

AN ETON BILL OF THE 17TH CENTURY.

The expenfes of Con O Neale from Midsom̄er till Michelmas
1617, with his attendantē

Paper	4 ^d
a Catechifme	vij ^d
a knife	vij ^d
candles	xx ^d
deliuered to him two fundry times	iiij ^s
2 payr of gloues	ij ^s
for making beds & fwEEPing chamber	iiij ^s
Oftefs	xxxvij ^s viij ^d
for curing his fore face	xij ^d
for 4 towels	iiij ^s
barber	vij ^d
y ^e fletchers bill	vj ^s 2 ^d
taylor	4 ^l 7 ^s 9 ^d
Diet for both	vj ^l xvij ^s vj ^d
payd to his attendant, as it appeareth by ^e his bill	ix ^s
lodging	xx ^s
fhoemaker	vij ^s iiij ^d
inke, quills fwEEPing y ^e fchole	vj ^d
Mr. Bingley. Let paym̄ be made to John Buft of the moneys due by this Byll, according to His Ma ^t warrant of Pryvy Seale in that behalf. 16: Octobr: 1617.	attendantē wages tuicion xx ^s

Suñ. xxij^l iiij^s x^d

ffulke Grevyll

[Total suñ 73^l 5^s ix^d *erased.*]

Libat^r p mañ et faci^m Georgij Pearfon

xv^{to} die Octobris a. xv^{to} RRē Jacob^o //

Matthew Bust

Corā me //

Jo : Sotherton : // : / .

The expenses of Con O'Neale from Mid Somer till Michelas
1617. with his attendante

Paper	4 s
a Catechisme	xij s
a knife	xij s
candles	xx s
delivered to him two sundry times	ij s
2 payr of gloves	ij s
for making beds & sweeping chamber	ij s
steps	xx s xij s xij s
for curmg his sore face	xij s
for 4 Towels	ij s
barber	xij s
y fletchers bill	xj s 2 s
Taylor	4 t 6 s
Diet for both	4 t 9 s
payd to his attendant, as it appeareth by his bill	xj s xij s xj s
lodging	x s
Shoemaker	xx s 6 s
make, quilts sweeping y schole	xj s
attendants wages	x s
tuicion	xx s

It is hereby let paynt be made
to John Bush of the manors
Ouse & the other, according to
the mate warrant of Byrd
Seale in that behalf. 16. October. 1617.

Sum. xxij t iij s 2 d

John Bush
Total sum

Libat p man of sum Georgi, pax p
xij s Octobris a^o 1617
Caro pax
Jo. Sutherland. S. y.

Matthew Bush

The last paragraph may be expanded and translated as follows:—"Liberatur per manum et sacramentum Georgii Pearson decimo quinto die Octobris anno decimo quinto Regni Regis Jacobi (signed M. B.)."

"Coram me (signed J. S.)"

"Paid by the hand and deposit of George Pearson on the 15th day of October in the 15th year of the reign of King James (signed M. B.). In the presence of me (signed J. S.)."

The mark of contraction is wanting on the "b" of "Libatr," but the intended "Liberatur" is assumed on the authority of the Provost of King's College (Cambridge), whom Mr. R. P. L. Booker, F.S.A., kindly consulted.

Obviously bankers' cheques were not in use at this date, and I suggest as explanation of the round-about method pursued in paying the bill, that Con O'Neale's father was dead, and that Sir Fulke Greville was the boy's guardian or trustee; that Mr. Bingley was the agent (by whatever name known) of Sir F. Greville; that John Bust is a mistake for Matthew Bust, and that he was the house-master of the boy at Eton; that George Pearson was a clerk of Mr. Bingley's, who brought the sum of money to Eton (from London, or wherever Mr. Bingley lived); and that John (possibly Joseph) Sotherton was an attorney at Eton who received the money on behalf of Mr. M. Bust.

I have been unable to visit any Library in London to consult works of reference since Mr. Niven sent me a photographic reproduction of this bill, but Hugh O'Neill, or O'Neale, Earl of Tyrone, died the year before it was written, in a condition of outlawry, or something closely akin, leaving a son, whose Christian name and age I do not know, but it is quite likely that he would not have assumed the title, and is at least a possible subject of the account.

"ffulke Grevyll," Sir Fulke Greville, a patron of letters and an ingenious writer, was born 1544, and descended from the noble families of Neville, Beauchamp, and Willoughby de Brooke. He was in great favour with Queen Elizabeth, and was created Lord Brooke by James I., who gave him Warwick Castle. In 1614 he was made Under-Treasurer, Chancellor of

the Exchequer, and a Privy Councillor. In 1628 he was stabbed by a servant, who then committed suicide with the same weapon. (*Cates's Dict. of Gen. Biog.*)

"Ostess," the Hostess, is now commonly called a Dame, though Matron would be the official title.

A "Fletcher" is a manufacturer of bows and arrows; this seems an indication that archery was an art still practised at Eton at the date of this bill.

Why this tradesman and the tailor should be so expensively "dietet" is not clear.

In *Etoniana Ancient and Modern*, 1865 (p. 66), the expenses in 1725 of an oppidan (which Con O'Neale seems to have been), are quoted. A half-year's account amounted to £22 5s. 4d., curiously close to the bill under review. "Half-a-year's teaching" cost two guineas, while here "tuicion" is charged 20s. In the same volume (p. 62, foot-note) a bill for "extras" in 1687-8, may also be compared.

Since the above has been in type, Mr. Booker has kindly sent me *Etoniana* for June 20, 1917, in which are printed no less than seven of Con O'Neale's Eton bills (including the one here reproduced), and a letter from R. Willis, dated 5 Dec., 1615, concerning an earlier bill for the "Midsumr. qr." of that year. My conjecture as to Con being the son of the Earl of Tyrone is proved correct by *Etoniana* (No. 3) for Nov. 30, 1904. He was born about 1601; on his father's flight in 1607, Con was taken possession of by Sir Toby Caulfield, and kept at Charlemont; was removed to Dublin when "fourteen or fifteen yeares" old; and sent to Eton by July 6, 1615, where he remained until Annunciation, 1619. "At the age of 17 he was removed to the Tower of London"; Sir Allen Apsley, Constable of the Tower, thus acknowledges his reception: "Con O'Neille, a son of the Earl of Tyrone's, being at Eaghtan's Colledge at scoole, was taken thence and committed by warrant of your Lordships the xiith of August. He is of a civill and good condition." He died there a few years later.

The practice of archery is confirmed by an item in the bill from Christmas to Annunciation 1617 (=1618): "6 arrows, 2 strings, bowcase & cæt.—O. 2. 4."

A. H. Cocks.