward to be daily kept, and generall searches to be made for the apprehending of Rogues and Vagabonds, and have caused the High Constables and Petty Constables to use all dilligence both in apprehending and punishing of them; of which sort of people we have punished many, and sent them ether to the place of birth or last habitation. And we have lately erected a house of correction at Pettworth, which untill this time was annexed unto the house of correction of the rape of Chichester.

6. We have lately caused a search to be made within the Inns and Alehouses within our devision for all potts and measures which wear not sealed and of assize, and have given directions for the taking away and breaking of all such as shalbe so found, and have nominated and appointed perticuler men to assist the officers in ther searches, to prevent the remissnesse of the officers in that kind, of which warrants we shall have no returne untill our next monethly meeting.

7. We have made a generall abridgment of Alehouses; allowinge to every parish, being no markett towne, but one Alehouse onely, and in markett townes have lessened the number, and have sent out our warrantts for the punishinge of all such as sell without licence according to the Statute in that case provided.

8. We have given in charge to the Surveyors of the High Wayes both for the present amending of them, and for presenting the defaulters.

9. We have made dilligent inquiry what hath been given to pius uses in every parish within our devision and howe employed, and do find within the parish of Pettworth one Hospitall lately erected by one Thomas Thompson²⁶ for 12 poor people,

²⁶ See Suss. Arch. Coll., xiv., p. 21.

indowed wth the anuall rents of 100 marks per ann.; the rent of one house given by Edward Hall for the breeding up of poor children to schoole, being 4^{li} per ann.; and the rents of severall houses, given by other men, towards the releef of the poor of the vallew of 8^{li} per ann.; with a stock of money of 100^{li}; all w^{ch} is disposed of, and paid by the overseers of the poor and feoffees, accordinge to the true intent and meaning of the donors. And in the parishes of East Preston, Angmering, and Ferring,²⁷ fouer pounds severally given by one Thomas Martin, the use wherof to be given to the poore for ever, which we finde upon the overseers' accounts to be converted to the uses it was given and intended; and likewise xx^{li}, lately given by Mrs. Dautry, to the parish of Pettworth, w^{ch} is not yett paid into the hands of the Overseers, but wilbe performed by her Sonn, S^r Henry Dautry, according to her intent and meaning. And in the parish of Bury xx^{li}, bequeathed by legacy, which is now depending in suit.²⁸ In the parish of Slinfold, xv^{li} the use whereof is converted to the poore.²⁹ In the parish of Chiltington, 10^{li}, the use converted to the releefe of the poor, it being given by Owen Batchellor. And in the parish of Pulberough, 20^{li}, the use wherof is likewise converted to the releefe of the poor; and in the parish of Storrington, five pounds, the use wherof is converted to the releefe of the poor. And in East Preston, five shillings for ever to be given to five poor people, bequeathed as a legacy by Rob^{te} Younge, of the same parish; all w^{ch} said severall somes we find disposed of upon the overseers' accounts according to the donors' intent.

We have taken espetiall care that the Taxations for the releefe of the poor should not be lessened at this time through the charity of any man's guift.

WILL: GORINGE,
RALFE COWPER,

JOHN LEEDES,
WA. BARTELOT.

A certificate³⁰ made by the Justices of the Peace of the Rape

²⁷ This charity is only now known at Angmering.

²⁸ Left by Elizabeth Nash. See Charity Commissioners' Report, p. 637.

²⁹ This and the following are now lost.

³⁰ Domestic, vol. 203. No. 34.

of Arrundell, according to his Majesties late booke of instructions, dated xijth of November, 1631.

In performanse of our duties to his Majesties late Booke of Instructions wee certifie that wee have observed the monthly meetings, and doe finde noe complaints against Constables, Tythinge, or other officers menconed in the saide Booke of Orders.

Wee have punished the abuse of Inns and Alehouses; and made warrants for the levyinge of the forfeitures accordinge to lawe.

Wee have caused the poore children of every parish to be bounde apprentics that be fitt to be bounde; and have taken the names of those children that are above eight yeares oulde, and of the ablest inhabitants who are fitt to receive the said childrene when they are fitt to be put forth; and have likewise taken a noate of the impotent people in every parishe.

Wee have raised the Taxacons to the poore in every parish, and provided stock to sett them one work. Wee have also caused the statute of laborers to be putt in due execucon.

Wee have caused watch and warde to be kepte and searches to be made, and caused the Constables and Pettye Constables to use all diligence in the apprehendinge, and punishinge of Rogues and Vagabonds, and sendinge them awaie accordinge to Lawe.

Wee have given direcons to the constables and other officers to present all such as doe sell beare or ale by unlawfull measures, and to break the potts and measures w^{ch} shall be founde unsealed and not of assize.

Wee have putt downe all Alehouses in villages, unlesse y^t be in places conveniente.

The severall stocks w^{ch} were given to all the parishes within the said rape for the releefe of the poore are employed accordinge to the intencon of the giver.

WILL : GORINGE, JOHN LEEDES.

May itt please yo^r Lordships,³¹

In obedience to yo^r Lordships comaund, signified by your letters dated the 18th of October,

³¹ Domestic, vol. 210, No. 57.

1631, we the justices of the peace of the rape of Arrundell, Sussex, doe certefie that we have made a diligent inquiry with a strict examination both of the constables, churchwardens and overseers of the poore, as alsoe by other substantiall men which wee employed in that service, beinge as neere as we could noe corne masters, and such as wee hadd formerly employed in the viewinge and searchinge of barnes and graneries, who returne that they nether of there own knowledge nor by report or search cann find or heere of any corne horded up, and not brought into the marketts, accordinge to his Ma^{ties} booke of orders; and wee find that the marketts during that tyme weare served with plenty of corne: nether doe they present any quantities of corne that were left in the latter end of the yere, but such as weare usuall and necessary, which we are induced to beleeve to be true, for that in our last views taken in Aprill and May, there appeared then unto us noe greater quantities of corne then would serve the rape (the provissions for victuallinge his Majesty's navy, and the townes of Hastings and Rye being supplied) which by your lordships' warrant we wear comaunded to doe; which proporcons beinge allotted to them the punctuall servinge of the marketts with those quantities which wear returned could not be observed; besides we havinge given directions to the corn masters of every parishe for to serve and relieve there poore att there houses, giving an account unto the churchwardens and overseers of the poore of the quantities; which account att our monthly meetings we received from them; which otherwyse would have beene much prejudicall to the labors of poore laboringe people if they should have attended the marketts onely for ther releefe. And wee do conceive that the extraordenary rates of corne att that tyme advanced in prise with us to be in respect of the adjacent marketts of Surrey, to which usually the purveyors for the citty of London doe resort for there provissions in those parts, which wee doe humbly present unto your Lordships, for a reason for that both now and in former tymes, when noe dearth is presented we find our marketts in these parts to rise and fall in prises, as the marketts in Surrey do fall or rise, for those marketts doth for the most part exceed us in prise two shillings in the bushell, if not more. And for

this season we retorne that our marketts doth not as we conceive exceed in the prises of corne, for that the best wheat (seed tyme only excepted) hath ben sould much about xxxij^s. the quarter, and barley at xx^s., and for other graine in proportion.

Wee have likewyse examined the officers of the port of Arrundell about the transportation of corne, and we find by them none as yett transported from there by licence from yo^r L^{dps} or otherwyse. And soe with the tendar of our duties we humbly submitt o^r selfs,

Yo^r Lo^{dps} humble servants,

WILL. GORINGE, JOHN LEEDES,
WA. BARTELOT, RALFE COWPER.

January the 23th, 1631—2.

To the right honorable. the Lords of his
Ma^{ties} most honorable. Privie Councell.

CHICHESTER.³²

The certificate of William Forde, Knight, Richard Lewkenor, William Nevill, and Christopher Lewkenor, Esqs., his Majesty's Justices of the peace of the rape of Chichester, made the 18th day of May, 1631.

1. In the performaunce of our duties to his Majesties late booke of instructions wee certify that wee have observed the monthly meeteinges, and doe finde noe complaint against constables, tythingmen and other officers menconed in the said booke of orders.

2. Wee have raysed the taxacons to the poore in every parish, and provided stockes to sett them on worke; wee have also caused the statute of labourers to bee putt in due execution.

3. Wee have putt downe all alehouses in villages unlesse it bee neere a creeke or haven, and suppressed them for y^e most parte in the markett townes, and have made warrants for the punishinge of all that sell without licence.

4. Wee finde that there is the some of forty pounds lands per annum given to the reliefe of the poore of the Borough of

³² Domestic, vol. 191, No. 63.

Midhurst,³³ it is bestowed by the feoffees accordinge to the donor's intention. Wee also finde that there is xx^{li} in money given by one Mr. Allen, deceased, to bee employed as a stocke for the poore of ye parish of Slindon, w^{ch} stock is likewise employed accordinge to the intention of the giver.³⁴

5. Wee have given in charge to the Surveyors of High Wayes, for the present amendinge of the wayes and presenting the offenders, and wee hope that presently it will be donne now that the barley season is passed and people may intend carryages.

6. Wee have given directions to the constables and other officers to present all such as doe sell beare or ale by unlawfull measures, and to breake all potts and measures w^{ch} shall be found unsealed and not of assize.

7. Wee have received no presentments concerninge the abuses of inns and alehouses nor the frequenters of them; though wee have given strict charge to y^e officers, and promised rewards to the informers.

8. Wee have caused the poore children of every parish to bee bound apprentices that are fitt to bee bound, and have taken the names of those children that are above eight yeares of age, and of the ablest inhabitants who are fitt to receive the said children when they are fitt to bee putt fourth; and have likewise taken a noate of the impotent people in every parish.

9. Wee have caused watch and ward to bee kept and searche to bee made and caused the constables and petty constables to use all diligence in the apprehendinge and punishing of rogues and vagabonds, and sending them away accordinge to the lawe.

WILLM. FORDE,³⁵ R. LEWKENOR.³⁶
CHRT. LEWKENOR,³⁷ WILLIAM NEVILL.

By "a certificate³⁸ made by the Justices of the Peace Rape of the of Chichester accordinge to his Majesties late Booke of Instructions, dated vicesimo nono die

³³ Founded in 1596 by a deed executed by George Ognell: it consists of 158^a of land. See Charity Commissioners Report, p. 799.

³⁴ Now lost.

³⁵ Of Harting.

³⁶ Of Westdean.

³⁷ Of Chichester, afterwards Recorder.

³⁸ Domestic, vol. 202, No. 41.

Octobris, 1631," they made a like return that they had received no complaints against officers; that they had punished abuses of Inns and Alehouses; that they had apprenticed poor children, and taken a note of the ablest inhabitants for those under eight years of age when they should be fitt; that they had raised the taxations for the poor, and provided stocks to set the poor to work; that they had caused watch and ward to be kept, and Rogues and Vagabonds to be punished; that the officers were directed to present sellers of beer and ale in unlawful measures; that they had put down all the alehouses "in villages, unless it bee in places convenient;" that they had given in charge to the surveyors the mending of Highways, and that "the Highwayes are accordingly mended;" and that the stocks given to the Borough of Midhurst and parish of Slindon, for the relief of the poor, had been employed according to the donors' intentions.

The harvest of 1631 was fortunately productive, and from the returns of the Justices in 1632 we find a general improvement in Sussex.³⁹

HASTINGS.⁴⁰

Accordinge to his Majesties instructions and the letters of the Lords and others of his Majesties Privie Counsell, wee have placed out apprentices in the severall parishes of Battell, Burwashe, Hooe, and Heathfield, within this division, thirtie apprentices of poore children within the s^d parishes; and there hath binn within the space of foure moneths now last past whipped, as comon Roges and Wandringe parsons, twentie and seaven persons, who have alsoe accordinge to the lawe bene sent to the places of their bearth, where it can be knowne, and wheare that cannot be knowne to the places of their last aboade. Wee have also sent others to the house of correction in this division, where severall persons now are. And the s^d house is sufficiently provided with materialle for settinge them and others as shalbe sent there to worke. Of all which wee

³⁹ This year, however, was unfavourable. Laud says that the January of 1631-2 was "the extremest wet and warm," and the June was the "coldest clean through" within memory; and

owing to the cold summer, the harvest was "not in, within 40 miles of London, after Michaelmas."

⁴⁰ Domestic, vol. 220, No. 19.

thought it our part to certifie to you, to whome wee comend our kinde loves, and rest

Yo^r lo^r. freinds,

THOMAS SACKVILLE, RO. FOSTER, WILLIAM WHITE.⁴¹

Battell, this 5th of July, an^o 1632.

To o^r very lo. friende Roberte Morly, Esqr., High Sheriffe of the County of Sussex. These, &c.

BRAMBER.⁴²

The certificatt for the rape of Bramber, in the county of Sussex, made the fower and twentieth day of Maye, 1632.

Wee have continued our monethlie meetinge accordinge to the book of orders.

Wee have punished accordeinge to the statute certeine licensed alehouse keepers that did most offend against the lawe. Wee have suppressed all unlicensed houses and some that were licensed whoe dwelt in unfittinge places.

Wee have caused a strict prosecution against idle wanderers, by which meanes the rape is verye little troubled with such.

Wee have caused the overseers for the poore to bind to prentice the poore children as they come to yeares and strength fitt to bee putt forthe.

Wee have caused the Dikes in the Highways of the *wildishe parte* of the rape to be made or scowered, and have ordered the surveyors to mend the worst places with sinder and rubbishe stone.

JO. MIDDLETON, RALFE COWPER.

ARUNDEL.⁴³

The certificate of S^r William Goringe, Barronett, S^r John Leedes, Knight, Walter Bartlott, and Ralphe Cooper, Esqrs., his Ma^{ties} Justices of the Peace for the rape of Arundell, made the 9th day of July, 1632.

In performaunce of o^r duties to his Majesties book of instructions we do certefie that we have continued our

⁴¹ Of Brickwall in Northiam.

⁴³ Ibid, vol. 220, No. 41.

⁴² Domestic, vol. 216, No. 76.

monethly meetings, and do call before us the High Constables and Petty Constables, w^h the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor of every parish within our devisiōn, and of them do inquire as in the said book of orders is directed.

1. And we find no complaint nor neglect in the said officers, but that they have discharged their severall duties.

2. And we have received no presentments from them concerning the abuses of inns and alehouse licenses, but divers presentments of unlicensed alehouses, which we have caused to be punished according to the statute, and the forfeitures are employed accordinglye.

3. And that we have caused the poor children of every parish within our divisiōn that are fitt to be placed to be put forth apprentices to the ablest inhabitants, the number whereof the year 1631 amounts unto the number of four score, and do still continue the same practise for this present year 1632.

4. And we do continue our care for the releefe of the poor that are impotent, and for the settin such a work as are able, by the stock of every parish rayseed for that end.

5. And we have caused Rogues and Vagabonds to be punished, and our house of correction to be imploied for the punishing and settinge them to work according to the statute.

6. And we have taken especiall care for the mending of the high waies, having at our generall quarter sessions presented the defaulters both by our oune view, as allso by the informations of the Surveyors, and have proceeded against them according unto the statutes in that case provided.

7. And we are very carefull that donations given to pious uses be rightlye imploied to the intention of the donors.

WILL: GORINGE, JOHN LEEDES, WA: BARTELOT.

CHICHESTER.⁴⁴

An exactly similar return was made by Thomas Boyer, Barronett,⁴⁵ Richard Lewknor, and Christopher Lewknor, Esqrs., for the rape of Chichester; the blank for the number of poor children apprenticed being filled up with fifty.

⁴⁴ Domestic, vol. 210, No. 92.

⁴⁵ Of Leythorne.