

The Grants of Murage to Norwich, Harmouth, and Lynn.

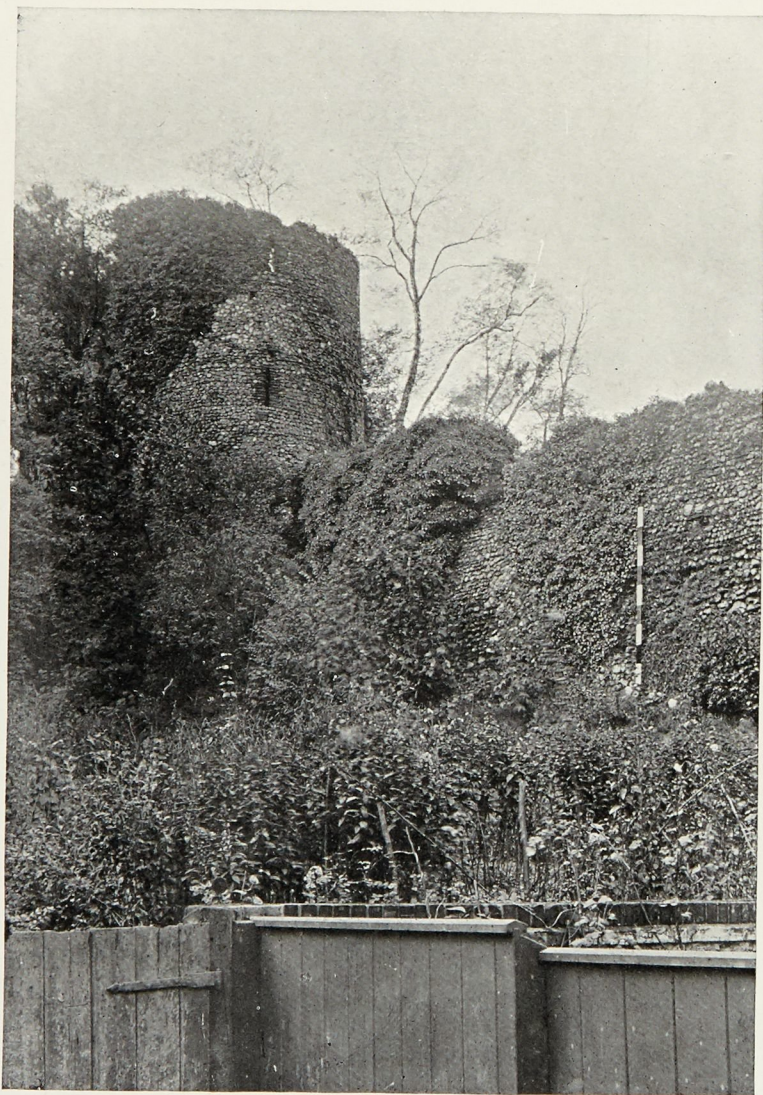
COMMUNICATED BY

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The bare statement in the Calendar of the Patent Rolls that Norwich obtained a grant of a murage in 1305 for five years is not on the face of it very interesting. It is to be regretted that the researcher is not informed that a list follows which contains the various goods on which tolls might be levied and their amount. There is every reason to expect that these lists, which afford some insight into local trade, are recorded for every town in England and Ireland to which a murage was granted. At least my experience, though small, leads me to think so, for I have found it true of every grant which I have examined and, in all probability, grants of pavage or other tolls would give similar results.

Perhaps it is as well to explain that murage was a toll levied for the building or repair of public walls, a heading under which town walls naturally fall. Yet
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NORWICH CITY WALL. WEST SIDE OF KING STREET.

By permission of the Corporation.

it is evident that the Royal permission to exact the tolls was necessary. Foreign merchants, though regarded with jealousy and suspicion by townsmen, were favoured by the crown, and they would not be slow to give information at headquarters if they obtained an unsatisfactory reply to the question, "By what right do you claim the power to take this toll of my goods?" The merchants, we may add, were certain to be members of some more or less important society which was eager to assert its standing. In the same way the merchants could insist that the sums exacted from them were employed upon the works for which they were claimed, for the king could seize the amount collected if it was evident that the money was either not spent or expended upon objects which were foreign to the purpose of the grant. The very thing happened at Yarmouth, where the townsmen obtained a murage grant as early as 1261.¹ We read in Blomefield² that in 1262 the walls not being yet begun, and it being yet undetermined when they actually would be begun, the merchant strangers preferred a complaint against the town for the imposition of the tolls. Upon this the custom was annulled and the moneys already collected on that account were ordered to be refunded to the king's use.

The last sentence is too presumptuous. There is evidence that the tolls continued to be collected by local officers and that a round sum of forty marks was paid to the Sheriff of Norfolk as an equivalent. In the Pipe Roll of 1277-8 forty marks are accounted for, which the men of Yarmouth received of vendible things for enclosing the town, which they had not done. Words to the same effect are, no doubt, to be found in the

¹ *Rot. Pat.*, 45 H. III., m. 3.

² Vol. xi., p. 355.

other rolls of the period, and there will be occasion to allude to this sum again,¹ when it will appear that the above procedure went on for upwards of twenty years.

In addition to murage, pavage, pontage, and so forth, which we may call extras, the towns had the customary right of levying tolls chiefly on imported goods, though exports did not always escape. Such duties as were claimed at Norwich will be found in *Norwich Records*, vol. ii., p. 199, and those claimed at Lynn by the owners of the Tolbooth in *Norf. Antiq. Miscel.*, vol. iii., p. 607.

How long this custom had existed in the large towns of Norfolk is not clear. King John granted toll and theam to Lynn by charter in 1204, and to Yarmouth in 1208. The Norwich charters do not contain these actual words, yet the liberty may have been recognised when King Henry II. confirmed to the citizens all the customs which they had in the time of his grandfather, that is Henry I., or when Richard I. granted to them all customs which the citizens of London had. It is possible that all the above charters did nothing more than give the royal sanction to long-standing practices.

Abuse of the privilege was easy and, I fear, not uncommon, for in 1275 it was thought necessary to enact by the First Statute of Westminster² that if outrageous tolls were taken in market-towns the king should seize the franchises of the market. Moreover, the same statute decreed that if citizens and burgesses, to whom the king or his father had granted murage, exacted it otherwise than it was granted to them, they should lose their grant and be heavily amerced. Acting upon this statute some of the commonalty of Lynn complained to the king,

¹ p. 133 *infra*.

² *Stat.*, 3 E. I., c. 31.

in 1311, that the collectors levied excessive amounts and applied to their own use several customs, including the murage. Auditors were thereupon sent down to examine the accounts since 1296,¹ at which date the town had possessed a murage grant.

The desire to surround towns with walls was not entirely for the purpose of military defence. The enclosure not only deterred the entry of a hostile force, but prevented peaceful traders from introducing their wares and disposing of them by stealth, thus escaping the customary tolls. Nothing could enter a walled town except by passing through the gates or openings in the wall and so coming under the eyes of the gate-keepers or of the watch at the openings.

From start to finish, the task of building the walls was tedious and protracted. Though Blomefield² would have us believe that Norwich obtained a patent for a murage in 1294 and that the walls were begun in that year, his statement remains unverified. Still he is undoubtedly correct when he adds that a similar licence was acquired in 1297.³ This was to run for seven years and when it expired the citizens petitioned parliament for its renewal. Their petition was granted and the murage was revived for another five years.⁴ A murage-house, or loft as it was afterwards called, was erected in the market-place soon after the first grant, and here the tolls were collected and the accounts kept.⁵ It seems to have been elevated above the surrounding stalls so that the entire market could be overlooked from its windows.

Some two months after the second grant the inhabitants of Norwich complained that excessive tallages were

¹ *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, p. 317.

² *Vol. iii.*, p. 67.

³ *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, p. 327.

⁴ *Rot. Parl.*, vol. i., p. 161.

⁵ *Norwich Records*, vol. ii., p. 35, etc.



BACK OF S.E. TOWER AND WALL, GREAT YARMOUTH.

exacted from them and misappropriated.¹ We are not informed that these tallages were in any way connected with the murage, but when the grant expired about 1310, it does not appear to have been renewed until seven years had passed. Then it was revived for three years,² after which it seems to have been in abeyance until 1337. In that year the last murage grant was obtained.³ It was to run for five years and it was farmed out to a citizen, Richard Spynk, on the condition that he would complete the walls. This he had accomplished by 1343, though not without a considerable outlay of his own money, which he was public spirited enough to expend as a free gift to the city.⁴ It is well to observe that he finished the work forty-six years after it had been begun and before the great rise in the price of labour was occasioned by the Black Death.

Yarmouth possessed no such generous townsman as Richard Spynk, and what might have happened at Norwich, but for him, may to some extent be guessed by the tale of the Yarmouth wall-building. Though more than twenty years elapsed after the murage grant of 1261 which was abortive, before another was obtained in 1285,⁵ yet a still greater interval occurred between this second and the third grant. Swinden says that the walls were begun about 1285.⁶ In that year, and on the same day as the grant was executed, letters were sent to the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer ordering them to discharge the payment of 40 marks by the men of Yarmouth, who had shown the king that they had spent more than this sum upon the enclosure

¹ *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, 1307—1313, p. 42. The complaint is referred to the 33rd year of E. I. See also *Norwich Records*, vol. i., p. 61.

² *Ib.*, 1317—1321, p. 50.

³ *Ib.*, 1334—1338, p. 529.

⁴ *Norwich Records*, vol. ii., p. xxxiii.

⁵ *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, 1281—1292, p. 177.

⁶ *Hist. of Yarmouth*, p. 76.

of their town and the ditches round it.¹ It may be that during the intervening years since 1261 a large sum of money had been accumulated for the projected walls by means of free gifts and legacies. This sum when augmented by the seven years' murage may, perhaps, have lasted until 1321² when the third murage was granted. From that date until 1399 the sequence of fourteen grants for periods varying between three and ten years is practically without a break. The only interval is between 1338 and 1346, but it is nearly filled by a pavage grant.

Blomefield,³ or rather his editors, gives the opinion that the work of building the walls was not progressively carried on, and mentions as one cause of the neglect the visitation of the great plague in 1349. Yet in 1351⁴ on the expiration of the grant of 1346, its renewal was immediately procured and, as we have said, the murage tolls were maintained for some fifty years longer.

Very likely the yield after the plague was small in comparison to what it had been before, and as labour was dearer the work accomplished did not bear the same proportion to the funds expended. As we hear of no complaints that the funds were diverted to other purposes, and as the grants were renewed without demur, we may conclude that the erection of the walls proceeded though very slowly all the time. So slowly, in fact, that in 1369 the completed portions were already beginning to show signs of decay, and the ordinary murage grant obtained in that year was supplemented by another for the repair of the walls.⁵ Little heed should be paid

¹ *Cal. Rot. Claus.*, 1279—1288, p. 328.

² *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, 1321—1324, p. 35.

³ *Vol. xi.*, p. 355.

⁴ *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, 1350—1354, p. 23.

⁵ *Rot. Pat.*, 43 E. III., pt. i., m. 4.

to the grave information it contains that the repair was an imminent necessity, because not merely the town and its neighbourhood, but even the whole country was endangered by the state of affairs. That is simply the form in which such grants were issued. What is certain is that the Bailiffs got permission to rate all the inhabitants according to their means for a contribution towards the cost of the work, and to impress workmen wherever they could put their hands upon them.

Swinden¹ thought that by the aid of the grant of 1390, which was for five years,² the walls were finished about 1396. But that is unlikely, for in 1395, as soon as the grant upon which he bases his statement had expired, the townsmen obtained another for three years.³ Swinden was, evidently, misled through this being termed a pontage grant in the margin of the roll. It is not the final one either, for it was renewed in 1399 in identical words excepting the alteration of the date, and this time it is called a pavage grant.⁴ I can give no satisfactory answer to the question, "Why was this change in the description made?" As a matter of fact the five grants made by King Richard II. are all alike and evidently copies of his first one. Yet, as all contain the words "in aid of enclosing the town," and are silent as regards bridges and paving, we conclude that had the proceeds been expended on such improvements they would have been misappropriated. Both the final grants are called "murage" in the calendar of the rolls. Owing, it may be, to the haven absorbing all the attention and resources of the burgesses, no similar ones later than Richard's reign have been discovered.

¹ *Hist. of Yarmouth*, p. 79.

² *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, 1388—1396, p. 277.

³ *Ib.*, 1391—1396, p. 603.

⁴ *Ib.*, 1396—1399, p. 572.

Swinden¹ has, moreover, given some murage accounts showing how the money collected was expended, and also the weekly receipts derived from the murage in 1342-3. The total for that year was £66 7s. 11½d., which is not a very large sum when compared with the assessment of Yarmouth for the subsidy, that is the king's tenths and fifteenths, which was £100.²

We must remember that the freemen of nearly all the large towns in the kingdom were toll-free throughout the realm, and it is not very easy to comprehend how they could be compelled to pay the murage dues. *Bona fide* aliens were naturally mulcted and probably the Yarmouth merchants did not escape. As they shared in the benefits of the enclosure it was reasonable that they should contribute, besides they were toll-free in other places where also the natives were not, and thus the disadvantage was equitable. The idea of competition for business had not developed. If the local merchants felt compelled to put up their prices, those from a distance would seize the opportunity for doing likewise, and it is much to be feared that the consumers paid a sum for the walls many times in excess of that expended upon their construction, the residuum finding its way into the pockets of the merchants from other towns.

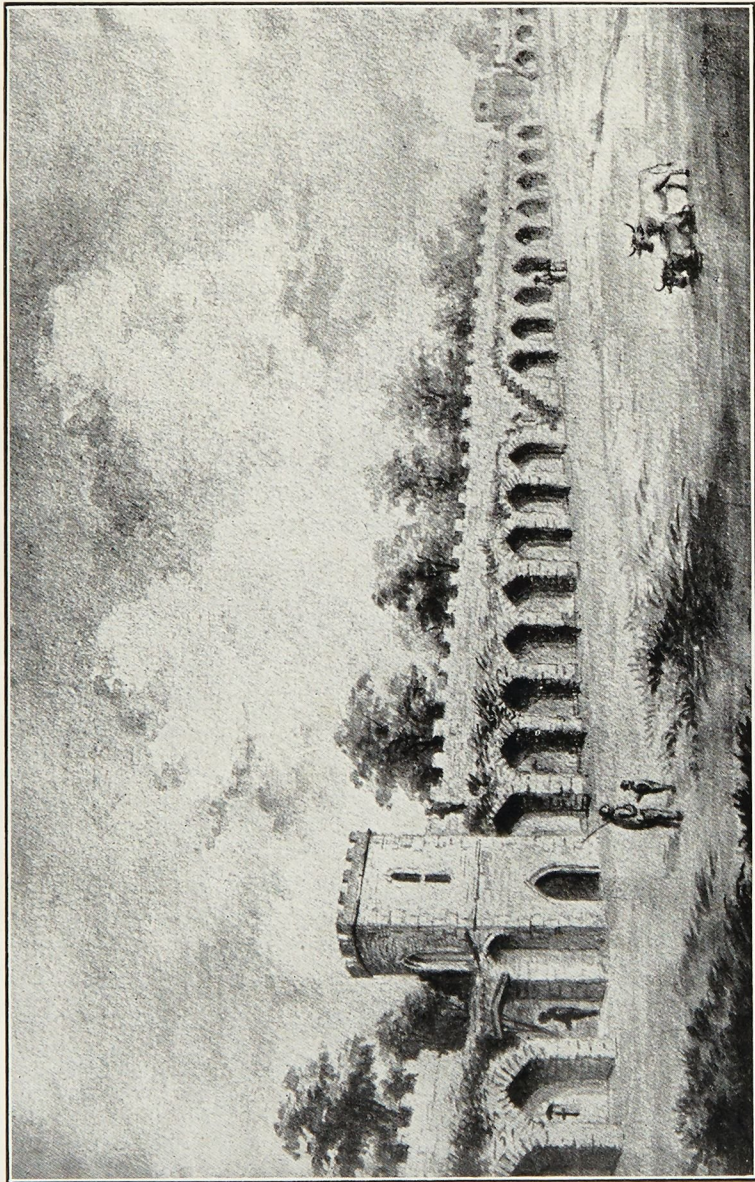
According to Swinden the extent of the Yarmouth wall was 2,238 yards.³ The Norwich walls had a total length of about 2¼ miles⁴ or 4,000 yards, but Lynn rested content with about 500 yards of stone wall. It fortified the east side of the northern district called "The New Land," and contained the East Gate. This district had been laid out by Bishop Turbe, 1146-74, and the late Mr.

¹ *Hist. of Yarmouth*, pp. 79-95.

² *Norfolk Archæology*, vol. xii., p. 280.

³ *Hist. of Yarmouth*, p. 82.

⁴ *Report of the City Committee (Norwich) as to the City Walls*, p. 5.



LYNN: TOWN WALL AND WHITE TOWER.

From a drawing in the possession of E. M. Beloe, F.S.A.

E. M. Beloe, F.S.A., held the opinion that the Bishop also built the wall.¹ If that is true it is difficult to conceive for what purpose the men of Lynn obtained their murage grants at the close of the next century. On the other hand the small extent of the wall is just what we might expect when we find that there were but three murage grants to Lynn. One was obtained in 1294 to run for six years,² and in 1300 it was renewed for seven years,³ making thirteen years altogether. For more than thirty years it appears that, partly owing, perhaps, to the alleged offences of the collectors, the murage was dormant, but it was revived for a period of three years in 1339.⁴ I have not been able to trace it after this. It may be that the burgesses regarding the little progress that was made resolved to abandon the task.

Yet, even if the 500 yards of wall were the result of these grants, we know that this did not constitute the first fortification of Lynn. In 1277 the Bishop joined with the Mayor and Burgesses in a complaint that the wall with which they had enclosed the town at the command of King Henry III. for their safety and against the rebels of the king, was pierced and pulled down by certain persons living near it.⁵ When we remember the number of years which elapsed while the walls of Norwich and Yarmouth were building, and other walled towns had a similar experience, we cannot believe that this early wall, constructed, as it seems, in a short time, could have been anything but a bank of earth. Most likely it was the same as the "clay wall," on the making and mending of which some money was expended in 1377, when there was a scare of a French invasion.⁶

¹ *Norfolk Archæology*, vol. xii., p. 333.

² *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, 1292—1301, p. 74.

³ *Ib.*, p. 491.

⁴ *Ib.*, 1338—1340, p. 240.

⁵ *Ib.*, 1272—1281, p. 238.

⁶ Hillen, *Hist. of Lynn*, p. 759.

The most simple method of making an earthen wall is to cut a parallel trench, casting up the removed soil on one side of it, and there was no necessity for a more arduous undertaking here. We may say then, that the wall and the Town Foss were contemporary, and we conclude that they were considered a sufficient protection where the stone wall was discontinued. The adjoining marsh was, most likely, treacherous ground in the early days of Lynn, rendering approach to the town extremely difficult in that quarter. The trench, too, cut in such low ground, would be filled by the surface water and by the brooks running down from the uplands, or if connected with the tidal waters the influx could be retained by means of floodgates. There were "sluices for keeping the water in the ditches round the town" in 1298, when it also appears that the foss had recently been enlarged.¹

On the whole, I think the defences were better adapted to control trade than to withstand an enemy. Two causeways carried over the surrounding marsh were the only secure roads leading to the town. The one to the north-east was barred by the East Gate and its drawbridge and, as the soil seems to have been slightly higher and, therefore, drier in this direction, the gate was flanked on either side by the stone wall already mentioned. The other on the south was similarly barred by the South Gate, but here there was no flanking wall. The South Gate appears to have been a timber structure when first erected and, subject to correction, I venture to suggest that the murage grant of 1339 was obtained to defray some of the cost of rebuilding it with more durable material.²

¹ *Cal. Rot. Pat.* 1292—1301, pp. 458, 473.

² Hillen, *Hist. of Lynn*, p. 760.

There remains to notice the river frontage. What was there to hinder the surreptitious landing of goods or the onset of an enemy here? So far as I am aware, it was quite without defences. Looking at it after the lapse of so much time, we should think that this was the weakest side of all. Yet it is never safe to assume that our ancestors were a race of simpletons. They had their reasons and their foolhardiness is only imaginary. Very likely goods could be landed but at few spots whatever the state of the tide, and there was no screen behind which an illicit trader could hide his vessel. If it were worth his while, he might take advantage of a dark night in winter, braving the perils and the errors attending it. A hostile flotilla could run up to the town on the flood tide, but when there it must deliver a frontal attack. If that were unsuccessful, the choice lay between beating out against the flood or being carried down by the shoaling waters of the ebb. Castle Rising, where the inhabitants were on the watch and ready to add to the difficulties of the situation, had also to be reckoned with. It is true, I believe, that no such attempt was made, but then, could not the same be said of any other and defenceless portion of the Norfolk coast line?

Dealing with the actual grants it will be more convenient to take those to Yarmouth first. They are the earliest and most numerous and cover the greater part of the ground. It will further simplify the task if a list of them be given with the periods for which they were to run, viz.:—

- (1) 45 Hen. III. 1261, for 6 years.
- (2) 13 Edw. I. 1285, for 7 years.
- (3) 15 Edw. II. 1321, for 7 years.
- (4) 1 Edw. III. 1327, for 5 years.
- (5) 6 Edw. III. 1332, for 3 years.
- (6) 9 Edw. III. 1335, for 3 years.

(7) 12 Edw. III. 1338, for 3 years. (8) 20 Edw. III. 1346, for 5 years. (9) 24 Edw. III. 1351, for 7 years. (10) 32 Edw. III. 1358, for 5 years. (11) 37 Edw. III. 1363, for 7 years. (12) 43 Edw. III. 1369, for 10 years.¹ (13) 3 Ric. II. 1379, for 5 years. (14) 8 Ric. II. 1384, for 5 years. (15) 14 Ric. II. 1390, for 5 years. (16) 19 Ric. II. 1395, for 3 years. (17) 22 Ric. II. 1399, for 3 years.

In 1, 2, and 3 the various goods on which tolls might be levied and the sums liable to be exacted from them are the same, as follows:—

Once a year, of every ship entering the Port of Yarmouth wheresoever it may be within the port	...	...	...	6d.
Of every last of herrings going out of the port	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ sack of wool within the port	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ load (summa) of vendible corn going out of the port	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ garb of steel entering the said port	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ cwt. (centena) of iron	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ carrat of lead	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ cwt. [or hundred] of estrich boards (bordi Estrens') ²	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ load of woad (wayde)	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ wey of salt	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ last of ox hides	...	...	...	12d.
„ „ thousand (millenar) of grey work ³	...	...	...	6d.
„ „ cwt. of wax	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ cask of honey	...	...	...	3d.
„ „ cask of pitch	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ cask of ashes ⁴	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ millstone	...	...	...	1d.

¹ To begin July, 1370.

² Of deal or pine from the Baltic.

³ An inferior kind of fur. See *Lib. Cust. Lond.*, p. 806.

⁴ *Barilla*. An impure carbonate of soda.

Of every thousand onions	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ load of garlic	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ trey of seacoals	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ hundred (centena) oars	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ bale (trusselo) of cloth bound, of the value of 10 marks or more	...	...	...	4d.
And below 10 marks down to (usque ad) the value of 5 marks	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ cwt. [or hundred] of salted melwell (mulvell) ¹	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ kind of goods sold by weight (de averio de pondere) of the value of 20s.	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ cask of wine	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ boatload of vendible ale, wheresoever it may be within the port	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ ship laden with ale going out of the port towards the parts beyond the sea	...	...	...	12d.
„ „ cwt. of copper	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ vendible merchandise not here named, of the price of 20s.	...	...	...	1d.

The grants 4, 5, and 6 are identical one with another. The only variation from the previous ones being that there is added at the end "Of every last of herrings entering the same port, 2d." As a matter of fact this privilege was not a new one. It had been specially allowed to the burgesses by King Edward II. in 1325² as an augmentation of his grant of 1321. Consequently it now begins to appear in the lists.

No. 7 is anomalous. Even its introduction is quite different from the rest. It appoints Thomas de Drayton, John Perbroun, Nicholas Fastolf, and Robert Elys, all of whom were influential men of Yarmouth though not Bailiffs at this time, to collect "the customs under-

¹ Scotch cod, *Morhua vulgaris*. See *Lib. Cust. Lond.*, p. 816.

² *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, 1324—1327, p. 134.

written viz. &c. as above mutatis mutandis." There are no "customs underwritten" but immediately above is a murage grant to Exeter, similar to the grant to Lynn in 1339, which will be described hereafter.¹ "Mutatis mutandis" seems to give the burgesses a free hand, but, not unlikely, the words were intended to imply that the tolls collected should be the same as before.

After this comes the grant which has been alluded to as a pavage.² It is omitted in the above schedule and is still more puzzling than the last. In the roll it follows a pavage grant to Gloucester, and it is a mere statement that the good men of Yarmouth have the like for four years. That is all. But the tolls then granted to Gloucester are so unlike any others to be found in this paper, that I can scarcely believe the statement is to be taken seriously. It is obvious, moreover, that the gap in the murage grants is thus filled almost to a nicety, and I cannot resist the suspicion that the object for which the tolls were collected was the same.

No. 8. After a period of so much uncertainty, at the end of which even the good men of Yarmouth could have had no very clear idea of their rights, it is natural that order should be restored. The murage now granted bears witness to an epoch of change, for it is greatly expanded. At the same time it is chronologically impossible that the change was due to the Black Death. Though the earlier grants can be clearly recognised in this one, the attempt to engraft it upon them has met with little success. As this is also a type for subsequent grants, which only vary slightly from it, I have decided that the shorter and more simple plan is to give it in full, as follows:—

¹ p. 147. ² *Rot. Pat.*, 16 E. III, pt. i., m. 9 (1342, for four years).

Once a year, of every ship entering the Port of Yarmouth wheresoever it may be within the port	...	...	...	6d.
Of every last of herrings entering or going out of the port	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ sack of wool ¹	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ load of corn	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ sheaf of steel	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ cwt. of iron	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ carret of lead	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ horse or mare, ox or cow	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ horse or cow hide, fresh, salted, or tanned ¹	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ 100 boards	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ load of wood	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ wey of salt	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ wey of cheese	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ last of horse or ox hides ¹	...	...	...	12d.
„ „ thousand of grey work	...	...	...	6d.
„ „ cwt. of wax	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ cask of honey	...	...	...	3d.
„ „ cask of pitch	...	...	...	4d.
„ „ barrel of pitch coming or going	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ barrel of ashes	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ millstone for the mill	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ millstone for the hand-(mill)	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ thousand onions	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ load of garlic	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ trey of seacoals coming or going	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ hundred oars	...	...	...	2d.
„ „ bale of cloth of the value of ten marks	...	...	...	4d.
„ „ whole cloth...	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ twelve ells of English cloth coming or going	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ hundred melwell	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ cask of ale coming or going	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ barrel of ale coming or going	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.

¹ Omitted from 1379 onwards.

Of every cwt. of copper	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ cwt. of iron of Osemound ¹ or Wymound ²				$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ cart-load of turves coming or going				
weekly	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ boat-load ³ of turves coming or going				
weekly	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ boat of rods coming weekly ³	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ hundred of wool-skins ⁴	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ feather sack (sacco plume)	...	...	...	1d.
„ „ hundred skins of lambs, foxes, cats, and				
squirrels of Stranlyng or Roskin ⁵	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ quarter of corn coming to the said town				$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ quarter of malt	„	„	„	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
„ „ vendible merchandise coming to the said				
town or going out, not specified here,				
of the value of five shillings	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.

No. 9. The tolls are the same as in the last with the addition of the following items after "hundred melwell": "Of every kind of goods sold by weight of the value of 20s., $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Of every cask of wine, 2d. Of every pipe of wine, 1d."

Nos. 10, 11, and 12 are all alike and similar to No. 9, except that they do not contain two consecutive entries, namely, the boat-load of turves, and the boat of rods.

Nos. 13-17 only differ from the last in that at the end of the final entry there is added "wools, hides and wool-skins, however, excepted." Consequently four items, namely, the sack of wool, the horse and cow hides, the last of hides, and the wool-skins are omitted.

¹ Swedish bog-iron. See *Proc. Soc. Antiq.*, vol. xvii., pp. 23-27.

² This word is repeated in all the subsequent grants, but I have not been able to find it elsewhere and can give no explanation.

³ Omitted from 1358 onwards.

⁴ Omitted from 1379 onwards.

⁵ Thorold Rogers says, "*Stanling* is said to be the winter fur of the squirrel." I infer that *roskin* is the summer fur of that animal.

Norwich.—The first mention of a murage granted to Norwich in the *Calendar of the Patent Rolls* is under the date 14th December, 1297.¹ It reads thus: "Grant to the Bailiffs and good men of Norwich of murage for seven years. *Vacated because otherwise below.*" Consequently on referring to the roll we find that the entry, which, as usual, enumerates all the goods subjected to the toll, is struck through. It is, however, quite legible and there is no difficulty in seeing that the tolls allowed are identical with those first granted to Yarmouth.

Two pages further on in the *Calendar* and on the next membrane but one of the roll, there is another grant for the same purpose bearing the same date as before. In this uncancelled grant the schedule of the specified goods is not very like those we have already considered. It is surely impossible that the representatives of Norwich should have received a grant, discussed it, expressed their disapproval, and received another all in one day. We can more easily imagine that the cancelled grant was entered in error and that the letters patent it assumes had no existence. The tolls named in the uncancelled grant remained constant, that is to say, they were not altered on subsequent occasions. They are as follows:—

Of every load of corn or malt ...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
" " horse or mare, ox or cow ...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" " horse or cow hide, fresh, salted, or tanned	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
" " 5 hogs ...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" " 10 small (ones) ...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" " 10 sheep, goats, or pigs	...	...	1d.
" " 10 fleeces (velleribus)	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" " 100 sheep or goat skins	...	...	1d.

¹ p. 325.

Of every 100 skins of lambs, kids, hares, rabbits,					
	foxes, cats, or squirrels	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" "	100 grey work	...	...	...	6d.
" "	quarter of salt	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
" "	load of cloth	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" "	whole cloth worth 40s.	...	...	...	1d.
" "	<i>trussell</i> of cloths brought by cart	...	...	...	3d.
" "	100 cloths of Worstead (Wurhtstede)	...	...	...	2d.
" "	cloth of Worstead called <i>Coverlit</i> worth 40s.	...	...	...	1d.
" "	100 of linen webs	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" "	100 of linen webs from Alesham	...	...	...	1d.
" "	cheef of genuine kendal [cloth] (<i>cendallo</i> <i>afforciato</i>)	...	...	...	1d.
" "	and of other kendals	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" "	100 of salted mulvel or hard (<i>duri</i>) fish...				2d.
" "	cart-load of sea-fish	...	...	...	4d.
" "	load (<i>summagium</i>) of sea-fish	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" "	salmon	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
" "	dozen lampreys	...	...	...	1d.
" "	cask of sturgeon	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" "	1000 herrings	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
" "	load of ashes	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" "	load of honey	...	...	...	1d.
" "	sack of wool	...	...	...	2d.
" "	cart of tan comming weekly	...	...	...	1d.
" "	kind of goods sold by weight (<i>averio</i> <i>ponderis</i>), viz., the hundredweight	...	...	...	1d.
" "	wey of tallow or lard	...	...	...	1d.
" "	quarter of woad	...	...	...	2d.
" "	2000 garlics or onions	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" "	bale of cordwain ¹	...	...	...	3d.
" "	100 boards	...	...	...	1d.
" "	millstone	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
" "	100 faggots	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.
" "	1000 turves	...	...	...	$\frac{1}{4}$ d.

¹ Shoe leather.

Of every cart-load of firewood or timber coming				
weekly				$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ hundredweight of tin, brass or copper ...				2d.
„ „ boat laden with ale, firewood, turves, or				
other things whatsoever exceeding				
20s. value				1d.
„ „ <i>trussell</i> of any kind of merchandise				
exceeding 10s. value				$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
„ „ merchandise not here named of the value				
of 5s. and upwards				$\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Lynn.—All that is necessary to be said concerning the murage tolls which Lynn was permitted to exact can be shortly told. The two grants of Edward I. are alike in themselves, and the tolls specified are the same as he conceded to Yarmouth, namely, those given above at pp. 140-1.¹

The grant of 1339 is quite different. It is, however, the same as the grants to Norwich (p. 145), with a few alterations and additions. After the second entry comes "Of every cask of wine, 2d. Of every pipe of wine, 1d." The duty on the cartload of sea-fish is reduced from 4d. to $\frac{1}{2}$ d., the 1,000 herrings becomes the last of herrings, on which the toll is 8d., and the sum claimed from every 100 boards was only $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

It will be noticed that both Yarmouth and Lynn were importing sea-coal, most likely from Northumberland, in the 13th century. We know that the commodity had found its way to Norwich by about 1250. The trade in beer, which is apparent everywhere, is more surprising. We had always imagined that the beer, brewed as it was without hops, would not keep. Yet here we find that it was sent over sea. Moreover, the right to impose the toll was not merely potential, for there is proof

¹ "Once a year, of every ship entering the Port of Lynn," etc.

that the trade existed. Not only do we hear of the men of Ely coming to sell their beer at Lynn in 1257,¹ but, what is more to the point, Geoffrey de Thorplond obtained a licence to export 100 casks of ale from Lynn to Normandy and Flanders in 1314,² and also another 60 tuns in 1316.³

I believe that we have in these lists the earliest mention of the *cloth of Worstead* as yet discovered. More interesting, because more obscure, is the allusion to the *linen webs of Aylsham*. Blomefield⁴ tells us that the town was the chief seat of the linen manufacture in Norfolk in the reigns of the second and third Edwards. Here we see that its products had a reputation as early as the reign of Edward I., but I wish to point out that in *Work and Wages*⁵ Thorold Rogers mentions a list of towns, giving the characteristics of each and drawn up, as he thinks, in the middle of the 13th century. Though I have not been able to examine the source of his information, to which he does not refer, there can be little doubt that it was *Douce MS. 98* in the Bodleian Library. He notes the linen webs of Aylsham, Lewes, and Shaftesbury, and the cloths of Lincoln, Bligh (Blyth ?), Beverley, and Colchester. But he says nothing of Worstead so, perhaps, the manufacturers of that town were not then of much repute.

¹ Ely was famous for its ale at this date, and Cambridge for eels.—*Work and Wages*. See below.

² *Cal. Rot. Pat.*, 1313—1317, p. 178.

³ *Ib.*, p. 380.

⁴ Vol. vi., p. 283.

⁵ Chapters III. and IV.