

## A By-Path of the Civil War.

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EDITED BY HENRY SYMONDS, F.S.A.

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THE documents of which a selection is now printed for the first time were given to the Somersetshire Archaeological and N.H. Society by Mrs. G. W. Saunders and Mrs. T. Holt, who found them among title-deeds and other manuscripts relating to Sand Hall, in Wedmore, which had been owned by their family for more than a century. The paternal grandfather of the donors married Jane Gilling of Mark, whose patronymic frequently occurs in the following pages, and it is not improbable that this lady was the channel through which the civil-war papers came to Sand Hall.

The papers are not contemporary writings of the seventeenth century. They are copies on folio sheets 15 × 10ins., sewn together in book form and bearing the water-mark "G & S. 1812," which may indicate that they were transcribed not long after that year, with the object of preserving a record of the events. It is not known whether the originals are still in existence, but they were evidently in defective condition when the copies were made, as may be seen by the breaks in the text.

The Council of the Society had arranged that Prebendary E. H. Bates Harbin should edit the papers for the *Proceedings*, but his untimely death took place before any material progress had been made with the work. I have had an opportunity of reading his preliminary notes and have included, over his initials, a few which were supplementary to my own comments.

I have thought it desirable to omit certain articles which are duplicates, either textually or in substance, of other portions of the narrative, and to change the order of the docu-

ments, as the original numbering bore little if any relation to the probable sequence of events or dates. Missing words have occasionally been supplied where the context seemed to permit the insertion. The presence of these duplicates and the repeated absence of dates suggest to me that in such cases the writings were drafts; at the same time the whole collection is reminiscent of a brief prepared for a defendant's counsel, or perhaps a *dossier* for the president of the "court of warre" to which an allusion will be found in No. VI.

The series of incidents here described will yield a view of the civil war from an unusual angle, and show in considerable detail the extent to which the prevailing unrest affected the country people in the marsh lands round Brent Knoll. Indeed, the damage might not have been greater if Cavaliers and Roundheads had fought a pitched battle in that neighbourhood. The causes of the trouble were the lamentable outrages and thefts committed by Royalist troops under the guise of requisitions for army purposes, a practice which induced Clarendon to remark in book IX of his History that it "alienated the hearts of those who were best affected to the king's service." As a matter of fact, in the same month the exactions of Charles's army provoked similar risings in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, but on a larger scale.

The military situation in Somersetshire during the spring of 1645 was favourable to the Royalists in as much as they occupied practically the whole county excepting Taunton, which had been and was then again besieged by Goring. Bridgwater and its castle were held for the king by Col. Edmond Windham, while further to the north the city and castle of Bristol were under the control of Ralph, Lord Hopton, "the soul of the army" as Clarendon rightly calls the lieutenant-governor. Such, then, was the position on 24th March, 1644-5, when a body of about sixty cavalry in the king's service, marching from Bristol to Taunton under Col. Ayscough, quartered themselves at South Brent. They stayed there for eleven days until 4th April, a period including Easter; it will be noticed that one of the villagers, when setting up an alibi, states that he attended evening prayer on Good Friday, the day of the outbreak. During those days



plundering and ill treatment were rife, whereupon the exasperated inhabitants resisted but were quelled by superior force, and more excesses followed as punishment for the rising. The parishes of East Brent, Burnham, Berrow, Mark and Lympsham also suffered from the depredations. About half of the documents relate to the misadventures of two natives of South Brent, namely, Capt. John Somerset and Thomas Gilling; the former apparently held a limited commission from the governor of Bridgwater, hence his rank as captain, but this was denied by his accusers. Somerset and Gilling were arrested for having incited, as was alleged, the revolt against the troops, and were taken to prison in Bristol where they remained for four or five weeks. A petition to Hopton, supported by the depositions of witnesses who testified to their innocence, resulted in their release on bail, and a subsequent petition from the two men begged the authorities to hear and give judgment on the indictment against them. Attention may be directed to two charming letters jointly written by the prisoners in Bristol to their wives at home (*cf.* Nos. XI and XII).

The remaining portion of the group of papers describes the losses and ill-usage inflicted on the unfortunate inhabitants of four parishes and the steps taken to obtain redress for their wrongs, which were assessed at £687 for damage subsequent to the rising. It can be inferred that the king's representatives were trying to prove that the pillaging occurred only after and in consequence of the revolt, whereas Somerset and Gilling and their neighbours were concerned to show in their pleadings that the "uprore" followed and was provoked by the illegal acts of the soldiers.

One other document may be mentioned. It is a petition to Hopton by Philip Creech of Charlton Mackrell, arising out of the same events. He is occasionally referred to in the course of the other proceedings, but No. I is the sole article which relates to his case alone.

Edward Peacock's reprint of the *Army Lists of the Roundheads and Cavaliers* and other contemporary lists furnish no information as to any of the regimental officers whose names are associated with the disturbance. Lt.-Col. Tynte, how-

ever, was no doubt identical with John Tynte of Chelvey (died 1671), who had probably raised a cavalry regiment under his own leadership. Lieut. Tynte may, with less certainty, be identified as the colonel's brother Hugh, afterwards Sir Hugh Tynte of Peperharrow, Surrey, and mayor of Guildford.<sup>1</sup> As to Lt.-Col. Ayscough, it is a curious coincidence that the library in Taunton Castle contains a civil-war tract (*The proceedings of the army under the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax, 1645*) which bears on its title-page the words "Will<sup>m</sup> Ayscoughe" in an early hand.

I.

To the Right Hoble Ralph Lord Hopton General of his Mats  
Westerne forces & Governor of this City of Bristole,

The humble petion of Philipp Creech of Charlton Mackrell  
in the Com Somset Gent.

Sheweth

That yor. petn. was about a month since brought prisoner to this City and hath soe ever since continued under the Marshall here, upon a surmize that he was active in the late opposing of certen plundering souldiers in the said County, whereoff notwithstanding he hath by sufficient testimony upon oath made before Mr Powell Clerk to the Court of Warr fully cleared himself, he beinge but a stranger in these pts.

That he hath by the space of almost two years last continued upon his Mats Service & hath adventured his life in divse engagemts therein, from prosecution whereof to his greate grieve he is hindered by his psent restrant.

He humbly prayeth That his innocency in the matters alleaged against him being most apparent, yor Loshp wil be pleased to grant him his Inlargement & release That soe as formerly he may serve his Matie although to the utmost hazard of his life and fortunes wh ever hath been & still is his full resolucon.

And he shall as in duty bound ever pray for yor  
Loshp.

Endorsed "a petion. for Philip Creech. Hopt."

1. I am indebted to Mr. St. D. M. Kemeys Tynte for this note as to his kinsman Hugh.



## II.

Mr John Somerset<sup>1</sup>

Mr Tho Gilling

The truth of the cause. Were in prison in the custody of the Marshall of Bristol for the rying of a ptended tumult & insurrection on Leuit Colo Ascough & others of Collo Tyntt Regiment, That Leuit Colo Ascough, Capt Palden, Capt Lancaster, Leuit Tyntt & his brother Mr Workeman, William Wallen, William Weekes then Quarter Master and about three score others all horsemen, March the twentieth fourth [1644-5] came to South Brent & were quarterd there untill the foureth of Aprile following being ealeaven days, & that twenty of that Regiment was quartered there for some time not above twelve or fourteen days before, that some of them forceably entered the house of John Joanes & tooke from him twenty five shillings. That William Weekes & others 29th March last did breake open the house of Steven Cocke & tooke from him twelve bussells of Maulte, six yeards of home made clothe, broke up all the Chestes and lockes in his house.

That Henry Salisbury & others of that Companie 1st Aprille broke upp the house of Maude Blake & took from her a piece of Broad Cloth and lynning.

That Francis Swift, Richard Huchings & John Parsons being quartered wth Henry Simons of South Brent 25 of March laste took by fforce a ffatt Bullock from John Grabhams man coming from fair & delivered him to one Phillipps Simons servant & charged him to looke to him at his perile, but the Bullock being yt night taken away by the owners the Troopes did grievously beat & cut the said Philipps & set a sword to the Breast of the said Simons's Wife & threatened to run her through if she would not fetch a rope to hang her man, and having a rope they put the same about the neck of Phillipps usinge maney Oathes yt they would hang him. They enforced him to give them xxs. to appease their fury.

That they tooke from the Inhabitants of South Brent, East Brent & Burnham while they quartered there twenty Mares

1. The pedigree of the family of Somerset in South Brent was registered at the Herald's visitation in 1573 (*cf.* F. W. Weaver's edition, p. 78), but it is not continued in the visitation of 1623.—/E.H.B.H.)

& horses. That some of yt Company assaulted a labouring man in the Highway near Axbridge & killed him 25th March last. That they committed dyvers Roberies on County people yt day & maimed & wounded others.

That some of them robbed John Gilling a Butcher coming from Axbridge Markett & tooke from him his purse & money.

That some of them 3d Aprillis entered the Tythingmans house of Burnham & searched every roome and tooke from two shirts & one sheet and dyvers other things.

That William Weekes sent a warrant to the said Tythingman to bring in 3 quarters of beans or oates or money to his quarters on payne of plunder, of wh the Tythingman brought him six Bushells and 5s in money. But in short time after Weekes, Capt. Palden & 5 others came to the Tythingmans fathers house & threatened to tie him necke and heeles together if he brought them not 40s the next morning, & he brought them the greatest pt & yet they were not satisfied.

That 3d Ap last Capt Palden wt diverse others came to East Brent & required quarter for their Companie and greate store of Oates & Beans on paine of plundering, whereupon the Inhabitants was enforced to give them 40s in money and xs in Beare to make their composition with them.

That 4th Apr last Quarter Master Weekes with five others came to Lympsham & required quarter for 87 men & foure quarters of Beans and Oates, threatening the Inhabitants should lie on straw & that the souldiers should lie in their bedds.

That Leuit Tynt did often vaute and say yt that Country were fools & that they came to make them fools & that they were good for nothing but to be made Idiotts, and that Mr Workeman of that Companie tooke from Nicholas Palecy his purse and his money in his own house wh was xs or above; that some of them tooke 3 lambs & one sheepe from Willi Filtham & one Buller, that Mr Workeman of yt Companie said to some Irish of that Company it would never be well until they killed women & children.

That some of them pferd to sell Vicar Willmotts<sup>1</sup> wheat to an Ale seller for twelve pence the bushell.

1. Instituted to South Brent 20th Sept. 1621 (F. W. Weaver, *Somerset Incumbents*).



That some of them said they would save Mr Cox the labour for collecting any more contribution money & that they hoped to lighten him of what he had collected ere longe.

That 27th Martii some of them broake upp Willi Lushes house in Berrowe and tooke from him a suite of Appell a Blancket & his lynge, threatening to kill his Wife and burn his house.

That some of them came to Berrowe to John Ffrys & other houses & wth exericable oathes swore that that night all the houses in the pish of Berrow should be burnt to the ground.

That all the warrants they sent forth to the abordering Villages for Corne or money were to be obeyed on paine of plunder.

Lo. Hopton's Warrt. That all these misdemeanors of the souldiers were committed before the people oppose them, besides at the instant of time the souldiers were plundering at Lympsham & other places, wh so far insenst the people that the County rose on them of their own accord, haveing a warrant from the right Honoble Lord Hopton dated 21st Jan last to apprehend all plunderers & to conveigh them to the Garrison of Bristole, and likewis another Warrant from the right Worshful Mr Edmo Windham Governor of Bridgewater to oppose all souldiers yt should come in any violent manner or plunder any goods and apprehend them. Dat Janu 28th last.

Note. Mr Turnor p̄ves the delyvering of these orders. That foure days before the rysing of the people Leuit Colo Ascough recd order from my Lord Hopton to march on sight thereof wt his Regment to my Lord Goreing, wh he neglected to doe unless the Inhabitants of South Brent woulde give him five pounds, notwithstanding they still quartered and plundered there 4 dayes after, wh caused the opposition, for yf he had observed his orders to have marched there had not beene any rysing of the people.

That neither Somset nor Gillinge were pryvy to the rysing, of wh in the Inhabitants certificates.

That Somset and Gillinge have been ever loyall subjects to the Kinge, the Commissioners certificates do shew.

That notwithstanding one Collo Boville & his Companie

did apprehend and taken the said Somset and Gilling prisoners and kept them for a long time in the custody of the prvost Marshall, pretending they were chief actors in rysinge of the people, for wh prtence Collo Bovvills Companies & Leuit Colo Ayscough hath plundered them already, vizt Somsett to the value of £100 & Gilling to the value of 50li.

That since the opposing the Inhabitants of South Brent were plundered by

Colo Bovils and Ayscoughs men the value	. 300 : 00 : 0
The Inhabitants of Berrowe to the value of	. 50 : 00 : 0
The Inhabitants of Burnham to the value of	. 100 : 00 : 0
The Inhabitants of Lymsham to the value of	. 200 : 00 : 0

Besides Colo Bovile fined each Hamlett some xxx*li* a piece, some more some less, & recd the greatest part of the money & appointed Lieut Colo Ayscough to rec the rest, wch the whole came to near 200*li*.

Endorsed "the Breviate of yr cause."

### III.

Somerset.

These are in his Maties name to will and require you immediately on sight heareoff that you bringe forthwith into my quarters att South brent the som of fouer quarters of Beans or Oates for this present occasion; fail you not as you will answer the contrarey on paine of plundering, and your due performance in the same I shall require by tomorrow morning by eight of the clock. Given under my Hand this 25 off March 1645.

William Weekes.

To the Tythingman or Counstable off Limpsham.

Endorsed. "Limpsame W Weekes his Warrt plunder."

### IV.

These are in his Maties name to comaunde you uppon [receipt] hereof to assess [and] collect within yor pish of Berrough thirty pounds for payment of the horse & ffoote under my comaund according to the Generalls establishment sent hither for the reducing of these parties to a due obedience to his Maties service, and the same to bring in hither to my



quarters this night by six of the clock wtout fail. And whereas of late the Inhabitants of the sd p̄ish did of late rise in a rebellious manner against some of his Maties souldiers whom they wounded and disarmed, These are therefore by virtue of the power given me from his Highness prince Charles Counsell to require you to bring . . . return one the . . . of those [who] deny to do itt, And I hereby p̄mise that being [able] to protect you in yr owne Habitations from all plunder or imprisonment or any other manner of molestation, p̄mising to me hereafter a due obedience to his Maties service, which if you refuse expect nothing but ruin to yrselves & fortunes. Given at South Brent under my hand this 13 April 1645.

Jos. Bovvill.

To the Constable & Tythingman and Inhabitants of Berough,  
These.

Endorsed " Berrow. Bovvill for 30*li*."

V.

Aprill 14th 1645.

Received of Mr Whippey Constable of Brent the sum of VIII pounds being part of twenty pounds assessed upon the p̄ish for the accomodating of the horse and foot here under my command

I say Recev    *li*8 : 0 : 0

p me

Jos Bovile

Endorsed. Colo Boviles acquittance  
for 8*li* East brent.

VI.

Sir,

Doctor Joanes have p̄mised us yt wee shall come to tryale ; on Tuesday next we shall come to a Court of Warre so ōr writting to you is to desire you to send by this bearer my Lord Hoptons Warrant & the Certificates & what other things you have yt may doe us good, and wt all a letter what you woulde advise us, how you appve of us doing it and what you have done since you sawe us last & whether wee shall send it you againe if wee are putt off and not tryed, for wee are not

certaine my Ld Hawley will hear itt. Maior Bower hath been wt us & he lookes for greate satisfaction for many horses wh he ptends he loste.

Worshippl Sir,

Wee have emboldened ourselves to write unto you to desire you to assist us in extremitie having noe other friend to rely on, wee have sent you or accusation verbat being true not one word of it, neither to . . . but a . . . plundering of us ; my Wife Joane Gillinge was wt the Comis[sioners] hoping to have spoken wt you & gained a Certificate of ör loyalty, & Mr. . . . a Commission found in a chest of John Somersett [from] Waller to authorize him to raise a troope of Drag[oons and a] halfe, whereuppon they all wt held their hands ; whe[refore] we entreat you to certifie to them that it is noe such matter uppon or salvation, moreover it plainely appeareth by their accusation & wee doe greatly wonder yt Mr Kirton should doe us yt discourtisie uppon a scandilous report before he knew the truth of it himself ; so desireing you to doe what you can for us both, for the clearing of yt false imputation & gaining or liberty uppon baile if it can be noe otherwise ; and whatever you doe p̄mise or engage yor self for us shall be pformed as far forth as or lives & fortunes will goe. Desireing you to gain a Certevecate from Sir Edward Rodney & the other Commissioners to my Ld Hopton of or loyalty & what else you shall think fitt, & on so doing wee will recompense you to the highest & shall ever bee obleidged. Pray Maior Morgaine if ever you will doe for us now be active in this businesse, for we ly here at great charge, & in so doeing,

Endorsed. " a lett Windham

" a lett Morgan.

## VII.

Gent boath : I receaved yor letter yesterday night & I am hartily sorrowe I cannot attend on you att Bristole this day. There is never a day butt that I have commaunds from my Lord Hopton about Match and Bullett to be sent to Taunton Lamport Sherborne & other places next the Enemy who is nowe in Dorsettsheire & on our Borders. I expect more evr'y hower wh tyes me att home. Butt I am assured you



will not be tryd by a Council of Warr untill my Lord Hoptons return. In regard hee told me you should not. Neither shall I advise you to itt, ffor it is no pollicy to putt your liffe estate & all on the soldier who will favor yor ptie when it may be otherwise prvented; it is but a little patience and tyme will worke all for the best. Besides if you expect yor freedom by a Council of Warr you must pve all or most of the greatest abuses done by the souldier wh caused the mutiny, as the breaking of houses, taking away by force the goods therein, the stealing of xx horses, then threatening to burn houses & Villages, then murder and threats to kill women and children which I believe you have not proved. You are also to make exhibitts of your Certificatts that they may be authenticke in the Courte. And in regard the only chiefe charge against Capt Somsett is that he did not obey my [Lords order] in not yealding to be a Capt under Collonell Tynt, I shall [say that] Leuit Col. Ascough was qrtered in his house for 14 days & that Capt Somsett was often in his Company during that tyme & might have apprhended him for that often before the rysinge, wh will make itt apparantly appeare that the rysinge was not by his meanes. Gent, I would have been with you long ere this if the Prince's Council had returned from Excettr. I beleave Fairfax comeing down hath been their hindrance, as soone as I may doe you service I will not fayle to be wth you. The Comissionrs are all strong for you if you prced to a tryale, & that you see yr selves pvided for itt, gett Mr Powel to acquaint the Comanders that are to sett on you wth the trewth of the case by delevinge them svaile Brev: & intreate him privately to Bluitt for you. I acknowledge Doct . . . may be yr . . . All the writtings that con[cern] you I have sent by this bearer, so [hoping for] yr lyberty

I remayne

Assuredly to serve you

Wm. Morgan.

Brf. 12. 1645.

For Mr John Somsett &  
Mr Thomas Gilling  
att Bristole, hast theise.

VIII.

To the Right Honble Ralph Lord Hopton

The humble petition of John Somsett

In all humbleness sheweth

That he hath remayned a prisoner above a month and though he hath lately seene a copy of yr charge against him, yet he hath not had the opportunity to come to his answers and therefore prsumes to psent the same to your Losp, hereby ptesting (and shall be ready to depose) that hee was neyther privy present or ayding to the tumult in South brent on the 4th of Aprile last nor is there any profe against him thereof.

1. That he was ignorant that Leiftent Ayscough had any order from yr Lōp to bringe him or his troope into Collonell Tynts Regiment, and had hee known thereof hee would have wayted upon yor Lshp and given yor Lshp satisfacn therein, wh hee now humbly prayeth yor Lōsp to receive from the anexed Certificate of the Governor of Bridgewater.

2. That hee hopes your Lshp will not punish him for the words or actions of Creech, and yt if Richard Swayne swears true That the sayde Creech was the day of the tumult wth him at East brent and not in the tumult, yor Loshp will find little truth in that article.

3. That he is assured yor Lōsp will build no judgment uppon a report or averment of inhabitants of townes where no one man is named yt will [swear] any such averment, and yet yor pter hath a Certificate [from] South Brent & Burnam to testyfie yr petr in that he hath no hand in the tumult.

4. That the quarrell at Axbridge between the Lord Hawleys souldyor & one Rogers was not in the petnrs prsence, that Rogers is noe servant to yor petnr nor ever was, but a mere stranger nor had any servant of yor petnr anything to doe therein. This being ye real trewth, and he haveing layne above a month prisoner and the weather hot and the season dangerous, hee humbly prayeth yor Loshp order to the pvest Marshall for his discharge,

And as in duty bound shall ever pray for yor Loshp.

(Certificate from Windham).

[John Somerset] to be capteyn of a troop of Horse under my



Comand [as] his Colonell, for suppressing of plundering & idle souldiers in yt country & for the assistance of my garrison and noe otherwise. And yt he never had free quarters for any man, nether recd any pay for himself or his souldiers, yt hee always paid his contributions & yt hee delivd his Comission to me wt a list of his troope in Dec last, & I thereon discharged him of his comand long before he was commanded to be a Capt under lieuet Colo Tynte.

To the Right Honble Ralph Lord Hopton  
or any other his Maties Officers whome these shall concern.

## IX.

Richd Swayne of South Brent in ye County of Somsett Husbandn deposeth and saith yt somewhat before Easter Day last past he with Phillip Creech goeing from Capt Somsett his house situate at Lowham (?) wthin the p̄ish of South Brent (being the very day when ye insurrection was against Collo Tynts Souldiers) mett wth ten men or thereabouts haveing Corne pikes & staves in their hands uppon the causeway leading to East Brent, who examined Phillip Creech whether he was a souldier to Collo Tynt, and hee answering noe there-uppon this dept passed along towards East Brent and the said Phillip Creech imediately followed him and they went to East Brent together, and afterwards hee heard that there was an insurrection at South Brent but by what persons he knoweth nott, & the sd Depōt & ye sd Mr Creech returned, ye one to Mr Somsett his house and the other to his fathers Stephen Swaynes House at South Brent and otherwise he cannott depose.

sign, Ricd (X) Swayne.

Thomas Moore of South Brent in ye County of Somsett Yeom deposeth and saith That on the 4th day of Aprile last past before this his examinacon some of the Inhabitants of Lympsham came to South brent, after one Heale & Weekes and other Troops under Capt Pauling in Collo Tynts Regm who (as the said Inhabitants complayned) had been at Lympsham & Berrowe & Burnham plundering of Horses & Mares & other things, and thereuppon there was greate difference fighteing & violence between ye sd Inhabitants of Lympsham and some of Mark; & Thomas Gilling labored to pacifye them

& continued very earnest to appease ye difference untill some of his neighbours came and tould him that his House was like to bee set on ffire, at wh ye sd Mr Gilling went home to his owne house & came noe more among them. And this Depot heard Mr Henry Tynt Leuit to Capt Pauling divers tymes to speake very fowle wordes both of Mr Gilling and his Wife and to saie yt hee would doe them some mischief before he went away. And further deposeth yt hee this dept and Capt John Somsett were on the day afsd (being Good ffriday) att evening prayer together and that after evening prayer ye sd Mr Somsett went home to his owne house & neither hee nor Phillipp Creech were in the meeting or insurrection aforesd, as far as hee saw or ever heard and otherwise he canott depose.

Thomas Moore.

Anthony Isgar of Axbridge in the County of Somsett Yeoman deposeth and saith yt on the 25th day of March last past before this examination Capt John Somsett & this Deponent & others being drinking together at the sign of the Kingshead in Axbridge, he saw one Abraham Williams & John Rogers of Cheddar to quarrell . . . an uproare in the Streete there being then a faire in the Town on yt day, and ye sd Williams drew his sword or hanger against ye sd Rogers & the sd Rogers defending himself with a staffe (wh he had in his hand) strooke the sd Hanger wth his Staffe and brake ye sd Hanger, whereuppon [the said] Williams unlighted from his horse [and with a] pic of his said Hanger cut the sd Rogers very dangerously over the Head; and parties being on both sides taken and the fray being ended ye sd Williams gott upon his Horse and rode away, ye sd Mr Somsett continueing in ye sd house and nott comeing near the sd Brawle; and before ye sd Williams rode away some pson of ye Company who was pñt att the Brawle tooke the piece of the Hanger from ye sd Williams yt hee should nott doe more mischief wth the same, butt who it was yt tooke away the same this depont knoweth not and otherwise hee cannott depose.

Anthony Isgar.

Endorsed, Richd Swaine, Tho Moore &  
Añy Isgars Examinations.



## X.

To his Highness Prince Charles Prince of Wales &c.

The humble peticon of Thomas Gilling & John Somsett  
of South brent in Com Somsett Gent.

Humbley shew

That yor Petrs for the space of a moneth last past have to their greate charge and hindrancè stood comitted close prisoners under custody of the Marshall here, by the Honble the Lord Hoptons orders, uppon a surmize that they were actors in the late opposeinge of certein plunderinge souldiers in the said County; and although they are utterly guiltless thereof & have alwaies continued loyal to his Matie yet by reason of Lord Hoptons long absence cannot come to their answeare, They therefore most humbly pray yt yor Hignes will be pleased to give them their liberty for the prsent and accept some competent security for their appearance againe uppon warninge to answear the prmsses, that soe in the meanetime they may overlooke their severall affaires wh cannot but runne to ruine in their absence.

And they as in duty bounde shall ever pray for yor Hignes &c.  
Endorsed "petition to the prince."

## XI.

Most Deligt & loveing wives

Our harty loves remembred, wee received yor letter Aprile 23 dated Aprile 22 wherein wee find that lying goes on but I doubt not but God will ptect us; wee would desire you both to goe to Bridgwater on Friday next to Mr Warr wt this letter enclosed & desire him to doe what he can for us. Wee have also sent a copie of or accusation verbatim, wth the abuses wh were comitted by Ascoughe & his Companie desireing you to deliver it allso to Mr Warr or the Governor wh you shall think fitt, whereby they may see yt wee are highly abused, it being only uppon their report & nothing sworne; pray be very active to have the matter moved at Bridgwater by some means or other, whereby we may come off uppon baile if noe otherwise. Capt Rose hath likewise promised us to doe us what favor he cann. Mr Welch at the Castle will bring him to you & I would have my Wife Joan Somsett p'sent the par-

tridges<sup>1</sup> that are lefte to the Governor of Bridgwater being the prince is there. I have likewise sent a letter to the Governor. I woulde have Willi Venn to handle my sheepe and send me word how they are. I woulde likewise have you goe on with the ploughing & husbandrie according to the time of the yeare ; pray send me word what Mares I have lefte. If you cann pvail at Bridgwater send us word as soone as may be ; you must likewise pay the messenger Rich Verbie a man wch we think very fitt to carry a letter for you at any time ; wee would likewise have you be merry and comfort yourselves wt wht is left & drinke a cup of sacke as we doe here. Trusting in God, who wee make noe doubt but will deliver us shortly, so wt or loves remembered unto you both wt or family & servants & the rest of our good frinds, in hāste wee rest & remaine yr loveing Husbands to the end

John Somrsett

Tho Gilling

Wee would have you if you do not p'vail at Bridgwater to have Ascoughs information againe, or Tho Leakey to write out a copie before it be delivered to send to Mr Morgan, for if you send the letter you must send a copie of the Informations.

To ör loveing wives Joane Somsett & Joane Gillinge these,  
Southbrent, Speede.

## XII.

### Loveing Wives

Wee desire you to entertain this Gent Capt Rose wt all the respect as may be, under whose keeping wee are & useth us very respectfully, we would likewise desire you both to goe to Bridgwater on Fryd next (all business sett apte) the prince & my Ld Hopton being there, to Mr Windham & Mr Warr & other friends what you can make to get us released or otherwise uppon baile, for enless you can prevail we may lye here I know not how long, & wee would likewise have you certifie the Country yt if they will doe them good to draw up all their grievance & plunder and present it to the prince and my

1. It is noticeable that partridges were thought to be a dish fit for a Prince (of Wales) in April. Also that "being," in the same sentence, is still used for the modern "seeing," and is so found in Pearson's *Exposition of the Creed* first published in 1659.—(E.H.B.H.)



Ld Hopton by way of petition. You may desire Mr Dinsson to assist you in the businesses. Natha Gilling is now at Wells wt Mr Morgan & as soon as he returns you shall hear more from us wh wee hope will be this day, & then he will be wt you tomorrowe ; so wt our best respects remembered unto you both, hoping you are in good health as wee are at the writting hereof, In haste wee rest and remaine yor affectio Husbands to the end

John Somsett  
Thomas Gillinge

Bristole April 23rd 1645<sup>1</sup>  
from Capt Roses in Broad Street.

Wednesday 9 clo.

I would have you get a note of Willi Straing wh was quarte att my house when the uprore was, what he can saye in the buisnesse concerning me under his hand, if you yrself can come to speake wt him.

John Somsette

When this letter was written Capt Rose appointed to come yr way to Bridgwater but afterwards was comanded by my Lady Hopton to ride Glastonbury way, but will call to you as he comes back to Bristole, and hath p̄mised to doe you and us any curtesie at Bridgwater if you enquire him out ; you shall call at the Castle of Bridgwater for one Mr Welch a servant of Mr Windhams & he will direct you to Capt Rose provost Marshall Generall.

To ōr loving wives Joan Somerset & Joan Gilling, these.

### XIII.

Articles informacons & objections for and on the behalfe of or Sovainge Lord ye King against Thomas Gilling of South Brent in the County of Somsett Gent. Imprimis. It is objected yt leiuet Browne of Collo Taynts Regiment being dangerously hurt by ye comon & country people of the sd p̄ish of South Brent did desire of Tho Gilling that he might be p̄tected in his house or in the back side of his House from

1. This letter may have been written at the same time as no. XI. If so, this letter being rather more formal may have been intended to be shown, when necessary.—(E.H.B.H.)

the violence of the mutinous & tumultuous people, but he denied his sd p̄tection saying to the sd Leuiet be gonn, be gonn, not affording him p̄tection or shelter ye sd Leuiet being then shott through the theie wt one musket shott and seven smaller shott whereof he yet languisheth.

Endorsed "Articles against Thomas Gilling"

#### XIV.

Articles informacons & objections for & on behalf of or sovraine Lord the King against John Somersett of South Brent in the County of Somersett gent.  
teste. L Coll Ascough.

Imprimis it is objected yt on the 4 day of Aprill 1645 there was an unlawfull assembly convention & insurrection in the p̄shes of South brent Burnham & other places & p̄shes thereabouts (in the Marsh Country) against Colonell Tynts Regmt or pt thereof and [the said] insurrection was merely occasioned . . . according to [an] order had from the Honoble Lord Hopton labouring & endeavouring to bring in the sd John Somersett being a prtended Captain in his Maties Service & his troop to the Regmt of Collo Tynt.

2. teste L Colo Ascough. Item one [Philip] Creech a kinsman of the sd ptended Capt Somsett living in house wt him did say these wordes drinking in the Ale house wt some other Companie yt hee ye sd Creech could draw out tenn men out of the p̄she of South brent wch would beat the sd Leuiet Collo Ascough & all his ptie. [That the] said Creech was the man who ledd upp [the] ptie . . . & insurrection aforesd in the p̄sh of South brent.

3. Edwd Dyers Report. Item. The Inhabitants of South Brent & Burnham aforesd have averred & certified yt ye sd Capt Somersett was the only man yt raised the Country in Armes against his Maties souldiers, & that his leuiet Sheppard was ye man yt was to be leader in ye action of tumult & insurrection, & the sd Inhabitants sd yt they saw noe reason yt they should all suffer for the ill actions of the sd Capt Somersett & his Leuiet Sheppard.

4. Abraham Williams. Item. One Abraham Williams a souldier of yt Regt of ye Honoble Lord Hawley being at



Axbridge on Tuesday 25th March 1645 (upon some occasion of his owne) was violently assaulted beaten & disarmed by the sd Capt Somersett his servants; hee the sd Capt then being prsent and suffering his servants to pass wtout any rebuke or restitution made.

Endorsed "A copie of the Informations against John Somersett & Philip Creech."

### XV.

To the Right Honoble Ralph Lord Hopton Barron of Stratton, Commr of his Maties Garrison of Bristole Lewetennt Genrale to his Highnesse Prince Charles and one of his pryvee Councel.

The humble peticon of John Somersett & Thomas Gilling,

That whereas yr petnrs about Easter last past for a ptended misdemeanor comitted agst his Maty were comitted to the custody of the provost Marshall of the said Garrison where they continued neere five weeks, after wh tyme by yor Lshps & the Right Honoble the Lord Hawleys favor unto yor petnrs, yor petnrs were, upon sevall recognizances by them entered into of £500 with condicon for their appearance upon somons & in the meane tyme to be of theree good abbearance, sett att libertie, since which tyme divers psons ill affected to your petnrs hath not only plundered yor petnrs of their goods to the value of 20*li* att the least, but also used such violence and wrongs to the psons of yr petnrs their wives and families, of sett purposes either to deprive them of thir lives or otherwise to enforce them to forfaite their recognizance soe entered into as aforesaid; either wch will be the utter ruine of yor petnrs their wives & children unless yor Loshp vouh-saffe yor honor's favor unto them,

In tender consideracon whereof and for that the condicon of yr petnrs is well known unto yor Lorpp, & that they intended noe ill, as they hope yor honor is now pswaded how ever it otherwise fell outt, and haveing noe meanes to be freed fro the violence wrongs & injuries soe done & offerd to their estates and psons as aforesaid, being bound as they have informed yor Loshpp unless yor Loshpp extends yor compassion,

Humbly pray yor Lospp to free them from the Recognizance soe entered into as aforesaid, to the end that they may pserve their estates & defend theere p̄sons fro the plundering & violence aforesaid, & yor petners shall not only contynue their due alleageance to their Sovraigne but also pray for yor Lshpps tranquillitie.

## XVI.

(Authority from Hopton (?) to recover horses, etc.)

Whereas I am informed that Capt John Somsett & Thomas Gilling of South Brent Gent hath had of late divers horses armes and other goods plundered and taken from them contrarie to his Maties lawes & orders in this behalf p̄vided, I do hereby authorize the said John Somsett and Thomas Gilling their deputyes and assignes to search for take and seize the sd Horses armes and other goods and the detayner or detayners of them or any pt or p'cell of them forthwith uppon demand of this, and (yf deniale of restitution or delyvery be made) to apprhend and carry to the next Garrison for such his or their unjust taking & detayneing, and there to remaine untill satisfaction be made; willing and requireing all his Maties Officers & loving subjects to be aydeing and assisting to the said John Somsett & Thomas Gilling in the p̄seses. Given under my hand.

## XVII.

To the honble his Maties Commissioners for the County of Somst. The Petition of John Somerst & Thomas Gilling of South Brent Gent.

Humbly shew yr honors that whereas yr petitioners about eight weekes sithence were taken and imprisoned at Bristole where they continued by the space of a month and upwards uppon ptence for opposing plundering souldiers, and your peticoners being altogether guiltless of the same were notwithstanding, before they could obtain their enlargement, constrained to enter into great bonds unto his Matie to appear before the Honble the Governor of Bristole and the Honble Councell of Warr there to be holden when they should be thereunto calld, and likewise to bee of the good behaviour, sithence wch tyme yor petitioners have been plundered &



are dayli p̄iudiced & infested wth unruly souldiers and dare not resist them, being bound as aforesaid to the great disparagement of yor peticoners their reputacons, haveing been ever loyal subjects to his Matie,

May it therefore please yor honours to take consideration of the prmises and to p̄sent this theire peticon to his Highness the prince Charles of Wales, that his Highness will be pleased to refer the same to any of this Countie whom his Highness shall appoint that yor peticoners Bonds may be taken upp and cancelled and they restored to their former credit, and they shall daylie pray unto God for yor honors happiness and p̄speritie

Endorsed “ Jo. So. Tho Gilling. Petition to the  
Comissrs to p̄sent to the prince  
to have upp their bonds.

### XVIII.

To the Right Honoble and Right Worll his Maties Commrs for the County of Somerset.

The humble petiton of the Inhabitants of South Brent, East Brent, Berrow, Burnham, Marke & Lympsham in the said Countie  
Sheweth

That by the Warrants of the Right Honoble Lord Hopton & of Colonell Windham It hath been thought fit and ordered That yf anie stragling souldiers or others whatsoever without special order in yt behalf should indeavor to quarter upp on yor p̄ters or plunder or comitt anie other outrages upon them their goods or cattle, That yor p̄ters should apprhend such souldiers and them convey either to the Garrison of Bristole or Bridgwater where they should receive condigne punishment & be inforced to give yor p̄ters sufficient recompense for the same, and we were informed from some of yor Worshps that the Kings Matie signified his pleasure at Bath that if such souldiers did not depte upp on notice they shd be driven oute by force; That some times Collonell Tynte his whole Regmt and some jime onely p̄te thereof have for a long time togeather without any order or authtie quartered upp on yor Petitrs & plundered and comitted divers other outrages

amongst them to their great impoverishment, as by the schedule hereto annexed will particularly appeare—

That in particular the 4th of Aprill last notwithstanding they were ordered to march away several daies before, yet did they not obey the same but demanded five pounds of the Tything-man of South Brent without wch they would not depte & they continued plundering. Whereuppon some of the parishioners of [the] forsayde parishes attempted to oppose them by force, for wch attempt manie of them were [carried] away & kept prisoners & many more were plundered by a ptie of souldiers under the comand of Leiuet Collo Bovill to the value of £500 and upwards whereby they are utterly disabled to pay their contribucion to his Matie wch they have formerly payd with the readiest.

They humbly pray That yor Honors and Worshps will be pleased to give yor Petrs Reliefe in ye pmises according to iustice or to prsent their distressed case [to] the Right Honoble the Lord Hopton or Prince Charles his Highness that some due course may be taken, not onely for the punisheing the souldiers of Col Tynts Regmt before named but also for restitucon & satisfacion to the pties agrieved of their several losses & damages aforesayd and for securing yor petrs against the like injurys for the future.

Endorsed “the petiton to Somsetshire Comrs Mr Fountaine.”

**SOUTH BRENT.** Plundered by Leftenant Collonell Bovill his souldiers—

John Somerset <sup>1</sup> had broken up and carried away in lining & wollinge & other things with to horses & money valued att . . . . .	£100
Thomas Gillinge had broken up and carried away in lining and woolling and other things with three horses and money vallued att . . . . .	£40
Robett Sheppard had carried away in linning and wollinge with money and other things valued att . . . . .	£20
George Gill had carried away in lining & wolling with too horses valued att . . . . .	£10
James Shew had carr away in lining & wolling & money carried away valued att . . . . .	6 : 10/-

1. In South Brent a house named “Somerset Court” exists to-day.



John Urch had carried away in linen and wolling & money valued att . . . . .	1 : 10/
Richd Arthur had carried away in linen & woll & money valued att . . . . .	3 : 10/-
Steven Cocke had carrd awa in lin and woll & money valu att . . . . .	2 : 10/-
Willie Bulpaine had car awa in lin & woll vald att . . . . .	8 : 0 : 0
Maude Blake broken up and card awa in lin & woll & other things va at . . . . .	3 : 0 : 0
Willi Thomas had carried awa amt in ling & woll to the value of . . . . .	1 : 10/-
Nicholas Dalley had car ay in lin & woll with one horse valued at . . . . .	4 : 0 : 0
John Lekey had car awa in lin & woll wth one Mare val at . . . . .	2 : 10/-
George Hutchings had car awa in lin & woll & money val att . . . . .	7 : 10/-
Jno Gilling had car awa in lin & woll & other things valued att . . . . .	2 : 10/-
Maude Goold had car awa in lin & woll with one horse val at . . . . .	4 : 0 : 0
Willi Cox broken up and car awa in lin woll & other things & one horse val at . . . . .	8 : 0 : 0
John Hutchings broke up and card awa one silver spoon with other things valued at . . . . .	1 : 0 : 0
John Gigges broke up and card awa with lin woll and many other things val att . . . . .	3 : 0 : 0
Thom Hobbs carried awa in lin woll & money vall at	2 : 0 : 0
Henry Simons one Coffe of . . . . but redeemed again for . . . . .	10/-
Steven Swaine card awa in lin wolling & other things val att . . . . .	2 : 10/-
Nicholas Croke had car awa in lin & woll valued att	1 : 0 : 0
Item. In money for shoding the horses . . . . .	20 : 0 : 0

BERROWE. A nott of the losts within our psh wch was taken away by Curnonell Boville his Regiment—

Thomas Norville in lining and wollen and one Mare	li6 : 0 : 0
John fry in money and one mare and other things .	3 : 10 : 0
Richd fry in woollen and lining . . . . .	2 : 0 : 0
George Davie one Mare . . . . .	2 : 10 : 0
Robert Poole in Lininge . . . . .	10 : 0
Jone Goold in one Mare money Lynnen and other things . . . . .	6 : 10 : 0
Walter Lewise in Lininge . . . . .	10 : 0

Thomas Pethere in money & lynninge . . . . .	6 : 0
Amy Rydone in woollinge and lynninge . . . . .	1 : 15 : 0
Thomas Coulbrooke in money . . . . .	: 4 : 0
Henry Weste in money and one Mare . . . . .	3 : 3 : 0
Dorothy Goolde in money . . . . .	15 : 0
William Thorne one Mare and one horse wth lininge and other things . . . . .	10 : 0 : 0*
Hugh Goolde iun in linninge & woollinge . . . . .	4 : 0 : 0
Hugh Rydene one Remliett of Clothe . . . . .	1 : 0 : 0
William Burrowe in pewter . . . . .	16 : 0

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Sum tot.<sup>1</sup> 49 : 10 : 0

BURNHAM. A liste of whatt was plundered by Lifteauant Colnell Boviles Company within the pishe of Burnham—

Taken from Willi Pages to Mares in value worth the 2 . . . . .	li10 : 0 : 0
ffrom John Moore one to years old Coltt & brocken open his doores & taken divers things out of his house to the value of . . . . .	5 : 0 : 0
From John Dod one Mare and plundered his house to the value of . . . . .	6 : 0 : 0
ffrom Mary Rogers one Mare to the value of . . . . .	4 : 0 : 0
ffrom James Streat one Mare to the value . . . . .	5 : 0 : 0
Mr Willi Taylor, <sup>2</sup> Vic, one Mare in value . . . . .	5 : 0 : 0
John Mulford one Horse & to Mares & his house plundered to the value . . . . .	20 : 0 : 0
Willi Mulford his house broken up & plundered to the value of . . . . .	6 : 13 : 4
ffrom Tho Goolde his house broken up & taken awaye bothe lynnens and woollen out of his house with money in his house & other money taken out of his purse and one Mare to the value of . . . . .	20 : 0 : 0
Taken from Tho Mulford Tythingman of Burnham brocken his Coffe & taken awaye money warrants satts consarning the King's bussnesse whereby him is like to fall into greatt danger	
From Willi Mulford Tythingman of Burnham one Mare to the value of . . . . .	5 : 0 : 0

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tot. 86 : 13 : 4

1. The casting is incorrect.

2. Instituted to Burnham 11th Oct. 1604 (Weaver, *op. cit.*).



A Warrant granted to the pish of Burnham under Colnell Bovells hand for 30*li* in money and 8 quarters of provender, whereof is payd to Edward Vier quarter master 18*li* and in provender three quarters of beanes

104 : 13 : 4  
for provender 3 : 10 : 0

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tot. 108 : 3 : 4

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LIMPSHAM. A Note of all such as hath been plundered and the value of all pticulars by Colonel Bovell his souldiers—

	<i>li</i>		<i>li</i>
Imp. Rich. Brigge . . . .	40	Edward Champion . . . .	05
Jon . . . . .	20	Mr Willi Curworth . . . .	04
John Sugard . . . . .	04	Willi Keele . . . . .	03
Jane Bibble . . . . .	13	William Puddy . . . . .	02
Richd Bibble . . . . .	10	Edward Tinknell . . . . .	08
Walter Yeamanes . . . . .	04	Joseph Anmer . . . . .	03
Willm Stearte . . . . .	05	Willi Wermur . . . . .	10
Else Lyon Widdow . . . . .	10	Jon Deane . . . . .	08
Willm Champion . . . . .	05	Margery Jeffery . . . . .	03
Jane Marten Jun. . . . .	01	Ruthem Priddy . . . . .	02
Else Lyon Jun . . . . .	02	Willi Charde . . . . .	04
Abraham Champion . . . . .	03	Roger Swayne . . . . .	01
Bartho Bement . . . . .	03	Roger Bennett . . . . .	02
Jon Stearte . . . . .	05		
Ric Bennett . . . . .	01	The sum is 200 <sup>l</sup>	
Tho Quicke . . . . .	01	Besides the 30 <i>li</i> of fine money	
Willi Newton . . . . .	08	And besides our dayly pay	
George Love . . . . .	01	to the Lord Goringe which	
Jon Cole . . . . .	01	is 7 <i>li</i> . 2 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d</i> . a day	

Endorsed. The wrongs donne by Coll. Bovells men after the rysing which came to 687*li*. 17*s*. 2*d*.

### XIX.

BRENT. These are to certifie by us the Inhabitants of East Brent whose names are hereunder written That we never knew that John Somersett nor Thomas Gillinge of South Brent had any hand in raysinge the County in Armes against his Maties souldiers, but have heard that John Somersett and all his servants remained in his own house it being a mile from the

1. The casting is incorrect.

tumult, and have likewise heard that Thomas Gillinge did the uttermost of his endeavor for the appeasinge of the tumult after it was rayseed, And wee do verily believe that the abuses and plunderings wh were outrageously committed by Lieutenant Col Aschen his souldiers was the onely cause of raysinge the Country.

Hen Cooke	Thomas (T) Rubyen	Mather Knowles
Geo Whippey	George Shewe	signe of
Thomas Saunders	Tho (M) Young	Richard (R) Verbee
Daniel Waye	William Swayne	John Cocke
Nicholas (C) Comer		

BURNHAM. (A similar certificate subscribed by)—

Walter Rogers	John Harding	John Moore
John Dod	Richard (R) Senson	William Rogers
John Wride	Tho Mulford	John Mulford
Tho Gooldde	William Mulford	Richard Rogers
Roger (R) Eades	John (B) Blake	

BERROWE. (A similar certificate subscribed by)—

Henry West signe	Thomas Rogers	Thomas Lainge
William (W) Mason	Christopher Burrowe	Webster Dunkett
Thomas Norvale	Richard (A) Adams	Clemunt Hueshe
Thomas Symme	Tho Goold	John Davie
Walter Lewis signe	William Coome	Arthur Gillinge
William (T) Thorne	. . . Tollinge	Thomas Gillinge
Hugh Golde	John Poole	Henry Weste
	William (W.L) Licke	John Coles
	William Miles	George Rumney
	George Freme	William Fishaker

SOUTH BRENT. (A similar certificate subscribed by)—

Robert (R) Gillinge	Richard Hixte	Art (A) Jeffery
Sam Willmot	Lues (X) Coke	Tho Leake
Thomas Moore	Richard (A) Arthur	John Hutchings
Arthur Chappell	Tho Staple	Henry (X) Gillinge
Steven Coke	John North	Robert (R) Morse
Ste Swaine	George (X) Saywood	Edward (X) Gilbert
George Hutchings	William Brice	Nicen (?) Webb
John (M) Martin	William Thomson	Willi (X) Veane
Lewis (L) Cary	William Locke	Willi (X) Coxo
John Wright	Richard Bennett	Phili (X) Sloward
R. Gilling, junior	John Gigges	Laus Locke



Joseph King	Steven Hales	Sam Willmot jr.
John (X) Coxe	John (X) Swallow	Thomas Gillinge
Richard (R) Kings- bury	Georg Goolde	John Martin
Tho (X) Blocke	William Bauden	Henry Simons
Robert (R) Whit- house	William Bulpaine	John Gillinge
John (X) Bennett	Richard Jeffery	John Jeffrey
John Locke	Willi (X) Thomas	John Morse
	Tho (X) Boulgine	
	Val Androus	

Whether the two suspects were acquitted or punished and whether the other inhabitants received compensation for their losses, is not known, but having regard to the poverty of the royal exchequer in 1645 it is highly probable that the claims, assuming them to be just, remain unsatisfied to this day.

An echo of the troubles is heard after the battle of Langport, when Fairfax's "new model" army, in pursuit of Goring's defeated regiments, had arrived within a few miles of Bridgwater during the third week in July, 1645 :—

"The countrymen thereabouts that had been vexed with the Cavaliers, hearing of the defeat given unto them and fearing a taste of their former cruelties, rose in great numbers<sup>1</sup> and with their colours, clubs and arms appeared upon Knoll Hill ; which being made known to the General (Fairfax) he, with the Lieutenant General (Oliver Cromwell) and other officers, marched up to them, who seemingly received him with joy and in token thereof gave him a volley of shot." (Quoted by A. R. Bayley in *The Great Civil War in Dorset*, p. 269). Fairfax, more wise than his opponents, pacified the clubmen by undertaking to pay for all provisions and to punish plunderers, on condition that stores were not supplied to Bridgwater.

A few additional facts in the subsequent history of Somerset and Gilling will not be out of place. The adversities of the unfortunate captain did not end with his trial, whatever the verdict of the royalist court may have been. It is evident

1. Whitelock in his *Memorials* gives the number as about 2000, but this appears to be an exaggeration.

that at the end of the war he became the prey of the Parliamentary Committee for Compounding, which cared not a straw for his previous hard fate. The Proceedings of the Committee tell us that it was reported at their meeting on 10th March, 1652, that the estate of John Somerset of South Brent had been seized, as he had formerly acted as captain for the king, pressing men and levying money, and that he had been already sequestered in 1651. The delinquent begged for relief, and after several adjournments he was finally discharged, under the Act of Pardon, on 14th April, 1653. I then lose sight of him, but he rests with his two wives and children in South Brent church, where a mural monument records his death on 8th January, 1663-4 (*Collinson*, I, 200). Thomas Gilling, the elder, and Joan his wife lie under the shadow of the same church, their tombstone (weather-worn in 1906) showing that he died on 1st June 1660, she on 10th May 1658. His family's long association with South Brent and Mark is discussed in *S. & D. N. & Q.*, x, 72, but the writer of the biographical notes was unaware of the civil-war incidents, although he comments on a later Thomas Gilling, possibly Thomas the younger, who was implicated in Monmouth's rebellion.