

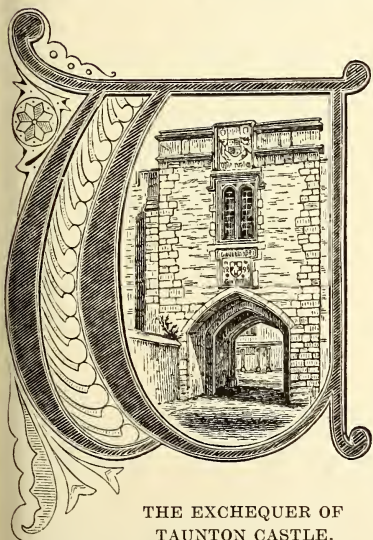
Courts Leet and The Court Leet of the Borough of Taunton.

BY H. BYARD SHEPPARD, F.M.S.,
Steward of the Manor of Taunton and Taunton Deane.

(A Paper read to the Taunton Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 29th, 1909.)

. who has a breast so pure,
But some uncleanly apprehensions
Keep Leets and Law-days, and in Sessions sit
With meditations lawful?

Othello, Act III, Sc. 3.



THE EXCHEQUER OF
TAUNTON CASTLE,

where all the Manor records have by
custom to be filed.

WHEN we speak of the Borough of Taunton to-day, we refer to a parliamentary and municipal borough of some 1300 acres in extent.

The original Borough, the "Taunton Burgus" of the records of the Manor of Taunton and Taunton Deane, was of course far less extensive, and consisted only of the streets formerly, as now, known as Fore Street, North Street, High Street, East Street, Paul

Street and Shutterne. It forms one of the divisions into

which the extensive and wealthy Manor of Taunton and Taunton Deane is divided.

In the year 721 this Manor was given by Fritheswitha, Queen of Ethelard, King of the West Saxons, to the See of Winchester,¹ the gift materially assisting in making that diocese one of the wealthiest and most powerful in the kingdom.

In the description of Taunton in Domesday Book, we are told "the Bishop of Winchester holds Taunton."

There were at that time 64 Burgesses in the Borough, who paid the sum of 6d. each to the Bishop of Winchester for his protection. There were three mills, a market and a mint.

It is stated in Toulmin's and Savage's Histories of Taunton,² that the Manor of Taunton and Taunton Deane was divided into three parts (1) "The Infaring Division," namely the Hundreds of Holway, Hull, Staplegrove, Poundisford and Nailsbourne (2) "the Outfaring Division" which comprised a number of sub-manors in the District, the Lords of which owed suit and service to the Lord of the Manor of Taunton and Taunton Deane, and (3) "The Hundred of Taunton Market" which it is stated was so called in all the records of the Manor, "and comprised that part which was distinguished as the Borough of Taunton," and with which we are dealing more particularly.

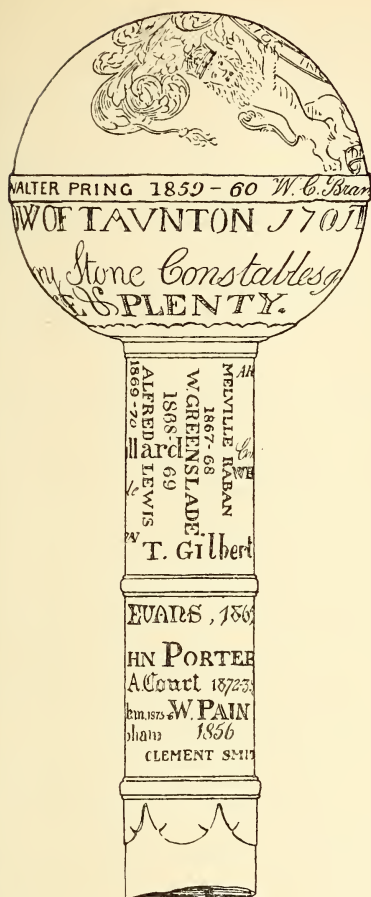
This statement so far as it relates to the so-called "Hundred of Taunton Market" is incorrect. There never was any such Hundred.

It is true that in the later records of the Manor certain books are marked "Taunton Market," but this is a misnomer, and the mistake arose in a curious way.

Formerly the records were always written in Latin, and those for the "Outfaring Division" were marked "Taunton Forensicum," any district outside the Manor being referred

1. Mon. Angl., vol. i, p. 32.

2. Savage, p. 44.



One of the Constables' Staves of the Court Leet of the Borough of Taunton, dated 1701; also a drawing of the whole of the inscriptions round the head of the Staff.

Scale $\frac{1}{2}$ linear.

(From a Drawing by Mr. Ernest Sprankling.)

The gift of Fran.^s Hobart Sen. Gent.

an 1861-2. A. STANSELL 1864-7. E. A. Slocumbe, 1858-9 WALTER PRING 1859-60 W.C. Brann
 THE CONSTABLE FOR THE BURROW OF TAVNTON 1701
 Tho^s Jacobs & Harry Stone Constables John
 Yard & Tho Morren 1801 PEACE & PLENTY.

to as foreign. "Forensicum" was subsequently contracted to "For'um" and then to "Forum."

When in later years the records came to be entered up in English, "Taunton Forum" was translated as "Taunton Market," and local historians in the early part of the eighteenth century finding no Hundred to correspond with "Taunton Market" jumped to the conclusion that it must be another name for "Taunton Borough," whereas as a matter of fact the records misnamed "Taunton Market" relate solely to the "Outfaring Division" and not to "Taunton Borough" at all.

The Rev. A. J. Hook found out this curious mistake when carrying out his invaluable work of arranging the Manor Records last year, and I should like here to impress upon you what an immense debt of gratitude all those interested in the history of Taunton and the surrounding districts owe to Mr. Hook for this work. I hope that at no distant date one of the Record Societies may be induced to publish some of the records of the Manor of Taunton and Taunton Deane, but it is quite certain that no such publication could be attempted, were it not for the fact that the work done by Mr. Hook would render such a task comparatively easy.

Separate records have always been kept for "Taunton Borough," and the earliest of these now in the Exchequer at Taunton Castle is the Portreeves' Account of the rents and other profits received by them for the Lord of the Manor for the year 1427. Similar Accounts deposited at the Public Record Office go back to the year 1300. A still earlier record for 1208-9 is preserved in the records of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and was printed in 1903 [London School of Economics], but this record relates to all Manors owned by the See of Winchester.

No records of the proceedings at the Court Leet for the Borough appear at the Exchequer until the year 1566, but from that time onward they have been regularly kept.

Savage states³ that the Borough was formerly held as Customary Freehold under the customs of the Manor of Taunton Deane, and was separated or 'disjointed' from the rest of the Manor, at some time subsequent to the year 1467. The evidence which he adduces to support his contention proves, I think, nothing, and it appears to be improbable that the Borough was ever subject to the customs of the Manor of Taunton Deane. I have no reason to doubt but that the tenements in the Borough were always held on what is known as Burgage tenure, subject only to certain rents of Assize formerly known as "Bishop's Rents" but now as "Borough Rents." At any rate they were so held in 1427, forty years before the date mentioned by Savage, as in that year⁴ John Boghe and Simon Penning, Portreeves of the Borough, accounted for £21 16s. 8d. "of ancient rent" due from the Burgage holders in the Borough, and for no fines or heriots, shewing that at that time the Burgesses were Tenants in free Burgage. Burgage tenure was an ancient tenure, proper to Boroughs, whereby the inhabitants by custom held their tenements of the King or other Lord of the Borough at a certain yearly rent.⁵

Gurdon's *History of Parliaments*⁶ states: "It will always be found wheresoever the Bailiffs make the return to the Sheriff, that the return so made, is a certain indication of an ancient free Borough by prescription." As early as the year 1471, William Bodell, a Bailiff appointed by the Borough Court Leet, acted as Returning Officer for this Borough.⁷

The evidence which Savage relies on to prove that the Borough must have been granted to the Freeholders since the year 1467, is that in that year William Waynfleet,⁸ Bishop of Winchester, and Lord of the Manor of Taunton and Taunton Deane, granted a part of "*our* Market place of *our* Borough

3. p. 60.

4. See Appendix "A."

5. Jacob's Law Dict.

6. Vol. i, p. 223.

7. Savage, p. 306.

8. He was founder of Magdalen College, Oxford.

of Taunton ” to Nicholas Dixon, as a site for a Guildhall, in fee simple, subject to the reserved rent of a red rose. This description of the Market Place and Borough would appear to be equally applicable whether the land was held on Burgage or customary freehold tenure.

Whether however the Borough was originally held on Burgage or Customary freehold tenure is a question which does not materially affect the subject of this paper, as in either case it is quite certain that a Court Leet was and is incident to it.

The profits or perquisites of this Court derived from Fines and Amerciaments amounted in 1427, according to the Portreeves' Account for that year, above referred to, to £9 13s. 7d.

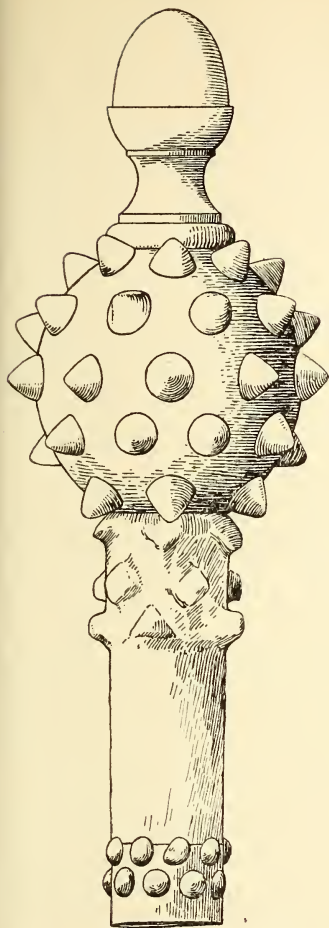
In addition to the Borough rents and perquisites of the Court, the Lord of the Borough also received £1 10s. 5½d. for stall rents in the Market and various rents for parcels of land of the Lord's waste, within the Borough; also various sums for customs (dues) of different trades viz., 13s. 4d. for customs of the Bakers, 10s. for customs of the Tanners, 13s. 0½d. for customs of the stalls of the Shoemakers, also 13s. 4d. for profit of the Market, 13s. 3½d. for the perquisites of St. Botolph's Fair, 3s. 4d. for toll of grass and 13s. 4d. for free gavel. Altogether in the year 1427 the Lord was entitled for rentals and profits of the Borough to a sum of £57 17s. 7d.⁹

In the year 1647 the Manor of Taunton and Taunton Deane was sold under an Act of Parliament authorizing the sale of Bishops' Lands.

“Taunton Borough” was not included in the original sale of the remainder of this Manor, but was by a Deed of Bargain and Sale¹⁰ dated the 12th June 1648 conveyed to George Searle and Samuel Whetcombe, under the description of “All that the Borough of Taunton with all and singular the rights

9. See Appendix “A.”

10. At the Public Record Office.



One of the Bailiffs' Staves of the Court
Leet of the Borough of Taunton.

Scale $\frac{1}{2}$ linear.

(From a Drawing by Mr. Ernest
Sprankling.)

members and appurtenances thereof and also all those ancient rents" (referring to the Borough Rents) "payable by the inhabitants within the Borough of Taunton to the Lord of the Manor, mentioned in the Particulars thereof to be of the yearly value of £24 2s. 4d. And also all Courts Leet, Views of Frankpledge, Courts Baron, Courts of Pleas, Turn Courts, and Fulfilling Courts usually held in and for the said Borough."

In the year 1660 the Manor of Taunton and Taunton Deane was recovered by the See of Winchester, and remained in its possession until the year 1822, when it was sold for the purpose of redemption of Land Tax to Thomas Southwood, who by his will left it to Robert Mattock, from whose trustees it was in 1866 purchased by the late Serjeant Cox, whose son Mr. Irwin Cox is the present Lord of the Manor. The only interest which the Bishops of Winchester and their successors, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, now have in the lands held of the Manor of

Taunton and Taunton Deane is the right to any mines and minerals thereunder.

Having now shortly traced the history of that part of the Manor known as "Taunton Borough," and shown how it came into the hands of its present owner, I propose to pass on to some account of Courts Leet in general.

A Court Leet is a Court of Record, and is the most ancient tribunal of the Common Law.¹¹

It is incident to a Hundred as a Court Baron is to a Manor, and cannot be severed from it.

It had the same jurisdiction within its precinct as the Sheriff's Tourn or Court in the County.¹²

The word Leet is probably derived¹³ from the Anglo-Saxon word *laed*, being the name of the Court of the People or Folkmote, in contradistinction, perhaps, to the Halmote or Court Baron, which consisted of the Tenants of the Manor, who being few in number, might conveniently assemble in the Lord's Hall, whereas the Leet, which required the attendance of all residents, was in early times usually held in the open air.¹⁴

The Court Leet was the King's Court, because its authority originally belonged to the Crown.¹⁵

It was also called the View of Frankpledge¹⁶ which means the View or survey of the Frankpledges or sureties of which every man anciently was obliged to have nine,¹⁷ who were bound to be responsible for his appearance, in case he was called upon to answer any complaint made against him.

Prior to the year 1268 every person resident within the precinct of the Leet, men and women, masters and servants, between the ages of twelve and sixty, had to be present at the Court, to be sworn to be faithful and loyal to the King.¹⁸

11. 7 H. 6. 12. b. Scriven on Copyholds, Ed. 7. p. 434.

12. Greenwood's "County Courts," p. 275.

13. Ritson's "Courts Leet," p. 5. Professor Maitland leaves the origin of this word unexplained. It appears in Domesday in East Anglia as "Leet, a division of the county for taxation purposes." cf. Danish *Lægd*—a division for military conscription.

14. Ritson, p. 6.

15. Greenwood, p. 274.

16. 12 H. 7, Fol. 18.

17. Ritson. p. 6.

18. Ritson, p. 10.

The Court was by Magna Charta¹⁹ ordered to be held within the precinct of the Leet, twice each year, namely within a month of Easter and within a month of Michaelmas.

The Steward of the Manor was the Judge of the Court and had power to fine and imprison for certain acts and defaults, and, as to such matters over which his power extended, had equal powers with the Justices of the King's Bench, and in one particular had even greater power, for if he was in want of a juror, he might compel any passing stranger to come into the Court and be sworn.²⁰

Previous to the Court being held the Steward issued a precept to the Bailiff of the Manor, commanding him to summon the residents within the precinct of the Leet, to appear at the time and place which he fixed for the holding of the Court.

On the Court assembling the Steward caused the Bailiff to make three proclamations of "O Yes." Three because it was the King's Court,²¹ as distinguished from the Court Baron, the Tenants' Court, where only one proclamation was made.

Then the Steward called upon to Bailiff to say :—

"All manner of persons which are resident and do owe suit and Royall to this Leet come in and make your suit and answer to your names, everyone, upon pain and peril which shall ensue."²²

The Tithingmen or Aldermen of each street were then sworn and handed in a list of names of all residents in the streets over which they had control.

These names were then called over, and those who were absent were marked to be amerced in some sum of money and those present sworn to their fealty and allegiance.

The Steward had power to amerce for certain offences and to fine for others. The difference between an amerciament and a fine being that in default of payment the former could only be recovered by distress, whereas a fine could be recovered

19. Magna Charta, c. 35.

20. Br. Leete. 14, 24.

21. 21 Edw. 4, fol. 37.

22. Kitchin's "Jurisdiction," p. 12.

by action of debt, and if not paid the defaulter could be imprisoned.²³

The Steward would then cause the Bailiff to make three more proclamations and say "If any will be essoined (*i.e.* excused) come into the Court and you shall be heard, and all such persons as were essoined the last Court let them come in now and warrant their essoins otherwise they will be amerced."²⁴ Those who wished to be excused from attendance then proffered their excuses, which were accepted or rejected as the Steward thought fit.

The Bailiff after three further proclamations made a return of the Jury whom he had summoned, whose names were then called over and absentees marked to be amerced.

The number of Jurymen usually summoned was twenty-four, of whom twenty-three were sworn in order that there might always be a majority of twelve, as any presentment in Leet, to be binding, must be by twelve at least.²⁵

The Foreman was then sworn by the Steward in the following or similar terms:—"You shall swear that you shall diligently enquire and true presentment make of such things as you shall be charged with concerning our Lord the King, or the Lord's Court of this Manor; you shall well and truly keep His Majesty's Counsel your Fellows and your own; you shall not conceal or hide anything for Favour, Fear, Promise or Affection, you bear to any Person or Persons, or present anything for Hatred or Malice you bear to any man; but you shall present and tell the truth, according as things may or shall come to your knowledge, by Information or otherwise, making a true presentment thereof without concealment: So help you God."²⁶

The other members of the Jury having been sworn in similar terms, the Steward proceeded to make his charge to them.

23. Kitchin, pp. 84, 87. 24. Greenwood, p. 284.

25. Ritson, p. 11. 26. Greenwood, p. 285.

This charge was in olden times, a serious and lengthy oration.

The Steward would exhort the Jury to remember the dignity of their Office, would warn them of the peril of not regarding their oath, would remind them of the causes for which Courts Leet were ordained and would conclude this portion of his charge with an exhortation of which the following is an old precedent.²⁷

“And insomuch now that you see for what causes Leets were ordained, and how the authority of them is enlarged for government of the Commonwealth; now you ought to consider that you, which are of the Jury, are chosen in such manner as the Angels of God are, at the last day of Judgment of man. For it is written ‘Then shall the Angels come out and shall separate the Ill from the midst of the Just.’ And so you ought to separate the Just from the Ill persons, and you ought to see that the offenders be punished, and the Just be preserved.” The next sentence is a delightful mixing of metaphors “For as the Touchstone is provided to try the pureness of Gold and Metals, so are you chosen the Touchstone to see the weed to be taken from the corn, and the corn to be preserved. And you ought to see the King and his Commonwealth preserved, and Justice to be administered, which is the preservation of the Commonwealth:—And so far that you consider your duties and consider your oath I will now declare to you the articles of your charge.”

The Steward would then proceed to explain the Jurisdiction of the Leet, which was in respect of things done or omitted to be done within the precinct of the Leet since the last Court, and was of two kinds.²⁸

First, offences which the Court Leet had power to enquire into and if proved to certify to the Assizes, which included Treason, Murder, Rape, Arson, Burglary and any other offence which was deemed felony at Common Law.²⁹ The exercise of this jurisdiction had passed into other hands some

27. Kitchin, p. 15.

28. Kitchin, pp. 16, 19.

29. Scriven, p. 435.

time before the date of the earliest records of the proceedings of the Borough Court Leet.

Secondly, offences which were punishable by the Leet, such as refusals to accept a public office, public nuisances, disturbances, non-observance of certain acts enjoined, and the commission of others, prohibited by particular Statutes.³⁰

Of the last class there were a very large number of offences created by Statutes, which have, in most cases, been long since repealed.

An enumeration of some of these may not only be of interest, but will in many cases explain the presentments of the Court Leet for this Borough, to which I shall refer later on.

Butchers, Innkeepers, Fishmongers, Poulterers, Cooks, and all who sold victuals, were bound to sell at reasonable prices, having regard to the prices at which victuals were sold in places near, or to pay to the party damnified double the price of the goods.³¹

Every man child in a house between the ages of 7 and 17 had to have a bow and 2 arrows, and if over that age a bow and 4 arrows, and butts had to be provided and maintained in every town.³²

No one might at the same time be a Butcher and a Tanner, nor a Tanner and a Shoemaker.³³

No Currier might curry leather ill-tanned.³³

Every parish must provide Nets for the taking of Crows, Rooks and Choughs, and must throw down all Crows' nests before the eggs are hatched.³⁴

No annoyances (nuisances) might be made upon any land, so as to block any ditch to the annoyance of the people.³⁵

No pale or fence might be erected to the annoyance of the people.³⁶

30. Scriven, p. 435.

31. 23 Ed. 3, 6. 10 H. 7, fol. 8.

32. 33 H. 8, c. 9.

33. 5 Eliz. c. 8.

34. 24 H. 8, c. 10.

35. 9 H. 6, fol. 44.

36. 18 Edw. 2.

The names of all Scolds and Brawlers to the disturbance of their neighbours had to be presented,³⁷ also of all forestallers of the Market, Regrators and Ingrossers.³⁸

Also the names of any "eavesdroppers which stand under walls or windows by night or day, to hear tales, and to carry them to others, to make strife and debate among their neighbours."³⁷

The prices of Corn and Beer were enquirable at the Leet.³⁹

None for gain might keep any Alley or place of Bowling, Tabling, Carding or Tennis and no Artificer, Husbandman, Handicraftsman, Journeyman or Servant might play at any such games except at Christmas time and then only in his Master's House, or in his presence.⁴⁰

No filth or carrion might be thrown on the Highway to the annoyance of the people.³⁷

Everyone according to his means had to give or find labour for repairing the Highways, and every Householder was responsible for the repair of the pavement in front of his House.⁴¹

No publican might allow continued drinking or tippling.⁴²

No person might retail French wine but after the rate of eight pence the gallon.⁴³

None might cut or gash any hides of Bull, Ox, Heifer or Cow, and if any Tanner offered for sale any hide so gashed he had to forfeit for each one so offered 20s.⁴⁴

No Brewer might brew unwholesome ale.⁴⁵

Every person had to join when required in the "Hue and Cry"⁴⁶ to pursue and arrest felons, and if a Robber escaped, the Hundred, within which the Robbery had taken place, had to make recompense to the party robbed, within six months after the Robbery committed.⁴⁷

37. Kitchin, p. 20. 38. IV Blackstone's Com., p. 158. 39. Kitchin, p. 21. 40. 33 H. 8, c. 9. 41. 2 and 3 P and M, c. 1. 42. 4 Jac. 1, c. 5. 43. 7 Edw. 6, c. 5. 44. 5 Eliz. c. 8. 45. Kitchin, p. 106. 46. Edw. 3, c. 9. 47. Ed. I, c. 2.

No person might keep hogs in the street.⁴⁸

To these and many other offences, which do not affect the presentments to which I shall presently refer, the Steward would call the attention of the Jury, and would then command the cryer to make proclamation three times, after which the Steward would say :

“If any can inform the Steward or the Jury of any petty treason, Felony, Petty Larceny, Annoyances or Bloodshed, Poundbroken or of Rescues, or of any other thing made against the Peace, or of any person of common ill behaviour within the Leet, or any workmen using common deceit or of any misdemeanours of any Officer or of any other person there, or of any waif estray treasure found or of anything here inquirable come you in and you shall be heard.”⁴⁹

The Tithingmen (or as they are now called Aldermen) and the other Officers of the Court would then hand in their various presentments, which were in writing and signed by the Officers concerned.

When all these had been handed in the Steward would say to the Jury, “Go together and inquire ye of the matter of your charge, and when you are agreed I shall be ready to take your verdict.”⁵⁰ The Jury would then retire to consider the presentments and give their verdict on them, they would also appoint the Officers of the Court for the ensuing year.

Having signed their presentment and returned into Court the Foreman would hand it to the Steward who would then read it over in open Court, fix the fines and swear in the Officers for the ensuing year.

The amerciaments (signifying moderation and mercy because they ought to be assessed mercifully) were assessed by two officers appointed by the Court and known as Affeerers,^{50a} who were sworn on the following oath : “You will truly and indifferently tax assess and affeer all such Amerciaments as are

48. Salk, 460. 49. Jacob's “Court keeper,” p. 38. 50. Kitchin, p. 41.

50a. *Fr. Affier*, to affirm.

presented at this Court ; wherein you shall spare no man for Love Favour affection or corruption, nor raise nor inhanche upon any man (of Malice) more grievous amerçiements than shall be thought reasonable, according to the quality of their offence and faults committed, and not otherwise. So help you God.”⁵¹

The other Officers appointed by the Court Leet of the Borough were (and still are for the most part) as follows :—

In the first place there were appointed two Constables, who held a very important position in view of the duties devolving upon them.

These duties (amongst others) were,⁵² To arrest all who made riots or broke the peace,⁵³ To see that the watch was properly kept,⁵⁴ That all residents joined in the “ Hue and Cry,”⁵⁵ That all sturdy vagabonds were placed in the stocks or pillory,⁵⁶ To levy penalties for using cloth buttons on clothes,⁵⁷ To seize cloths deceitfully dyed,⁵⁸ To make search monthly for gaming houses,⁵⁹ To whip hedgebreakers,⁶⁰ To whip wandering rogues (the method in this case being “ by stripping them from the middle upwards, and causing them to be lashed, till their bodies be bloodie ”),⁶¹ To arrange for the billeting of soldiers,⁶² (this duty still devolves upon the Constables), and to apprehend the Mothers of bastard children.⁶³

These were only some of the duties for which the Constables were responsible, but you will gather from them that their office was in olden times no sinecure.

With reference to the duty of the Constable to apprehend the Mothers of bastard children the penalty imposed on the offender by the Ecclesiastical Laws was Penance in the Parish Church.

The following is the form of an Order⁶⁴ for such a penance

51. Greenwood, 308. 52. Kitchin, p. 96. Jacob's Law Dict. 53. 1 M. c. 2. 54. 13 Edw. 1, Stat. 2 c. 4. 55. 13 Edw. 1, Stat. 2 c. 6. 56. 4 H. 7, fol. 2. 57. 4 Geo. 1, c. 7. 58. Kitchin, p. 22. 59. 33 H. 8, c. 9. 60. Kitchin, p. 20. 61. Jac. 1, c. 7. 62. 1 Geo. 1, c. 47. 63. Dalt.

64. In the Exchequer, Taunton Castle.

which was duly carried out in Kingston Church on the 16th May, 1708.

“The order of Penance enjoined by the Authority of the Worshipful Richard Healey, Doctor of Laws, Official of the Reverend Archdeacon of Taunton, unto Lucretia Aysh of the Parish of Kingston in the County of Somerset.

“That on Sunday next or Sunday sennight, next ensuing the date hereof, the above named Lucretia Aysh, with a white sheet over her head, hanging over her shoulders, down to the ground and with a white wand in her hand of half an ell long, must come into the parish Church of Kingston aforesaid, at the beginning of morning or evening prayer, and in that sort stand forth barefaced in the middle alley before the Pulpit during the whole of divine Service and sermon, and immediately after the reading of the Nicene Creed, must orderly and penitently, with an audible voice make this acknowledgment following.” Here followed a confession of the offence and a prayer for pardon.

The next Officers appointed were two Portreeves who collected all rents, customs, tolls and revenues, and accounted for them to the Lord.⁶⁵

In this Borough the Portreeves formerly enjoyed the privilege of granting Leases of standings in the Market, and when the Market House Act was passed in 1768 it provided that an annuity of £18 was to be paid to the Portreeves in lieu thereof, and this amount is paid to them annually by the Market Trustees at the present time.

Two Bailiffs were also appointed who summoned the Jury and made proclamations at the Courts. They were also, when there was no charter, the returning Officers for the Borough at Parliamentary Elections.

After the Bailiffs there were appointed Tithingmen, or Aldermen, one each being appointed for Fore Street, High Street, East Street, North Street, Paul Street, and Shutterne.

65. Savage, p. 577.

They had to deliver a list of all residents in the respective streets over which they had control, also to present any offences, nuisances, encroachments, etc., which had taken place in such streets to the annoyance of the inhabitants since the last Court.

The next appointment was of two Sealers of Leather, whose duty it was to seal, before sale, all leather properly tanned in accordance with statute.⁶⁶

Also two Searchers of Greenskins who had to search for hides or skins insufficiently tanned and to bring the tanner before a special Court where the hides were examined, and if found insufficiently tanned the tanner was fined in a penalty of the value of the leather.⁶⁶

Also two Cornhill Keepers who superintended the Cornhill and saw that the Corn Market was properly conducted there. The Cornhill Keepers had to provide and keep in repair tubs for the use of all persons selling corn in the market. They were entitled to a payment of 1d. from anyone using the tubs or exposing corn for sale in bags or sacks.⁶⁷

The Cornhill was probably situate on the south-western part of "The Parade." The market was held near the High Cross, which formerly stood near the Inn called "The White Hart," now the "Devon and Somerset Stores," and was taken down by the Market Trustees, shortly after the passing of the Market House Act.

Two Shamble Keepers⁶⁸ were also appointed who had to see that the Butchers did not charge excessive price for meat,⁶⁹ or cut the hides of Beasts killed by them,⁶⁶ and generally that they carried on their trade in accordance with statute. They were also responsible for the keeping of the Shambles and Butchers' Market and also the Market for vegetables.

Also Two Aletasters whose duty it was to see that Brewers brewed good and wholesome ale,⁷⁰ and that none was sold

66. 5 Eliz., c. 8.

67. Presentment of Jury, 1769.

68. Jacob's Law Dict.

69. 23 Edw. 3, c 6.

70. Kitchin, p. 106.

without being previously tasted, and also that Bakers sold bread of proper weight in accordance with the market price of corn.⁷¹

Aletasting in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when there were only two or three Brewers in the Borough, was a comparatively easy and probably pleasant task, but in more recent times (I am told that the aletasters carried out their duties as recently as 1851), when every Inn brewed its own beer, I understand that the aletasting lasted for a week and the Tasters' arduous duties usually incapacitated them from further business for some days afterwards.

The last, but by no means the least important, of the Officers appointed, were eight Viewers of the Rhines (or as they were subsequently, and are now, called Rhine Ridders) two for High Street, two for Fore Street, and two for each side of North Street, whose duty it was to see that the Rhines there, were kept in proper order and not blocked up or in any way encroached upon.⁷²

These Rhines were, as you are probably aware, utilized as the common sewers of the Town. It was essential therefore that they should be well looked after, and kept free from obstructions.

Obstructions in and encroachments on the Rhines comprise a very large part of the offences presented at the Borough Court Leet, and twice a year they were ordered by the Court to be cleansed by the inhabitants of the streets through which they flowed, and the Rhine Ridders had to see that this cleansing was properly carried out.

All the above-mentioned Officers had to attend at each Court and make presentment of all offences, since the last Court, committed within their jurisdiction, or if there were no such offences then to present "all well."

Occasionally the Officers themselves were presented by the

71. Kitchen, p. 21.

72. 18 Eliz., c. 2.

Jury, for not having fulfilled their duties, and in such cases a heavy fine was usually the result.

After the Officers had been sworn the Steward discharged the Court, the "Cryer" making the following proclamation:—

"All manner of persons that have appeared this day at this Court Leet, may from hence depart and keep their day and hour upon a new Summons."⁷³

Having now given a short account of the jurisdiction of and proceedings at Courts Leet, I propose to deal with a few extracts from the proceedings recorded at the Court Leet for this Borough.

As far as possible I have limited these extracts to presentments to the Court by the Jury or Officers; only mentioning a few of the numerous petitions, where they are of some general interest.

By far the greater part of the time of this Court was taken up, during the period over which the records extend, in dealing with petitions by holders of Burgage tenements against other holders of similar tenements in respect of non-repair of houses, gutters, chimneys, water-courses, etc., which by their state of non-repair had become dangerous and a source of annoyance to adjoining owners and inhabitants.

The first minute book—now in the Exchequer—relating to the proceedings at the Borough Court Leet, for the years 1566 to 1576, has been so affected by damp that it is practically unreadable. The second volume, from 1577 to 1584, is missing.

The third volume, commencing in 1585, and all the subsequent ones are extant and in fairly good condition.

The first presentment in 1585 reads like a modern Town Council Bye-law, viz. :—

"Every inhabitant of this Borough shall clean the pavement before his door and carry away the filth every week under pain of XII^d."⁷⁴ (The Footnotes to the presentments refer to the Statutes contravened.)

73. Jacob, p. 43.

74. 33 H. 8, c. 17.

The Jury also presented "That no Fowls or Ducks be allowed in the streets under pain of XII^d. to be levied on the owner."⁷⁵

It was also agreed "That any inhabitant allowing any mastiff dog to lie about the streets untied shall pay for every such offence the sum of 6s. 8d."⁷⁵

Mastiff dogs appear to have been a perpetual source of annoyance at this time, as this or similar presentments are frequently repeated.

In 1586, it was agreed by the Jury "That all such Tiplers, (that is retailers of ale, as opposed to Hostellers, who were Innkeepers and provided Board and Lodging for guests) as are allowed and have bound themselves by recognizances shall be only Hucksters (that is retailers) and shall not buy eggs, butter and cheese of the poor people, before three of the clock in the afternoon, upon pain on every default of 4d., whereof the one half to the poor and the other half to the Lord."⁷⁶

This provision was, I assume, made for the purpose of giving the townspeople the first chance of purchasing eggs, etc., and so preventing the Tiplers buying them up wholesale and making a middleman's profit. Statutes⁷⁷ and bye-laws generally were about this time constantly directed to the purpose of preventing any of the ordinary necessities of life being unduly inflated in value. Corners and trusts would have had short shrift in those days.

It was also agreed "That the Rhine between the Pool Mills and the Town Mills shall be ridd and cleansed between this and Trinity Sunday by the inhabitants upon pain of 3s. 4d."⁷⁸

This presentment occurs at regular intervals and was, as I have already pointed out, a necessity for the health of the Town.

It was also agreed "That no one buy faggots that are

75. 22 Ed. 4, c. 22.
M., c. 7.

76. IV Black. Com., 158.
78. 18 Edw. 2.

77. 1 and 2 P. and

brought by some into the Town, to sell again, upon pain of 1/- for every default." It was provided by Statute⁷⁹ that persons who dwelt in the country might not sell wares by retail in a Market Town but only at open Fairs.

The Shamble Keepers were instructed by the Court that they must make clean the pigmarket, upon condition that Thomas Davidge,⁸⁰ the Lessee (for that the market was removed at his request and for 20/- for the use of the Town) shall upon warning, open the back gate that the filth may be laid there, and that the Shamble Keepers shall carry away the filth every Monday.⁸¹

The pigmarket referred to was presumably held at the back of Fore Street and High Street, in the court which originally adjoined the Cornhill, and still goes by that name.

In 1587 there is a similar presentment to that respecting faggots, namely, "That no inhabitant shall take in Bread of any Country Baker to sell it again."⁷⁹

Also "That every Butcher shall bring his tallows into the Market with the hides, and that the Shamble Keepers present any that do make default at every Court."⁸²

Tiplers were ordered to sell the "hooped potte," containing an ale quart, for one penny under a penalty of 20s.⁸³

For the next century or more the price of beer does not appear from the records to have varied at all.

"Stronge Beere" was to be sold for 3d. a gallon, "Ordinaire Beere" for 2d. a gallon and the "Hooped Potte" for 1d.

Brewing, it may be noted in passing, was a trade which at this time was frequently carried on by women.

In 1589 John Hockey was presented for keeping a mastiff bitch after having had warning by the Constables and against

79. 1 P. and M. c. 7.

80. Constable in 1571, see Appendix "D."

82. 2 Jac., 1 c. 22.

83. Kitchin, p. 22.

81. 22 Ed., 4, c. 22.

the order of the Town, wherefore he was ordered to pay the penalty of 3s. 4d.⁸⁴

The offence here appears to have been the keeping of a bitch, as the bye-law already referred to as to mastiff dogs being untied decreed a penalty of 6s. 8d. and the full penalty was always enforced.

In 1593 the following bye-law was passed by the Court :

“Whereas there was set upon any inhabitant of this Town, that they should not accept any undertenant, to dwell in their House upon pain of 40s. ; we do now agree that he or they so receiving into their houses any such Tenant, without the consent of the Constables, shall pay for every month 6s. 8d. with three days and three nights imprisonment without any mitigation of the same.”

Also the following : “Whereas there is an order against Tiplers that shall suffer in their houses, any Householder, Journeyman or Servant upon pain of 6s. 8d. ; we do now agree that if any Householder, Journeyman or Servant of this Town shall be found drinking in any Tipling House, they shall be committed to ward, for the space of twenty-four hours, and the goodman and goodwife of the House to forfeit for every default 3s. 4d., and to be appointed to prison for a whole day and night without favour.”⁸⁵

In the year 1600 there was trouble, apparently, through inhabitants keeping their pigs in the Churchyard, (St. Mary's Churchyard,—St. James was without the Borough), and the following order was made :

“By virtue of this Leet for the better keeping of the Churchyard and reforming of abuses committed by the inhabitants of the same Churchyard, especially the abuse that some commit in keeping of pigs at large in the same, and making of dungheaps therein ; we, the Jury, have chosen and authorized John Sharp, one of the inhabitants of the same

84. 33 H. 8, c. 17.

85. 4 Jac. 1, c. 5.

Churchyard, that from this day until the next Lawday, he shall tie up all such pigs, as he shall at any time find at large within the same Churchyard, and shall according to the ancient custom of this Town, and laws of ancient tenure set down in this Leet, receive and take for tying up of every pig the sum of 4d. And also that as an alderman or tithingman of that precinct of the Churchyard, he present in the Court all those that after the 1st day of May next lay any dung or soil within the precinct of the same.”⁸⁶

It was one thing to tie up your pig, but apparently quite another to keep him there, as I find that at the following Court, Thomas Vincent was fined 6s. 8d. for cutting the rope of the Alderman, John Sharp, with which his pig was impounded, and it was at the same Court ordered that John Gibbons’ pig be taken to the pound (which was at that time situate in Paul Street) and impounded there.

In spite of this, pigs’ rope-cutting evidently became an amusement for the youth of the period, and John Sharp had a busy time, as at the following Court Leet, it was ordered—

“That any inhabitant within this Borough, that shall henceforth contemptuously cut the ropes, wherewith the Alderman within this Borough or the new appointed Officer within the Churchyard, now by us chosen, or which shall by virtue of this Leet be chosen hereafter” (*Qy.* shall tie up a pig), “shall forfeit for every such contempt and abuse 3s. 4d. for every offence, the same to be presently levied to the use of the Lord by Distress.”

In spite of this order, however, John Sharp found his office no sinecure, as at the next Court he presents—

“That Master Gibbons’ maid” (you will remember that at the last Court Master Gibbons’ pig was ordered to be impounded) “come and cut the cord wherewith Mast. Hunt’s pig was tied on the 20th of this month.”

As a retaliation, John Sharp evidently again captures Master Gibbons' pig, ties it up, and for greater security places his boy there to guard it, as on the 23rd he reports: "Master Gibbons' boy and maid come and cut the rope and beat my boy and took away their pig."

Master Gibbons' boy and maid, elated with their success, apparently report their doings to Master Hunt's boy, whose father's pig had been tied up by John Sharp and released by Miss Gibbons a few days previously.

In the meantime John Sharp, not to be outdone, makes another raid and captures two pigs, which for greater security he instructs his boy to take away and tie up on the Cornhill and to guard them there. But the result is the same, as John Sharp reports that his boy having tied up the two pigs on the Cornhill, "One from Master Hunt's come and beat him and made him let them go again and cussed him."

Whether John Sharp was deposed from office, history sayeth not, but no further reports of pig-hunts in the Churchyard appear in the records, and probably no one was so glad that they had ceased as John Sharp's boy.

Prior to the orders with regard to the keeping of pigs in the Churchyard and cutting the ropes with which they were tied up, there had evidently been the same trouble with regard to pigs in the public streets, as I have found amongst the records an original presentment on the matter (in 1597) by the Alderman of North Street, though no record of it appears in the minute book. It reads as follows: "That upon Thursday being the first day of December 1597 a pig of Mr. Hugh Hill's being tied up by the Alderman (according to the Law made and provided in this Leet) the same day his servant Christopher Gibbs came by force of arms and did cut the rope and likewise did take away the pig." [Of] "this abuse" [I] "complained unto the Constables. Commandment" [was] "given by" [the] "Constable" [on] "pain" [of fine] "to bring the offender before him. The next day he being there-

unto required by the Alderman did refuse the same to do. Then at length by force being brought before the Constable, who said he had nothing to say to him for the abuse, but that he might go about his business.”⁸⁷

In 1601 the Keepers of the Greenskins present “that John Sett of Wellington and Andrew Pocock of Bradford did on Saturday the 12th December refuse to have us to view their goods according to the ancient order of this Town” and they were fined accordingly.

At the same Court the Cornhill Keepers were in trouble, in preventing buying of grain to sell again contrary to the Statute,⁸⁸ as they present William Warner the Baker and his wife for buying other folks rye, “for his Wife brought one man’s rye away, which was in bushels to her House, and the rest she was coming for a little after the Bell was rung.” I gather that a bell was rung at the commencement and the close of the market.

They also presented “William Deacon of Pitminster and the Widow Bennett and her Son, for they are in buying as soon as the Bell is rung and will there buy in despite of us,” also “The Miller Brinsmeade and his Wife for coming upon the Hill” (the Cornhill) “contrary to your orders, and much ado we had to keep them off, until the Constable come and made them go.”

The last presentments were made presumably in pursuance of some previous order preventing residents outside the Town buying corn before a certain hour.

In 1602 the order as to mastiff dogs is repeated “as they are causing great disorder and annoyance,” and William Nutt is fined for the offence.

Nuisances of all kinds are frequently presented and petitioned against, “Dennis Collard widow,” had, I think you will agree, just cause of complaint.

87. A verbatim copy of the original presentment is set out in Appendix B as a specimen of the spelling of the period.

88. 5 Edw. 6, c. 14.

In the year 1610 she complaineth against George Taylor "for that he hath most grievously injured her in setting up a House of Office" (*i.e.*, a privy) "and a pig loose yard" (*i.e.*, a pigstye) "against her kitchen window, to the great annoyance and endangering of her whole Household, with the noxious smell, which daily proceedeth therefrom, and in this she humbly prays your favour, that it may be viewed for the better remedy, and that such an order may be taken as shall best agree with Justice and equity."⁸⁹ I doubt whether the 20th century widow would have expressed her ideas as to what order should be made in such moderate terms.

In 1615 the Alderman of North Street presents an inhabitant of the Street, for making a Fire in his House without a proper mantel (*i.e.*, a chimney). The non-repair and decay of chimneys was frequently presented, and also other matters by which the risk of fire was incurred or increased, against the bye-laws of the Leet.

The Alderman also presented, that on the last day of October "the servant of William Piddings did cast upon the East End of the Cornhill ashes and other filthiness to the great annoyance of the inhabitants and the disgrace of the Town."⁹⁰

In 1616 a petition was presented by the inhabitants generally as to the non-repair of the Butts⁹¹ for the Town and Borough. It was the Constables' duty, as I have mentioned before, to keep or see these kept in repair, and they were on this occasion fined 10s. for their neglect.

In 1617 the inhabitants of High Street petitioned the Court in consequence of encroachments on the Rhine there, by which it was so 'straitened' "that in any great rain or flood the water riseth so high, and cannot pass the usual course, by reason whereof it is often very hurtful."⁹²

The Jury viewed the Rhine, and found no fewer than nine

89. 22 Edw. 4, c. 22.
92. Kitchin, p. 106.

90. Kitchin, p. 20.

91. 33 H. 8, c. 9.

encroachments, the offenders in each case being ordered to remove the encroachment, on pain of fine.

Edward Gradon and others also petitioned the Court "that whereas before, the place for laying greenskins had been in or near the Cornhill, now the Tanners laid them in front of the Petitioners doors, to the great nuisance and annoyance of the inhabitants," as one can very well imagine.

The Court also, on the presentment of the Shamble Keepers, decreed that "Whereas there is of late a great increase in the Market, of selling Cabbages and Carrots, so as the place near the High Cross where they are now sold is too straight to contain them, and the wool and fruit there sold ; It is ordered that from this day, the said cabbages and carrots shall be sold in the High Street, above the sign post of 'The Ship,' and that the Shamble Keepers take order the Friday night, that those that bring any cabbages and carrots shall lay them in the part aforesaid on pain of 4d." Saturday was evidently the Market day then as now.

The result of this order was, that High Street became blocked, and in 1618 it was ordered "That every Saturday a passage shall be left below the sign post of 'The Ship,' of the breadth of eight feet, and none shall pitch in that passage, neither vegetables nor any other thing under pain of 1s. 4d. to be levied by the Bailiff."

In 1619 reference is made to the custom⁹³ that the tenants of the Manor must grind their corn at the Lord's Mills, and the Jury made the following presentment on the subject :

"Whereas complaint is made unto this Court by the tenants and occupiers of the ancient customary Mills of this Manor, that divers of the customary tenants and inhabitants dwelling within this Manor and the Town and Borough of Taunton, have lately used to grind their grain out of this Manor at foreign Mills, whereas in right they ought to grind the same, at the said customary Mills within the Manor ; And whereas

93. See Jury's presentment, Taunton Deane, 1647.

the said Millers living out of this Manor and Borough do now continually use to come into the Market of the said Borough, upon Market days there, and do by way of Forestalling" (that is buying before the grain had been offered in open Market, which as we have seen, was a statutory offence) "ingross into their hands divers mens' grist corn and grain, and do carry and grind the corn at such foreign Mills, out of this Manor and Borough, by means whereof they take away great benefit and profit, of right due and appertaining unto the said customary Mills of this Manor, and to the tenants and Farmers thereof, who pay very great rents and fines for the said Mills to the Lord of this Manor, besides also great charges borne by the said Lord of this Manor, in the repairing and maintaining of the weares and banks of the River appertaining to the said customary Mills; It is therefore ordered by the Steward of the said Court, that the customary Tenants of this Manor shall do their suit to the said customary Mills, as by the customs they ought to do, and that the Portreeves of the said Borough and Town of Taunton, for the time being, shall henceforth, weekly, upon every Market day, take order that no foreign Millers shall ingross buy and take into their hands within the said Market, any kind of corn or grain, to the damage of the said customary Mills or the Tenants and Farmers thereof."

In 1621 and 1622 the Searchers of Greenskins present "William Bennett the Butcher for cutting of the hide, or skin of one Bullock on Saturday last in the Market," (one of the offences before referred to), and there are also the following presentments by the same officers.⁹⁴

"Robert Gollow who killed a Bul and not a beat" (*Qy. bait*).⁹⁵

"Bartholomew Carne killed a Bul and not a beat" (*Qy. bait*).⁹⁵ and several others to the same effect.

94. 5 Eliz. c. 8.

95. Butchers who sold unbaited bull beef were subject in various Boroughs

The Butchers were in trouble about this time as there are several presentments against them, by the Keepers or Viewers of the Town Rhine, "for gutting and flutoring their hides there."⁹⁶ It was not much wonder that cleansing of the Rhine was a frequent necessity.

In 1623 the Butchers are again presented, this time "for suffering the blood of their slaughter beasts to run into the Street in Paul Street."

It is a curious thing that throughout these records, offences of a particular character or by a particular class appear to come in batches for two or three years together.

I can only account for it as shewing the zealous way in which newly-appointed officers took up their duties during the first few years that they held office.

In 1624, and in several of the following years special Courts were held for the purpose of deciding whether hides of leather seized by the Searchers of Leather were insufficiently tanned, another statutory offence.⁹⁷

A minute of one of these Courts held in 1628 is as follows :

"A Court held at the Guildhall in the presence of Richard Prowse Mayor, and Henry Godsall and William Powell Portreeves."

This is the first time a Mayor's name appears in the records, the original charter of incorporation having been granted in the previous year.

The minute goes as follows :

"The Tryers appointed and sworn for trying six hides of Leather, seized as insufficiently tanned, by the Sealers of Leather the 17th day of January 1628, being the property of one John Ewes of Bicknoller Taunton."

to considerable penalties. (Strutt's "Sports and Pastimes of the People of England," 1903 edit., p. 207.) A copy of an advertisement picked up in the Exchequer appears in Appendix "C," and will give an idea of the Sports! of olden times.

96. 22 Edw. 4, c. 22.

97. 5 Eliz. c. 8.

Here follow the names of the Tryers :—

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| “ Thomas Barber | } | Tanners.” |
| Trosser Hill. | | |
| “ Thomas Tapp | } | Cordwainers.” (that is Shoemakers). |
| Henry Gillard. | | |
| “ John Goodman | } | Curriers.” |
| John Barrett. | | |

“The Tryers above-mentioned do say, upon their oath, that four of the said hides are in the greatest part insufficiently tanned, and we appraise that part which is so insufficiently tanned at ten shillings.”

| | | |
|--------|--------------------|----------|
| Viz :— | “To the Tryers | ... 2s. |
| | To the Assessors | ... 3s. |
| | To the Poor | ... 3s. |
| | To the Lord Bishop | ... 2s.” |

In 1629 reference is made to a Yarn Market, it being ordered “that the yarn Market shall begin from Michaelmas till Lady day by nine of the clock in the morning, and from Lady day till Michaelmas by eight of the clock.”

In 1632 further reference is made to the crowding of High Street on Market Days and it is ordered that the passage before referred to of eight feet wide is to extend from the sign post of ‘The Ship’ to the High Cross for people to come to Market.

The extracts from the presentments, which I have previously given, have all been taken from the minutes of the Court as entered up in the Minute Books, kept by the Steward, which only give a resumé of the business done.

The actual presentments, petitions, tithingmen’s lists, etc., with an endorsement of the Jury’s decision in each case, were not apparently regularly filed as part of the records of the Manor, as unfortunately only a few of these are extant at the present time. Possibly they were as a rule destroyed when the minutes of the Court had been entered up in the Minute Book.

One of these bundles of presentments, etc., for the year 1635 still exists.

From this it appears that amongst the Tithingmen's presentments in that year, is one against John Port and Thomas Tutt for placing some "Broomereecke close unto their Bake-houses, which stand very dangerous for the Town" (presumably through risk of fire) "and therefore we pain them in 20s. apiece for removing of them before the 11th day of May next."

There is a note on this presentment "Not removed therefore we pain them in 30s. more, to be removed before Lady Day."

Encroachments of a wall in Paul Street, a garden in Paul Street, and several encroachments⁹⁸ into the Town Rhine were also presented.

A number of petitions were, as I have already mentioned, presented to the Steward at every Court. Two of those presented in 1635 will serve as examples and were as follows :

"The Petition of William Bobbett of Bridgwater Yeoman, humbly complaining sheweth ; That whereas the Petitioner now is and standeth rightfully seised to him his heirs and assigns for ever, of and in one Burgage with the appurtenances, situate, lying and being in Taunton aforesaid in a street called High Street, wherein Christopher Taylor late dwelt, lying in the West side of the said Street ; And whereas Roger Courtney of Taunton aforesaid hath purchased an estate in a House adjoining next unto your Petitioner's Burgage, which he hath lately newly built, and in Building thereof and erecting of one new chimney hath encroached upon your Petitioner's wall of his said Burgage, and besides hath cut away divers rafters of your Petitioner's House, and besides doth also refuse to repair and amend a leaden gutter, being between your said Petitioner's House and the House of the said Courtney, which is in great decay, and which ever heretofore, hath from time to

98. Kitchin, p. 106.

time been amended, by the Owners and occupiers thereof, tending greatly to the damage, hurt and prejudice of your Petitioner, and in the Building of his House hath borne down a great company of tiles of the covering of your Petitioner's House, and hath taken away the light of a Chamber window of your said Petitioner's House, and divers other wrongs and injuries hath in the Building of his said House done unto your Petitioner, as your Petitioner can and will sufficiently give.

Your Petitioner's humble request unto you is (the premises considered) that you will be pleased to refer the view consideration and examination thereof unto the inquest now sworn and empannelled that on their report how they shall find the same, such order and speedy course, may be had and taken for your Petitioner's relief herein, as you may think fit and agreeable to justice, and equity. And in the doing your Petitioner will ever pray for your health with increase of all happiness."

The Steward's note on the petition is "I desire the Jury now sworn to view the matters complained of, and to take measures to reform the same, if they find cause."

The Jury's note is, "Agreed to be reformed."

The second petition, which explains in most happily worded terms the reasons for which Licensed Houses were then frequented, was as follows :

"The Humble Petition of Thomas Carpenter and Margery Hill Widow

Sheweth that the said Thomas Carpenter being interested of and in one Burgage within the Borough of Taunton, called or known by the name of 'The Kings Arms,' a House unto which divers gentlemen and others of quality have and do usually frequent, as well for the despatch of the affairs of the Country as for their private occasions, being drawn to frequent the said House, much the sooner in regard of the convenient prospect, which the House afforded them, into the several parts of this Town. And that the said Margery Hill being likewise interested in one other messuage or Burgage, which by reason

of the convenience of one fore chamber did yield some reasonable annual rent.

So it is that one Hugh Willis being interested in one Burgage situated between the Burgages of your Petitioners, hath of late by encroaching upon the Lord's waste, erected a certain porch-chamber or room, whereby he hath not only darkened and obscured the lights of both of your Petitioners Houses and Chambers, but hath utterly stopped and taken away the whole prospect of the Houses of your Petitioners, Thomas Carpenter and Margery Hill, and besides by erecting the said chamber, can look into the chambers of both your Petitioners Houses, and can there at his pleasure behold and see all that is done in your Petitioner's chambers, to the great hurt and prejudice of your Petitioners, and to the great scandal and offence of such as resort unto their Houses.

Your Petitioners therefore humbly desire that you will refer the consideration thereof unto the Jury, that on their view thereof they may take such course as well for the reformation of the encroachments as for satisfaction of the hurt and damage done unto your Petitioners.

And your Petitioners will ever pray for your health long to continue."

The Steward's note on the Petition is "Referred to Jury to view," but they were a practical and hardhearted lot, as their verdict was "The Jury do find no such encroachment as is complained of."

The Tithingmen's lists shew that at that time there were 14 male Residents in Shutterne, 41 in Paul Street, 74 in North Street, 111 in High Street, 73 in East Street and 67 in Fore Street, a total of 380.

From the years 1639 to 1649 there are no petitions or prepresentments of nuisances, etc., recorded in the Minute Books. Probably this is accounted for by the troublous times which the Town passed through, and that the exercise of the powers given to the Corporation by the Charter of 1627 gradually

superseded the jurisdiction of the Court Leet in these matters.

In 1645, the year of the siege, the fortnightly Borough Courts (chiefly used for the recovery of debts) and the Courts Leet were regularly held with few exceptions, but only the names of the Officers present are recorded, and no other business was apparently done.

On the 6th of May, when the siege was at its height, none of the Officers answer to their names, though the Court was held.

In 1646 and 1647 the Courts were regularly held again and business transacted, and in 1648, when the Borough was, as we have already seen, sold to Samuel Whetcombe, (who was Constable in 1645) and George Searle⁹⁹ (who was Member of Parliament for the Borough in 1640), the heading of the records of the Courts is altered from a Court Leet held in the — year of the King's reign and of the Bishop's term of office to "In the time of George Searle and Samuel Whetcombe, Farmers of the said Borough."

In 1649, the Tithingmen of Paul Street present William Poole and seven others for entertaining strangers against the Order of the Court, and John Powell was rightly fined "for that he erected a great dung-hill at the door of Henry Cross, to his great prejudice."¹⁰⁰

In 1650 (for which year there is another complete record of proceedings extant) the Court presented the freeholders for not doing their suit and service,¹⁰¹ and fined them 2s. apiece, and also the Bailiffs for not presenting their accounts¹⁰² and fined them in the sum of £5, which is the largest fine I find recorded in the earlier records.

I imagine that there must have been at this time some

99. There is a brass memorial tablet in Taunton Castle Museum, which records that George 'Serle' was thrice Mayor of Taunton, served the town for 12 years in Parliament, and was a J.P. for the County, dying Sept. 28th, 1658.

100. Kitchin, p. 20.

101. 18 Edw. 2.

102. Kitchin, p. 22.

friction between the tenants and the new owners of the Borough, as not only were the rents in arrear, but the Officers were for some years very remiss in their attendance at the Courts.

The Paul Street Tithingman was again very busy and presented three persons "for throwing of sudds¹⁰³ into the Street," and three others "for not repairing the way which is defective before their doors."¹⁰⁴

The North Street Tithingman reports "the lying of the gates before the Bridewell¹⁰⁵ to be a nuisance to Passengers."¹⁰⁶

In 1655 the Viewers of the Rhine present that Esmond Spreat, Grace Spreat and Sarah Crocker "have on the last day of February stopped up the ancient Rhine or Water-course flowing from Pool Wall Mills to the River Tone, to the great annoyance of the inhabitants of the Borough."¹⁰⁷ How or why this feat was performed the records do not say.

In 1658 the tenants of John Prowse petitioned the Court for that the "House of Office of Mr. John Gardener,¹⁰⁸ Minister, was a great nuisance to them."¹⁰⁹

In 1660 the Bishops of Winchester came to their own again and Taunton was deprived of its charter.

Nuisances must to a great extent have been allowed to pass unchecked, during the time that George Searle and Samuel Whetcombe owned the Borough, and the Corporation did not apparently exercise their powers, for as soon as the Borough had been recovered by the Bishop and the Charter taken away, a large number of nuisances, which were probably the accumulation of some time, were presented to the Court, and the air of some of the principal streets must at this time have been anything but salubrious. For instance, the Tithingman

103. Kitchin, p. 20. 104. 2 and 3 P. and M. c. 1.

105. A prison near Tone Bridge 106. Fleta. L. 2 c. 52. 107. 18 Edw. 2.

108. A monument to the two daughters of this gentleman (who is there described as "Minister of the Gospel Bath") was erected in 1665, and is still in St. Mary's Church.

109. 22 Edw. 4, c. 22.

of High Street, amongst several other similar presentments reports offenders "For letting to lie in the Street a great dunghill for above a month," "For suffering a dunghill to be in the middle of the Street," "For letting a dunghill lie always in the Street."¹¹⁰

The Keepers of the Cornhill also report, (possibly as an explanation of the state of High Street), "the Tithingmen of every Street for suffering so many swine to be about the Streets, especially on Market Days. And we pray you to take into your most serious consideration that it be prevented for time to come."¹¹¹

In 1662 there is the first and last record of a Court not being kept, which is accounted for in the following somewhat crude note :—

"The Law Day which was adjourned until this day, not kept, because the Steward dyed."

In 1670 the Constables are presented and fined for not performing their Office in warning and changing the watch,¹¹² "but employing of others to do the same."

In 1677 a New Charter was granted to the Town giving the Mayor and Corporation a wider jurisdiction, consequently there are fewer presentments from this time, except in connection with the Rhines and Markets.

In 1696 several persons were presented as regrators, *i.e.*, persons who buy corn or other victuals in the Market and resell in another Market, within four miles.¹¹³

In 1698 the Officers of the Court had apparently again become lax in their duties, and the Jury present the Constables, Tithingmen and Cornhill Keepers for not discharging their respective Offices,¹¹⁴ and preventing "Forestallers, Regrators, Hucksters and Mealsellers not having obtained licenses, as the law in that case directs, being of pernicious consequence to the

110. 22 Edw. 4, c. 22.

111. Salk : p. 460

112. Fleta, L, 2, c. 52.

113. IV Black. Com., p. 158.

114. Kitchin, p. 22.

inhabitants of this Borough," and also for neglecting to weigh Bread, sold in the Market according to the Statute.¹¹⁵

In 1700 the Tithingman of North Street present six persons for not repairing¹¹⁶ their "Fore Doors" and the Cornhill Keepers present John Ewing "for keeping of the Tubbs belonging to the Cornhill, at his Meal shop, to the great prejudice of the Cornhill Keepers."

Several persons were also presented by the Constables "for leaving their standings in the middle of the Street from Market Day to Market Day to the great hindrance of passengers."

John Martin at the sign of "The Glöve" in North Street is presented for selling bad beer.

In 1702 and following years, several persons are presented "for breaking up of the Streets and Gullies, by reason of the iron binding and nails in their wheels," and they are ordered to have wooden wheels, "as is usual in other Boroughs and cities."

In 1705 the Jury presented that "Whereas divers of the high rents for the Standings are lessened by some preceding portreeves, that no ensuing portreeves are to presume to do the like again on penalty of £10 for each default."

The Court evidently saw that its orders were carried out, as James Reed was in the same year fined £4 "for contempt of Court in not removing the encroachment viewed by the Jury and ordered to be removed at the last Court."

In 1707 George Coles was fined 40s. for refusing to come and be sworn as Tithingman after having been presented to that office by the Grand Jury.

In 1708 Mr. Thomas Baker, the Manager of Mr. Gray's Hospital (Gray's Almshouses), was presented for not repairing¹¹⁶ the street before the Hospital.

A petition was also presented by the inhabitants asking for

115. 18 Edw. 2.

116. 2 and 3 P. and M., c. 1.

a pound for pigs to be made at the end of Paul Street “there having been formerly one in the same street.”

A letter had evidently been previously addressed by the inhabitants to the Lord of the Manor on the same subject, and without effect, the reason being that in 1692 at the Court Baron for the Manor of Taunton Deane, the following letter, signed by all the Grand Jury, had been sent to the Lord of the Manor, and its specious arguments had apparently had considerable weight :

“ 28 September, 1692.

To the Right Reverend Father in God, Peter by
Divine Providence, Bishop of Winton.

May it please your Lordship in answer to the letter produced before us signed by several persons of the Town and Borough of Taunton, concerning the erecting of a pound in the Town and Borough of Taunton, we humbly conceive that the erecting of a pound as aforesaid, will be very prejudicial to your Lordship's Pound Keepers, and also to all your Lordship's tenants ; for if any of the said tenants' goods happen to stray away, and come into the compass of the Borough, that then the said goods will be impounded in the Borough pound, when we shall (perhaps) be forced to pay what they please to demand for impounding, and further that by that means, we shall be sued and impleaded in the Borough Court, and not in your Lordship's Court, which is contrary to our custom, and by that means both your Lordship's Court and pound will be useless to your Lordship's tenants, in which pound, if your Lordship's tenants' goods are impounded, it is our privilege and custom, to pay one penny for impounding. And also we humbly conceive that there is no need for a pound in the Borough of Taunton, Your Lordship's pound being in the Castle Green, which lieth so near and convenient for the Borough to make use of : and, further, whereas they do set forth that after one half year the pound will be useless there, we humbly conceive that it will not be worth your Lordship's

labour to erect a new pound, or allow of any in the Borough. Wherefore we humbly request your Lordship not to consent to the request of the inhabitants of the Borough of Taunton in this particular."

In 1709 there is another order as to the Portreeves letting of the standings in the Market, and I gather from this and the former presentment, that they were in the habit of improperly making as much as possible out of their privileges during their term of office, either by letting vacant standings (in order to secure tenants at once) at less than their proper rent, or if there were none vacant, letting some of those that were already let, and leaving their successors to fight the matter out with the two sets of Tenants.

The order is as follows :

"For the avoiding of suits that may hereafter happen to be brought against the Portreeves of this Borough, for their granting of Leases of Shambles or Standings within the same, when they have no right to do so, the same having been granted by former Portreeves and the lives in being" (that is the lives for which the leases were granted) "we do desire that the Portreeves now to be sworn, will with all convenient speed take a survey of all Leases now standing out, and get all counterparts into their custody, and after they have got the same, to procure them to be entered in a book to be kept for that purpose, and at the end of their year, to deliver over such book and counterparts to the succeeding Portreeves, and that such book and counterparts should go from Portreeve to Portreeve, each taking a receipt for the same."

The request for the new pound still remained unanswered, as the Jury again present "the great want of a pound within the Borough for pigs and do continue our humble request that the place petitioned for at a former Court may be allotted for the purpose with all convenient speed."

The Tithingman of Fore Street present three persons, one "For setting out windows and drinking boxes in the

Street beyond the foundation of his House," another "For permitting of his pigs to run about in the Street," and the third "For not repairing the holes before his door."

The Court was at this time evidently endeavouring to get the Streets in a better state of repair, and there are frequent presentments against offenders.

In 1710 eleven persons are presented for not repairing the Street before their door.¹¹⁷

Several persons are again presented for cutting or gashing hides.¹¹⁸

The Rhine-ridders at different times call themselves by various names, but Edward Jarman and Benjamin Coles, the Rhine ridders that year for the West side of North Street, in making their presentment, describe themselves in quite fancy terms, as "the present wardings for the watter shores, on the West side of North Street."

In 1711 twenty-four people are presented either for not repairing their "fore doors" or the street in front of their "fore doors." I think that the term "fore door" must mean the pavement before the door, as in one of the presentments the following words are added "for it is very dangerous for the horses as they come over the door," probably referring to the pavement in front of a yard door.

The Shamble Keepers in this year present Bernard Tucker, Junior, and the Widow Combe for forestalling¹¹⁹ the Market by buying up butter and cheese.

In 1712 the Jury present as follows, "We present that the number of retailers of small wares and provisions, commonly called Hucksters, is increased to that degree, that in a short time our poor will be ruined by their exacting on them, if they be not reduced speedily, and do present that the Portreeves, Constables and Tithingmen do once in a month go about and examine who have licenses to retail such com-

117. 2 and 3 P. and M., c. 1.

118. 5 Eliz., c. 8.

119. IV Black. Com., p. 158.

modities, and who have not, and that they do, at the next Court, present such offenders on penalty of 3s. 4d. on each officer that makes default.”

The system of fining the Officers, for not making a presentment, was most effective, as the following years produced quite a crop of presentments of Hucksters selling without a license, *i.e.*, a Hawker's License.

In 1742 the Cornhill Keepers are presented and fined for erecting standings on the Cornhill (presumably without the Portreeves' leave) and also for allowing to be exposed earthenware there for sale, as being a nuisance. History repeats itself, and in the 20th century not only earthenware but old clothes and other rubbish are allowed to be sold on the site of the Cornhill. I wonder what the Court of 1742 would have said to that.

The business of the Court from this date appears to languish and the Officers are content almost invariably to report “all well,” and the presentments in 1748 are reduced to a solitary item, “that the pump¹²⁰ in Magdalene Lane is out of repair.”

In 1768 the Market House Act was passed, and for good or ill many of the remaining powers of the old Court Leet were transferred into other hands.

From this time onward the presentments, with few exceptions, record only the names of the Officers appointed.

A few statistics which I have taken from the earlier presentments, as to (1) the price of corn and grain¹²¹, (2) the number of Innkeepers, Alehouse-keepers, Bakers and Brewers, and (3) the population of the Borough, may be of interest.

First, as to the price of corn and grain in the Borough :

This varied very considerably. In 1586, the price of wheat

120. This was one of the Tithing pumps, of which there was originally one in each Tithing for the use of its inhabitants.

121. Kitchen, p. 21.

was 5s. 8d., barley, 4s., beans, 3s. 4d. In 1599, wheat, 2s., barley, 1s. 2d., beans, 1s. 4d. In 1608, wheat, 7s., barley, 4s., beans, 5s. 3d. In 1637, wheat, 5s., barley, 4s., beans, 2s., and in 1642, wheat, 4s., barley, 3s., and beans, 2s.

Secondly, as to the number of Innkeepers and others: I find that in 1587 there were in the Borough 10 Innkeepers, 7 Alehouse Keepers, 3 Brewers and 5 Bakers. In 1618, 9 Innkeepers, 10 Alehouse Keepers, 5 Bakers and 1 Brewer. At the time of the siege in 1645 there were 12 Innkeepers, 5 Alehouse Keepers and 1 Brewer.

And thirdly, with regard to the number of the population. Savage states¹²² that when the poll tax was imposed by William III, in 1689, the inhabitants of Taunton numbered over 20,000, and that this calculation has been adopted and transmitted ever since by one writer after another. I cannot, however, agree with this estimate for the following reasons. The returns of the Tithingmen, which account for every male householder within the Borough, shew that in 1635 (as I have already mentioned) the total number of such householders was 380. In 1703 there were 64 male householders in North Street, 108 in East Street, 33 in Shutterne, 51 in Paul Street, 66 in Fore Street and 158 in High Street, making a total of 480, shewing an increase on the 1635 numbers in every Street but Fore Street, where there was one less.

Outside the Ancient Borough but within the Town of Taunton there were in or about the same year the following male householders. [The numbers I have taken from the Tithingmen's lists for the Manors of Taunton Deane, Taunton (late) Priory, and Fons George.]

In the Manor of Taunton (late) Priory (the returns for which include female as well as male householders), there were in the Tithing of St. James' Street 39 householders, in the Tithing of Canon Street 36 householders, and in the Tithing of Extra Portam (that is the northern side of East Reach) 29.

122. p. 597.

On the south side of East Reach, without the gate, Silver Street and South Street, (which were in Holway one of the Hundreds of the Manor of Taunton Deane) there were (approximately) 43 householders male and female.

At Wilton, in the Manor of Fons George, there were 41 male householders, though this district was at that time probably considered as outside the Town.

In that part of the Hundred of Hull in the Manor of Taunton Deane, which was outside the original Borough but formed part of the Town, (approximately) 19 male householders. In that part of Shutterne which was in the Hundred of Holway, (approximately) 11, and in Mill Lane in the District of the Castle, also in the Manor of Taunton Deane, (approximately) 12.

Allowing an addition of 12 per cent. for female householders (where not included in the Tithingmen's lists) we get the following numbers of Householders in each Street or District of the Town within a year or two of the year 1703.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| In North Street | ... | ... | ... | 71 |
| In East Street | ... | ... | ... | 121 |
| In Shutterne (within and without the Borough) | | | | 49 |
| In Paul Street | ... | ... | ... | 57 |
| In Fore Street | ... | ... | ... | 73 |
| In High Street (which included Upper High Street) | ... | ... | ... | 177 |
| In St. James' Street | | ... | ... | 39 |
| In Canon Street | ... | ... | ... | 36 |
| In East Reach, South Street and Silver Street | | | | 72 |
| In Bishop's Hull Within | | ... | ... | 22 |
| In Mill Lane | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| In Wilton | ... | ... | ... | 46 |

Making a total of 776.

Allowing for an average of five inmates to each house, this makes the total number of residents for the whole Town to be 3880 in or about the year 1703.

Unfortunately I have not got the Tithingmen's Lists for 1689, but the figures of several intervening years shew that the number of inhabitants in the Borough gradually increased from 1635 to 1703, so that the probability is that the population in the latter year, was rather more than less than that of 1689, and if so it is impossible to account for the huge discrepancy between my estimate and that of the early writers referred to by Savage, except by assuming that their figures (as are many similar statistics of that period) are utterly unreliable.

Savage estimating the population, from the numbers polled at elections at the end of the 17th century, comes to the conclusion that the total of 20,000 above-mentioned was greatly exaggerated and that the number of the population at that time, on the basis of five inhabitants to a house, could not have exceeded 10,000. He adds however that "there can be no doubt that since the year 1715 the town has greatly decreased in numbers" as according to a census taken by Dr. Toulmin in 1790 the number of inhabitants in that year was 5472. At the time of the first official census taken in 1801 the number was 5794, so that Toulmin's census was probably correct.

If my estimate is, however, correct, the numbers in 1790 shew an increase of 1592 (40 per cent.) on those of 1703, and there can be little doubt but that Savage's estimate of 10,000 for 1689, which shews nearly double the number of inhabitants recorded as living in the town in 1790, is, though in a lesser degree, as inaccurate as that of the writers who preceded him.

That the population did increase and not decrease between the years 1701 and 1801 is shewn by the annual average of marriages at St. Mary's during that period. For the years 1701 to 1705 the average was 43 ; for 1751 to 1755, 47, and for 1801 to 1805, 54. This shews that there must have been a large increase in the population during this period, which for

practical purposes corroborates my estimate of 40 per cent. above mentioned.

I should mention that in the chapter on the trade of Taunton in Savage's History he states on the authority of "Chamberlayne's present state of England,"¹²³ that in 1704, 8,500 were weekly employed in Taunton in making its cloths. If this were so, it is incredible that the number of inhabitants of the town should only have totalled 3,880 in or about the previous year. I can only surmise that the 8,500 above mentioned is absolutely inaccurate, or must not only have included the people employed in Taunton, but also those in the surrounding districts.

In looking through the old lists of residents one is struck by the number of names of families that are recorded there, whose descendants (presumably) are inhabitants of Taunton at the present day.

Taking the lists for 1699 for example, the following names of families still well-known in Taunton appear:—

In *East Street*, Hucker, Cross, Bell, Edwards, Webb, Butler, Purchase, Powell, Kirkpatrick, Saunders, Abraham, Hutchings, Goodman, Mason, Smith, Dyer, Hare, Clatworthy, Towell, Bisgood, Taylor, Newton and Barrett.

In *Fore Street*, Lock, Rendell, Gill, Hammett, Chaplin, Blake, Boyle, Lissant, Swaine, Carpenter and Woodland.

In *High Street*, Gunston, Poole, Stone, Tucker, Cuffe, West, Brown, Reed and Cook.

In *North Street*, Hurford, Morse, Simmons, White, Baker, Rowe, Hill, Ludlow, Rowsell, Phillips, Long, Walters, Webber and Coles.

In *Shutterne*, Squib, Cox, Hellard, Woolway, Fudge, Knight and Mapledoram.

In *Paul Street*, French, Collard, Cornish, Knight, Summers, Martin, Harvey, Bartlett, Prideaux, Cridland, Lane, Dare, Mills, Babb, Allen and Jenkins.

Such is a brief and I fear somewhat imperfect history of Courts Leet and more particularly of the Court Leet of this Borough, a Court which, by the good work it accomplished in times past, ought to live in the grateful memory of the inhabitants of this ancient Borough.

N.B.—I have for the sake of convenience adopted modern spelling, throughout the extracts from the presentments recorded in this paper.—H.B.S.

APPENDIX A.

A TRANSLATION OF THE PORTREEVES' ACCOUNT¹ FOR THE BOROUGH RENDERED IN 1427-1428.

TAUNTON BOROUGH.

Account of John Boghe and Simon Penning, Portreeves there in the years of the reign of King Henry the 6th, the 5th and 6th. And from the translation of Lord Henry Beaufort, Bp. of Winchester the 23rd.

The same answer of £18 ls. 11d. of arrears of last account of the year preceding.

Total £18 ls. 11d.

RENTS OF ASSIZE.

And of £21 16s. 8d. of ancient rent² at the usual terms. And of 30s. 5½d. of stall rents and of Plots in the middle of the market at four terms. And of 13s. 4d. of customs³ of the bakers at the said terms. And of 10s. of customs of the tanners at the feast of St. Martin which is called Martines Gavell. And of 27s. 6d. of certain rents of divers parcels of land of the Lord's waste within the borough aforesaid of divers tenants as clearly appears by parcel in the 12th year of the Lord that now is. And of 6d. of certain rent of divers parcels of land of the Lord's waste within the borough held by divers tenants as appears by parcel the 19th year of the Lord that now is.

Total £25 18s. 5½d.

ACQUITTANCE OF RENT.

In acquittance of rent of the two Reeves of the Borough by ancient custom 4s.

1. In the Exchequer at Taunton Castle.
2. Borough rents.
3. Dues.

DEFAULTS OF RENT.

⁴(In default of rent of one burgage⁵ of Thomas Brooke 2s. 1d, parcel of the land late Thomas Loriners 10d, a parcel of land late William Huntilpath's 2d, a parcel of land late William Atte Hull⁶ by Chesecrosse 12d, a parcel of land upon the Cornhill late William Pottman's 13d, a burgage late Thomas Durburgh's 3d, a burgage late John Ryden's 18d, a burgage of Sir John Brook 2s, a parcel of land late William Walter Denby by the High Cross 12d.—12s. 7d.) In default of rent of land late Finicoll's 2½d, of a parcel of land late William Bruce's 4d, a burgage late Nicholas Coker's 2s. 1d, a parcel of land late Thomas Waterhall's 4d, (a parcel of land late Thomas Larkiston's 18d.) a parcel of land late Thomas Vauk's 2d, a parcel of land which John Hiche purchased to place his sign there 2d, in default of rent of a parcel of land in Scheterne⁷ late John Loveson's 12d, (because in the hundred of Holeway⁸ and is their charged as appears the year preceding,) a parcel of land late Walter Smyth's in Scheterne 8d, in the Lord's hand and vacant and no distress can be found (6s. and 2½d.) In default of rent of three stalls opposite the house of William at Vyne, because the said stalls are a nuisance and in ruins 12d, in default of rent of a burgage of Edmund Dygher in the middle of the market 8d, because in the Lord's hand (In default of the rent of a burgage late Thomas Aungle, because in the Lord's hand and no distraint can be found.) In default of rent of a parcel of land opposite the house of John Burten 2d.

Sum 6s. 4½d.

Total of Acquittances and defaults 10s. 4½d.

Total of rents remaining clear £25 8s. 1d.

FARMS.⁹

And of 26s. 8d. farm of the fish stall at 4 terms & of 3d. farm of a parcel of land behind the tenement of Robert Afford per ann, containing in length 42 feet and in breadth 32 feet, 26s. 11d.

Total 26s. 11d.

CUSTOMS.

And of 13s. 4d. of the profit of the market this year and of 13s. ½d. of the customs of the stalls and plots of the shoemakers per ann., and

4. The words within the brackets are struck through in the original.
5. House held on Burgage tenure. 6. Bishop's Hull. 7. Shutterne.
8. Several tenements in Shutterne are in the Hundred of Holway.
9. Yearly rents certain, payable under Leases.

of 13s. 3½d. of the perquisites of St. Botolph's fair¹⁰ this year. And of 3s. 4d. of the toll of grass this year. And of 13s. 4d. of free gavel¹¹ this year.

Total 56s. 5d.

ISSUES OF PLOTS.

And of 6s. 8d. of a tenement in the middle of the market, built by Edmund Dygher and seised into the Lord's hand, the reason appears in the 11th year.

FINES OF THE FARM.

And of 8d. of John Ayshford for a parcel of land behind his tenement, to be held for term of his life, containing in length 42 feet and in breadth 32 feet.

FINES.

Of fines, nothing.

PERQUISITES OF COURT.

And of £9 13s. 7d. of perquisites of the Borough Court this year. And of 3s. 4d. of the perquisites of the Court of Pie Powder¹² this year.

Total sum £9 16s. 11d.

Sum total of the Rental with arrears, £57 17s. 7d.

LIVERIES OF MONEYS.

And he accounts in livery of moneys to Robert Barbot Treasurer of ——— formerly John Phelpot, William Sevenge, reeves there preceding year.

And to the same treasurer 46s. 8d. of new issues.

And on livery of moneys to John Chard, £34 3s. 3d.

Total of all the liveries of moneys £39 and he owes £10 17s. 7d.

10. The Town Fair.

11. Tribute, Toll, Customs or Yearly Revenue. (Jacob's Law Dict).

12. A Court of record instituted for the speedy dispatch of differences arising at a Fair. From the French words "pied" and "puldreux," dusty feet, referring to the pedlars who have no certain dwelling place, and by whom Fairs are usually kept. The Court is incident to a Fair. The Steward was the Judge, and the trial was by Merchants and Traders at the Fair. (Jacob, p. 406).

APPENDIX B.

A VERBATIM COPY OF THE PRESENTMENT OF THE
ALDERMAN OF NORTH STREET IN 1597.

“nostreet presenteth

mo
× Dec^r
1597
p^r

That upon thersday beinge the firste daye of December 1597 A peedge of Mr. Heughe Hills beinge tyed up by the Allderman (Acorninge to the Lawe made and provided in this Lighte) was the the same daye his servant Cristopher Gibbs came by fforce of of Armes & did cute the Roope and Lick wiss did take awaye the peedge this abusse complayned unto the Constabells Comandemet geven be Constabell payne to bringe the offender beffore hime, the nexte daye he beinge therunto Required by the Alderman did Refuss the same to do, then at Lanthe by force beinge brought before Constabell hārte who sayde he had nothinge to say to hime for the Abusse, but that he might go About his bissness

By Osemond Wythers Alder^m.”

APPENDIX C.

W.R.

At His Majesty's Bear-Garden in *Hockley Hole*, near
Clarkenwel-Green.

These are to give Notice, to all Gentlemen, Gamesters, and others, that on this present *Monday*, being the 10th of this Instant *June*, 1700. A Great Match is to be Fought by a Fallow Dog in *Westminster*, call'd *Punch*, against a *Bald Face Fallow Dog* of *East-Smithfield* for a *Silver Collar*, five let-goes out of hand, which goes fairest and furthest in wins all: Being a general day of Sport by all the old Gamesters, and a great mad Bull to be turned loose in the Game-place, with Fire-Works all over him; and *Two Boar-Cats* ty'd to his Tail, with variety of Bull-baiting and bear-baiting. Those that are not there by *three* of the Clock will not see the beginning of the Sport.

Vivat Rex

APPENDIX D.

A LIST¹³ OF PERSONS WHO HAVE SERVED THE OFFICE
OF CONSTABLE OF THE BOROUGH OF TAUNTON
SINCE THE YEAR 1426.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1426 John Boghe Simon Penning | 1443-4 <i>Records damaged</i> |
| 1427 William Payne John Blolbery | 1445-6 <i>Records missing</i> |
| 1428 John Felpot William Cosyn | 1447 John Blolbery John Felpot |
| 1429 William Sevenge John Foy | 1448 <i>Record missing</i> |
| 1430-1 <i>Records missing</i> | 1449 John Aisshe Thomas Whitelond |
| 1432 John Felpot William Felpot | 1450 <i>Record missing</i> |
| 1433-5 <i>Records missing</i> | 1451 John Bisshup Peter Grey |
| 1436 John Blolbery John Aishe | 1452 <i>Record missing</i> |
| 1437 Simon Pendon William Sevenge | 1453 Robert Stoke John Denys |
| 1438 John Bushup John Fillepot | 1454 Thomas Wareyne Robert Whirlond |
| 1439 John Blolbery William Borce | 1455 Robert Grey John Okerford |
| 1440 John Story Thomas Domet | 1456 Thomas Domet William Hooper |
| 1441-2 <i>Records missing</i> | 1457 John Carner Richard Lichefeld |

13. The records containing the names of all officers of the Court only extend back to the year 1566. The names of Constables prior to that date have been taken from the Portreeves' accounts, it being the custom that the retiring Constables should be elected Portreeves for the ensuing year. As each account contains the names of the two portreeves who rendered it, it may be safely assumed that these names were those of the Constables for the preceding year.—H.B.S.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1458 John Okerforde Henry Edmonde | 1481 John Wynne Henry Gosswyll |
| 1459 Robert Stoke John Wynne | 1482 Walter Eston Walter Dowlyng |
| 1460 <i>Record damaged</i> | 1483 John Beste Robert Roper |
| 1461 Robert Stoke Thomas Wareyn | 1484 Thomas Fyssher Walter Sanyell |
| 1462 Simon Hampwoode Alexander Tose | 1485 John Sarger John Crudelvyll |
| 1463 Alexander Fisssher William Marke | 1486 Thomas Fisssher Walter Dowlyng |
| 1464-8 <i>Records missing</i> | 1487 <i>Record missing</i> |
| 1469 William Marke William Roche | 1488 Richard Smyth William Bolde |
| 1470 John Sargeo ^d Alexander Toose | 1489 Robert Roper John Tose |
| 1471 <i>Record missing</i> | 1490 Laurence Bain Thomas Fyssher |
| 1472 John Beste Laurence Adm̄ | 1491 Walter Dowlyng John Eston |
| 1473 Robert Eston Henry Toggeweth | 1492 John Tudwell John Roper |
| 1474 <i>Record missing</i> | 1493 John Babyngton William Nethewey |
| 1475 Walter Johnes Richard Anserycke | 1494 John Toose William Goldey |
| 1476 <i>Record missing</i> | 1495 Laurence Adam John Burnerd |
| 1477 Robert Eston Walter Sanyell | 1496 Alexander Newton Thomas Fisssher |
| 1478 <i>Record missing</i> | 1497 Robert Roper Richard Smyth |
| 1479-80 John Sargar John Knollis ¹⁴ | 1498 John Eston John Buruttŕds |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1499 John Tose John Roper | 1519 John Paldw̄s Richard Spensor |
| 1500 William Goldney William Nethewey | 1520 Roger Hill William Tedbury |
| 1501 Laurence Adams Robert Horsey | 1521 Robert Horsey John Wetherton |
| 1502 Robert Roper John Laurens | 1522 William Sydenh̄m Thomas Messlyn |
| 1503 Richard Smyth John Huet | 1523 John Eston John Calowe |
| 1504 Laurence Adams John Roper | 1524 Roger Hill William Tedbury |
| 1505 Alexander Penton John Togwill | 1525 <i>Record missing</i> |
| 1506 John Eston Robert Horsey | 1526 John Calowe, Sr. John Adm̄s |
| 1507 Laurence Adams Henry Golder | 1527 Roger Hille William Sydenh̄m |
| 1508 William Nethewey William Sydenh̄m | 1528 <i>No names entered</i> |
| 1509 <i>Record missing</i> | 1529 John Calowe John Toose |
| 1510 John Huet Roger Hylle | 1530 John Adm̄s Thomas Messelyn |
| 1511 <i>Record missing</i> | 1531 <i>Record missing</i> |
| 1512 John Eston John Calder | 1532 William Sydenh̄m John Adm̄ |
| 1513 William Nethewey William Sydenh̄m | 1533 Robert Horsey John Calowe |
| 1514 Thomas Messlyn William Tedbury | 1534 <i>Record missing</i> |
| 1515 Robert Hill <i>Record damaged</i> | 1535 Roger Hille William Peperell |
| 1516-17 <i>Records missing</i> | 1536-7 <i>Records missing</i> |
| 1518 William Sydenh̄m Thomas Messelyng | 1538 John Toose William Vyny |

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|---|---|
| 1539 William Horsey William Peperell | 1558 William Cleyhanger William Skoryer |
| 1540 <i>Record missing</i> | 1559-60 <i>Records missing</i> |
| 1541 Bengy Henley John Calowe | 1561 Laurence Carbamel Simons |
| 1542 John Tose William Vyney | 1562 John Willysdon Thomas Savage |
| 1543 William Horsey John Carnanell | 1563 <i>Record missing</i> |
| 1544 Thomas Messlyn John Tose | 1564 William Clevehanger William Skorier |
| 1545 John Adm̄s William Vyney | 1565 <i>Record missing</i> |
| 1546 John Adm̄s Alexander Toggewith | 1566 Thomas Davidge John Handiford |
| 1547 John Callowe William Horsey | 1567 Laurence Carbanell Richard Mathewe |
| 1548 William Peperell John Pope | 1568 William Clevehanger Henry Femell |
| 1549 William Vyney John Wyllysdon | 1569 Thomas Simondes John Bailie |
| 1550 John Androes William Gille | 1570 Thomas Pope John Handeford |
| 1551 William Venye Peter Weberand | 1571 Thomas Davidge Thomas Dare |
| 1552 Edward Mathewe William Surrare | 1572 Henry Carbannell Thomas Lecheland |
| 1553 William Horsey Robert Gill | 1573 Henry Femell Simon Saunders |
| 1554 William Vyney Peter Davey | 1574 Thomas Pope Richard Mathews |
| 1555 John Wylisdon Robert Hugons | 1575 John Handeford William West |
| 1556 <i>Record missing</i> | 1576 John Handeford Leonard Tuck |
| 1557 William Skoryer Laurence Carbanyell | 1577 Simon Saunders Thomas Davi(dge) |

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| 1578 Thomas Dare Thomas Cooke | 1597 Thomas Pope William Dare |
| 1579 Henry Femell Thomas Trowbridge | 1598 William Harte John Payne |
| 1580 Thomas Lecheland Robert Hendley | 1599 John Collard Andrew Hendley |
| 1581 Thomas Pope, Sr. Thomas Davidge | 1600 John Gottsall Ludovic Pope |
| 1582 <i>Record missing</i> | 1601 Thomas Trowbridge William Edney |
| 1583 Simon Saunders Laurence Lecheland | 1602 Thomas Fysher John Bowne |
| 1584 Thomas Trowbridge Francis Moore | 1603 Robert Davidge William Lecheland |
| 1585 Henry Femell John Riche | 1604 William Dare Andrew Hendley |
| 1586 Robert Henley William Garlick | 1605 John Payne Simon Sanders |
| 1587 William Leonard Arthur Pitte | 1606 John Collard George Hill |
| 1588 Thomas Pope Thomas Fysher | 1607 Ludovic Pope John Godsall |
| 1589 Simon Sanders Robert Davidge | 1608 William Edney Hugo Hill |
| 1590 Thomas Pope, Jr. William Hart | 1609 John Boone James Raynolds |
| 1591 Francis More Thomas Trowbridge | 1610 Thomas Fysher William Lechland |
| 1592 John Riche John Gottsall | 1611 Robert Davidge John Payne |
| 1593 Arthur Pitte William Leonard | 1612 William Dare Richard Gregorye |
| 1594 Thomas Femell Thomas Fysher | 1613 Andrew Hendley John Trowbridge |
| 1595 Thomas Pope Christopher Sanders | 1614 George Hill Thomas Chicke |
| 1596 Robert Davidge John Bone | 1615 Ludovic Pope John Bellemey |

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| 1616 Hugo Hill Robert Godsall | 1635 Richard Webb Edward Webber |
| 1617 William Edney Hugo Godsall | 1636 Richard Pitt Henry West, Sr. |
| 1618 John Boone Hugo Pitcher | 1637 Richard Smith John Bellamy |
| 1619 William Leachland Roger Hill | 1638 George Searle Robert Gaspy |
| 1620 Robert Davidge John Trowbridge | 1639 Richard Saunders Robert Chick |
| 1621 Andrew Hendley Thomas Chick | 1640 Henry Godsall Richard Taylor |
| 1622 Philip Lissant Mark Knight | 1641 Edward Webber Samuel Quash |
| 1623 Ludovic Pope Hugo Hill | 1642 Peter Lissant Alexander Godsall |
| 1624 Hugo Godsall Thomas Hester | 1643 Robert Gaspie William Chaplin |
| 1625 Hugo Pitcher Jasper Chaplin | 1644 Edward Cooper Thomas Dare |
| 1626 Roger Hill Roger Moggeridge | 1645 Samuel Whetcombe Roger Gale |
| 1627 William Lechland Richard Saunders | 1646 Christopher Taylor Thomas Nicholas |
| 1628 Henry Godsall William Powell | 1647 John Davye Hugo Gunston |
| 1629 Philip Lissant Peter Godwin | 1648 Robert Chick John Sprake |
| 1630 Thomas Hester Richard Webb | 1649 Philip Lissant Richard Baber |
| 1631 Jasper Chaplin Richard Pitte | 1650 Samuel Whetcombe Andrew Gregory |
| 1632 Robert Moggeridge Richard Smith | 1651 William Chaplin Thomas Edgingham |
| 1633 Richard Saunders George Searle | 1652 Edward Webber Christopher Hurley |
| 1634 Henry Godsall Edward Cooper | 1653 Hugh Gunston Robert Middleton |

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| 1654 John Davye John Forde | 1673 Robert Taylor Edward Rossiter |
| 1655 John Mallack William Gill | 1674 Antipas Swinerton Robert Brailey |
| 1656 William Mills John Gardner | 1675 James Roach Francis Hubbard |
| 1657 Thomas Taylor George Lissant | 1676 Samuel Bindon William Raw |
| 1658 Christopher Hurley Robert Hucker | 1677 Stephen Timewell Thomas Lassum |
| 1659 Robert Middleton Thomas Godsall | 1678 William Bidgood George Pollard |
| 1660 John Ford John Whetham | 1679 Thomas Smith Thomas Bosley |
| 1661 William Gill John Cooper | 1680 <i>Names not filled in</i> |
| 1662 John Gardner Philip Gadd | 1681 Antipas Swinerton Jasper Chaplin |
| 1663 Thomas Dare Anthony Budd | 1682 Benjamin Poole Hugo Quarrell |
| 1664 William Turner John Meredith | 1683 John Rovet Aldred Bickham |
| 1665 Thomas Patten Simon Gland | 1684 William Dryer John Rossiter |
| 1666 John Whetham Stephen Savidge | 1685 John Purchase Thomas Gale |
| 1667 Stephen Savage Henry Crosse | 1686 Edward Manley John Lucas |
| 1668 Phillip Gadd William Dunne | 1687 Robert Collin Richard Quarrell |
| 1669 William Turner James Roach | 1688 William Dryer James Poole |
| 1670 Thomas Patten Samuel Bindon | 1689 Bernard Smith Arthur Towell |
| 1671 Simon Gland Stephen Timewell | 1690 John Roe Robert Bartholomew |
| 1672 John Meredith John Hucker | 1691 Thomas Gale Henry Palmer |

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| 1692 John Hobbs No second name | 1712 William Lawrence William Browne |
| 1693 John Crosse Simon West | 1713 George Viney Thomas Butler |
| 1694 Thomas Towill John Marshall | 1714 Edward Cadby John Capon |
| 1695 Henry Bidgood John Yard | 1715 James Poole Edward Broomley |
| 1696-7 Richard Hamlin Nathaniel Crabbe | 1716 William Langdon Daniel Bicknell |
| 1698 John Rossiter Rawleigh Trewin | 1717 James Gully John White |
| 1699 Charles Hanslopp Robert Smith | 1718 Charles Cox Thomas Morren |
| 1700 John Bindon Thomas Gale | 1719 James Poole Thomas Morren |
| 1701 Simon Westcott William Saunders | 1720 Edward Cadby William Crosse |
| 1702 John Yard Thomas Murren | 1721 Roger Mallacke John Teape |
| 1703 Nathaniel Crabb John Cockram | 1722 Francis Spurrier William Crosse |
| 1704 Thomas Gale, Jr. Thomas Butler | 1723 Nathaniel Vinte James Lutt |
| 1705 William Langdon Hugh Stubbs | 1724-6 William Garway Samuel Payne |
| 1706 Thomas Laskett George Viney | 1727 Nicholas Woodham Edward Hooper |
| 1707 Simon Westcott James Gully | 1728 Charles Cox James Dare |
| 1708 Thomas Grant Abraham Perriam | 1729 Thomas Grant James Dare |
| 1709 James Manley William Bayley | 1730 Francis Spurrier William Locke |
| 1710 Richard Talbot Roger Low | 1731 Thomas Hayward John Barber |
| 1711 John Yard John Dare | 1732 William Sweeting William Bayley |

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| 1733 Thomas Exon Samuel Hillyard | 1750 Thomas Hancock Thomas Long |
| 1734 Samuel Atlee Philip Southey | 1751 William Burrow Thomas Govier |
| 1735 <i>Record missing</i> | 1752 John Hunt John Dyer |
| 1736 Thomas Gale John Newton | 1753 John Foy Francis Capon |
| 1737 Philip Foy John Criddle | 1754 Richard Boone Stephen Dyke |
| 1738 John Atlee Richard Littlejohns | 1755-6 Benjamin Spiller Christopher Marler |
| 1739 Robert Bryant Francis Hayes | 1757 John Buncombe Samuel Brooks |
| 1740 Henry Manley Thomas Dawe | 1758 John Sydenham John Hurrer |
| 1741 Thomas Hancock John Hare | 1759 <i>Record missing</i> |
| 1742 Philip Southey William Dyke | 1760 William Burrow Charles Cox |
| 1743 George Berry John Chilcott | 1761-2 John Lutley John Goldsworthy |
| 1744 William Sharrock Thomas Dyer | 1763 John Graham Thomas Channon |
| 1745 William Spiller William Pearse | 1764 Christopher Lutley John Burcher |
| 1746 Benjamin Hall Benjamin Nicholls | 1765 William Saunders Richard Reeves |
| 1747 Joseph Spiller Simon Saunders | 1766 Robert Harris Thomas Lock |
| 1748 John Alexander Edmund Fickus | 1767 James Hare George Bindon |
| 1749 George Strong John Hurrer | ¹⁵ 1768 James Pond Henry Hooper |

15. A second Court was held this year within a few days of the first and the officers appointed at the first court apparently ignored, as the Constables appointed at the second Court were in accordance with custom elected Portreeves in the following year. Rival factions in connection with the passing of the Market House Act this year may possibly account for this.

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| 1768 Joseph Long William Trott, Jr. | 1787 Benjamin Spiller George Hewlett |
| 1769 George Williams Richard Littlejohns | 1788 William Cogan, Jr. John Squire |
| 1770 John Harcombe Thomas Spiller | 1789 Richard Dominey James Davy |
| 1771 William Cockeram Joseph Melhuish | 1790 Vere Hare James Pounsbury |
| 1772 John Nowell John Parkhouse | 1791 Daniel Sutton Joseph Ludlow |
| 1773 Benjamin Viney Joseph Harman | 1792 William Turle Thomas Dinham |
| 1774 Jonathan Harman George Rew | 1793 Mathew Taylor Molly Gannett |
| 1775 John Doman Thomas Pile | 1794 John Locke David Poundsbery |
| 1776 Jenipher Painter Thomas Viney | 1795 John Stevens Joseph Bussell |
| 1777 Joseph Parkhouse John Hill | 1796 John Priddy Samuel Ludlow |
| 1778 William Trott William Saunders | 1797 Thomas Hurford Thomas Webber |
| 1779 John Parkhouse Stephen Prew Chaplain | 1798 George Rewe John Dummett |
| 1780 Thomas Balden George Rew, Jr. | 1799 Samuel Drake Richard Dell |
| 1781 Abraham Barnes James Berry | 1800 Thomas Jacobs Henry Stone |
| 1782 John Dyer John Chilcott | 1801 John Hill John Coles |
| 1783 Charles Cox James Spiller | 1802 Matthew Haviland Joseph Slocombe |
| 1784 James Berry George Hare | 1803 William Casley William Chilcott |
| 1785 Henry Hooper William Rew | 1804 Thomas Rendle Thomas Brailey |
| 1786 Robert Newton Stephen Reeves | 1805 James Jacobs William Dibble |

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| 1806 William Lindsay Peter Cornish | 1826 Henry James Townsend James Jeboult |
| 1807 William Yandall William Parkhouse | 1827 Joseph Bussell John Knott |
| 1808 Charles Sutton Samuel Hallett | 1828 John Porter William Murrey |
| 1809 Richard Turle Thomas Fickus | 1829 Henry Upham William Goodwyn |
| 1810 Thomas Greenslade Thomas Burton | 1830 John Knott Joseph Bussell |
| 1811 John Slocombe Leonard Pavey | 1831 Thomas Gilbert David White |
| 1812 James White Edward Martyn | 1832 William Yandall John Fearncombe |
| 1813 John Buller Joseph Hitchcock | 1833 James Shattock James Blackmore |
| 1814 Thomas Brailey William Gore | 1834 Thomas Gilbert Abraham Whitwham |
| 1815-16 Aaron Smetham Henry Sutton | 1835 George Cox William Hutchins Chorley |
| 1817 Mark Long William Gore | 1836 William Upham John Christopher Easton |
| 1818 Benjamin Granger Thomas Brailey | 1837-8 Richard William Atton Robert Harne |
| 1819 Thomas Virgin Granger Robert Henry Gillard | 1839 Thomas Hucklebridge William Roberts |
| 1820 Thomas Brailey William Line | 1840 Samuel Parsons Richard Bridge Cross |
| 1821 Henry Hurford William Murrey | 1841 William Parkhouse Stephen Reeves |
| 1822 William Yandall, Jr. Emmanuel Stevens | 1842 John Bartlett Charles Court |
| 1823 David White Benjamin Granger | 1843 James Parsons John Steevens |
| 1824 James Long Thomas Bellamy | 1844 James Parsons George Creedy, Jr. |
| 1825 Thomas Virgin Granger William Murray | 1845 William Court Abraham Whitwham |

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| 1846 John Turle Charles Cox Corfield | 1865 Thomas Evans Francis Chapman |
| 1847 George King Hare Joseph Parkhouse | 1866 William Channing David Poole Hewer |
| 1848 Richard House John Babb | 1867 Melville Raban George Holt Geale |
| 1849 John Porter John Slocombe | 1868 William Greenslade John Vile |
| 1850 Frederick May Robert Summerhayes | 1869 Alfred Lewis Richard Turle |
| 1851 James Trudell Henry Sutton | 1870 Clement Smith John Duder |
| 1852 William Burge Hellard Henry Fiske | 1871 Robert Bailey James Bartlett Webber |
| 1853 Benjamin Abraham John Kingsbury | 1872 Alfred Court Thos. Hucklebridge Bartlett |
| 1854 William Goodland Samuel Summerhayes | 1873 Edward Lyne Parsons Reginald Barnicott |
| 1855 Henry Barker Joseph Colmer | 1874 Charles Haddon William Robert Trotman |
| 1856 John Roberts William Pain | 1875 William Hockin Robert Upham Hartnell |
| 1857 George Sercombe Thomas Sydenham | 1876 Allan Harrison Stringfellow George Sheppard |
| 1858 Edward Slocombe Thomas Bussell | 1877 William Edward Bussell Thomas Geale |
| 1859 Walter Ping Robert Harris, Jr. | 1878 Arthur Steevens Charles Baker |
| 1860 John Barter William Strode Bragg | 1879 William Firth James Showers |
| 1861 Walter Chorley Brannan Joseph Parkhouse | 1880 Sidney Arding Bragg Charles Lewis |
| 1862 John Leversedge Edward Jeboult | 1881 Thomas Biffen Henry James Spiller |
| 1863 Frederick Ricketts Clarke Thomas Harris | 1882 Frederick Benj ⁿ Wickenden Henry Joseph Van Trump |
| 1864 Alfred Stansell John Blizard | 1883 John Giles Vile William Henry Cooksley |

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| 1884-5 Walter Norman Henry West | 1894-6 Alexander Hammett David Brown |
| 1886 William Lock Edwin Goodman | 1897-9 David Brown Josiah Lewis |
| 1887 William Lock William Potter | 1900-1 Charles Edward Clemow William Henry Westlake |
| 1888-9 Charles Baker Malcolm Glenara Ross | 1902-3 William Percy George Hinton |
| 1890 Malcolm Glenara Ross Harry Read | 1904-6 William Poole Edwin Goodman |
| 1891-2 William Adams William Albert Wrenn | 1907 Eland Clatworthy Arthur Allan Chapman |
| 1893 William Albert Wrenn Alexander Hammett | 1908 Arthur Allan Chapman Charles Saunders |

N B.—The Christian names have where possible been rendered in modern English. The surnames appear as spelt in the records.—H. B. S.