

William Holloway

The History and Antiquities of the Ancient Town and Port of Rye, in the County of Sussex:

With Incidental Notices of the Cinque Ports. Compiled from
Manuscripts and Original Authorities.

Part II

The Revenues and Various Charities of the Town

London: John Russell Smith, 1847.

Introduction to Part II

William Holloway (1785–1870) was a Rye antiquarian and public figure whose retirement from business in 1842 allowed him to devote himself to the study of the town's history. His *History and Antiquities of the Ancient Town and Port of Rye*, published in 1847, was the first substantial modern history of Rye and became the foundation on which all later local histories were built.

This edition is very much a draft. The starting point was OCR from the Stanford University Library's copy of the *History*, in all likelihood processed before 2009, when optical recognition software was still primitive. The text has been substantially proofed, but the many tables certainly have not – the type in these elements was smaller and not easily decipherable to the *human* eye, let alone early 21st century software. Any researcher who requires accurate numbers should consult a paper copy or original scan, of which there are at least four publicly available.

This edition also lacks the typographical niceties expected of a finished publication. It is ugly. At upwards of 600 pages, a meticulously proofed and polished reprint of Holloway seemed less meaningful than getting the text out there, for now. The perfect is the enemy of the good.

The work was divided into three parts by Holloway and is presented here as three separate files. This is Part II, Local History, Revenues and Various Charities of the Town. Whereas Part I told the political story of the town, Part II goes back and traces the physical history from the beginning. In the second chapter, he explains how the Rye Corporation is financed. Finally, he enumerates the various charities and other institutions that support the people of the town.

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HISTORY OF RYE.

PART II.

CONTAINING THE LOCAL HISTORY,
REVENUES, AND VARIOUS CHARITIES OF THE TOWN.

CHAPTER I.

THE LOCAL HISTORY OF RYE, ANCIENT AND MODERN.

We have already stated that the spot on which the town of Rye stands was originally an insulated rock, unapproachable at all times, except by the aid of ships or boats; but we have not yet mentioned that the base of this rock originally extended much farther, on some parts, than it does at present. Jeake says, "the town is built on a little hill, now wasted, on the south-west, south-south-east, east and north-east sides, by the flux and reflux of the sea, but especially on the two latter, where have been washed away some streets, the Badding's Gate and Wall leading therefrom to the Land Gate."

The town must have been of some importance as early as the reign of Edward the Confessor, otherwise this pious monarch would not have considered it a gift worthy to be presented to the Abbey of Fischamp, in Normandy, nor would the monks of the same have thought it worth their acceptance.

Surrounded on all sides, and at all times, by the waters of the ocean, one might reasonably have expected that the town would have been safe from the inroads of enemies; but such was not the case. For though the water on the north side protected it from the sudden irruption of foes from the land, the sea, on the south and west, formed at all times a high road for the inhabitants of the coast of France, where marauding expeditions were continually being fitted out for the annoyance of those on this side of the Channel, the cruel effects of which were very frequently felt by the inhabitants of Rye. It was to guard, in some measure, against these attacks that, in the middle of the twelfth century, in the reign of King Stephen, William of Ypres, Earl of Kent, built the tower which is still standing, and bearing his name, on the south-east side of the town. This was intended as a watch-tower from whence to descry the approach of an enemy; and also as a place of defence, when he attacked the town. This, however, was soon found to be insufficient; for, at the latter part of this same century, that is, in the year 1194, the inhabitants obtained a grant, or Charter, from Richard I, to wall and fortify the town. This grant, which is probably the oldest written document in existence, relating to Rye alone, was discovered among the records of the town, to which, through the kindness of the municipal authorities, we have had frequent access, and for which we here beg to tender them our grateful thanks. This grant is contained in a small piece of parchment, not more than twelve inches long and three inches wide, written in the barbarous Latin of those times, intermixed with a little French, and one or two Italian words. The characters are those of the old court hand; and we give a true copy of the original, with the exception that we write the words at full length, instead of inserting all the puzzling abbreviations, which are so numerous found in most of the old writings of this sort. It bears on the back the following indorsement, viz.:

"A Charter for building the Walles of Rye.

"Ricardus, Dei gratiâ, Rex Angliæ et Franciæ, et Dominus Hiberniæ; omnibus ad quos presentes hæc pervenirint salutem: Sciatis quod nos pro eo quod dilecti Barones nostri, maior, et communitas villæ de la Rye manuceperunt coram nobis in Cancellariâ nostrâ villam prædictam muro de petrâ et calce infra triennium a datâ presentium in locis necessariis sufficienter claudere et firmare sub pœna centum librarum quas concessimus de terris et catallis suis ad opus nostrum levare si ipsos villam prædictam in formâ prædictâ cessanti impedimento rationabili claudere non contingat advertentes clausuram et fortificationem villæ prædictæ super litus maris in fronterâ inimicorum nostrorum situatâ fore securitatem maximam quæ in partibus illis propter defensionem et salvationem regni nostri fieri potuerint aut commode ordinari. Et volentes eo prætextu clausuræ et fortificationis prædictis manus apponere adiutrices de avisamento consilii nostri commissimus et concessimus eisdem maiori et communitati dictam ballivam et custodiam ejusdem cum pertinentibus exceptâ quâdam custumâ in eâdem villâ vocatâ shares tenendam a Festo Pascha proximo futuro usque ad finem tresdecim annorum tunc persequentium plenarie completorum absque aliquo inde nobis aut heredibus nostris pro tribus primis annis dictorum tresdecim annorum reddendo vel solvendo et reddendo nobis et heredibus nostris pro quolibet residuorum decem annorum decem et octo libras sicut prius reddere consuevit et quadraginta solidos de incremento ad scaccarium nostrum ad terminos sancti Michaelis et Pasche per

seuales portiones. Et supportando omnia onera eidem ballivæ incumbentia quamdiu custodiam habuerint supradictam. Literis nostris patentibus Edwardo de Tettesworth servienti nostro ad arma de dictâ ballivâ sive custodiâ ejusdem ad vitam suam pro decem et octo libris nobis annuatim reddendis nuper factis quas tenore presentium revocamus non obstantibus. In cujus rei testimonio has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium vicesimo octo die Marcii, anno regni nostri quinto.

"P. consilium.

"SCARLE."

Translation.

Richard, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting: Know ye that we, by reason that our well-beloved Barons, the mayor and commonalty of the town of Rye, have undertaken, before us, in our court of Chancery, sufficiently to inclose and strengthen our said town with a wall of stone and lime, in all necessary places, within three years from the date of these presents, under a penalty of one hundred pounds, which they have consented to have levied upon their lands and chattels to our use, if they shall not inclose the said town, in manner aforesaid, without reasonable impediment. Considering the inclosure and fortification of the town aforesaid, situate on the seashore, in front of our enemies, to be the greatest security which in these parts could be made for the defence and safety of our kingdom or for the public benefit; and being willing, for this purpose, to appoint judges of the said inclosure and fortification with the advice of our council, we have committed and granted unto the said mayor and commonalty, the said bailiwick and custody thereof, with the appurtenances (excepting certain customs in the said town, called shares) to hold from the Feast of Easter then next ensuing, unto the end of thirteen years then next ensuing, to be fully complete, without anything being rendered or paid to us or our heirs for the first three years of the said thirteen years; but rendering to us and to our heirs, for each of the remaining ten years, the sum of eighteen pounds, as was formerly accustomed to be rendered, and forty shillings by way of increase, at our Exchequer, at the terms of Michaelmas and Easter, in equal portions; and supporting all burdens incumbent on the said bailiwick, so long as they shall have the custody above mentioned; notwithstanding our letters patent lately granted to Edward de Tettesworth, our sergeant-at-arms of the said bailiwick, or the custody thereof, for his life, for eighteen pounds, to be annually rendered to us, which, by the tenor of these presents, we revoke. In testimony whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness ourself, at Westminster, the 28th day of March, in the fifth year of our reign.

By the council.

SCARLE

Notwithstanding the town was walled at the end of the twelfth century, it was captured by Louis, the Dauphin of France, early in the thirteenth, as appears from a document published by the Camden Society, which is as follows, viz.: *"Et tunc facte sunt treuge inter juvenem Regem et predictum Lodenycum, qui vero Lodenycus, captâ villâ de Rye in comitatu Sussexie, ibidem transfretavit."*

And then peace having been made between the young king (Henry III) and the said Louis, who, that is the same Louis, having captured the town of Rye, sailed from hence over the seas."

This document shows how the bailiwick was bestowed by this same king, Richard I, on Nicholas Rote, on March 11, 1197:

"Richard, by the grace of God, King of England and France, and Lord of Ireland, to our beloved mayor and commonalty of the town of Rye who now are, or who for the time shall be, greeting: Whereas, on the eighth day of October last past, of our special grace, and for the good service which our beloved esquire and servant, Roger Wygemore, had done, and would do for us, we had granted to him those ten and eight pounds, and forty shillings annually, which the mayor and commonalty of our town of Rye are bound to pay to us for the bailiwick of the same town, and for the custody of the same, with the appurtenances, excepting a certain custom in the same town called "shares" to be held and enjoyed from the Feast of Easter next coming for and during the term of ten years from thence next following fully completed, if it should happen that the same Roger should so long live; at the terms of Saint Michael and Easter, by equal portions, by the hands of the mayor and commonalty of the town aforesaid for the time being. Willing, moreover, and granting, that at the end of the said ten years the same Roger should have the bailiwick and custody of the same town, with the appurtenances (except the custom aforesaid) for his whole life, without rendering thereof to us anything; so that, after the term of the said ten years, the same Roger, during his life, should be bound to support all the burdens to the said bailiwick and custody attaching, as in our letters patent thereof made more fully is

contained. And we now, at the prayer of the aforesaid Roger, who our same letters has restored to our Chancery to be cancelled, of our special grace, have granted to Nicholas Rote, citizen and vintner of London, the aforesaid ten and eight pounds, and forty shillings annually; to be had and enjoyed in every year, during the ten years aforesaid, by the hands of the aforesaid mayor and commonalty, at the terms of Saint Michael and Easter, by equal portions, if it should happen that the said Nicholas for so long time should live. Willing and granting that, after the lapse of the aforesaid ten years, the aforesaid Nicholas should have the bailiwick and custody aforesaid, with the appurtenances, except the said custom of "shares," for the whole life of the same Nicholas, without rendering anything thereof to us, as in our letters patent thereof made more fully is contained. We command you that, from the lapse of the said Feast of Easter next coming, ye pay to the same Nicholas the aforesaid ten and eight pounds, and forty shillings annually, at the terms of Saint Michael and Easter, by equal portions, for and to the end of the said ten years, if it should happen that he so long should live; and that thereof ye be diligent, and make answer to him, according to the tenor of our letters aforesaid; receiving from the before-named Nicholas, from term to term, his letters of acquittance, which shall be sufficient on this behalf; by which, and our aforesaid mandate to you thereof, we will cause you to have due allowance at the sum aforesaid. Witness ourself, at Westminster, the eleventh day of March, in the eighth year of our reign.

(L. S)

"By writ of privy seal,

"FARYNGTON."

By the 11th article of the Customal, it appears that the bailiff was to collect the king's petty customs in the town, and this office was granted to some person of note, as the name of Edward de Tettesworth would seem to imply; but now, in consideration of the commonalty undertaking to fortify the town, the bailiwick was given to the mayor and the Barons for thirteen years; the first three without any payment, and the last ten for a yearly revenue of twenty pounds; a profitable arrangement for the town, otherwise it would not have been granted. We learn, moreover, from this document, how necessary the Cinque Ports were to the general defence of the nation, and see in it a proof that Rye must have been endowed with their privileges at a very early period, most probably in the time of Edward the Confessor, he having died little more than a century before, and the town already having a mayor to preside over it, and a king's bailiff to collect the custom dues.

The town being continually liable to attacks it was found necessary to put in requisition every means of defence. We have seen how Edward the Confessor gave the town of Rye, together with that of Winchelsea, to the abbot and monks of Fischamp. Having been thus ceded to them the sovereign had no longer that full and perfect control over them, which, in times of public danger, was necessary to enable him to put them in a posture of defence against a foreign enemy; and, in consequence of this, King Henry III, in the 31st year of his reign, A.D. 1248, resumed these towns into his own hand, as appears from the following document, a copy of which is to be found printed in Jeake's Charters, and also a written copy in the Records of Rye.

Original.

"Henricus, Dei gratiâ, Rex Angliâ, tertius Dominus Hiberniâ, Dux Normanniâ et Acquitania, et Comes Andegavia, Archiepiscopis, Episcopis, Abbatibus, Prioribus, Comitibus, Baronibus, Justiciariis, Forestariis, Vicecomitibus, Præpositis, Ministris, et omnibus Ballivis, et fidelibus suis, salutem: Cum non solum ad fidele regimen regni nostri, verum etiam imminentibus ejus periculis sagaci sollicitudine prospicere teneamur, considerantes undique ipsius regni nostri statum, et maxime in maritima, comperimus per quod per villas de Wynchelse et de la Rye, quæ nobiliora membra Quinque Portuum nostrorum dicuntur, quas abbas et monachi Fischampæ hactenus possiderunt, quibus non licet contra inimicos regni armis materialibus dimicare, posset nobis et hæredibus nostris tempore hostili irrecuperabile damnum, quod absit contingat si taliter, indefense in eorum abbatis et monachorum manibus remanerunt. Quapropter de majorum regni nostri consilio, et de bonâ voluntate dictorum abbatis et monachorum Fischampæ prædictas villas de Wynchelse et de la Rye cum portubus et advocato ecclesiarum et cum quartâ parte marisci de Northmareys et annuo redditu trium solidorum et novem denariorum inde solvendorum, et cum aliis pertinentibus suis ad nostrum et hæredum nostrorum dominicum revocavimus per divisas de Wynchelse subscriptas, scilicet, sicut mare et portus circumdant villam de Wynchelse usque ad feodum de Gestlynges, et per divisas de la Rye subscriptas, scilicet, sicut mare vadit ab introitu fluctus molendini usque ad feodum Jacobi de Northey. Ita quod tota aqua ex utrâque parte pertinet ad dictam villam de la Rye et inde sicut regale chimum se extendit usque ad sealeram quæ est super feodum Bricii Palmarii, et a dictâ sealerâ per quandam semitam usque ad terram hospitalis Sancti Bartholomei, et inde versus occidentalem in longitudine terræ dictæ hospitalis usque Dodeswell, et inde totum Blykeshull, de usque ad crucem de Herlyngden, et de eadem cruce usque Fingerlin, ubi quædam guttera est, quæ vadit per mediam Wallam, et de dictâ gutterâ per medium Colemersb, sicut quoddam vetus fossatum se extendit usque ad feodum Willielmi de Echyngham, et sic in longitudine ejusdem feodi usque in mare. Dantes, et hâc Cartâ nostrâ confirmantes eisdem abbati et monachis Fischampæ pro nobis et hæredibus nostris in bonum et sufficiens escambium pro prædictis villis de Wynchelse et de la Rye, cum pertinentibus maneria nostra de Chilcenharn in comitu Glouc. Cum hundredo et aliis pertinentibus suis, et de Scloutr, in eodem comitu cum hundredo de Salmanbury et aliis pertinentibus suis, et de Navenaby in comitu Lincoln. Cum pertinentibus suis, sine aliquo retenemento habenda et tenenda de nobis et hæredibus nostris prædictis abbati et monachis imperpetuum, adeo libera et quieta sicut

tenuerunt Wynchelse et la Rye, ratione donacionis eis factæ a felicis memoriæ Sancto Edwardo et concessionum ac confirmationum post modum habitarum a Willielmo et Henrico, regibus Angliæ, de terrâ Staninges, cum omnibus appendiciis suis, inter quæ reputabantur Wynchelse et la Rye in cujus regis Willielmi Cartâ continebantur hujusmodi libertatis, videlicet, quod prædicti abbas et monachi Fischampæ habeant terram de Staninges, cum omnibus omnino appendiciis suis, et cum omnibus legibus, libertatibus liberis, consuetudinibus, quietanciis, placitis, querelis, et causis, quæ sunt vel fore possunt, absque ullâ inquietudine, diminutione cujuslibet secularis vel judicialis potestatis, sicut res ad Fischampæ dominicum pertinentes. Et quod prædicta terra cum omnibus appendiciis, possessionibus et possessoribus suis libera sit et quieta ab omne consuetudine terræ ve servitutis et ab dominatione et subjectione Baronum, et principum, et omnium aliorum. Et prædicti abbas et monachi Fischampæ et eorum ministri habeant omnem regiam libertatem et consuetudinem et omnem justiciam suam de omnibus rebus et negotiis quæ in terrâ suâ evenient vel poterunt evenire, nec aliquis nisi per eos se inde intromittat, quia hoc totum regale beneficium est, et ab omni servitute quietum, et quod si aliquis quicquam contra hujusmodi concessionem præsumat, ad Fischampæ dominicum coactus auri libras centum persolvat. Quare volumus et firmiter præcipimus pro nobis et hæredibus nostris, quod prædicti abbas et monachi Fischampæ habeant et teneant imperpetuum prædicta maneria de Chilcham cum hundredo et pertinentibus suis, de Scolutr, cum hundredo de Salmanbury et pertinentibus suis, et de Naveneby cum omnibus pertinentibus suis, et cum omnibus legibus, libertatibus, liberis consuetudinibus, quietanciis, placitis, querelis, et causis, quæ sunt et fore possunt, absque ullâ inquietudine et diminutione cujuslibet secularis vel judicialis potestatis sicut res ad Fischampæ dominicum pertinentes ; et quod ea maneria et hundreda cum omnibus possessionibus, possessoribus, et pertinentibus suis libera sint et quieta ab omni consuetudine terræ ve servitutis et omni dominatione et subjectione Baronum et principum, et omnium aliorum. Et quod iidem abbas et monachi Fischampæ et eorum ministri habeant omnem regiam libertatem, et consuetudinem et omnem justiciam suam de omnibus rebus et negotiis quæ in eisdem maneriis et hundredis et pertinentibus suis evenient vel poterunt evenire, nec aliquis nisi per eos se inde intromittat, quia hoc totum regale beneficium est, et ab omni servitute quietum, sicut in Cartis prædictorum Sancti Edwardi, Willielmi, Henrici regum, plenius continetur. Si vero aliquis contra prædictam donacionem et confirmationem nostram quicquam præsumperit, coactus ad Fischampæ dominicum auri libras centum persolvat. Hiis testibus, venerabilibus patribus, W. Ebor. Archiepiscopo; W. Wynton et P. Hereford, episcopis. W. electo Sarum, R. abbate Westm., D. Comite Cornubia, fratre nostro, R. Comite Glouc. Et Herford, S. Comite Leyc. Per de Sabaudia, J. Mauntel, præposito Beverlacene, R. Passelewe, arch. Lewens, J. de Caxton, W. de Cantelup, R. fil Nicholi, B. de Gyryll, J. de Lexacton, P. Peyure, et de Mussegros, et aliis. Datum per manum nostram apud Windlesores, quinto decimo die Maii, anno regni nostri tricesimo primo.

“Et quia prædictum sigillum nostrum mutatum est, cartam prædictam, de verbo ad verbum, innovari, et eam impressione sigilli nostri, quo nunc utimur, ad instantiam prædictorum abbatum et monachorum, fecimus communiri. Hiis testibus, Rogero de Semer, Roberto Waleraund, Willielmo de Sancto Adomaro, Roberto Agulun, Roberto de Brywes, Johanne de la Lynde, Willielmo de Aette, Willielmo Belett, Johanne de Turbelhyle, Radolpho de Balkeptus, et aliis. Datum per manum nostram apud Salopiam vicesimo quinto die Septembris, anno regni nostri quinquagesimo primo.

“Nos autem tenores prædictos ad requisitionem majoris et communitatis villæ de Rye duximus exemplificandos per præsentem. In cujus rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste me ipso apud Westm. Quinto die Julii, anno regni nostri vicesimo secundo.

“BAYNBRIG.”

Resumption of the Towns of Winchelsea and Rye, by Henry III.

Dated May 15, 1247.

Translation.

Henry, by the grace of God, King of England, the third, Lord of Ireland, Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and Count of Anjou. To all archbishops, bishops, abbots, priors, earls, barons, justices, sheriffs, foresters, provosts, ministers, and all his bailiffs and faithful subjects, greeting: Having felt it our duty to look with the greatest care, not only to the faithful government of our kingdom, but also to the imminent perils thereof, considering on all sides the state of our realm, and chiefly its maritime parts, we have discovered that, by the means of the towns of Winchelsea and Rye, which are called the more noble members of our Cinque Ports, which have hitherto been held by the abbot and monks of Fischamp, to whom it is not allowed to fight against the enemies of the kingdom with material weapons, it might entail irreparable damage on us and our heirs in time of war, provided they should remain in the hands of the said abbot and monks; wherefore, by the advice of our council, and by the free consent of the said abbot and monks of Fischamp, we have resumed into our own hands the said towns of Winchelsea and Rye, with their ports, and the patronage of their churches, and with the fourth part of the Marsh of Northmareys, and the annual payment of three shillings and ninepence from thence arising, and with all their appurtenances, under the control of us and our heirs, according to the following bounds of Winchelsea, viz. Where the sea and the harbour surround the town of Winchelsea, as far as to the Fee of Gestlynges; and according to the following bounds of Rye, viz. As the sea flows from the entrance of the mill-stream to the property of James de Northey, so that all the water on either side belongs to the said town of Rye, and thence, as the king's highway runs, as far as the steps which are on the property of Brice Palmar, and from the said steps, by a certain footpath, to the land of the hospital of St Bartholomew, and from thence, towards the west, through the whole length of the land of the said hospital, to Dodeswell, and thence all Blykeshull, as far as the cross of Herlyngden, and from the said cross to Fingerlin, where is a certain gut, which goes through the middle of the wall, and from the said gut, through the middle of Colemersh, to where a certain old ditch runs, as far as the property of William of Echyngham, and so the whole length of the same unto the sea. Giving and, by this our Charter, confirming unto the said abbot and monks of Fischamp, for us and our heirs, as a good and sufficient exchange for the said towns of Winchelsea and Rye, with their

appurtenances, our manors of Chilcenham, in the county of Gloucester, together with the hundred, and the other appurtenances thereof, and of Scloutr, in the same county, together with the hundred of Salmanbury, and the other appurtenances thereof; and also of Naveneby, in the county of Lincoln, with its appurtenances, without any restraint, to be had and to be held of us and our heirs by the aforesaid abbot and monks of Fischamp for ever, as freely and quietly as heretofore they have held Winchelsea and Rye, by virtue of a deed of gift made to them by Saint Edward of blessed memory, and of concessions and confirmations, after the accustomed manner, of William and Henry, kings of England, of the land called Stanings, with all their appendages, among which are reckoned Winchelsea and Rye, the liberties of which are set forth in the Charter of King William, in manner following, viz. "That the aforesaid abbot and monks of Fischamp should hold the land of Stanings, with all its appendages altogether, and with all the laws, liberties, free customs, quittances, pleas, complaints, and suits, which are or may be, without any interruption or diminution whatsoever of the secular or judicial power, regarding matters appertaining to the lordship of Fischamp; and that the said land, with all its appurtenances, possessions, and possessors, be free and quit of all custom of land or service, and from all power of, or subjection to, all barons, princes, and others; and that the aforesaid abbot and monks of Fischamp, and their officers, should have all royal liberty and custom, and all their forms of justice, in all things and matters of business which may or can arise in the said land. Nor shall any one henceforth be suffered to enter there without their permission, for that this is a perfect royal immunity, and is quit of all service; and if any one whosoever shall presume to act contrary to this grant, he shall be compelled to pay one hundred pounds of gold to the lordship of Fischamp. Wherefore we will and command, for ourselves and our heirs, that the aforesaid abbot and monks of Fischamp shall have and hold for ever the said manor of Chilcenham, with the hundred and its appurtenances of Scloutr, with the hundred of Salmanbury, and its appurtenances, and also of Naveneby, with all its appurtenances, and with all laws, liberties, free customs, quittances, pleas, complaints, and suits, which are and may be, without any interruption or diminution whatsoever of the secular or judicial power, regarding matters appertaining to the lordship of Fischamp; and that the said manors and hundreds, with all their possessions, possessors, and appurtenances, be free and quit of all custom of land and of service, and from all power of, and subjection to, all barons, princes, and others. And that the said abbot and monks of Fischamp, and their officers, shall have all royal liberty and custom, and all their forms of justice, in all things and all matters of business which, in the said manors and hundreds, and their appurtenances, may or can arise; nor shall any one henceforth be suffered to enter there without their permission, for that this is a perfect royal immunity, and is quit of all service, as, in the Charters of the aforesaid kings, Saint Edward, William, and Henry, more fully is contained. If, indeed, any one whosoever shall presume to act contrary to our aforesaid gift and confirmation, he shall be compelled to pay one hundred pounds of gold to the lordship of Fischamp. Witness these, the venerable fathers, William, archbishop of York, William of Winchester, and P. of Hereford, bishops; William, elect of Salisbury, Robert, abbot of Westminster, D. Earl of Cornwall, our brother, Richard, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford, Simon, Earl of Leicester per de Sabaudia, J. Mauntel, master of Beverley, R. Passelewe, Arch. Lewens, J. de Caxton, W. de Cantelup, R. son of Nicholas, B. de Cyrvyll, J. de Lexacton, P. Peyure et de Mussegros, and others.

Given by our hand, at Windsor, on the fifteenth day of May, in the thirty-first year of our reign.

Here ends the deed by virtue of which Henry III gave the manors of Chilcenham and Scloutr, in Gloucestershire, and the manor of Naveneby, in Lincolnshire, to the abbot and monks of Fischamp, in exchange for the towns of Winchelsea and Rye. It has generally been hitherto considered that Henry took these towns into his own hands in consequence of these friars alien carrying information to his enemies of the secret affairs of his kingdom. Whether such was the case we cannot say; but the reason here assigned is, that the abbot and monks were forbidden to take up arms in defence of the realm, and hence these towns might be attacked, and not have wherewithal to protect themselves. This deed moreover recites, that the exchange was effected with their free will and consent.

The following part, which bears date September 25th, 1268, merely relates to the rewriting of the Charter, for the cause there assigned. The words are these: "And because our aforesaid seal has been changed, the said Charter has been written over again verbatim, and we have caused the same to be sealed with the seal which we now use, at the request of the said abbot and monks of Fischamp. Witness these: Roger de Semeri, Robert Waleraund, William Saint Adomar, Robert Agulun, Robert de Brywes, John of Lynde, William of Aette, William Belett, John of Turbelvyll, Radolph of Balkepus, and others.

Given with our hand, at Shrewsbury, the twenty-fifth day of September, in the fifty-first year of our reign.

To understand the concluding portion, it must be borne in mind that the whole of this document is an exemplification of the original grant, which seems to have been given at the request of the mayor and commonalty of Rye, by another King Henry, and whom we suppose to have been Henry VI, because neither Henry IV nor V reigned so long as 22 years. The seventh and eighth Henry certainly each reigned as long, but as there are documents in existence to show that the sixth had other business of moment with the town of Rye, we do not hesitate to attribute this to him. The words are these, viz. "We have likewise directed that the aforesaid order be exemplified through these presents, at the request of the mayor and commonalty of the town of Rye. In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patent. Witness myself, at Westminster, the fifth day of July, in the twenty-second year of our reign." The date of this, then, is July 5, 1444. In the preamble to this document, as issued by Henry VI, but which we have not thought it necessary to insert here, the king orders that the original should be searched for, and, when found, should be copied, and this explains the words, "the aforesaid order."

It is very difficult (not to say impossible) to point to the precise period when the sea first began to retire from the parts adjacent to the town of Rye; but as this document is the earliest we have seen having any precise reference to its boundaries, it may be as well to spend a little time in a careful examination of them, as here set forth. And here, at the very outset, the question arises, when were these the boundaries? Were they in existence at the time of the original grant made to the abbey of Fischamp by Edward the Confessor, or only at the period of the resumption by Henry III? In the first case they must be dated some time between 1041 and 1066, the duration of Edward's reign, and, in the second, in 1247, making a difference of nearly 200 years. In the description of Stanings, as said to be given in King William's Charter, no boundaries are defined, only the various rights and privileges are mentioned, which are conveyed to the abbot and monks with the towns of Winchelsea and Rye. Not having met with any account of lands inclosed near Rye earlier than the year 1332, we cannot bring our mind to the belief that these boundaries could possibly have existed in the time of the Confessor, though we are willing to allow they may, or, more properly, must have done so previously to 1247, because the king then states that he resumes, among other things, the fourth part of the Marsh of Northmareys, and the annual payment of three shillings and ninepence from thence arising. Before proceeding farther, we must premise that, whether we had decided on taking the earlier date or the later date, in either case the bounds assigned to Winchelsea were those of the old and not of the new town, because the grant for building the latter was not made until the eleventh year of the reign of Edward I, A.D. 1282, which was nearly forty years after the date of the resumption of Henry III.

And now to return to the boundaries of Rye, which are these: "As the sea flows from the entrance of the mill-stream, as far as the property of James de Northey, so that all the water on either side belongs to the said town of Rye, and thence, where the king's highway runs, as far as to the steps which are on the lands of Brice Palmar, and from the said steps, by a certain footpath, to the land of the hospital of Saint Bartholomew, and from thence, towards the west, through the whole length of the land of the said hospital, to Dodeswell, and thence all Blykeshull, as far as the cross of Herlyngden, and from the said cross to Fingerlin, where is a certain gut, which goes through the middle of the wall, and from the said gut, through the middle of Colemersh, to where a certain old ditch runs, as far as the land of William of Echyngnam, and so through the whole length of the same unto the sea."

The French proverb says, "*C'est le premier pas qui coûte.*" It is the first step which presents the greatest difficulty, and this being got over, the remainder of the road is easy. And thus it is with us; if we can make good our first step, and clearly define our starting-point, we may be able to describe with tolerable accuracy the remaining parts of our boundary. This starting-point then is, where the sea flows from the entrance of the mill-stream." We shall have occasion to see, as we proceed, that the lands which lie at the north of the town were originally all known by the one general name of North Marsh; and in 1366 we shall find the western boundary to be "the sea-bank called Melflet." Now Melflet we consider to be tantamount to mill-pond; as thus, melin, Welch, alias British, a mill, and flete, from fleet, Sax., a bay, whence a fleet, in some parts of England, signifies to this day" a channel filled by the high tide, but left very shallow and narrow at low water." Thus the boundary then, as now, was the bank on the west which we call the Leesham Wall, but which was formerly named the Mill-pond Bank. Thus, then, we may conclude that on the west side of Leesham Wall was a mill-pond, where the mill-salts now are, and extending across to the opposite foot of Cadborough Cliff, which was then the land of James de Northey. It must be recollected also, that at this spot the stream of the Tillingham must have always found its entrance into the sea, and hence lent its aid in forming the mill-stream. Assuming this first step to be correct, we follow the water round the west, south, and east sides of the town to the north-east, where it flowed close to the king's highway, which then was, as it now is, the road leading up Rye hill, the lowest point of which was then where the two roads (the military and the turnpike) now meet,

close by the old turnpike-gate house, where it is still plain to be seen that the cliff above, known by the name of the Gallows Bank, ended; while on the opposite side of the road commenced the mount which still gives its name to the ground in which it stands, and to the house which is situated therein, the former being called Mount Field and the latter Mountfield House. It must be recollected, that Rye hill was not in those early days, nor for ages afterwards, a smooth turnpike-road; but a deep, hollow, dirty lane, a kind of ravine between two lofty banks, formed originally, as many roads were, by the flowing of the winter torrents, and thus it became necessary to have steps in these banks, to enable persons to get into the foot-paths on the top of them, and which were much better adapted for walking than the main road below. After proceeding a short distance from the foot of the hill, the passenger might see these steps, which he ascended, and found himself in the lands of Brice Palmar, on the west side of the highway. Here he walked northward on a footpath until he came to a spot now called Deadman's Lane, but which then did not exist, the upper field running down in one gradual slope over this lane into Mountfield, the lane having since been worn down below the original surface by continual use. This point is clearly defined by our being told that the boundary ran "from thence towards the west through the whole length of the land of the hospital of St. Bartholomew to Dodeswell." We learn, moreover, that here was the hospital, of which no remains are now visible. Dodeswell is, according to tradition, the old name of Queen Elizabeth's Well, which latter it assumed from the circumstance of her Majesty having tasted its waters, and it lies west from the spot we have mentioned. Thus far, we think, our boundary is pretty clearly marked out; but beyond the well our course is more difficult. However, let us proceed. "All Blykeshull," our road must lie either along the brow of the hill, which is on the north of Love Lane, or at the foot of it, through this lane. Had the word been "Blykeshill," we should unhesitatingly have gone along the brow of the hill; but being "Blykeshull," we are inclined to keep below, conjecturing that hull may be intended to signify hole, from hule, Scotch. Thus we must suppose there was a swampy hole between the well and the south-east corner of the hill-foot, whence the bounds ran to "the cross of Herlyngden, and from the said cross to Fingerlin," and when arrived at the latter, we shall suppose we are at the western extremity of the lane, but at some distance to the south of it, because we have to find a wall, through the middle of which ran a gut, and this would imply there was some inclosed ground between the foot of the hill and the said wall. Now we find that the king resumed from the abbot and monks "the fourth part of the Marsh of Northmareys, and the annual payment of 3s. 9d. From thence arising. Thus there must have been a marsh in existence, and we are not sure that the Marsh of Northmareys may not mean the marsh called North Marsh; or it may signify the Marsh of North-Mary or North-Mary Marsh; for some of the corporation marshes here situated are called St. Mary's Marshes. At all events, here was a marsh, and through the bank or wall of it was a gut, from which the boundary ran through "the middle of Colemersh;" but where was Colemersh? Can the present Pole or Poll Marsh be the Colemersh of 1247? We will not assert that it was; but we think the bounds must have run in this direction, and hence have passed along where "a certain old ditch runs, as far as the land of William of Echyngham, and so the whole length of the same unto the sea," and which would terminate somewhere not far from the mill-stream from which we first started.

Having thus described the boundaries as correctly as we can, we will next give Dugdale's account of the embankment of the marshes on the land or north side of the town of Rye, and which is this:

"6 Edward III, A.D. 1332. Thomas de Faversham, Richard de Groshest, and Robert de Bataille were commissioned to view the banks in North Marsh, near Rye."

Thus we see that banks had been erected here previously to 1332, and therefore some part of the marsh might have been already inclosed in 1247.

Again: "40 Edward III, A.D. 1366. Ralph Spigurnell, Robert Bealknapp, Andrew de Guldeford, and others, were assigned to view and repair those marshes within the liberty of the town of Rye towards the east, unto the king's highway, which leadeth from Pladen to Rye, and towards the south to the said town of Rye, and towards the west to the sea-bank called Melflet, and towards the north to the lands which are called Bernardeshill from Kyngswyst."

We may observe that now, in the reign of Edward III, the sea had been excluded from all the marshes on the north, or land side of the town, and, consequently, it was here exposed to the inroads of its enemies. Thus, deprived of its natural defences, it became necessary to provide artificial ones; therefore, this monarch now completed what his predecessor, Richard I, had begun. In Holland's translation of Camden's *Britannia Antiqua*, 1607, we find the following words, viz.: "King Edward III walled it (I. e. Rye) where the cliffs defended it not." This statement of Camden has been much controverted, and, we are free to confess, that we ourselves heretofore doubted the correctness of it;

but then we had not seen the grant of Richard I, which has been since brought to light, and whence it is clear that this latter monarch walled the town on the sea-side, “in locis necessariis,” that is, in the places where it was requisite; the chief of which seems to have been on the east and north-east sides, “where,” Jeake says, “by the flux and reflux of the tides, have been washed away some streets, the Badding’s Gate, and wall leading therefrom to the Land Gate.” The town now being completely defended on all sides, and extending over the largest superficies which it ever contained, may fairly be considered as having reached its highest point of prosperity, and therefore seems to demand that we should enter into a minute examination both of its internal and external state at this period. If we turn our steps towards the north-east angle of the town, we shall plainly see that the cliff still extends, in this part, to the distance of one hundred and thirty feet from the eastern tower; and if we direct our eyes from thence in a straight line towards the south, we shall find it cuts an angle a little to the westward of the bathing-house, and along this the cliff originally extended, for, even at this day, some large fragments of rock are visible in the channel at the Fish-market, while the traditionary accounts handed down from generation to generation, and still repeated by the old inhabitants of the town, assert that this line, in former times, was the boundary on the eastern side. On this cliff was erected the wall of “stone and mortar,” agreeably to the Charter of Richard I, and towards its southern extremity stood the Badding’s Gate, of which we shall speak more hereafter. From this south-east angle to the south-west, all along the south front, the cliffs extended out much farther than they do at present; as is apparent from the fact that, in the memory of many men now living, the channel which conducted the waters from the Strand to the Fish-market ran from a spot known by the name of “The Edward’s Dock,” across the two marshes there situated, through the site on which the bathing-house now stands; and this channel was called the “Rock Channel,” from the numerous rocks and stones which were found there. We have heard a shipowner say that he himself had a vessel once get aground on a rock near the bathing-house; and the younger Jeake, in his Diary, informs us that, on Nov. 7th, 1690, “there was a terrible storm at south-east, in the noon-tide, when White’s vessel broke loose, and ran against a rock among the Barham rocks in the harbour, and broke a hole in her side.” These rocks were most probably in this channel; for there are none lower down in the harbour, and the south-east wind blew directly into it. From the present foot of the cliff, at the bottom of the Gun Garden steps, to the original eastern extremity of it, as indicated above, is a distance of about two hundred and fifty feet; while the south cliff must have extended out about one hundred feet beyond its present base. The cliff on the south and south-west sides of the town was sufficiently steep and abrupt, we apprehend, to form a defence without any artificial aid. But from this last point fortifications now became necessary, and accordingly they here commenced with the Strand gate, which consisted of a stone arch with a wooden gate, studded with iron nails, having neither portcullis or flanking towers. Hence the wall ran on the west side to the north-west corner, when it continued all along the north side, until it joined the north or Land gate, a very massy, substantial, and lofty piece of masonry, having a large round tower on either side, pierced with loopholes upwards, for the discharge of arrows, and towards the bottom with embrasures for cannon, which now began to be in use. Besides the strong wooden doors, studded with nails, this gateway had a portcullis, while on the western tower stood a small watch-tower, for the convenience of a look-out to descry the approach of an enemy. About two hundred feet to the eastward of the north-west angle on the north face of the wall, stood a bastion, having embrasures for cannon, the same as the Land Gate towers. At the bottom of the Conduit Hill was a postern gate, for the ingress and egress of foot-passengers. The wall on the north and part of the west side was further defended with a fosse, or ditch; but as, under the head of Antiquities, in a future chapter, we have given, minute particulars of this and other points, we shall add no more on this head here.

We have no data to guide us to the precise year in which Edward III issued his grant to the mayor and Barons of Rye, allowing them to fortify their town on the land side, but we apprehend it must have been at an early part of his reign, for though the exact boundaries of the North Marsh are not given until the fortieth year of it, yet we have seen that it must have been inclosed previously to the sixth, for at this time a commission was issued for viewing the banks of it. Hence the town was in an exposed state at the very commencement of his reign; and when we consider in what desperate wars this monarch was engaged, first with the Scots, and afterwards with the French, and how in the tenth year of it “the navy of the Ports, together with other vessels taken up for that service, under the command of Geoffrey de Say, admiral of the sea from the mouth of the Thames to the southern and western ports, defended the seas, and hindered the bringing of succours from foreign parts to the king’s enemies in Scotland,” as quoted by Jeake from the Rolls of Scotland, we may fairly conclude that the necessary work of walling the town was not long neglected. That such was the case may receive some confirmation from the grant which this monarch made to the mayor, bailiffs, and commonalty of the town of Rye, in the fortieth year of his reign, A.D. 1367, of all the profits of the bailiwick of the town, and eight pounds out of the manor of Iden, in aid of their repairing the walls, fosses, gates, and rails in

and about the town. With the exception of the mill, already alluded to, we should hardly think there was any other building without the walls.

And now, having carefully inspected the exterior, let us enter the interior of the town. To do this with the best effect, we must request our readers to accompany us to the Land Gate, when, if they stand on the north or outer side of it, and look in a straight line through it under the centre of the arch, they cannot fail to perceive that the present road into the town makes an abrupt turn to the right, and runs close to the very edge of the cliff, which is not likely to have been its direction when the gate was originally erected. On the other hand, they will perceive that the straight line runs south to the bathing-house, and here, according to tradition, ran a street parallel with the eastern wall, and which is moreover said to have borne the name of East street: and Jeake, as already shown, tells us also that some streets have been washed away on this side. This street then extended from the Land Gate to the southern extremity of the wall, and towards the end it was cut at right angles by another, which, at the upper or southern part of the town, ran from west to east. Commencing on the west side, at a spot formerly called the West, now the Green Cliff, it ran eastward until it reached the south-west corner of the churchyard, and up to this point was probably then, as now, called the Watchbell street; from this point it extended along the south side of the churchyard, and thence straight forward through the ground on which now stand some cottages, near the Wesleyan chapel, into East street, and in the wall facing the end of it stood the Badding's Gate. From the end of Watchbell street to its eastern extremity this part was called Badding's street, which it derived, we suppose, from a family of this name, which was of some distinction in the reign of Edward III (if not before), because the second name on the list of representatives at that time is Badding, and we find it continues at intervals down as low as the reign of Henry IV, A.D. 1407. The western end of this street took its name from a watch-bell which was formerly suspended there, and which was rung for the purpose of calling the inhabitants together on the approach of an enemy or any other great public emergency. We may further observe that the narrow street on the south of the churchyard is still partially known by the name of Badding's street. Descending from this to the north was seen another running nearly parallel with it. This commenced immediately on your right hand as you enter the Strand Gate, ascended the abrupt acclivity called the Strand Hill, passed up the Mermaid street, crossed Middle street, and ran directly through into the Market street, and hence continued in a straight course into East street. The Mermaid street is a very old one, and was formerly the principal in the town, having then been called Middle street. The present Market street was, in the time of Jeake, known by the name of the Butchery, and this it retained down as late as the end of the seventeenth century, if not later. Through the ground between the Middle and Market street, on which houses are now erected, ran a lane, even in the memory of men still living. In 1669 this was called the Vicarage lane, from its running at the back of this residence. Still descending the declivity of the hill we come to a third street, which commenced at the Strand Gate and took a winding course through the Mint and High street to the East Cliff, where, instead of turning, as now abruptly to the north out to the Land Gate, it kept directly on into East street, and in 1557, according to the following document, was turned in the present direction:

"Know ye, present and future, that I, John Forde, of the town of Rye, within the Cinque Ports, yeoman, have given, granted, and by this my present charter, for two pieces of land and a certain sum of money, to me, by the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town of Rye aforesaid, in hand granted, given, and paid, confirmed to the before-named mayor, jurats, and commonalty, one piece of land, with its appurtenances, lying and being within the north gate of the town aforesaid, to wit, towards the tenements and lands of me, the aforesaid John Forde, and towards the lands of Christopher Scales, against the north and west; towards a barn, hollow, and triangular-shaped lands of the aforesaid Christopher Scales, these lands containing, from the corner of the aforesaid hollow, in length, thirty-one feet of assize, and towards the Royal street, there against the east; and towards the lands of the commonalty of the town aforesaid, against the south, according as the metes and bounds, of new there made distinguish and show. Upon which same piece of land the aforesaid mayor, jurats, and commonalty design to make one royal street and common way, to have and to hold the aforesaid piece of land, with all and singular its appurtenances, to the before-named mayor, jurats, and commonalty, their heirs, successors, and assigns for ever, to the use and behoof of the same mayor, jurats, and commonalty, their heirs, successors, and assigns for ever; of the chief lords of that fee, by the services thereof before due and of right accustomed. And I, verily the aforesaid John Forde, and my heirs, the aforesaid piece of land, with all and singular its appurtenances, to the before-named mayor, jurats, and commonalty, their heirs, successors, and assigns, against all nations will warrant and for ever defend by the presents. In witness whereof to this, my present charter, I have affixed my seal, dated the fifth day of January, in the third and fourth years of the reigns of our lords Philip and Mary, by the grace of God, King and Queen of England, Spain, France, the Two Sicilies, Jerusalem, and Ireland, Defenders

of the Faith, Archdukes of Austria, Dukes of Burgundy, Milan, and Brabant, Counts of Hapsburgh, Flanders, and Tirol. 1557,”

This, according to Jeake, was called the Lower or Longer street. The Lower was its elder name, then it took and retained, until the last fifty or sixty years, that of the Longer, and is now known by that of the High street. The western part is still called the Mint, indicating that here this office was situated, in which money was coined in the year 1668, of which we have a specimen in a small coin of about the size of a farthing, and which we shall describe more fully hereafter.

That cross streets then existed we cannot say with certainty. The Conduit street, though not then known by this name, must have been in being, because at the foot of this stood the Postern gate. There was no road up Jarrett's yard; and whether the present Middle street was then built may be matter of conjecture. Probably Lion street, leading to the church (if the present church then existed), and what is now called East street, leading from Conduit hill to the Market street, may have then connected the Lower street and the Butchery as they do now. If, at the time we are now writing of, the present church did not exist, but the original one in the Gun Garden, than the present church-yard was appropriated to other purposes than the burial of the dead. In this case we should venture to say that Badding's street was a street indeed, having houses on the north as well as on the south side, and there might have been a street also on the east side of the churchyard, through what is now called Pump street, and which would have connected Badding's street with the Butchery. But these are only conjectures, and as such we present them to our readers, leaving them to place their own value upon them.

After this examination of the locality of Rye, we may safely assert that it had a goodly aspect, both internally and externally; and that now it enjoyed prosperity we may gather from these words of Camden: “When Winchelsea decayed, and King Edward the Third walled it, where the cliffs defended it not, it began to breathe again and revive.” On May 18th, 1360, Edward III, after making peace with France at Bretigny, landed at Rye, with his Queen Philippa, and thus added fresh honours to this ancient town. But human greatness is ever of short duration, and that of Rye, unfortunately, formed no exception to the general rule. The close of the reign of Edward III may be said to have been that of the prosperity of Rye, for we find that in the second year of his successor, A.D. 1378, the town was taken by the French, sacked, and burned, while the same calamity again befel it in 1448; and here we can but regret that our older historians, who lived very near, in point of time, to the occurrences which they record, should have left us such meagre accounts of them, so that the light which has descended from them is so feeble we can scarce grope our way by the aid of it.

Stow, who was born in the sixteenth year of the reign of Henry VIII, that is, at the commencement of the sixteenth century, might have almost conversed with those who had witnessed the catastrophe of 1448, and who might have heard from others the particulars of that of 1378, which these last might have seen with their own eyes; and yet all he says of the first is this: “They (the French), within five hours, brought it (the town of Rye) wholly into ashes, with the church that then was there, of a wonderful beauty, conveying away four of the richest of that towne prisoners, and slaying sixty-six, left not above eight in the towne. Forty-two hogsheads of wine they carried thence to their ships, with the rest of their booty, and left the towne desolate.” Of the last capture he says nothing.

Leland, who was born towards the end of the reign of Henry VII, and Camden in the year 1551, neither of them throw any light upon this interesting subject; while Jeake, who was a native of the town, merely says, “the town was burned by the French in the time of Richard the Second, as I take it, and King Henry the Sixth, about the 26th or 27th year of his reign, in which I suppose the old Records and Charters to have perished; because none older than his 27th year, save only some fragments, are to be seen. In which consumption, as conceived, the old church was burned, and this now standing built since, the former standing near to Ipres Tower, in the place yet called the churchyard.” Considering that his father was also a native of Rye, we might have expected the tradition from father to son, among the old inhabitants, would have furnished him with a few more particulars: but it is not so, and therefore we must proceed, as well as we can, with the few data he and others have handed down to us.

We cannot doubt that the destruction of 1378 was very great; but still we can scarcely bring ourselves to believe that the town was entirely burned down. The following petition, which was presented to the king in the same year, shows the calamity to have been great; but, at the same time, not so great as to have involved its utter destruction, because we do not see, in this latter case, how they could, in the same year, have been able to rebuild their dwellings and also repair the walls on the land side; for we conceive they must first have furnished themselves with houses before they could attend to the latter. The following is the petition without its original abbreviations: “2 Ric. II. Plesse a nostre tres redoute seigneur le Roi et a son conseil d'avoir consideracion de la povere ville de la Rye comme il ad este prise sovent foiz et les communes de

la dice ville ount appareillez les murs devers la terre et a cause du povreté des dis communes ils ne peuvent plus reppailler lis diz mures pour ount la dice ville de part de la mer est punable pour enemies. Et a la darrien prise de la dice ville per lis dis enemys a lour revenu en France si furont plusours de eulz penduz et trainez a cause qu'ils ne eurent tenuz la dice ville et si detoms grandement que la dice ville sera pris autre foitz et tenuz en destruction du païex environ et a grant peril du roialme. Par quo supplient au votre tres haute seigneure lis diz communes pour Dieu et en ouvre de charité grantier que les excesses et fyns faiz et levable de vitaillers et artificiers et laborers devant les justices del pees en la compte de Sussex outre les gages des diz justices soient grantees al facon et repacion de mures de la dice ville pour trois ans prochaines ensuantz en releve de la dice ville et saluacion de tout la païex environ."

Translation.

May it please our most dread lord the king and his council to have consideration of the poor town of Rye, as it has been several times taken, and the municipal authorities of the said town have repaired the walls on the land side; but, on account of the poverty of the said authorities, they have been unable further to repair the said walls, wherefore the said town on the seaside is liable to be taken by the enemy. And at the last taking of the said town by the enemy, on their return into France, many of them (I. e. the authorities) were hanged and quartered because they had not defended the town, and they are in great fear that the said town may be again taken and possession thereof kept to the detriment of the peace of the surrounding neighbourhood, and to the imminent peril of the whole realm. Wherefore the said authorities pray that your most high Lordship, for God's sake, and as an act of charity, will grant that the penalties and fines, made and leviable from victuallers, and artificers, and labourers, before the justices of the peace, in the county of Sussex, over and above the wages of the said justices, be allowed towards the making and repairing of the walls of the said town, for the three years next following, for the relief of the said town and the safety of all the adjoining neighbourhood. (Parl. Rolls.)

We learn from this petition that the town had been taken several times previous to 1378, and that the inhabitants were in great distress in consequence, but whether the king granted their request we cannot say; yet, seeing that the town again revived, we should imagine he did. As a proof of this revival, we may mention that, "in the reign of Henry the Fourth, A.D. 1406, the navy of the Cinque Ports, conducted by Henry Paye, surprised one hundred and twenty French ships, all laden with no worse merchandize than salt, iron, and oil." This booty must have been considerable; and, as Rye fitted out her quota of ships, of course she received her share of the prizes. Again, in 1436, being the 14th of Henry VI, the Ports fitted out the whole number of their ships, to be ready at Winchelsea by the Feast of St. George. But to whatever degree of prosperity the town again attained, it served only to rouse the cupidity of the enemy on the opposite coast; for, as before mentioned, the town was once more captured in 1448. This we consider to have been the most disastrous period of the town's history. Had not Stow stated his to have been the account of the capture in 1378, we should have thought it much more applicable to this of 1448, as we shall presently attempt to show. Stow's account is not very intelligible. Five hours seem a very short period to sack and burn down the whole town, and at the same time to ship off forty-two hogsheads of wine. Again he says, "the French carried off four of the richest of the town, slew sixty-six, and left not above eight in the town." Now this, if it means anything, must imply that they slew sixty-six of the richest, and only left eight of the principal people behind; thus making seventy-eight rich inhabitants in the whole, of whom sixty-six were slain, four taken prisoners, and eight left.

We have heard it reported by old inhabitants that, at the capture of the town in 1378, the French carried off the bells from the church and took them to Dieppe, when the Barons of Rye fitted out some ships and recaptured them. As it now appears that the town had been several times taken before the year 1378, we think it by no means improbable that the events of several captures may have been jumbled together. However, it will be useless to endeavour now to clear up this difficulty, and, therefore, we will hasten to lay before our readers our 144 reasons for thinking the taking of the town in 1378 to have been attended with the most disastrous consequences of any.

Henry VI, in the twenty-seventh year of his reign, that is, on Aug. 1st, 1449, incorporated Tenterden with Rye, and assigns the following as his reason for doing so:

"The town of Rye, one of the most ancient towns of the Cinque Ports (and bordering on the sea, where the inroads of our enemies and rebels into our kingdom of England may be very soon observed), by the burnings thereof made by such, our enemies, hath fallen into devastation, destruction, waste, and impoverishment, not only of lands and tenements, but also of inhabitants there, that the said town and the Barons and good men of the same are unable, out of their estate, without their insupportable expenses, to find for us and our heirs the portion of the navy contingent to their said town, as they are bound to do," &c.

Jeake gives us the copy of an agreement entered into between Rye and Tenterden, as to the proportionate expense to be borne by the latter town, when the king should order the Cinque Ports to fit out their shipping; according to which, Tenterden was to pay one fifth of the charges incurred by Rye. This agreement bears date the 8th Henry VII, September 21st, 1492, and, in reference to the cause of the incorporation of these two towns, has these words: “Et quia major et communitas dicti portus et villæ de Rye, propter magnam destruccionem, devastacionem, exilium et depauperacionem ejusdem villæ ut per fluxem et refluxum maris, ac per combustionem inimicorum Domini Regis sæpe factam, onus inter se propriis facultatibus suis absque eorum expensis importalibus facere et invenire non sufficiebant Dominus Henricus nuper Rex Angliæ Sextus,” &c.

“And because the mayor and commonalty of the said port and town of Rye, in consequence of the great destruction, devastation, exile, and impoverishment of the same town, as well by the flux and reflux of the sea as by the frequent burnings of the enemies of our lord the king, were unable to bear and find the charges of themselves out of their own means, except at a ruinous expense, the Lord Henry, late King of England, the Sixth,” &c.

Having read these strong and impressive words, “devastation, destruction, waste, and impoverishment,” and that Latin word, “exilium,” of fearful import, indicating that the inhabitants actually left the town, we can readily believe the concluding words of Stow, if applied to this time, to be full of truth, “they left the town desolate.” And we cannot hesitate to come to the conclusion that this was the period when the town of Rye had reached its lowest point of depression, from which, though it slowly recovered, it never again rose to the same height of prosperity which it enjoyed in the reign of Edward III. Now it was that the town was burned to the ground, leaving, as the only vestige of its former state, the stone building on the south side of the churchyard, whose gable end and arched window show it to have been some religious edifice. Now it was that the sea began to undermine the cliffs on the east and south, weakening, if not throwing down, the walls on the former, and lessening the acclivity of the latter. The town was no longer a fortified and defensible garrison, while its bounds, both externally and internally, were considerably circumscribed.

The oldest book in the court-hall, called the Chamberlain's Accounts, commences on December 13th, 1448; and in the following year we find an entry of monies raised towards the building of the walls and gates of the town. And again, in 1460, is an entry of charges for the repairs of the “royal gate, called Land Gate Tower.” These show the fortifications, then requiring repairs, had been injured in some way previously to this time, and probably by the enemy in 1448.

When somewhat raised from its very lowest estate, in this same century, another disaster befel it in the loss of its merchant-ships. We have made frequent mention of the Cinque Ports' ships of war, but none of their mercantile navy. Each port had several trading vessels, which constituted their chief wealth, and with these they carried on a lucrative commerce with France, principally in wine, of which they imported large quantities, and we find that one of the privileges conferred on the Ports was “that of their proper wines, for which they trade, they be quit of our right prise (that is to say) of one ton of wine before the mast, and another after the mast.” Right prise, or royal prise, or taking, was a custom whereby the king challenged out of every bark laden with wine, less than forty tons, two tons of wine at his own price. From this custom the Barons of the Ports were free. Jeake's account of this misfortune is as follows: “Rye never recovered its ancient shipping since the loss of the Bourdeaux fleet, as reported, in the time of King Henry VII.” He gives no date to the affair, nor does he tell us whether the fleet was captured by the enemy or wrecked in a storm. We should suppose it was wrecked, as Henry entered into few wars, and had France and England not been at peace, the fleet would not have ventured to this port or any other in that country. Jeake adds, that this monarch visited Rye in the third year of his reign; but whether by appending this immediately to the account of the loss of the fleet, he meant to imply the visit followed the loss, we cannot pretend to say. If it were so, then the latter must have happened between the years 1485 and 1488, the latter being the third year of his reign, and the former the commencement of it.

The town being no longer in a protected state, in consequence of the dilapidation of its walls, and the mode of warfare having undergone a change through the introduction of fire-arms, Ypres tower ceased to be of so great value as a fortress as it hitherto had been, and this may account for the corporation having, in the year 1430, granted it to John Iprys, reserving to themselves the right of occupation in case of war. Whether, on the first erection of this tower, it was put under the keeping of the authorities we have no means of knowing; but, judging from the following document, we should be inclined to think it was. It must also be matter of conjecture whether this John de Iprys was a descendant of William de Ypres, the original founder of the tower.

“This indenture, made between William Broughton, mayor of Rye, the jurats and commonalty of the said town, on the one part, and John de Iprys of the other part, witnesseth, that the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty, in full assembly, held in the church of the blessed Mary, of Rye, before the altar of the blessed Nicholas, on the Sunday next before the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, in the ninth year of the reign of King Henry the Sixth, have granted and demised to the said John a certain tower, embattled, in the town of Rye aforesaid, with a reasonable right of way to the said tower, viz. From the King's street unto the said tower, for horses, carts, and wagons, and with a reasonable space of ground on the south side of the said tower, as far as the cliff, of the same width as the said. Tower, or more. It is also reserved to the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty, and their successors, for the time being, that they, in all times of war, with their goods, may enter into the said tower for the defence of the said town. Likewise, as often as they shall be reasonably admitted into the said tower, on the survey of the mayor for the time being, and of the said John, for the safe easement of the said John and his servants, those who are about to be received into the said tower, shall bring with them sufficient food for the time during which it may be necessary for them to live there. That the aforesaid tower is to be had and held, together with its appurtenances, by the said John Iprys, his heirs and assigns, in the manner aforesaid, for ever. And we, the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty, and our successors, the aforesaid tower to the said John, his heirs and assigns, against all nations will warrant, in manner and form abovesaid, for ever. In testimony whereof we, the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty, to the part of this indenture remaining with the said John, have affixed our common seal; and I, the said John, to the other part of this indenture remaining with the said mayor, jurats, and community, have affixed my seal.

“Given at Rye aforesaid, on the day and year above written.” In 1451 this tower was sold, by John Iprys and Elizabeth his wife, to Thomas Stoughton, as appears from the following memorandum in the records of Rye: “1451, 20th April, 30 Henry 6. Deed of grant from John Iprys and Elizabeth his wife, to Thomas Stoughton, of a certain tower, and divers other lands and tenements, in Rye, to hold to the said Thomas Stoughton, his heirs and assigns, for ever.”

Some time between the years 1451 and 1473 the tower was again sold by Thomas Stoughton to James Hyde, from whom it came to his daughter Joan, and was in the latter year conveyed to Lord Stanley, as these documents show:

“Know all men by (these) presents, that I, Sir Thomas Stanley, knight, Lord Stanley, have ordained, made, and in my place put my beloved in Christ William Cope, Thomas Mutton, and Henry Tirell, my true and lawful attornies, jointly and severally, to receive for me, and in my name, of Joan Hyde, full and peaceable seizin and possession of and in the entire share of the same Joan, and all that which to her belongs, of one tower, and of all and singular my gardens, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, commodities, and liberties whatsoever, in the town of Rye, and within the liberties of the same town, which Thomas Stoughton, of London, miller, by his charter gave, granted, and confirmed to the before-named Joan, and to James Hyde, her father; and which afterwards the before-named Joan gave, granted, and confirmed to me by her charter, to have and to hold, to me, my heirs and assigns, for ever, ratifying and approving, and agreeing to ratify and approve, whatever my said attornies, or any of them, shall do, in the receipt of the seizin aforesaid, according to the force, form, and effect of the same charter, by the aforesaid Joan to me made. In witness whereof, to this my present charter I have set my seal. Dated on Friday next after the Feast of the Translation of Saint Thomas the Martyr, in the seventeenth year of the reign of King Edward, the fourth after the conquest of England.” (L. 8.)

“Know ye, present and to come, that I, Joan Hyde, have given, granted, and by this my present Charter, confirmed to Sir Thomas Stanley, knight, Lord Stanley, my entire share, and all that which to me belongs, of one tower, and of all and singular my gardens, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, commodities, and liberties whatsoever, in the town of Rye, and within the liberties of the same town, which Thomas Stoughton, of London, miller, by his charter, gave, granted, and confirmed to me, the before-named Joan, and James Hyde, my father, now deceased. To have and to hold my entire aforesaid share, and all that which to me belongs, of my tower, gardens, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services, commodities, and liberties aforesaid, with the appurtenances, to the before-named Thomas Stanley, his heirs and assigns, for ever, of the chief lords of that fee, by the services thereof due, and of right accustomed. And I verily the aforesaid Joan, and my heirs, my entire share aforesaid, and all that which to me belongs of my aforesaid tower, gardens, lands, tenements, and other the premises, with the appurtenances, to the before-named Thomas Stanley, his heirs and assigns, against all nations, will warrant and for ever defend. Moreover know ye, that I, the before-named Joan, have ordained, made, and in my place put my beloved in Christ, Reginald Bray, Randolph Sillynton, and John Wetenhale, my true and lawful attornies, jointly and severally, for me, and in my name, to enter upon my

whole share aforesaid, and upon all that which to me belongs of my aforesaid tower, gardens, lands, tenements; and other the premises, with the appurtenances; and afterwards thereof, in my stead and name, to deliver full and peaceable seizin and possession to the before-named Thomas Stanley, to have and to hold to him, his heirs and assigns, according to the force, form, and effect of this my charter; ratifying and approving, and (agreeing) to ratify and approve, whatever my said attornies, or any of them, shall do in the delivery of the seizin aforesaid. In witness whereof to this my present charter I have set my seal. Dated on Thursday next after the Feast of the Translation of Saint Thomas the Martyr, in the seventeenth year of the reign of King Edward, the fourth after the conquest of England.” (L. 8.)

To the power of attorney granted by Lord Stanley to William Pope, Thomas Hutton, and Henry Pirett is appended a seal bearing his crest, to which is ascribed a very romantic origin, and therefore we shall offer no apology for describing it to our readers. This seal is very much broken, but still there is just enough remaining to show what was the crest upon it. This is an eagle, with wings expanded, feeding an infant in its nest; and the story is this: “It was borne by the family of Latham, of Latham, in Lancashire, knights, now represented by the Stanleys, one of whom married Isabel, their heir, about the close of the fourteenth century. It is said to have been assumed on account of one of their ancestors having exposed an illegitimate infant son in an eagle’s nest, in an oak tree, in the park of Latham, and the eagle’s nurturing and feeding him, instead of destroying him; from which extraordinary circumstance he was taken from the nest again by his father, and adopted as his heir.”

Thomas Stoughton was a fishmonger in London. The rippers of Rye and Winchelsea, who furnished London with fresh fish, had the privilege of selling their fish to whom they would, and the fishmongers of London were prohibited to buy it to sell again by retail; but although the fishmongers were thus prohibited, still the fish trade between Rye and London being very considerable, the members of the Fishmongers’ Company might become acquainted with the former town, and hence Thomas Stoughton, one of this body, became the purchaser of Ypres Castle. With the tower, from a very early period, certain gardens seem to have been connected, and hence it is that to this day the adjoining ground is still called the Gun Garden, the former part of its name having been given when cannon were first placed there.

The Lord Thomas Stanley, whose name appears in the documents given above, was the nobleman who, after the defeat and death of Richard III, on Bosworth Field, placed the crown on the head of Henry of Richmond, and proclaimed him king of England, by the title of Henry VII, for which act this monarch, in the same year 1485, created him Earl of Derby, and under this name we find him conveying Ypres Tower to John Newburith, in the 7th Henry VII, on March 27th, 1492, as appears by the following document found among the records of Rye, viz.:

“This endenture, made the 27th day of March, in the 7th year of the reign of King Henry 7th, betwene Thomas, Erle of Derby, Lord Stanley, of the one parte, and John Newburith of the other parte, witnesseth that the said John hath bargained and solde to the said erle, to have, to hym and to his heires, by way of eschange, all the landes and tenements, rents, reversions, and fines, with their appurtenances, which the same John, or any other persone, to his use hath, in the countie of Chestre, or hath any right or title unto the day of making this presente endenture, for the which landes and tenements, and other premysses, the said erle hath bargained and solde to the forsaid John, to have to hym and to his heires, by way of exchange, all the towre, with the appurtenances, and all messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, and fines, with their appurtenances, which the same erle, or any persone or persones, to his use hath, in the toune of Rie, in the countie of Sussex, and within the libertees of the same toune and lordship of the same, or hath eny right or title unto the day of making of this present endenture. And the said John, by these presents, covenantith and grauntith the said lands and tenements, rents, reversions, and fines, with their appurtenances, in the said countie of Chestre, by fine, recovery, feoffement, relez, or otherwise, unto the said erle, and to his heires, or to such other persone or persones as the said erle or his heires therunto shall name and assigne, atte the coste and charge of the said erle and of his heires. And in likewyse the same erle granntith and covenantith unto the said John, by these presents, to do and cause, and suffre to be done, all thyngs as shall be advysed by the counseill of the said John or of his heires, to make sure the said towre, with the appurtenances and messuages, lands, tenements, and the other premysses in the toune of Rie, and within the liberties and franchis of the same toune, by fine, recovery, feoffement, relez, or otherwyse, unto the same John and to his heires, or to such other persone or persones as the same John or his heires therto shall name or assigne, at the coste and charge of the same John or his heires, excepte onely suche coste and charge as shalbe made and had for the wrytyng of these presents, and of other statutes that shall be made nowe. And on this the said erle grauntith and covenantith, by these presents,

to the said John, to helpe, aide, and defende the said John, his heires and assignees, in suche wyse, so that the said John, his heires nor his assignees, shall not be interrupt nor put owte at any time from henseforth of the said towre, and the other premysse in the toun of Rie aforesaid, and within the liberties and franchis of the same, nor of eny parcell therof by the said erle, ne by George, Lorde Estraunge, nor by the heires ne assignees of theym, nor of either of theym, nor by eny persone or persones in their names, nor in the names of eny of theym, by reason of eny lawful title or otherwise, nor by eny manner other persone or persones, by reason of eny lawfull title or cause. To all and every of the graunts, covenants, and agrements aforerehersid on the behalfe of the said erle, truly to be performed and had in manner and fourme as ys abovesaid, the said erle and George, Lorde Estraunge, byndeth theym, and every of theym, their heires and executours, by these presents, unto the said John Newburith, in annual charge of lawfull money of England, to be paid to the said John, his executours and assignees incontynent, after eny of the said graunts, covenants, and agrements broken; and in lykewyse to all the graunts, covenants, and agrements aforerehersid on the behalfe of the said John, to be had and performed in a couple of buck-houndes, whereof one to be paid to the said erle and the other to be paid to the said Lorde Estraunge, before Lammas next comyng, and in £10 of lawfull money of Englund, to be paid to the said erle and George, Lorde Estraunge, their executours and assignees incontynent, after eny of the said graunts, covenants, and agrements broken. In witnesse whereof to the one parte of this present endenture remaynyng with the said John Newburith, the said erle and the Lorde Estraunge have sette their seales of armys, and to the other parte of this said endenture remaynyng with the said erle and Lorde Estraunge, the said John hath set his seale, the day and yere abovesaid."

This appears to have been a deed of exchange, and not a conveyance. The George Lord Estraunge mentioned here was the son of this Earl of Derby, who, having married Jane, daughter and heiress to John le Strange, Lord Strange, of Knockyn, in the county of Salop, had, in his right, summons to parliament in 1482, by the title of Lord Strange of Knockyn.

To this deed the Earl of Derby and Lord Estraunge are said to have set their seals of arms, and John Newburith merely his seal. Accordingly we find a large seal, with armorial bearings, now much mutilated, on the edge of which may still be traced the word "Derby," with two or three besides appended to it, while that of Newburith is entirely plain. Coats of arms were not introduced into seals till about the reign of Richard I, who brought them from the Holy Land, at the latter end of the twelfth century. We may observe here, that the name of Newburith is afterwards changed on the indorsement of this deed to Newburgh, while Jeake writes it Newbery.

Mr. Newbery did not long retain possession of his new property; for, by a memorandum of certain writings belonging to the corporation, we find that he sold it to this body on January 28th, 1494, about two years after he had received it from the Earl of Derby, in exchange for certain lands he held in the county of Chester. Jeake says, "The corporation used the tower to keep court in, till the building of the town-hall, in the Butchery, whence it got the name of the Court-house, and then was converted into a prison." When the tower was converted into a prison Jeake does not tell us; all we gather is, that it was a gaol in 1678, and so it continues at the present day.

The Badding's gate being now destroyed, we may conclude that the Gun Garden gate was erected at this time. It stood at the top of the Gun Garden steps, immediately adjoining the north-west tower of Ypres Castle, against which may still be seen a slight abutment, originally forming part of the eastern shaft from which the arch sprang.

We have now brought this branch of our history down to the close of the fifteenth century, and shall proceed to discuss that of the sixteenth, and of those which succeed it.

When, on the destruction of Old Winchelsea, towards the end of the thirteenth century, King Edward I granted to the inhabitants a piece of ground for building a new town, and which forms the site of the modern Winchelsea, the chosen spot was an insulated rock, the southern foot of which was washed by the waters of the English Channel; but, in the course of a couple of centuries, a long bank of sand and beach was formed, which, commencing at the eastern base of Fairlight Cliff, extended towards the east as far as the spot on which now stands Camber Castle, and which was erected in 1539 or 1540, by Henry VIII. At this time the sea flowed very close to the walls of this castle on the south, east, and north sides, and having passed the latter, it formed a large bay, running back to the westward as far as Winchelsea, and covering the whole expanse between the east side of this town and the west side of Rye, which constituted one general harbour for the two ports. It was for the general defence of the coast, and the particular one of this chamber or harbour, that this fortress was erected. "In the year 1541, this and all the other castles, blockhouses, and bulwarks in Kent and Sussex were, by an Act of

Parliament then made, put under the care and command of the Constable of Dover Castle," as we are informed by Grose. In 1584 Queen Elizabeth, being threatened with invasion by the King of Spain, issued an order of council for the reparation of the castles and forts on the sea-coast, in which the only fortifications mentioned in Sussex are the castles in the Cinque Ports and Camber Castle. This latter, though only erected about forty years before at a cost of £23,000, now required repair, the charge for which was estimated at £171 13s. 4d.

We have omitted to mention, that in 1526 a monastery of Friars Eremites was built in the town of Rye, the greater part of which, though changed and mutilated, is standing at this day on the east side of the Conduit Hill. At the time of its erection there were probably no houses standing between it and the longer street on the south, nor was the ground then so high as at present, as we now see the southern windows blocked up with mould to the height of several feet.

Herbert Barrett Curteis, Esq., of Windmill Hill, in this county, the present member for the borough of Rye, has in his possession an original drawing, purporting to be a view of this town in the sixteenth century, and which was taken from the hill, at the upper part of the Gallows Bank. This view must have been taken some time after the year 1540, as the monastery within the town, and Camden Castle without, both appear represented in it. The interior of the town, as there shown, is very similar to what it is at present. The road, after passing through the north gate, runs close to the cliff, as now. The Ypres tower stands at the south-eastern angle, and the church in the centre of the town, while the east cliff appears reduced to the same dimensions which mark its modern boundary, showing what fearful ravages the sea, in the course of a hundred years, must have made on this side. In the exterior we see several vessels lying at the strand, where the greater part the shipping unload at the present day. At Land Gate we find several buildings, and among these one so very similar to the wool-warehouse now there, that we can scarcely hesitate to pronounce it to be the same. Farther to the westward, at a spot now called the Wish, appears a high building, somewhat like a tower; but what it was we cannot undertake to say. However, in Horsfield's History of Sussex' is an engraving of this picture, presented to the author by Major Curteis, brother of the present member for Rye, and which our readers may examine and judge for themselves.

In Arthur Young's Survey of Sussex,' printed in 1793, we find the following: "At a very early period of our history, we find the export of this most valuable commodity (timber) to be very considerable. In the reign of our sixth Edward the hoys that were laden with timber went out of Rye harbour to the number of thirty-seven one tide, and never an English mariner among them. The whole country round this place, for miles, was a forest; for, not many years after this, anno 1591, a man was ordered to depart the town of Rye for executing the profession of a husbandman, that place not being fit for such an artificer; a sure proof of their being still in the woods." That the high lands adjoining the marshes to the north of the town, were in this reign, which lasted from 1547 to 1553, covered with woods we can readily believe; but we were not prepared to hear that our mercantile marine was at so low an ebb, particularly in a Cinque Port, as to allow all its exports to be made in foreign bottoms. We are not informed to what nation these vessels belonged, but we should suppose to the Flemings; for these were the great mariners and the enterprising people of those days, and their country was barren of timber, the commodity with which these hoys were laden.

In the 4th Edward VI, August 1st, 1551, the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of Rye granted to Richard Ruck a piece of land called Watchbell Hill, at the rent of two shillings, payable to Walter Roberts, and fourpence to the mayor, jurats, and commonalty.

This Watchbell Hill is the same place as, previously to this time was called the West Cliff, and is now known by the name of the Green Cliff.

In the reign of Elizabeth, in 1563, Rye was visited by a dreadful pest, which raged to such a degree, that in the three short months of August, September, and October no less than 562 persons were buried.

Among the Rye records we find the following grant, bearing date August 26th, 1565, written in Latin:

Translation.

"Know all present and to come, that we, the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town and port of Rye, within the Cinque Ports, with unanimous assent and consent, have given, granted, and, by this our present indented deed, have confirmed to John Davison, of the aforesaid town, yeoman, one piece of ground, being and lying in Rye aforesaid, without the south gate of the same town, namely, at the West Cliff, called Bawdwin's Cliff, towards the north-east, to the common lands of the said town of Rye, towards the south-east and south-west also, to the lands of John Breeds, jurat, towards the north-west;

and this piece of ground contains, in length, from north west to south-east, sixty feet of lawful measure; and the same piece of ground contains, in width, at the north-west end, twenty feet eight inches of the said measure, and at the south-east end eight feet of the said measure. That the aforesaid John Davison shall have and hold the said piece of ground, with its appurtenances, to him, his heirs and assigns, for their own use and benefit, for ever, by paying henceforth, annually, to us, the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the said town of Rye, our heirs and successors, one annual rent or annuity of ten shillings of lawful money of England, at the Feasts of Saint Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of the blessed Virgin Mary, in equal portions annually to be paid. And if it shall so happen that the aforesaid annual rent or annuity of ten shillings shall be in arrear, in whole or in part, for the space of fifteen days after either of the said feasts at which the said rent shall become due, it shall be lawful, now and at all times hereafter, for us, the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty, our heirs and successors, to enter upon the said piece of ground, or any part thereof, and to distrain and to make distresses, and to hold them, also to carry or drive them away, and to retain them in our power all the time, until the said ten shillings, or any part thereof, be fully paid and made good to the aforesaid mayor, jurats, and commonalty, their heirs and successors. And if it shall so happen that the said annual rent or annuity of ten shillings be in arrear, in whole or in part, for one whole year and a day after either of the said feasts at which the said rent shall become due, and no sufficient distress can be found, that from thence it shall be lawful for us, the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty, our heirs and successors, altogether to re-enter on the said piece of ground, with its appurtenances, and that we may re-hold, enjoy, and possess it in our pristine state, anything in this our present indented deed notwithstanding. In witness where-of we, the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town of Rye aforesaid, have firmly set the common seal of the said town to one part of this our present indenture, remaining in the possession of the aforesaid John Davison; to the other true part of the same indenture, remaining in the possession of us, the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty of Rye, the aforesaid John Davison hath set his seal.

“Dated at Rye aforesaid, the twenty-sixth day of August, in the seventh year of the reign of the Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and so forth.

“By me, JOHN DAVISON.”

The gate here called the South Gate, must be the one now called the Strand Gate, and the piece of land here described must have been at the Green Cliff.

The town, still smarting from the loss of its population by the pest of 1563, “was replenished,” as Jeake says, “by the French, who sheltered themselves here from the massacre in France in 1572, and other troubles of the Protestants there; so that A.D. 1582, upon an account taken, were found inhabiting here 1534 persons of that nation.” The massacre here alluded to was that known by the name of the “Parisian Massacre,” when, on the tolling of the bell of St. Germain, at the morning twilight, that fearful work of death began of the Huguenots, who had been invited to Paris to attend the marriage of the king of Navarre with the French king’s sister, under a solemn oath of safety, but which oath was broken by the suggestion of that great bad woman, Catherine de Medici, and in consequence of this treachery a dreadful slaughter took place, without regard to rank, sex, or age, not only in Paris, but in many other towns in France, when it is computed that upwards of 30,000 victims perished. This bloody day was August 24, 1572, the ever memorable St. Bartholomew’s Day.

It was in the year 1573 that our great Queen Elizabeth paid a visit to the ancient town of Rye, and which is thus slightly mentioned by Jeake: “Queen Elizabeth thought it worth her visit in 1573, when, from the noble entertainment she had, accompanied with the testimonies of love and loyalty, duty and reverence she received from the people, she was pleased to call it Rye Royal.” Miss Strickland, speaking of the queen’s progress through Kent and Sussex, in the summer of this year, says she left Greenwich on the 14th July, and after praising the hospitality of the loyal ‘squires of Kent, entered Sussex, and on the 9th of August reached the house of Mr. Guildford. She adds, they were then bending toward “the Rye,” on the way to Dover.

Horsfield says the queen reached Rye on August 12th, 1573, when she conferred the honour of knighthood on Thomas Shurley, Thomas Guildford, Thomas Walsingham, and Alexander Culpepper, Esquires.

On the 9th of August the queen arrived at Mr. Guildford’s house; but where was this? The family of Guildford was of considerable note at this time, and are supposed to have resided at Rolvenden, which village is in Kent. However, this parish is only divided from Sussex by the river Rother; and here it was,

we may suppose, the queen remained until the 12th of the same month, when she is said to have visited Rye. In order to do this, in coming from Rolvenden, she must have crossed the Rother, which, flowing out to sea at Rye, might hence be called "The Rye," towards which Miss Strickland says she was bending her way when she arrived at Mr. Guildford's. In her journey from Rolvenden to Rye, her Majesty must have crossed the river at Newenden, as we find she halted a while at Northiam, under the shade of an oak tree, which is still standing near the churchyard, bearing the name of "Queen Elizabeth's Oak." On approaching Rye she must have come down the hill, and, when nearly at the bottom, have turned into the Grove towards the spring at the west end of it, and of the water of which she drank, whence this well, which was before known by the name of Dodeswell, received that of "Queen Elizabeth's Well;" by which it is known at this day. There is a traditionary report that the members of the corporation went out of the town in procession, all clad in scarlet robes, to receive and welcome her Majesty, she probably halting for this purpose at the spring above mentioned, and then entering the town by the Postern Gate, which is immediately facing the road leading to this spot.

The Mr. Guildford who was knighted on this occasion we may safely conclude was her host, who possessed large property at East Guildford, which took its name from his family.

The Culpeppers did formerly live at Salehurst, and a Thomas Culpepper represented the borough of Rye in Parliament, towards the close of this reign, and the Alexander Culpepper here knighted might be of this family.

It is rather singular that although the visit of Queen Elizabeth to Rye, in 1573, has been mentioned by Jeake, and that it is a fact so circumstantially related, besides being recorded by the inscription on the well, remaining at this day, still we can find no record of it in the corporation books, either in this year, 1573, or in 1588, which latter is the date of the inscription. That the queen did visit Dover in this year, 1573, as mentioned by Miss Strickland, is clear, however, from the following memorandum, which we have extracted from the Rye Assembly Book, viz.:

"1573, Aug. 3d. It is agreed that the 21st day of August, the 15th year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, the lord warden having writ his letters to the mayors and jurats of Rye, to send eight calivares unto Dover, to be in garrison there during her Majesty's abode, it is granted and understood by the maior and jurats assembled that, at his request, there shall go eight calivares, besides the ensigne, drummer, fifer, and six halberds."

This entry is rather curiously worded; but the meaning seems to be this, that letters having been written by the lord warden to the mayor and jurats of Rye, to send a certain number of their town troops to Dover by the 21st of August, the same was ordered accordingly.

The caliver was a kind of musket introduced in the reign of Elizabeth, and the price of one, furnished with flask and touch-box, laces and moulds, was thirteen shillings and sixpence.

When the corporation purchased Ypres Tower of Mr. Newbery, in 1484, it would seem that they did not then buy the gardens with it; for we find that on Aug. 27th, 1575, this body purchased the Gun-garden of William Blakey, mariner, Richard, and Henry Kite, all of Rye, sons and heirs of Henry Kite. Judging from its name, we may conclude that it was used as a battery, previously to this sale, and on this spot were placed some, or all, of the cannon at that time in the possession of the town, of which and of other ordnance stores the following is a list, as delivered to the queen, on March 28th, 1569:

"This indenture, made the 28th daye of Marche, anno 1569, in the 5th year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, witnesseth. That the maior and jurats of her Majesty's ancient town and port of Rye, in the county of Sussex, have received out of her Majesty's store, within the office of her ordnance, by her officers of the same, by order from the Right Honorable William Marquis of Winchester, High Treasurer of England, the Lord Clynton, High Admiral of England, the Lord William Howard, Lord Chamberlain of her Majesty's Household, and other her Highness's commissioners appointed for the causes of the said office, viz. These presently following, now remaining within the said town, in the charge of the said maior and jurats of Rye, for which they stand answerable to her Majesty's use; that is to say: cannon of brass, one; culverins of brass, two; sacres of brass, seven; mynions of brass, with one French mynion, two; faucons of brass, two; sacres of cast iron, four; faucons of cast iron, two; portepieces, with two chambers a piece, three; fowlers, with seven chambers, four; cannon shot, thirty-seven; culverin shot, forty; sacre shot, seventy-five; mynion shot, fifteen; facon shot, twenty-six; faconet shot, six; stone shot, sixty-five; arquebusses complete, thirty-nine; morris piles, thirty. And now presently received out of the said office, for the mounting of the aforesaid ordnance, and furniture of the same, these parcels following, for which they also stand

answerable unto her Highness's use: carriages with extra bars, with iron and the furniture for one di cannon, one; carriages, with their furniture for culverins, two; carriages, with their furniture for sacres, eleven; the like, with their furniture for mynions, two; and the like, with their furniture for faucons, four; culverin shot, forty; sacre shot, 300; mynion shot, 100; faucon shot, 200; and one last of serpentine gunpowder. And the said mayor and jurats do covenant and grant, and by these presents bind themselves and their successors, in the sum of two thousand pounds of lawful money of England, that they continually shall keep and maintain all the several parcels aforesaid, with their furniture, in good and serviceable manner; and, so often as the same shall decay or grow unserviceable, to repair and amend the same without any charge unto her Majesty, her heirs, and successors; and that if the same ordnance, or other the parcels aforesaid, be by them employed otherwise than for the defence of the said town, they are to restore, at their own charge, so much as is employed in place thereof, that the whole furniture now delivered may continually be by them and their successors maintained and preserved, and otherwise to answer the same, when her Majesty shall, by her officers of the ordnance, call them to account, according to the orders taken by the commissioners aforesaid. In witness whereof, as well the officers of the said ordnance, and as also the said maior and jurats, interchangeably have hereunto subscribed and set their seals, the day and year first above written.

“WILLIAM PELHAM.

”H. PAINE.”

On this document is the following indorsement: “Mem. That the jurats of Rye do allege the French mynion within written to be theirs, as taken in the time of warres with their own boats, and therefore do desire not to be charged with that piece (as reason is) if they can prove their allegation.”

It has long been the belief of many of the inhabitants that Queen Elizabeth had presented the town with four pieces of brass ordnance; but this list destroys that illusion, for it hence appears that the mayor and jurats were held strictly responsible to the ordnance office for the safe custody and preservation of all their cannon and different fire-arms. At this time one part of the small building on the south side of the church (now the vault of the Lamb family) was used as a powder magazine, and the other for the safe keeping of some of the pieces of brass ordnance, when not wanted for immediate use, but when so required were placed some at the Gun-garden and some on the Green Cliff, where the flag-staff now stands; and now we may see what were the principal defences of the town and harbour.

On the point of land already indicated stood Camber Castle, commanding the entrance to the harbour at its south-east angle, while, facing the same, on the elevated hill of the town, were the two batteries, one at the Gun-garden, and the other at the Green Cliff, at a distance of about a mile from the former.

The original culverins were very long cannons; but in 1414 they were made light enough to be carried by hand. Peter Bawd, a Frenchman, in the employ of Edward VI, made for this monarch certain ordnance of cast iron, of divers sorts and forms, as fauconets, falcons, minions, sakers, and other pieces. Port-pieces and fowlers were much used about this time. This information we derive from Grose. Port-pieces and fowlers were used for throwing stones, and hence the use of stone shot.

The marshes at the back of the town had now been long inclosed, when, in the year 1577, we are informed by Holinshed that “in the Wish, at Rye (a place so called), the water came in so suddenly and flowed so high, about midnight, that it was eight or nine feet high in men's houses; insomuch that, if one William White had not called them up, some of them had like to have been drowned. And this same William White, having a boat, fetched a great company of them out of their windows, and carried them to dry land, as fast as he could fetch them; which were in great danger and fear, and glad to escape with their lives. Moreover, the water came in so vehemently then, that it brake into the marshes, and made such way that where of late years, and now before this great flood, a cock-boat could not pass in at low water, now a fisherman, drawing six feet water and more, may come in and have good harbours there.

“And whereas, one of the owners of a great part of some marishes had certain poles set up therein (and being very meet and in convenient place of the same marish) for the drying of their fishing-nets, and received money yearly of those that dried their nets there sufficiently enough; yet he caused his servant to give them all warning that they should no more hang their nets there, except they would come and compound with him for it. And the same night (by God's providence) it came so to pass, that, according to his saying (though contrary to his good will and mind), they are not likely to hang their nets there any more, because of the depth of the water is so great and like to continue.

“In hope of the continuance of the same new opened haven. Certain men of the same town have

begun to build fair barks to travel the seas, the which, in the continuance of time, will be a great furtherance to the maintenance of the queen's navy. At the black shore end, and before the said flood, no boat could pass farther than the shore end, and now a boat that draweth six foot water may come in at low water. Without the bar the water is deeper than it was by two feet and more in the channel."

The Wish, which is here mentioned as having been inundated, was and is that part of the town which lies without the walls, on the west and north-west sides of the same. The spot alluded to as having been used for drying the fishermen's nets, was most probably the present marsh called the Pole Marsh, and which may have taken its name from the circumstance of the poles being there erected.

The following document was found among the archives of Rye, and we lay it before our readers:

"Know all men by these presents, that when our sovereign Lady, the Queen's Majesty that now is, did, by her Highness's letters patent, under her Highness's great seal of England, bearing date at Westminster, the fourteenth day of May, in the seven and twentieth year of her Majesty's reign, amongst other things, of her more ample and special grace, and of her certain knowledge and mere notion, for her, her heirs and successors, give and grant unto Edmund Coppinger, of London, Esquire, his heirs, executors, and assigns, all and singular issues, rents, revenues, and yearly profits and arrerage whatsoever, of all and singular the messuages, lands, tenements, and other premises, with their appurtenances, in Rye, in the county of Sussex, and of every part and parcel thereof to him, the said Edmund, his heirs and assigns; also, by the said letters patent, amongst other things mentioned to be given or granted from the time or times [torn the same tenements and premises in Rye aforesaid, or any parcel thereof, to the hands of the late King Henry the Eighth, father of our said sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty, or to the hands of the late King Edward the Sixth, brother of our said sovereign Lady; or to the hands of the late Queen Mary, sister of our said sovereign Lady, the Queen's Majesty; or to the hands of any other, the progenitors of our said sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty, or to the hands of our said sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty, came, or ought to come, grow, or renew: to levy and receive all and singular the said rents, issues, revenues, yearly profits and arrerages aforesaid whatsoever, to the foresaid Edmund Coppinger, his executors, and assigns, of the gift of our said sovereign Lady, the Queen's Majesty, without account or any other thing therefore to our said sovereign Lady, her heirs, or successors, by any means to be paid, yielded, or made; and for the better recovery, levying, and execution to be had and made of the said rents, issues, revenues, yearly profits and arrerage, did, by the said letters patent, make such further grants unto the said Edmund Coppinger, his executors and assigns, as in and by the said letters patent at large appeareth. Now these presents witness that the said Edmund Coppinger, for him, his executors, and administrators, doth by these presents release and clearly discharge the maior, jurats, and commonalty of Rye aforesaid, and all other person and persons which have heretofore been fermers and occupiers of the said messuages and premises in Rye aforesaid, their heirs, executors, and assigns, of and from all and singular the said issues, rents, revenues, yearly profits, and arrerages. And, further, doth by these presents, grant unto the said maior, jurats, and commonalty, not only all and singular the said issues, rents, revenues, yearly profits, and arrerages whatsoever of the said messuages and premises, in Rye aforesaid, to him, by the said letters patent granted; but also such power and authority for the recovery, levying, and execution to be had and made thereof against the fermers or occupiers of the premises, their heirs, executors, and assigns; and against all other person and persons, as is to him, the said Edmund, by the said letters patent, given and granted. Giving and granting unto the said maior, jurats, and commonalty, and their successors, full power and authority, in the name of him, the said Edmund, his executors, or administrators, to sue for, recover, levy, or in execution take, by virtue of these, the said premises, to receive, have, and keep to their own use and uses, without any account or other thing therefore to be rendered or made to the said Edmund, his executors or assigns. And further, the said Edmund Coppinger doth, by these presents, for him, his executors, and administrators, covenant to and with the said maior, jurats, and commonalty, and their successors, that he hath not heretofore made or done, nor that he, his executors, nor administrators, shall or will, at any time hereafter, make, do, or commit any act or acts, thing or things whatsoever, whereby the said issues, rents, revenues, yearly profits and arrerages by me mentioned to be granted to the said maior, jurats, and commonalty, or already or hereafter shall be discharged or released, or granted to any other person or persons, or whereby the said maior, jurats, and commonalty, and their successors shall not, or may not recover, levy, have, and hold the same, according to the purport and true meaning of these presents. In witness whereof the said Edmund Coppinger unto this present writing hath set his seal, dated the eighteenth day of May, in the seven and twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.

"By me (L. s.) EDMUND COPPINGER."

Where these messuages, lands, tenements, and other premises were situated we cannot say. In a schedule of property belonging to the king's bailiff, which we shall introduce at a future time, several rents are mentioned as arising from certain houses in the town; but if these had been conveyed by this deed to Edmund Coppinger, and by him to the corporation, of course they could no longer be the property of the bailiff. We must conclude, therefore, that some, but not the whole, of the rents, revenues, &c., belonging to the crown previously to the twenty-seventh year of Elizabeth, were now made over to the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town.

Perhaps some of our readers may think these numerous old documents rather dry and uninteresting; but as they serve to illustrate the local state of the town or the customs prevalent therein, we shall venture to present them with a few more, one of which is the following:

"Know all men by these presents, that whereas our sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty that now is, that she, by her Highness's letters patent, bearing date at Westminster, the twelfth day of April, in the eight and twentieth year of her Majesty's reign, amongst other things, given and granted unto John Walton and John Cresset, gentlemen, all and singular the arrerage of rents, issues, profits, commodities, and emoluments whatsoever, arrered, accrued, or grown due or payable to her Highness or any of her Majesty's noble progenitors, kings or queens of this realm, of a certain passage over the common watercourse, situate and being in Rye, in her Majesty's county of Sussex, commonly called or known by the name of "The Rye Ferry," in the tenure of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of Rye aforesaid; and also all and singular the arrerage of rents, issues, profits, commodities, and emoluments whatsoever accrued, renewed, or grown due or payable to her Highness, or any of her Majesty's noble progenitors, kings or queens of this realm, of all that her messuage or tenement, with the appurtenances, in Rye aforesaid, at the Stronde, then late in the tenure of Thomas, Lord Buckhurst, or his assigns, lately erected and built upon a certain piece of land where certain stables were formerly sometimes standing, which said stables heretofore were given, limited, and appointed for the maintenance of one stipendary priest for ever, to sing mass for the souls of Robert Crowite and his ancestors, and after his decease, as by the said letters patent more at large it doth and may appear. Now these presents witness that the said John Walton and John Cresset, for divers causes and considerations them moving, have remised, released, and for ever quitted claim unto the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of Rye aforesaid, and their successors, and unto Robert Ireland, flesher, his heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, and all other the occupiers of the said premisses, all and singular the said arrerage of rents, issues, profits, and commodities whatsoever, arrered, accrued, or grown due or payable to her Highness, or any of her Majesty's noble progenitors, kings or queens of England, to the said passage over the water, called Rye Ferry, and to the said messuage or tenement, with the appurtenances before in the said letters patent mentioned, as fully, freely, and largely, to all intents, as they, the said John Walton and John Cresset, have or may have the same of the gift and grant of our sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty, so that neither the said John Walton and John Cresset, their heirs, executors, or assigns, nor any of them, shall or may, at any time or times hereafter, sue, implead, or prosecute the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty of Rye aforesaid, or their successors, or the said Robert Ireland, or any other, his heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, or any of them, or any other the occupiers or fermers of the said premisses, their heirs, executors, or administrators, in any manner of action or actions, suit or suits, pleynt or pleynts, for the said arrerage, yearly rents, issues, profits, and revenues of the said premisses, or any part thereof, heretofore accrued or grown due or payable to her Highness, or any of her Majesty's progenitors, kings or queens of the realm, by reason of any grant or grants made unto them the said John Walton and John Cresset, or either of them, by our said sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty, or by reason of any other matter or cause whatsoever. But thereof and herefrom, and from all actions and suits which they the said John Walton and John Cresset, or either of them, or the heirs or assigns of them or either of them, now or at any time or times hereafter, may have, take, commence, prosecute, or sue for the same, or for any part hereof, against the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty, or their successors, and against the said Robert Ireland, his heirs, executors, or assigns, and against all or any of the tenants, fermers, or occupiers of the said premisses, or any part thereof, or against either or any of them. They, the said John Walton and John Cresset, do, by these presents, clearly acquit, release, and discharge the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty, and their successors, and the said Robert Ireland, his heirs, executors, and assigns. In witness whereof the said John Walton and John Cresset have to these presents set their seals, dated the fourth day of May, in the eight and twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c.

"Per me (Seal) JOHN WALTON. Per me (Seal) JOHAN CRESSET."

A pelican pecking her breast, from which fall drops of blood.

Broken, but on which appears a little dog at the bottom.

Although both these Christian names are John, yet Cresset signs his as though it were an abbreviation of Johannes, Latin for John. And here it may be observed, that our language now seemed to be in a transition state from Latin into English. We see some of the public documents of this reign written in the former and some in the latter tongue; and here, in this one deed, we see one man signing his name in one, and one in the other. As the language was now in a state of transition, so also was the public property in the town of Rye, both the last documents showing a transfer from the crown to the corporation.

The word “fermers,” found in these two last deeds, seems to be derived from the French “fermier,” implying a farmer or renter of another’s property. The premisses mentioned in this conveyance lie just without the Strand Gate, immediately on the right hand, as you go out of the town, being now a small warehouse, used as a sail-making loft. The Strand here, in the year 1586, the date of the deed, was many feet lower than at present, the sea at high water flowing up close to the walls, and this is clear, from the fact that on sinking a well in the Strand brewery, but a short distance from hence, a few years ago, at the depth of ten or twelve feet below the present surface, the diggers came to a solid strand, covered with sea-beach, and where they picked up several pins, a small bell, and some pieces of coin of the reign of Elizabeth.

Over this ferry all persons were compelled to pass who wished to go to Winchelsea, Udimore, Brede, or any other place to the westward of the town. The opposite landing-point must have been at the foot of Cadborough Cliff.

When we spoke of the mercantile navy of the town, and of the destruction of the fleet sent to Bordeaux, in the reign of Henry VII, we supposed the vessels which composed it were the property of individual merchants or ship-owners; but from the following entries, which have been since copied from the books of the corporation, we now conclude that they were the joint property of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of Rye, and that, in short, all the free Barons of this ancient town constituted a trading company, in the same manner as the guilds did in the early times of our history. This fact may be inferred also from the words of Jeake, when speaking of the loss of the “Bordeaux fleet.” It is not often that individuals send their vessels all to one port at one and the same time, though companies may. But let us examine the entries:

“1587, Feb. 26th. It is ordered that the town’s ship shall be sold, and if she cannot be so sold, then to be let forth to freight, and, when so let, to be sold.”

“1588, September 23d. It is ordered and agreed by this assembly, that the town’s ship shall be freighted to Dieppe, and from there further to be freighted, as the master shall see cause.”

In 1592 we find a further account of the town’s ship, when John Davyes was master, and the full freight for a voyage to Rochelle was £44, from which £3 2s. 6d. Being deducted for expenses, the balance of £36 17s. 6d. Was paid over to the chamberlain.

This being now the only and the last town’s ship, we see the truth of Jeake’s words, “That Rye never recovered its ancient shipping since the loss of the Bourdeaux fleet, as reported in the time of King Henry VII.”

The following indenture of apprenticeship, enrolled in the assembly book, will serve to show how such things were managed in the days of Elizabeth:

1588, March 20th. Thomas Peadle put himself apprentice to Henry Godsmark, flesher, and Joan his wife, for the term of ten years, to teach him, or cause him to be taught, the occupation of a flesher, finding him sufficient meats and drinks, and woollen clothes, shoes, and all other things necessary, during the said term, and in the end of the said term to give him double apparel, viz. Apparel for holy-days and apparel for working-days; one hatchet, one sledge, one wimble, and a knife, being tools applying to the said occupation; and twenty shillings of lawful money of England.”

A flesher was a butcher.

Although in the present day we may consider the duration of the apprenticeship as being too long, we must consider the furnishing the apprentice with clothes, tools, and money at the expiration of it as a most excellent provision, and one well worthy to be followed at the present time.

In 1596 Rye was afflicted with the plague, one melancholy memorial of which still remains in a stone

on the floor of the north aisle of the chancel, into which were formerly let nine brass figures, two on the upper part and seven smaller below, said to represent a father and mother, with three boys and four girls, a whole family, which were carried off by this fatal disease; and with this sad record we will close the history of the sixteenth century. And as we closed the last, so must we commence the next century, with mentioning that the plague again raged in Rye in the year 1625; while this scourge was followed by that of the smallpox in 1634 and 1635, and also in 1654 and 1655. Arthur Young, in his 'Survey of Sussex,' informs us, that from 1630 to 1640, a period of eleven years, the burials in this parish exceeded the baptisms by 158, showing the frightful ravages made by these diseases, sufficient, if continued for a few years, seriously to lessen the population.

In 1626 we find a memorandum that the Small Box Farm was let on lease at a rent of £110 per annum. This Small Box Farm is generally supposed to have been the town dues, then payable to the corporation. What was the respective amount of the several droits and dues payable at this time we do not know; but in 1808 they were as follows, as appears from this document:

"Rye to wit.

"At an assembly of the mayor, jurats, and freemen of the ancient town of Rye, in the county of Sussex, holden at the court-hall of and within the same town, on Wednesday, the 6th day of January, 1808,

"It was resolved, that on and after the 1st day of February next, there should be raised, levied, and paid upon the several goods and articles hereafter mentioned (in lieu of the sums heretofore payable in respect thereof) the several droits and dues following, viz., for

Item	s.	d.
Bark, per ton	0	4
Ditto, per cwt.	0	0½
Bricks, per thousand	0	4
Bottles (full), per gross	0	4
Ditto (empty), per ditto	0	2
Brooms and brush blocks, per hundred	0	1
Beach and sand, per ton	0	1
Beer or porter, per hogshead	0	3
Billet wood, per fathom	0	1
Bacon, per side	0	0½
Butter, per firkin	0	0½
Battens, per 120	0	2
Bones, horns, hoofs, &c., per ton	0	2
Brimstone, per cwt.	0	0½
Boxes of dry goods, ≥1 cwt.	0	1
Boxes <1 cwt.	0	0½
Cider, per hogshead	0	3
Corn, per quarter	0	2
Chalk, per load	0	0½
Coaches (4-wheel), each	2	6
Chaises (2-wheel), each	1	0
Coals, per chaldron	0	4
Currants, per butt	0	6
Canvas, per bolt	0	0½
Cheese, per cwt.	0	1
Cordage, per cwt.	0	1
Candles, per cwt.	0	1
Deals, the 120	0	3
Earthenware, per crate	0	1
Flour, per sack	0	1½
Fish (dried/salted), per barrel	0	0½
Fruit, per chest	0	1
Herring, per barrel	0	1

Hoops, wooden, per load	0	6
Hops, per bag	0	4
Hops, per pocket	0	2
Hop bagging, per roll	0	1
Household furniture, per load	0	6
Hemp or flax, per cwt.	0	1
Hams, per cwt.	0	1
Hampers (wine, beer, etc.)	0	1
Iron, per ton	0	4
Iron, per cwt.	0	0½
Laths, per load	0	2
Leather, per dicker	0	4
Liquor (wine/spirits), per hogshead	0	3
Lead, per ton	0	4
Lead, per cwt.	0	0½
Linen, per bale ≥1 cwt.	0	1
Mahogany boards/logs	0	1
Malt, per quarter	0	2
Masts, per load	0	4
Mops/brushes, per dozen	0	0½
Millstones, each	0	6
Molasses, per hogshead	0	3
Nuts, per sack	0	1
Oil-cakes, per thousand	0	4
Oars, per pair	0	0½
Oil, per hogshead	0	3
Pitch, per barrel	0	2
Pipe-clay, per ton	0	4
Pork (salted), per barrel	0	2
Rags, per ton	0	4
Rice, per cwt.	0	1
Salt, per ton	0	4
Stone (Portland etc.), per ton	0	4
Tiles, per thousand	0	2
Timber (oak), per load	0	4
Tobacco, per hogshead	0	6
Wine, per hogshead	0	9

N.B. All other articles, or goods, not before enumerated, to be charged in proportion

Besides the above dues, it was ordered that a further charge was to be made on any goods that were left on the wharf beyond the reasonable time allowed for landing and taking them away. But these regulations were not long of any avail; for in this same year Messrs. Collett and Co., who were large importing and exporting merchants in the town, refused to pay them, and in consequence of their refusal it was ordered that they should be proceeded against by the corporation. In 1811, agreeably to this resolution, actions at law were commenced not only against Messrs. Collett and Co., but also against several other merchants of the town; but there not being sufficient time to bring them before the assize court at Lewes this year, they were not tried until the following one of 1812, when a long trial took place, the result of which was that the corporation was nonsuited.

Being unwilling to lose this part of their income without a struggle, the corporation, in 1818, attempted to collect wharfage on all goods and wares at the rates fixed by the schedule of 1808, hoping to be able to obtain the same money, under the name of wharfage, which they had failed to do under that of dues. But this was objected to by Messrs. Smith and Hicks, the successors of Collett and Co., when proceedings were ordered to be taken against them; but not quite satisfied of the soundness of their case, they took counsel's opinion as to the right of the corporation to take town dues or wharfage. What this opinion was we know not; but we may conclude it was not favorable, as we hear of no

further proceedings in the matter, and this tax, whether made under the title of droits and dues, or wharfage, is now entirely done away with. Although this was a great relief to the merchants of Rye, it may be a question whether, in justice and equity, the corporation were not entitled to some trifling payment, in consideration of the expense they were at in erecting and maintaining the wharf at the Strand.

But however this may have been, the question is now set at rest by the commissioners of the harbour having purchased all the wharfs of the corporation, and levying a tonnage duty on all vessels coming in or going out of the port, if wholly or partially laden.

As we are on the subject of dues paid in the town, we may as well lay before our readers the following "Schedule of the Fees, or Duties, belonging to the King's Majesty's Bayliffe of the antient town of Rye, in the county of Sussex, and usually received within the said town, as followeth :

"Imprimis. For every twenty shillings' worth of goods going out or coming in the harbour there	2d
Item. For anchorage of any vessel coming in or going out there (except freemen of the Ports)	4
Item. For every tun of wine coming in there	8
Item. For every horsepack going out or coming in there	2
Item. For every trunk, do.	4
Item. For every box, great or small, fardell, or portmanteau, do.	2
Item. For every horse, do.	6
Item. For every passenger, do., by the name of head-money, or petty passage	2
Item. For every Jew passing in or out, for head-money	7
Item. For any ship or boat sold within the said town, viz.	
For a ship	7
for a boat	4
Item. The merchants are to make entry in the custom house there of all such goods coming in or going out before the customers; and the king's bailiff, or his deputy, shall receive twopence in the pound, as above said, for all such goods so passing in or out, by the name of petty custom or scavage	2."

This schedule is dated A.D. 1670, and shows that the bailiff collected dues on wine and other goods, which are also mentioned among the town dues; but whether the corporation received theirs at the same time we have no means of knowing, as the two schedules are dated at very distant periods from each other. Such, however, we must suppose to have been the case, provided the Small Box Farm meant the town dues. We may observe that the bailiff collected a tax on passengers coming in or going out of the port, an item not included among the town dues, giving us reason to think that in earlier times. Many, both Jews and others, had to pay this tax; the former being ever a persecuted race, and thus were charged sevenpence when others were only charged twopence.

Besides these fees payable to the bailiff, there were also certain rents in the town belonging to him, and which we will give a list of, but shall first insert a copy of the patent whereby this officer held his appointment.

"Charles the Second, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c., to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting: Whereas we, by our letters patents under our great seal of England, bearing date at Cornbury, the seventh day of September, in the fifteenth year of our reign, for the consideration therein expressed, have given and granted unto Phineas Cheston, gent., the office of bayliffe of our town or lordship of Rye, in our county of Sussex, to hold, occupy, enjoy, and exercise the said office of bayliffe, to the said Phineas Cheston, or his sufficient deputy, during his natural life, with all and singular the rights, fees, profits, and advantages to the said office howsoever belonging or appertaining, with the arrears thereof; to hold and receive yearly the said rights and fees to the said town or lordship yearly growing and arising, as well by the proper hands of the said Phineas Cheston, and in his hands retained, as by the hands of the receiver or other occupier of the said town or lordship for the time being, during the time aforesaid, as by the said letters patents more fully appeareth. And whereas the said Phineas Cheston, by his writing under his hand and seal, signed, sealed, and dated the 30th day of November in the 21st year of our reign, for the considerations in the same writing mentioned, did surrender and deliver into our hands and possession the said letters patents and office of bayliffe of the said town of Rye, together with all the fees, profits, and advantages to the said office belonging, or in anywise appertaining, as by the said writing doth also more fully appear, which said surrender of the said Phineas Cheston we have accepted, and by these presents do accept. Know ye therefore that we, as well in consideration of the said surrender, as for

divers other good causes and considerations us hereunto especially moving, have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do give and grant unto John Byndles, of London, gent., the said office of bayliffe of our town or lordship of Rye, in our county of Sussex, to hold, occupy, enjoy, and exercise the said office of bayliffe, to the said John Byndles, by himself or his sufficient deputy or deputies, for and during our will and pleasure. And further, of our abundant grace, certain knowledge, and sole motion, we have given and granted, and by these presents for us, our heirs, and successors, do give and grant unto the said John Byndles, for the execution and exercising the said office, all and singular rights, fees, profits, and advantages whatsoever, to the said office howsoever belonging and appertaining, with all and singular arrears thereof, to hold, enjoy, and receive yearly the said rights, fees, and arrears happening, by deaths and alienations to the said town or lordship yearly growing and arising, as well by the proper hands of the said John Byndles, and in his hands retained, as by the hands of the receiver or other occupier of the said town or lordship for the time being, during the term aforesaid, by equal portions, in as ample manner and form as the said Phineas Cheston, or any person or persons enjoying the same office, had or received, or ought to have or received, the same in and for the exercising thereof, any other gifts or grants by us, or any of our predecessors, heretofore made to the said John Byndles, or any statute, aid, ordinance, provision, proclamation, or restraint to the contrary hereof heretofore made, done, published, ordained, or provided, or any other matter, cause, or thing whatsoever, in anywise notwithstanding. In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made patents. Witness ourself, at Westminster, the third day of March, in the twenty-third year of our reign.

“By writ of private seal.

”PIGOTT.”

The date of this grant is March 3d, 1671.

“The king's rents of assize, out of divers lands and tenements, lying and being within the ancient town of Rye, in the county of Sussex, for the bayliffe of the said town yearly to be gathered and payable at the Feast of St. Michael the Archangel, as followeth, viz.:

Imprimis.

Of the corporation of the said town of Rye, usually paid by the chamberlain, per annum £0 5 0

Item. Out of the church and churchyard, usually paid by the church-wardens, per annum 0 4 0

Item. Out of the manor of Levisham, also Lewsham, for certain lands belonging to the said manor, lying within the liberties of Rye, per annum 0 2 0

TENEMENTS IN WATCHBELL AND WISH WARDS.

Item. Out of a piece of land in the Wish, on part of which of late stood six tenements, viz. Three of Thomas Smith, two of Robert Hearne, and one of John White, now belonging to the heirs of William Burwash, gent., deceased, abutting to the sewer running between the same and the lands of James Welch, jurat, towards the north; to the lands of John Butcher, gent., towards the east; to the common lands of the said corporation of Rye, near the town dyke, towards the south; and to the lands of John Boniface, towards the west, per annum 0 6 8

Item. Out of a tenement, divided into two dwellings, in the lane called Ruck's lane, with the garden thereto belonging, now of Sarah Duke, late of Thomas Pilcher, and before of John Tufton, esq., abutting to the said lane towards the south; to the lands and tenements of the heirs of Thomas Oake, near the West Cliff, towards the west; to the lands of the said heirs of Thomas Oake, and to the lands late of Thomas Morphett, towards the north; and to the lands and tenements of Isabell Alexander, towards the east, per annum 0 8 0

Item. Out of two tenements and two gardens, one late William Cadman's, now of John Parker, jun., in right of his wife, the other of Thomas Brooke, both formerly Edward Jenkinson's, and some time

Carried forward £1 5 8

Richard Baker's, abutting to the King's street towards the north; to the lands and tenements of William Slyton towards the west; to the Cliffe towards the south, and to the lane leading to the Cliffe, called Ball's lane, towards the east, per annum Item. Out of two tenements and two gardens, one late of Richard Mose, now in occupation of Nicholas Chambers, the other late of Robert Forde, now in occupation of Elizabeth Winterburne, widow, some time Mr. Hopper's and Andrew Forgisson's, abutting to the King's street, towards the north; to the lands and tenements of David Hales, towards the west; to the Cliff, south; and to the lands and tenements of Alexander Bennett, gent., and John Boys, towards the east, per annum

0 0 4

TENEMENTS IN THE MIDDLE STREET WARD.

Item. Out of two tenements, one close, one garden of Thomas Morphett, late of Richard Mills, jurat, before of Matthew Young, jurat, and some time of Thomas Fisher's, abutting to the King's street, called the Middle

street, towards the north; to the lands of Sarah Duke, widow, and Isabell Alexander, towards the south; to the lands and tenements of the heirs of Francis Winter, and the lands of Jane Key, towards the west; and to the lands of Thomas Crouch, jun., towards the east, per annum

£0 0 10

Item. Out of the tenement, close, and garden of Thomas Palmer, gent., some time of Francis Harris, and formerly of Robert Wymon, abutting to the King's street, called the Middle street, towards the south; to the lands and tenements of the heirs of Edward Benbrigg, gent., and the lands of Marke Carpenter, and the lands of the heirs of Thomas Hunter, towards the west and south; and to the lands of the heirs of Marke Thomas, gent., towards the north; and to the lands and tenements of Michael and Henry Jacob, towards the east, per annum

0 0 10

Item. Out of the tenement and garden of the heirs of Marke Thomas, gent., some time of John Belveridge, abutting to the King's street, called the Middle street, towards the north; to the lands and tenements of John Breaden towards the west; to the lands late of William, John, and James Hurlestone, and of the heirs of Thomas Higgins, jurat, towards the south; and to the lands and tenements of Matthew Harrison, towards the east, per annum

0 0 10

Item. Out of the tenement and garden of Matthew Harrison, late Stephen Harrison's, and before of David Hatchett, abutting to the King's street, called the Middle street, towards the north; to the lands and tenements of the heirs of Mark Thomas, gent., towards the west; to the lands late of William, John, and James Hurlstone, towards the south; and to the lands and tenements of Henry Whitewood, in right of his wife, towards the east, per annum

0 0 10

Item. Out of the tenements, stable, close, and garden of the heirs of William Gostrey, called the Mermaide, late of Thomas Higgins, jurat, some time of William Didsbury, jurat, and before Pedell's, abutting to the King's street, called the Middle street, towards the south to the lands and tenements of Phillip Firth, gent., towards the west; to the lands of the heirs of Mark Thomas, gent., the lands late of Elias Holmes and Thomas Matthews, towards the north; and to the lands and tenements of Elizabeth, Mary, and Sarah Key, towards the east, per annum

0 5 0

TENEMENTS IN THE MARKET WARD.

Item. Out of the vicarage house and gardens, abutting to the churchyard, towards the south; to the lands and tenements of Alice Cotton and Mary Ffaith, towards the west; to the lands of John Dallett, gent., and William Weldish, towards the north; and to the tenements of Mercy Rason, widow, and the heirs of James Cradocke and the lane called the Vicarage lane, towards the east, per annum Item. Out of two tenements and two closes, of Francis Young, jurat, late Phillip Shirwen's, in right of his wife, and some time of Enge, abutting to the King's streets towards the south and west; and to the lands and tenements of John Crouch, towards the north and east, per annum

0 0 6

Item. Out of the tenement, now four tenements, of John Crouch and his sisters, some time of John Prowze, called the George, with the stables and gardens thereto belonging, abutting to the King's street, called the Butchery, towards the south; to the lands and tenements of Ffrancis Younge, jurat, towards the west and south; to the lands of Abraham Kennett and the heirs of Munne, towards the north; and to the lands of the said Abraham Kennett towards the east; and to the street leading from the Butchery to the Longer street, towards the west, per annum

0 0 4

Item. Out of two tenements and two gardens of Thomas Boys, gent., late Edward Miller's, and some time William Dallett's, and before Clement Cobb's, jurat, abutting to the King's street, called the Butchery, and to the lands and tenements of John Breads, towards the west; to the lands of the said John Breads, to the Cliff and flowing of the sea, towards the south and east; to the tenements of Alexander Bennet, gent, called the Chequer, and to the King's street, towards the north, per annum

0 1 8

Item. Out of a tenement and close of John Curtis, gent., late of Richard Cooke, and before of William Davy, jurat, abutting to the land called Ockman's lane, towards the north; to the Cliff towards the east; and to the lands of Henry Bromfield, gent., towards the south and west, per annum

0 0 6

TENEMENTS IN THE LAND GATE WARD.

Item. Out of two tenements and a stable at the East Cliff, of Isabell Smith, widow, late Richard Bryant's, some time of Thomas Beveridge, and before of John Sharpe, jurat, abutting to the King's street, called the Longer street, towards the north; to the Cliff, towards the east and south; and to the lands and tenements of the heirs of Daniel Parker, towards the west, per annum

0 1 8

Item. Out of the tenement now the Free School, and late Thomas Colbrand's, jurat, with the garden there belonging, abutting to the King's street, called the Longer street, towards the south; to the lands and tenements late of Thomas Marshall, gent., deceased, towards the west; to the town wall, towards the north; and to the lands of John Butcher, gent., and the lands and tenements of the heirs of John Spye, jurat, deceased, towards the east, per annum

0 2 6

Item. Out of two tenements and two gardens, one of Edward Skinner, and the other of Joseph Cooper, in right of his wife, late Thomas Greenfield's, gent, abutting to the King's street, called the Longer street, towards the north; to the lands of the heirs of Thomas Willard, towards the east; to the lands of Alice Cotten and Mary Faith, towards the south; and to the lands and tenements of the heirs of George Radwell, Esq., towards the west, per annum

0 0 7

TENEMENTS IN THE STRAND GATE WARD.

Item. Out of a piece of ground, whereon late stood a tenement, now of Michael Harness, late of Thomas Greenfield's, gent., and before of Thomas Forman, abutting to the King's street, called the Longer street, towards the east; to the lands and tenements of the said Michael Harness, towards the north; to the town wall, towards the west; and to the lands and tenements of Henry Hounsell, towards the south, per annum
0 0 7 ¼

Badding's ward commenced at the south-west corner of the churchyard, and ran to the eastward as far as the edge of the East Cliff, where formerly stood Badding's gate.

Middle street ward included the present Mermaid and Middle streets; in fact, it is very clear that the original Middle street was the present Mermaid street, for the Mermaid Inn is described as abutting on the south towards that street, and Jeake, in his summary of the streets in Rye, mentions Middle, but not Mermaid street.

Market ward embraced the present East, Market, and Red Lion streets, and the north side of the churchyard.

Strand gate ward extended from this gate through the Mint, as far as the present Middle street on the south, and the road leading into Jarrett's yard on the north side.

Land gate ward included all the houses without this gateway and the Longer street, as far as the road leading from hence into Jarrett's yard on the north, and as far as Middle street on the south side.

Having thus traced the boundary of the different wards, we must next endeavour to point out the situation of some of the properties mentioned as being liable to the payment of these crown rents; to show what was their nature, and how they were finally got rid of.

Not being able satisfactorily to fix the locality of any of the property, either in Watchbell and Wish ward, or in Badding's ward, we proceed to Middle street ward, where we find distinctly mentioned the Mermaid Inn, which we know to have been in this ward, and which we know also is situated in the Mermaid street, on the north side, and, consequently, as it abutted to Middle street towards the south, the Mermaid street of the present day, must have been the Middle street of 1670. This house is now the property of Mr. Charles Poile, and the yard at the back, through which a footway still runs into the High street, is called the Mermaid yard.

In Market ward we find the Vicarage house and the George; but the latter, at this time, did not join the Longer or High street. The present Lion street then had no distinct name; and the Butchery, to the south, must have ran farther to the westward. In this ward, also, the property described as belonging to John Curtis, gent., is that on which now stand all those houses on the east side of East street, extending from Mr. Ramsden's, at the south, down to Ockman's lane to the north, which lane is still in existence, and leads to the East Cliff. In an old deed this tenement and close are described as containing an acre of land.

In the Land gate ward we trace the site of the grammar school, in the centre of the High street. Of the two properties described as being in the Strand gate ward the former was the first on your left hand, after entering the town through this gate, and the latter must have been at the south-west corner of the Mermaid street, just at the foot of the Strand Hill, one part adjoining the Mermaid, and the other the Longer street.

The several messuages, together with the shop, said to be in the Longer street and in the one leading from this to the Postern gate, are evidently the several sites on which now stand the three houses facing the High street to the south, and abutting to the Conduit Hill on the east, and which are now the property of Mr. Lardner.

These are some of the various tenements which were liable to rents of assize to the king's bailiff, and which were in the nature of quit-rents, as appears from the bailiff's patent, wherein he is called the "bayliffe of our town or lordship of Rye," and also from these words, "rights, fees, and arrears happening by deaths and alienations," seeming to imply that, as in copy-holds, certain fees or fines were payable to the lord on death or alienation.

We have seen that in 1585 one Edmund Coppinger received a grant from Queen Elizabeth of certain rents, &c., and that he granted them to the corporation of Rye; but these were not all the rents, it is clear, as we find the bailiff claiming others nearly a century later. If we knew where the property was situated, out of which arose the rents granted to the corporation, we might ascertain whether the whole

or any of it was now held of the same. The several properties we have alluded to, as mentioned in the schedule of 1670, are not now liable to any quit-rents, leading to the conclusion that these were at some time or other bought off by the owners; one instance of which we have, in reference to that belonging to Mr. Lardner, which was crown property so late as the year 1821, when it was redeemed.

At present there are no crown rents in the town, nor are there but two houses liable to quit-rents to a lord of a manor, and these are standing in the High street, facing the George Hotel; one the property of Mr. David Stonhang and one of Mr. Charles Edwards. The latter is the Manor House, held under the Manor of Playden; and whether these were ever purchased by the lord of this manor we cannot decide.

The church and churchyard were liable to a yearly rent, to be paid by the churchwardens, of four shillings. At this day these officers pay annually to Lord Radnor the sum of £2 12s. 6d. For part of the churchyard, as the receipt specifies; but whether this had its origin in the crown rent must remain matter of conjecture.

In Winchiesea there are still quit-rents and town dues payable.

The plan of dividing towns into wards is of very ancient date, and was instituted for the purpose of keeping "watch and ward," and this was the case in the town of Rye, where we have seen there were six. Every inhabitant was bound by the act 5th Edward III, to watch in turns; each ward had its own captains, and there were four constables, viz. One for Land gate; one for Strand gate and Wish; one for Market and Middle street; and one for Badding's and Watchbell wards.

"At an assembly, held on Nov. 19th, 1627, it was ordered that the constables in their several wards shall give warning in the morning to levy persons to watch as their turns shall come, upon the forfeiture and penalty of two shillings for every constable that shall not carefully perform his duty herein; and also every such person or persons as shall be duly warned by the constable of his ward to watch, and cometh not to the place appointed to receive his charge from the captain of that night's watch, they and every of them shall forfeit twelve pence. And every captain of the watch that shall not watch when his turn or course cometh, shall likewise forfeit two shillings; all which forfeitures are to be paid to the use of the corporation. And to the number of captains formerly chosen there are added John Walter, John Spye, John Greenfield, and Edward Harrison."

The following is the copy of a watch-book for the year 1679, containing the names of the watch, of the constables, and of the captains. It is entitled, "A list of the inhabitants of the ancient towne of Rye, in the county of Sussex, charged to watch in their own persons, or by such sufficient watchmen as shall be approved by the respective captains, to be every night before the captain, as follows:

LAND GATE WARD.

Captain. Mr. Thomas Miller.

1.

John Pierce.

Giles Burton.

Alice Burwash, widow.

Sarles Hilles,

John Pallmer, jun.

Thomas Tutty.

Thomas Harrison.

Philip Lilbourne. Richard Lilbourne.

John Eldred. Thomas Carr.

George Burwash.

Captain. Mr. Thomas Markwicke.

2.

William Burwash.

John Siffy.

Alice Batten, widow.

Elisha Burwash.

Allen Gedd.

John Collins.
Peter Collins.
Thomas Sharpe,
Thomas Poynett.
Richard Gallopp.
John Smith.
Anne Rose, widow.
Captain. Mr. Benjamin Martin.
3.
Robert Medowe.
Robert Baber.
John Butcher.
Robert Bradd.
William Butler.
Samuel Leggs. Giles David.
Anthony Knight.
Stephen Wilmebirst.
Thomas Humersome.
Nicholas Bigge.
Francis Lightfoote.

Captain. Mr. Thomas Burdett.
4.
John White.
Edward Beale.
Nicholas Charle.
John Daniel, sen.
Giles Bishopp.
John Ottaway.
Cornelius Peadle.
Thomas Harman.
James Welsb.
William Hounsell.
Bartholomew Carter.
Alexander White.

STRAND GATE WARD.

Captain. Mr. Thomas Tournay.
5.
John Hamon.
Nicholas Skinner.
Thomas Jarrett.
Thomas Piggens.
Samuel Gillart.
Mr. Lewis Gillart.
Abraham Wildes.
John Jacob.
Michael Jacob.
Michael Harnes.
Elins Swaine.
Richard Gravenor.

Captain. Joseph Radford,
6.
James Standen. Thomas Guffens.

Thomas Marshall, jun.
Joseph Cooper. Robert Browne.
George Lavender.
John Turner.
William Hounsell.
Thomas Taylor. John Bolton. William Deering.
Robert Bartholomew.

WISH WARD.

Captain. Thomas Knight.
7.
John Gilbert.
Francis Sisely.
Thomas Bucke.
William Wood.
John Waight.
Thomas Marshall.
John Eagles.
Abraham Stephens.
Joseph Medcalfe.
John Turbee.
John Price.
Thomas Fissenden.

Captain. George Weeden.
8.
Adam Wildes.
Edward Coster.
Richard Stronde.
Elias Marshall.
Nicholas Archer.

MIDDLE STREET WARD.

George Mattell. Robert Smith.
William Fletcher.
Thomas Copeland.
Thomas Palimer, jun.
Stephen Frencham.
Stephen Jones.

Captain. Aaron Peadle.
9.
Richard Hartsborne.
Thomas Keeler.
Ellis Grecie.
George Jacob.
Thomas Gower.
John Plane.
William Taylor.
William Waylett.
Andrew Rogers.
John Morris.
Philip Baker.
Mrs. Marten.

Captain. Giles Freeman.
10.
Edward Perry.
Thomas Shoesmith. Edward Gee.
Philip Powell.
Samuel Jeakes.
William Richardson.
Martha Greble.
Thomas Greble.
Henry Hounsell.
Richard Townsend.
John Lockett.
Thomas Greble.

Captain. Rowland Olliffe.
11.
Richard Wilford.
Thomas Wilford.
Thomas Hayden.
Richard Spilsted.
Richard Spilsted, jun.
William Piggens.
Henry Lilbourne.
Thomas Dennett.
Elias Holmes, jun.
Edward Waters.
John Waters.
John Hounsell.

BADDING'S WARD.

Captain. John Chambers.
12.
Robert Moore.
William Winterbourne. Thomas Seale,
David Hales.
Richard Belton.
Joseph Breads.
John Boyes.
John Salmon.
Edward Nightingale.
Michael Ducke. Henry Ducke. Joseph Marten.
Captain. John Spaine.

13.
John Beckly.
John Fuller,
John Hounsell.
George Fenner.
John Puxsted.
John Goodyear.
John Brooke.
Widow Chambers.
Thomas Brooke.
David Spicer.
Marke Hounsell.

John Buckland.

MARKET WARD.

Captain. Robert Swaine.

14.

John Brooke, sen.

Abraham Kennett.

John Godfrey.

Richard Mullens.

William Bird.

Widow Harnott.

John Barham.

George Gallopp.

Mrs. Fairway.

John Breads.

Thomas Boyce.

Bartholomew Breads.

Captain. Michael Cadman.

15. Mrs. Weaver.

Henry Waight.

John Daniel, jun.

Widow Dann.

Joseph Boys.

John Marten.

John Frierson.

Thomas Crouch, jun.

John Swaine,

Edward Batchelor.

Henry Parker.

Robert Cadman.

WATCHBELL WARD.

Captain. Jacob Farely.

16. Stephen Seale.

John Winkfield.

John Taylor.

William Kerbie.

James Hulstone.

John Wright.

Richard Parker.

Robert Winterbourne.

William Goodyear.

Robert Nicholas.

William Oake.

Moses Peadle, jun.

Captain. John Curteis.

17.

Edward Brooke.

John Hollibone.

Robert Wakely.

Robert Fellowes.

Richard Oake.

Richard Danne. #

Marke Chiswell.
William Jeffery.
Widow Onke.
John Jacob.
John Parker.
William Renolds.

CONSTABLES,

Land gate Ward, Edward Thorpe.
Strand gate and Wish. Thomas Clarke.
Market and Middle street. George Burwash.
Badding's and Watchbell. Thomas Wood.

From this book we learn that, independent of the captains, there were two hundred and four persons liable to keep watch and ward, either in their own persons, or by efficient substitutes. We find several widows on the list, and these of course served by substitutes; and from this we may conclude that every house was liable, and not the person, in the same manner as the poor rate is now leviable. These two hundred and four persons were divided into seventeen companies, each consisting of twelve watchers; one of which turned out every night, so that each was on duty once every seventeenth night. Adding the seventeen captains to the two hundred and four watchers, we have a total of two hundred and twenty-one. The former were men of weight and respectability in the town, some of them being jurats of the corporation. In some instances we see that when one ward could not find its full complement of twelve men for any particular company, this deficiency was supplied from the adjoining one. Thus the five first of the eighth company belonged to Wish ward, and the seven last to Middle street ward; the seven first of the thirteenth belonged to Badding's ward, while the remaining five were taken from Market ward; the nine first of the fifteenth company were taken from Market ward, and the three last from the Watchbell. In this book we also find the Watchbell separated from the Wish ward, thus making seven instead of six distinct wards; and this may be accounted for in this way: when the wards were first established there were scarcely any buildings in the Wish, and, consequently, not enough to make a separate ward; but when houses were built here, as was the case by the year 1670, the date of this watch-book, then, for the convenience of watching, it was found desirable to separate these districts. The Land gate ward seems to have been the most populous, at this time having supplied four whole companies, which no other did; the Middle street, the next, furnishing little more than three and a half, that is, the former found forty-eight watch-men, and the latter forty-three. And thus we find this primitive mode of guarding a town still in practice towards the close of the seventeenth century. Each man was to appear sufficiently weaponed, and a woman was to find a substitute.

In the tenth of Charles I, A.D. 1634, a letter of mark was granted; but to whom it does not appear. In 1692 Jeake informs us that he bought a parcel of wheat out of a vessel which had been taken by a privateer, belonging probably, though he does not tell us so, to the port of Rye; for privateers were fitted out in this harbour during the last century, and a captain of one, belonging to the town, was killed in an engagement with the enemy. In 1636 Peacock's school was built in the Longer street; but, as we shall speak of this at length under the head of charities, we shall add nothing more here.

When we last parted from the Gun-garden, in 1569, we left it garnished with cannons, culverins, sacres, mynions, faucons, fauconets, and other warlike implements, besides piles of stone and iron shot; whereas now, in 1649, we find it converted into a peaceable bowling-green, and the iron and stone shot turned into wooden bowls. On October 20th, 1649, the corporation granted a lease of fifty years, to Edmund Ellis, of one house or tenement, one close and garden, together with a plot or piece of ground called the Gun-garden, and the cliffs thereunto adjoining, reserving to the mayor, jurats, and commonalty, and their successors, and to every inhabitant of Rye, and others resorting there, free liberty of ingress, egress, and regress to and from the said Gun-garden to go, walk, bowle, exercise, muster soldiers, disport and regale themselves. And the same Edmund Ellis was to make it a fit and convenient place to bowle in, and to keep the same rolled and swept and the grass mowed. From this time the Gun-garden was often called the "bowling-green."

On July 29th, 1695, John Palmer hired the Gun-garden for rabbits to feed on, and also the town cliff or pendants of the hill, from Land gate to Strand gate, for twenty-one years, from Michaelmas, 1696, at 20s. Per annum, and to deliver unto the corporation three dozen of rabbits, at 4d. Each, within the first

three years, and the last eighteen years six rabbits, every year, to every corporation man, at 4d. Each. Excepting liberty for persons to play at bowls in the Gun-garden and to build stairs down the cliff.

Previously to this period, we may suppose, there were no steps down the cliff, leading from the Gun-garden, to the fishmarket.

The town of Rye itself has always been deficient in that most useful element water; within the walls there are no springs of good water, and the supply originally came from three sources: the cliffs on the north-east side; Queen Elizabeth's Well, on the north, and certain springs, under Leesam Hill to the north-west. The principal source has always been that which still supplies the town under the north-east cliff; but, when the place was entirely surrounded by the sea, there must have been great inconvenience in fetching the supply from hence, and, even many years after, when the tide no longer flowed all round it, still, at high water, there was no approach to this spot by land, and the salt, as we shall see presently, oftentimes seriously interfered with the fresh.

Without pretending to very great exactness, as to the time when the water was first conveyed into the town by pipes, we may notice here that, so early as the year 1597, on August 8th, the corporation granted to Thomas Lexlinden the liberty of laying a quill to his house, called the Woodhouse from Budge-well. As all our readers may not be acquainted with the provincial phraseology of East Sussex, it may be well at once to explain what this word "budge" means. It is a large cask fixed on wheels, for the purpose of conveying water from a distance, and the Budge-well is one of the springs arising in the north-east cliff, in which is fixed a pump for the convenience of filling these budges. This place is now generally called the "Budge Pump;" at a short distance eastward from this is a reservoir, from which, by means of pipes, the water is conveyed to the water-house at the bottom of Conduit Hill, and to the cistern supplying the strand pump.

"November 16th, 1628. It is ordered, at an assembly, that the chamberlain, with all convenient speed, shall provide new pipes of lead to be either larger at Brick-well, to bring from thence water into the new conduit, or at Budge-well, to bring from the conduit-head there water into the said Budge-well upon advice and mature consideration, it shall be at the next assembly thought best, most requisite, and most necessary for the good and benefit of the inhabitants of this town."

The new conduit mentioned here, is the water-house before alluded to, and which was erected probably not long before this time; for Jeake calls it the "New Conduit," and the street leading to it the "New Conduit Street." The Brick-well is Queen Elizabeth's.

"On June 8th, 1629, the corporation ordered that a ditch should be cut, with all speed, under the cliff, beyond Budge-well, to convey water from the springs there into the Budge-well, and from thence to the new conduit.

"At the same time also it was ordered that the conduit-head, at Leesam, should be presently repaired and amended; and likewise the pipes that bring water from the said conduit-head, unto the strand conduit.

June 22d, 1629. It was ordered that a pipe of lead should be laid at the old spring-head, beyond Budge-well, and joined to the old pipes at the head of Budge-well, for the conveying the water from the said conduit-head, through the said pipes unto the new conduit, and to raise a head at the said spring effecting and accomplishing of this good work, if money be not in the chamberlain's purse, it is ordered that a cess spring. And, for the further 20d., or thereabout, shall be made and levied of the inhabitants of the town, according to ancient usage."

"July 10th, 1628. It was agreed, at an assembly held this day, that the tenants of Sir Henry Guildford should have warning, that henceforth they should fetch no more water at Budge-well, unless they would compound for it with the corporation. And also that the sea-wall, which prevents the violence of the sea from washing away the springs which run into the said well, shall, with all convenient speed, be made and amended."

On April 18th, 1658, an arrangement was entered into, between the corporation and John Peadle, for repair of pipes from Spring-head beyond Budge-well, and likewise from the spring-head at Levesham.

In a book, being a memorandum of the appointment of churchwardens and other matters relating to the parish of Rye, commencing in 1610, we found the following entries, viz.: "March 20th, 1684. A copy of an agreement, between the corporation and parish, to tax the parish to repair the pipes and conduits belonging to the corporation."

“December 7th, 1701. It is agreed at a vestry that John Coleman do assist any person appointed by the corporation to make and levy a tax to repair the pipes and conduits, as in 1684. The tax to be allowed by the mayor and jurats.”

In 1727 a committee was appointed by the corporation for the purpose of bringing water into the town by means of pipes. In 1728 a committee reported that it was estimated it would cost £600 to convey the water by pipes into the streets, and they were ordered to do it.

From the foregoing extracts it is clear that the town, up to 1701, was taxed for the support of the waterworks. In 1728 the corporation purchased the Saint Mary's Marshes, lying at the back of the town, of Mr. Montague, for the sum of £610, which was money saved by this body for the purpose, among others, of supplying the town with water, and henceforth we shall find that the inhabitants were no longer taxed for this object. This property was conveyed to ten persons, upon trust out of the net rents, to apply the proceeds to the four following purposes, viz.:

“For and towards the charge of bringing water to the town of Rye. Repairing the lights, marks, buoys, and beacons of the harbour of Rye. Paving the streets of Rye. Repairing the fences of the town of Rye for ever.”

Although a scheme was proposed and ordered to be carried into effect for conveying the water into the different streets, it was eventually abandoned. In 1734 a committee was appointed to go from house to house to inquire how many persons would pay to have water conveyed into their houses, but with no better success. We suppose the corporation at first intended to lay out the money which they had saved for this purpose; but, not finding the inhabitants willing to pay for the accommodation, they purchased the Saint Mary's Marshes instead.

In 1733 it was reported that the lead pipes originally laid down, being only of an inch bore, were too small to convey the water from the new conduit to the strand; it was ordered that elm pipes of two inch bore should be substituted. This was done, and wooden ones were also at some time laid down from the Spring-head to the new conduit; but these, being continually out of repair, have been removed, for the most part, within these few years, and iron ones laid down in their place.

There was formerly a small leaden pipe leading from Queen Elizabeth's Well along Love lane, and thence through the marshes to the strand cistern, and in the centre of the middle marsh was an air-pipe a few years ago, but is now removed. In 1629 there was a pipe laid from the conduit-head at Leesam to the strand.

Jeake speaks of the new conduit in 1678, where the present water-house stands, but which was rebuilt in 1718, when, if not before, the water was conveyed from the water-house, opposite the foot of Conduit Hill, by means of pipes up this hill, across the High street into East street, and up the latter across the Market street, into the north end of Pump street, into a very handsome reservoir, which was then erected at the north-east angle of the churchyard, and which is now standing there. The town council are now willing to convey water to the house of any person, wishing to have it, at the moderate charge of 20s. Per annum: and several have availed themselves of the offer.

Though, out of strict chronological order, we have now brought the account of the waterworks down to the present time, and therefore shall henceforth have no further occasion to refer to the subject.

In a former chapter, devoted to the consideration of the Charters, we have shown how Rye, with the other Cinque Ports, sent yearly to Yarmouth, in Norfolk, a number of fishing-boats to participate in the herring fishery there. Owing to various causes this lucrative trade fell off by degrees, until the year 1663, when the last bailiff and the last fleet of boats were sent.

We have before us a list of the boats which were sent to Yarmouth in 1630, and which may interest some of our readers to see.

“September, 1630. These are the names of the sydemmen, master, barksmen, and boats, that go a fishing from this town of Rye unto the town of Great Yarmouth this present year, and are to be returned under the seal of office of mayoralty of this town.

Master.	Barks,	Men, Boys.
Robert Cadman	The Speedwell	10, 2
Robert Seaborne	The Desire	10, 2
Henry Mann	The Hopewell	10, 2

John Brown	The Peter	10, 2
John Foster	The Dearling	10, 2
Elias Holmes	The Speedwell	10, 2
Robert Hinson	The Gift of God	10, 2
George Brodebridge	The Michael	10, 2
John Bull	The William	10, 2
Michael Docke	The Mary Bonner	10, 2

Sydemmen

Richard Mayfield.

Thomas Harrison,”

Here we have a fleet of ten boats, with ten masters, two sydemmen, one hundred men, and twenty boys-altogether, one hundred and thirty-two. What the sydemmen were, and what their duty, unless it was to assist the masters in the same way as in some parishes the constable or tithing-man has assistants appointed, who are called sidesmen, we cannot pretend to decide.

Besides the advantages and profits accruing to the town from the fishing at Yarmouth, Rye, at a very early period, was celebrated for its own fishery. Surrounded by deep water, and having many adjacent bays and inlets, the fish were both good and abundant; so that the rippers of Rye, that furnished London with fresh fish, were privileged to sell their fish there to whom they would; and the fishmongers of London were prohibited to buy it to sell again by retail. Even the royal table was supplied by the Rye rippers; and, as a proof of the profits made by these, who were the middle men, buying of the fishermen wholesale, and selling to their customers retail, in the year 1526, one James Wilford, a ripper of Rye, left an annuity of seven pounds, to be laid out in repairing the worst part of the road between Northiam church, in Sussex, and River Hill, in Kent.

But now, in the seventeenth century, this fishery began to fail; and so early as 1618 the mayor and jurats presented a petition to the lord warden of the Cinque Ports, in which, among other things, they say, “Whereas we have heretofore been, by reason of a harbour, in some trade and commerce by sea, enabled to bear about the charge and maintenance of this town; but now is our harbour so decayed that all trade hath forsaken us, and, besides the importable charge in defending the rage of the sea from eating up our ways to the town, and maintaining the jetties and places of refuge for our few fisher-boats yet remaining, with the extreme poverty of our fishermen, who, by reason of the great spoil of fish, and fishing-places so decayed, that thousands of them are ready to beg and starve for want; and many of them, forsaking the town, have left their wives and children to be parish charge.”

The scarcity of fish became so great at last, that it excited the attention of the lord warden, who, in the month of March, 1633, sent a letter to the corporation, ordering them to send with all convenient speed unto him two able and sufficient men, who could inform his lordship of the cause of the scarcity of the fish, by good and sufficient reasons drawn from their own experience; when it was agreed that John Brown and Robert Cadman, two ancient fishermen, should repair to his honour for this end and purpose, and they were at the same time to take a letter from the corporation, explaining their opinion as to the cause.

It seems rather singular that in the face of all these complaints of the failure of their fishery, in the month of December, in this same year, 1630, permission should have been granted to French fishermen to fish on our coasts; but, nevertheless, such was the case, as appears from evidence to be found in the corporation books of this date.

The Earl of Suffolk, Lord Warden, Chancellor, and Admiral of the Cinque Ports, granted a licence on the day above mentioned, to be in force for one whole year, to one Albion Mackon, of the town of Dieppe, fisherman, master of one fisher-boat, called “Le Don de Dieu,” of about fourteen tons, with all his servants and company of the said boat, to fish at the place called the Sowe, upon the English coast, and elsewhere upon that coast, in the same sort as one of those five boats heretofore tolerated and privileged out of respect, and for the service of the French king's most excellent majesty, for all sorts of fish, without restraint of season.

Here follows a list of French boats, which we suppose to have been also licensed to fish, as they are entered on the back of the lord warden's licence, just quoted:

David Corne, fisherman of Dieppe, master of one fisher-boat, called “Le Francon,” of the burden of about

14 tons.

Jean Mackon, master of one fisher-boat, called "The Little Pear," of 14 tons.

Jaques Contarin, of Les Petit Post," of 14 tons.

Laurance Oliver, "The Little James," 14 tons.

Thomas Formintine, "The Magdalene," 14 do.

Peter Fresbon (no name), 14 do.

Peter Canniur, The Faulcon," 14 do.

Challes de la Mar. Le Petit Charles, 14 do.

The public records, for the first thirty years of the seventeenth century, contain many entries indicative of the depressed state to which the town was then reduced. In the petition of 1618 to the lord warden, besides the extracts already made, we have the following: "Those of trades, as God knoweth there are very few, and they so burdened and surcharged by continual cesses and taxes, we having no revenues or other means to maintain the town, are most of them determined rather to seek other dwellings than here, by such extraordinary impositions and taxes, to decay and impoverish themselves; whereby it is likely that, in a short time, this town, that hath been, not long since, of good respect and importance, is now in possibility (if some gracious aspect shine not upon it) to be quite depopulate and abandoned."

At an assembly, held on November 19th, 1627, it was moved, considering the great ruin and decay of our town, and our inability to repair and maintain the same, that some course might be taken to procure a brief to help us." And whereas Mr. Mayor and Mr. Cockram informed the corporation what they themselves have done herein, the corporation very gratefully accepted their travel and pains therein, and intreated their further prosecution of this matter, promising to pay all the expenses they might incur while engaged in this affair.

In January, 1628, Mr. Mayor and Mr. Cockram reported their proceedings and good success with the justices of the county at the sessions at Lewes, concerning the intended brief for the repairing of the harbour, jetties, seawalls, groins, and sluices; and how the justices had given them a certificate to the right honorable lord keeper, by means of which they were to procure the brief. But so poor were the corporation, they were compelled to borrow money by mortgage, on St. Mary's Marshes, to enable them to pay the expenses attendant on procuring the brief.

On February 27th, 1628, we find the following: "Whereas his Majesty, by his letters patent, dated the 7th day of this month, was pleased to grant to the mayor and jurats of the town and port of Rye, on the behalf of the rest of the inhabitants there, and to their deputy and deputies, power and authority to gather and receive the benevolence, which his Majesty's loving subjects inhabiting within several cities and shires, within the letters patent mentioned, for the reparation of the wharfs, seawalls, sluices, and jetties, for the preservation of the haven and said town of Rye, and other the said works in the said letters patent mentioned."

On March 5th, 1628, John Whitehead, who had volunteered to lay and gather the brief for the town in divers shires and counties mentioned therein, and was accordingly chosen for this purpose, was now called on to take his journey, when, on refusing to do so, he was fined forty shillings, and Edward Harry appointed in his stead.

On February 7th, 1629, the mayor received from Edward Marven the sum of £22 2s. 5d., which he had collected by means of the brief.

It seems that the corporation had great difficulty in getting the money raised by the brief in different parts of the kingdom; for, in November of this same year, we see it mentioned that the mayor was just returned from London, whither he had been to receive the moneys collected, when he reported that he had received the sum of eighty pounds.

Without entering into more minute particulars, sufficient has been shown to warrant the conclusion that the town was in great distress, and it seems very doubtful how far the sum of £102 2s. 5d. Would tend to relieve it. But, leaving the question of relief and assuming the fact of distress, let us endeavour to show how this arose, and, in this research, we shall find that several causes combined to produce it. The loss of the Bordeaux fleet, in the reign of Henry VII, had been irreparable; and hence their foreign trade, which originally was very considerable, especially in wine, was greatly crippled, if not altogether destroyed. The decay of the herring fishery at Yarmouth, which had already commenced, and the total abandonment of which was now fast approaching, together with the great scarcity of fish in their own immediate vicinity, will serve to mark the decrease of their home trade; while the injury sustained by

the harbour, from the recession of the sea, added one more source of distress to those above enumerated. The large inlet of water, which formed the joint havens of Winchelsea and Rye, at the commencement of the last century, was now so far choked up, that the former town was no longer approachable by vessels, and the shipping of the latter resorted, as Jeake says, much more to the east than to the west side of the town, marking the great change which had occurred.

As the last straw breaks the camel's back, so the least thing, however trifling in itself, tends greatly to increase the distress of those who are already sinking under the load they have to bear; and hence perhaps we may fairly conclude that the following decree of the corporation, made June 2d, 1628, or more properly renewed on this day, served only to aggravate the evils of the town so far as its commerce was concerned. "The decree, made in the 24th year of Queen Elizabeth, concerning both the transporting of wood and billets from port to port, which, being then made for the benefit of the poor inhabitants of this town, it is now again, at this assembly, ratified and confirmed in every condition thereof, as well for the restraining of all and every person and persons, who shall attempt to ship either wood or billets to transport, or carry the same from port to port, contrary to the effect and true meaning of the said decree."

In the reign of Edward VI we saw thirty-seven vessels going out of the harbour at one tide all laden with timber, and a trade seems to have been carried on in wood and billets from Rye, whose surrounding hills were originally covered with timber; but now this profit was cut off. If we further recollect that, within the last seventy years, the town had been twice visited by the plague, once by a pest, and four years with the smallpox, we can be at no loss to account for the very distressed state in which we now find it.

We have here given a pretty general outline of the state of the town in the preceding part of this century, and therefore we shall only add such few memoranda as may be necessary to throw any additional light on particular parts of it.

In 1673 Jeake tells us that Charles II honoured the town with a visit. This was in the month of May, when his Royal navy, with the French fleet, lay in the bay in sight of the town.

In this same year a Scotch regiment was quartered in the town, many deserters from which were imprisoned in the gaol, at the great charge of the corporation, when they petitioned to have them removed. These probably were the first soldiers from Scotland that ever were quartered in the town of Rye, and they do not seem to have borne so high a character for discipline and good conduct as they do at the present day. It seems to have been customary then to quarter soldiers in private houses, otherwise we do not understand the meaning of this entry: "Feb. 26, 1673. Upon the petition of Thomas Gunstone, showing that he was damnified by the Scottish soldiers keeping guard in his house, it is ordered by this assembly that the chamberlain shall pay the said Thomas Gunstone the sum of ten shillings towards the said damage sustained as aforesaid."

Though incendiarism has been one of the crying evils of our day, it seems to have been prevalent in the seventeenth century, from the following: "June 28th, 1676. Whereas of late years there have happened many sad and lamentable losses by fire in several places of this kingdom, more than hath been known in former times, which it is much to be feared have been chiefly occasioned by treachery, this assembly, taking the same into their consideration, and endeavouring, as much as in them lieth, to prevent the like mischiefs within this town, have thought fit, and accordingly ordered, that a strict watch be kept within this town of Rye, and that all the inhabitants of the said town do watch by turn, eight every night, besides the captain, and to meet at the market at beat of drum, and every one to watch in person, or to send a sufficient watchman to be allowed of the captain, and the said watch is not to break up before sun arising in the morning."

In the year 1678 the Duke of York (afterwards James II) was made Lord Warden of the Ports, when the corporation, at his serement (that is, on his being sworn into office) presented him a gratuity, although it would seem they were now very poor; for, on October 23d, they made this entry: "Whereas formerly the corporation of Rye (being then in prosperity and having great annual revenues) did (out of their generous nature, and not out of any accustomed right) usually entertain the lieutenant of Dover Castle, with the muster-master, and their adherents, upon the muster days; but now the revenues of the said corporation being much less than in former times, they do not think fit to continue the said generosity, as formerly; and therefore it is thought fit, and accordingly ordered by this assembly, that henceforth there shall be no charge allowed by this corporation for the treating or entertaining of the said lieutenant or muster-master, or any of their adherents."

Now was the time of the celebrated Titus Oates's pretended plot, which gained unfortunately but too much credit in those days, and the town of Rye caught the universal contagion, and took the following precautions to guard against it: "Whereas, by the providence of Almighty God, a horrid plot hath been lately discovered to his Majesty in council, wherein was designed not only the murder of his Sacred Majesty, but the subversion of the Protestant religion, and introducing popery into this nation; whereupon the mayor and jurats of this town (in the interval of a common assembly) purposing, to the utmost of their power, to frustrate and disappoint these cursed designs, and to secure the peace of the kingdom, have thought fit to arrear a watch, which for some time hath accordingly been kept and observed, consisting of twelve men every night, beside the captain, which this assembly do well approve of, and do hereby order and appoint the same to be continued, in such manner as the said mayor and jurats have already caused, a list or schedule to be delivered to the constables, wherein the captains are nominated, and the whole inhabitants (in their turns) appointed to watch, according to the directions following, viz.:

"1st. That the said watch be set every night at beat of drum, according to custom, by nine of the clock at latest, and not to break up before the light appeareth.

"2d. That if any captain shall make default when his turn is to watch, or shall depart or break up before the time limited, he shall forfeit for every such offence two shillings, and every other inhabitant offending therein to forfeit and pay for every such his offence twelve pence, to be levied by distress and sale of the defaulter's goods, or in default thereof, by imprisonment; the one moiety whereof to be laid out for the hiring of men in the room of the defaulters, and the other moiety to go toward firing for the guard.

"3d. That the captain for the night not to accept of any man to watch that is not furnished with musket, sword, powder, and bullet, unless he shall see cause to the contrary.

"And it is further ordered, that the chamberlain do forthwith buy and provide half a chaldron of sea-coals, and lay the same in the Gun-house, whereof the watch are allowed to take two gallons every night, and the captain each night to see the same measured out."

This is the watch of which we have given a list in the watch-book before inserted.

It is said the watch was to be set at beat of drum, and we find the town was provided with this necessary instrument, for in 1679 it was ordered, at an assembly, that Moses Peadle shall be allowed fifty shillings per annum, viz. Thirty shillings for himself and twenty shillings for his boy, so long as they shall continue the town drummers.

In 1683 a curious custom prevailed respecting the washing of fish, when Bridget Bolton, Elizabeth Jacob, Mary Lilbourne, widows, and the Widow Swaine, were appointed washers of all the fish sold within the liberties of this town, to be carried and sold in the country; and that whatsoever ripper, fish-carrier, or other person that first brings his or their fish to be washed, shall have them first washed, without exception of persons.

In the year last mentioned the corporation received a letter from Colonel Strode, lieutenant of Dover Castle, concerning the lord warden's right to recommend one Baron to parliament, which right was then denied; but in the following year, on further remonstrance on the part of the lieutenant, the corporation apologised for their former ignorance, and humbly acknowledged the lord warden's claim. In pursuance of this acknowledgment his Majesty James II issued an order to the lieutenant of Dover Castle, who forwarded the same to Rye, calling upon the corporation to elect as their representative Sir Thomas Jenner. Thus the king retained the lord wardenship in his own hands, and exercised all the powers of the office.

Although the king had thus made good his claim of nominating one of the representatives of the town, and thus infringed the liberty of the same, nevertheless the corporation, overflowing with loyalty, made great preparations to celebrate his Majesty's coronation; for on April 14th, 1685, they ordered the chamberlain to buy and provide one barrel of gunpowder, to charge and fire off the great guns of this town on the day of the King and Queen's Majesties' royal coronation; and also they further ordered the chamberlain to buy half a hogshead of wine, to be put into one of the conduits of this town, and for other services of the corporation on the said day.

In these old-fashioned times boys were troublesome, as they are now; but then they were dealt with in a very summary way, for the crier was ordered to whip all such boys, apprentices, and servants as were ordered to be whipped by the mayor and jurats.

Though James II abdicated the throne in 1689, and left the kingdom, yet in the following year he sailed, under the escort of a French fleet, to Ireland, on July 1st of which was fought the battle of the Boyne. This fleet, on its return, was off the coast of Sussex on the very day that the rival kings, James and William, were contending for the crown of England on the banks of the Boyne; for Jeake, in his Diary, tells us that, on July 1st, news came to town that the English fleet was beaten by the French off Beachy, which being not far off, put the town in some apprehensions of danger.

July 4th. The English fleet passed by Rye, in sight of the town, moving towards the Downs, before the French, who were not yet come in sight. At sunset news arrived that the French were shooting to beat down Hastings, and they did indeed shoot some bullets into the town, and killed a man or two; but without much other damage.

5th. Jeake says, "On this day I sent for my mother, wife, and children back to Rye, being persuaded by some seamen that there was no danger of the French coming into the harbour; but they were no sooner come home, which was about noon, than the French fleet were most of them up in the bay, full in sight of the town."

July 6th. In the morning, about six, a terrible alarm in the town of Rye of the French coming to land, they having sent three small shallops to sound the depth, at the coming into the harbour, which we supposed to be either to come in this tide (it being then near full sea) or to prepare against next, and that then their intentions were to burn the fire-ships that were then put into the harbour, and to fire and plunder the town. Upon this an intolerable hurry all day; the trained bands up in arms, with the soldiers and sailors of the Anne, who were then in town; sending out into the country for more men, and planting guns on the beach, with a breastwork of deal boards, to make a show at the mouth of the harbour. Nothing seen; but fears and consternations, sending of goods out of town in waggons and on horses, and the like confusions usual at such times. I sent my mother-in-law and daughter out of the town again about two in the afternoon, and with them my writings and gold; the rest of my money I sent afterwards, and my wife's clothes in the evening; but she went not out of town, because my little boy was this morning taken sick of a fever, and very bad, so that he could not be carried without danger of his life, and therefore we had two poor women provided, ready to have carried him in a flasket if the French had landed; and my father being very ill also, concluded not to leave the town, unless it were certain that the French did actually enter the harbour. But through mercy there was no attempt made by them to do any mischief to the town." Having given this account of their fears and the termination of them, Jeake exclaims, "Behold the face of heaven when the news was first brought me, as I lay in bed in the morning." Here follows a horoscope, which we presume caused the happy conclusion, he being learned in astrological lore.

On July 7th, we are informed by the same authority that they had the news of King William's victory at the Boyne, in Ireland; "but hardly believed it till the 9th, when we had it by post from London, which somewhat heartened us in our troubles about the French."

This is the plain and simple account given by our old towns-man of this threatening state of affairs, and when we recollect, that until they could learn the result of the contest between the two kings in Ireland, it was uncertain which would prevail, and on the event of this battle at the same time depended the great question whether James and the Catholic religion, so fatal to the liberty of the Nonconformists, or William and religious toleration, should triumph! This to Jeake, who was a Nonconformist, was a question of life and death, and we may well imagine how dark were his prospects while the French fleet hovered off the coast, and how great his joy on their departure, and the news of King William's victory.

We may remark that the Anne was a small ship of war, carrying brass guns, and that she was afterwards sunk on the shore, near Pett Horse Race, where, at low water, it is said part of her wreck is still visible.

The spot on the beach where the temporary breastwork was raised and the guns placed, was on the point near Camber Castle, forming the entrance into the harbour; for, at an assembly held on Sept. 29th, 1690, the chamberlain was ordered to get the three guns at the Castle Point brought into the fort; that the gun lying at the Gun-garden rocks be brought up; and that he provide sufficient tomkins and aprons to preserve the guns, and to lay planks under the wheels, and have the carriage of the great iron gun in the fort mended. At the same meeting Joseph Breads was elected gunner of the town, at a salary of twenty shillings a year.

On the 11th September orders were issued to repair the watch-house in the Gun-garden, and also the great town gates and the postern gates, and also to have a turnpick made to prevent horses from going

through.

While thus guarding against future dangers, the corporation did not neglect to rejoice over past blessings, in accordance with which last the chamberlain was directed to pay for one barrel of beer, containing 36 gallons, to be given to Captain Tutty, this day being appointed a day of rejoicing, upon the news of his Majesty's return from Ireland.

In 1694, when war was raging between France and England, the town was kept on its guard, for on the 11th September the chamberlain was ordered to have a new gun-carriage made, and to repair the old ones, and tar the wheels thereof, and to provide two iron aprons and two tomkins, and fix them unto two of the guns, which two guns were then to be kept charged every night with powder and ball, for the security of the town. On the same day it was ordered, that in case a watch should be kept by the soldiers in the town before the corporation could be advised how to make a scot to defray the charge of the same, the chamberlain was to provide wood and candles for the watch, until further orders, at the charge of the corporation.

We have seen that, in 1678, the corporation being very poor, declined treating the lieutenant of Dover Castle when he came to muster the train-bands; but now, in 1694, either in consequence of an improved state of their finances, or, more probably, from the nation being at war, this body ordered that Colonel John Smyth, his Majesty's lieutenant, coming to muster the trained bands, should be entertained at their charge. In 1696 they displayed the same generosity, although two years afterwards they seem to have been too poor to put their best guns in proper order, without selling all such guns as were honeycombed and useless.

The revocation of the Edict of Nantes took place in 1685, in consequence of which many French Protestants settled in Rye (of which we shall speak more at full hereafter). We only mention it here to introduce a petition from the French fishermen in Rye, presented to the lords justices concerning a former mayor, forbidding their fishing in the night; when an order was received by the corporation, requiring them to give an account thereof, which was ordered to be done. What account was given we know not; all we know is, that in 1699 the corporation issued the following order, viz.: "Whereas there are several good laws of this realm and decrees of this town in relation to the fishery of this kingdom, which of late years have been violated (though still in force), to the great detriment of the fry of fish and prejudice of the whole fishery in general. Whereupon at this assembly it is ordered and decreed, that the said decrees be from this day put in execution against all offenders, and in pursuance thereof public notice to be given by the crier, that no person do henceforth presume to take any plaice or other flat fish with any net under five inches seale or mokes, on pain of forfeiting the nets, and being fined at the will of the Lord High Admiral. And that no person shall draw for plaice or soles, or such like fish, but only between the 15th of March and the Feast of All Saints, on pain of forfeiting forty shillings for every such offence. And further, that no person shall draw for plaice, soles, or other flat fish before the sun-rising or after sun-setting, on pain of every person offending therein forfeiting for every such offence forty shillings." By the latter part it would seem that the mayor's order was approved by the lords justices. At the same assembly, too, all persons were prohibited from fishing within the harbour.

And here, with these memoranda, we close the seventeenth century.

The elder Jeake, having completed his work on the Charters in 1678, and the younger his Diary in 1694, we have no longer these two beacons to guide us; and the records of the corporation must henceforth be our principal source of information. But, as we are now arrived on the confines of modern times, when distance no longer obscures the vision, and we see things as they really are, this deprivation is not of so much consequence. Having reached this period we will pause to take a survey of the local state of the town.

The Land-gate and the Strand-gate, with their great doors of defence, were still standing; so likewise were the Postern and the Tower-gate; the latter originally only led into the Gun-garden, there being no steps leading down the cliff from thence; but, in 1698, this communication was made, in consequence of the sea having considerably receded from the west side of the town, and the shipping loading and unloading, principally at the foot of the south-east cliff, in the Rock Channel, between the Gun-garden rocks and the mouth of it, which was at the present fish-market, and near to which were the Barham rocks. At this spot there was a ferry, as appears from this entry: "June 10th, 1698. It is ordered that John King do attend the ferrying-place for the carrying foot-people from the Gun garden rocks to the Camber, and from the Camber to the Gun-garden rocks, as formerly, and that no person for the future shall presume to ferry there without licence from this corporation."

The beach and mud had collected around Camber Castle, leaving it too far from the mouth of the harbour to be any defence to it (independent of its being in a state of dilapidation), and hence we saw the cannons, which were prepared for use when the French fleet appeared in the bay, in 1690, were not placed in the castle, but on the Camber point, and afterwards these were brought away and put in the Gun-garden. The ferry above mentioned was between this last spot and the ground on which the castle stood. Besides this ferry there was one between Guildford and Salt Coate, commonly called Salt-Coate Ferry, and which was the property of Sir Robert Guildford, held by him by virtue of the several grants made to his ancestors by Charles II in 1661. Salt Coate was in the parish of Playden, and the landing-place was at the foot of the steps which lead up the cliff into a spot still partially known as Salt-Coate Street," but more generally as "New England." "Salt Coate" has been thought by some to be a corruption of "salt cod," which latter name it received from this fish having been caught and salted there; but this fact is rather apocryphal, and we should rather venture to suggest that "Salt Coate" was one of those hybrid appellations arising out of the mixture of French and English in our earlier days, and hence to be derived from salt, English, and côte, French; sea-shore, literally "salt-shore," the sea then flowing to the foot of the cliff.

In the year 1700 was erected the first bridge across the Tillingham River, by Mr. Edward Dodge, who hired a piece of ground of the corporation, described as "part of the town's salt marsh, at the upper side of the Strand Ferry-House, containing four rods in width and five rods in length, for a thousand years, in case the house which he promises to build across Strand Ferry at high water shall so long stand, at the rent of sixpence per annum."

At high water the tide still frequently overflowed the road leading from Land-gate to the foot of Rye Hill. Several more houses were now erected at Land-gate, the almshouses being among the number, but no additional buildings had yet appeared between the water-house and those standing at the north-west angle of the town walls; while, from the Strand-gate to the Land-gate, round the south and east sides, there were no houses. The marshes surrounding three sides out of four (that is, excepting those on the north) were still covered with salt water at all spring tides, if not at others. These marshes were now dry for a time sufficiently long to induce the corporation to begin to lay claim to them and to let them. A piece on the east side had been ordered to be stumped off, and which was called Badding's Marsh, being on the spot where, in former times, stood the gate of this name.

The first piece of the town ditch was let to Mr. Robert Hall, from Land-gate to the horse-pond, for twenty-one years, at 14s. Per year from Lady Day, 1698. Such was the exterior, while the interior had undergone but little change since the middle of the sixteenth century. Mermaid street (still called Middle street) was the principal one in the town, and the Mermaid Inn there the first of the kind. Being in the interior let us visit the Gun-garden, which, when we last left it, was converted into a bowling-green, while the cliffs were tenanted by rabbits. In 1728 the corporation resumed this piece of ground into their own hands; but whether, at that time, for the purpose of again fitting up as a fort it does not appear, though, it is probable, such was the object; for, in 1740, an order in council was issued and sent to the corporation to put the town and harbour into a state of defence, and for sending a supply of stores thither, upon condition that the inhabitants do supply themselves with powder, and also make platforms for the guns, and provide a place for the stores at their own expense.

The country was now at war with France, Saxony, and Bavaria, and the corporation, in compliance with the above order, made a platform in the Gun-garden, which was carried the whole length of the bowling-green, and well fenced and ditched round at their expense, which amounted to nearly eighty pounds.

On June 6th, 1741, James Lamb, Esq., then mayor, wrote the following letter to William Sharpe, Esq., clerk to his Majesty's most honorable privy council, in answer to one received from him dated January 29th of the same year:

"Being informed that his Majesty had thought proper that a supply of ordnance stores should be sent to Rye, and delivered into my custody, as, by a list therewith sent, on condition the inhabitants do supply themselves with powder, from time to time, as occasion may require, and also make platforms for the guns, and provide a place fit for the preservation of the stores at their own expense, I do hereby humbly certify the right honorable the master of the ordnance, that the inhabitants of this ancient town of Rye have accordingly provided a sufficient quantity of powder, proper platforms, and a place for the preservation of the stores at their own expense. And as William Gosley, master of the Joseph and Mary of this place, is now at Battell Bridge, I humbly desire the said ordnance and stores may be delivered to him to be brought down to this place. The quantity of powder provided is two barrels. "J. LAMB, Mayor."

The following is a copy of the amount of ordnance and stores proposed to be sent for the defence of the town and harbour of Rye, prepared in consequence of an order of a committee of his Majesty's most honorable privy council, dated December 8th, 1740:

8 Iron ordnance, 18 pounders of 91 feet, 8 standing carriages of oak for the above, with a pair of iron trucks, one bed and one loin to each, valued at	£434 0s 9d.
4 ladles and 4 sponges, 400 Round shot, 16 Tampions for guns	£35 19s 8d
1 Former for cartridges (18 pounders), 200 Paper cartridges, 1 Copper powder measure, 2 Wad hooks, with rammers, Corn powder, nil, 2 Spare staves, for ladles, &c, 8 Aprons of lead, 1 Cwt. Of match, 8 Powder-horns, 16 Priming irons, 16 Handspikes, 2 Iron crows, 4 Linstocks, without cocks, 2 Budge barrels (hazel hooped), 1 Hand-screw, 200 Sponge tacks	£8 15s 0d
10 Copper nails for ladles, 1 Small hammer	£0 3s 9d
2 Skeins tarred muslin, 1 Funnel of plate	£0 3s 9d
Total	£479 0s 8d
Freight and incidents on 37 tons, at 25s, per ton	£46 5s 0d
Total	£525 5s 8d

On June 20th, 1741, these stores were all shipped on board of the Joseph and Mary, as the mayor had requested. How long these eighteen-pounders were kept in good order we will not say positively; but the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle took place in 1748, after which we suppose not much attention was paid to the military defences of the town; for, in 1755, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland visited it for the purpose of inspecting it, when he accepted the freedom of the town, and the corporation promised to put the place into the best possible state of defence at the critical juncture. In the following year war was declared again, and then this critical juncture may be supposed to have arrived.

In 1741 a certain fence was set up round the Gun-garden, and in 1759 this was sold by the corporation, in consequence of the government having now taken the ground into their own hands. In 1761 the former body claimed this spot, which led to the following letter being sent to them in the next year:

“To the Worshipfull the Mayor of Rye.

“Sir,-Being informed that the corporation of Rye claim two small parcels of land situate at Rye, on which several batteries and a magazine and gunner's barracks have lately been erected, I take the liberty to acquaint you, lest the notices given (pursuant to the act of parliament) should escape your notice, that a commission is issued (pursuant to the inclosed act of parliament, passed last session), and that the same will be executed at the Town Hall of Lewes, on Monday, Sept. 13th, next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, and that all persons, bodies corporate, and others, who shall then and there neglect, or refuse to make out their claim to, or interest in, the lands, tenements, and hereditaments in the said act mentioned, will be totally barred by the said act of parliament.

“As I do not know the corporate name of your town or port, I should be much obliged to you if you would, in the meantime, favour me with it, that a form of the judgment, directed by the act of parliament, may be prepared by the approbation of the commissioners, so as to give the commissioners, the claimants, and their agents as little trouble and as much dispatch, when the commissioners meet, as may be.

“I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

“Monument yard, London,

“L. CARLETON. “Aug. 24th, 1762.”

On the receipt of this letter, the corporation ordered that the Gun Battery inclosed by the government should be viewed and measured, in order to make a claim thereof on their behalf at the meeting of the commissioners at Lewes, and the value delivered thereof at £30 per acre. The measurement of the ground was one acre, two roods, and thirty-three perches, which, at 30% per acre, would amount to £11 38s 9d.

The act alluded to in the foregoing letter was passed in 1762, and was entitled "An Act for vesting certain lands, tenements, and hereditaments upon the sea-coasts, in the counties of Kent, Sussex, and Southampton, on which forts and batteries have been erected for the defence of the said coasts, in trustees, for certain uses; and for other purposes therein mentioned."

This is the description of the Gun-garden at Rye: "All that piece or parcel of waste land, situate at Rye, in the county of Sussex, containing one acre, two roods, and thirty-three perches, called the Gun-garden Battery, where an old battery formerly stood, and on which two new batteries, called the Upper Battery and Lower Battery, and the magazine to them belonging, have lately been erected; and also all that other piece or parcel of waste land, situate at Rye aforesaid, containing six perch, being part of the waste called the Old Church-yard, in which the Gunner's Barracks, belonging to the said batteries last mentioned, have lately been erected.

Previously to the passing of this act there appears to have been only one battery; but then the two, as at present existing, were formed. The magazine in the Gun-garden, and the gunner's house, still occupied by this officer, were then also lately erected. This sale marks a change in the public property of the town, and also in the general spirit of the age. Heretofore no property was held by any other public body than the corporation, and the defence of the Cinque Ports was intrusted to their several municipal authorities. But henceforth both the naval and land armaments of the country were vested in the hands of government.

Speaking of the military defences of Rye, we may here remark, as connected with warlike matters, that in 1775 commenced the unhappy differences between England and her American colonies, on which occasion the government was unfortunately encouraged in the prosecution of the war by addresses from many corporations, and among these from that of Rye, in which they assure his Majesty, George III, that he had, in their judgment, done his utmost to reconcile the unhappy troubles and disputes now subsisting in his Majesty's colonies in America.

One of the fruits of this war was the raising of a corps of volunteers in the Cinque Ports, for which Rye was to find eighteen men. The corporation subscribed 31l 10s, and the inhabitants 84l 10s. 6d., making a total of 116l 0s. 6d. The lord warden paid a bounty of 7l 7s., and the town of Rye 5l. 5s., making twelve guineas to each volunteer. This occurred in 1778, and in the same year an order was issued by the corporation to prove the brass cannon, and to have new carriages made. These cannon stood on the green, and were then the property of the corporation, as also was the ground on which they stood. They were five in number, curiously ornamented with the arms of Spain, from which country they had been taken. Besides these brass pieces, the town possessed two iron ones.

The defences of this part of the coast were further strengthened in 1780, by the formation of a camp on the top of Rye Hill, in the field in which the Union-house now stands.

In 1785 a committee was ordered to inspect the guns on the battery in the Watchbell street, and to repair the carriages or sell the guns, as they may think most proper.

In the height of the last French war two sets of barracks were built on Rye Hill, one at the corner of Leesham lane, on the north side, for infantry, and the other in the field which is now occupied by the Union-house, and which were for cavalry.

The war with France finally ceased in 1815, and shortly afterwards all the military glories of Rye came to an end. In 1818 the barracks were all pulled down. The guns had remained in quiet and harmless possession of the Gun-garden batteries, when, in 1819, Hunt having harangued the populace at Peterloo, in Manchester, and Watson threatening, when he addressed the people from a waggon on Tower-hill, in which he had a pound of gunpowder and a stocking full of bullets, to take the fortress there situated, Lord Sidmouth very naturally began to feel alarm for the safety of the whole realm, and immediately issued a general order, usually denominated "Sidmouth's Circular," whereby all cannons and ammunition not in well-defended places should be sent to London, and Rye being included in this category, the Gun-garden was stripped of its ornaments; and all that now remains to tell its former glory are the platforms standing empty in idle mockery, and the worthy old gunner, Peter Bellew, who will gladly communicate to any inhabitant or stranger, whether he asks him or not, all the great feats which he performed during the late war; how, on the sight of a French frigate in the offing, he fired signal guns which brought up an English ship of war in time to capture her; how he sunk another French ship that ventured to show her broadside within range of his cannon-balls, and this he did so completely, that not a soul was saved, for we have never heard, on the most minute inquiry, that any prisoners were brought into Rye. But let any one speak to the old gunner, and he will tell him of all his

wounds and hairbreadth escapes in the battle-field:

“Shoulder his crutch,
And fight his battles o’er again.”

On October 11th, 1797, was fought the battle of Camperdown, on which occasion the corporation gave ten guineas towards the relief of the widows and orphans of the seamen who fell in that contest; and this generosity was not without its reward, for the five brass cannons, which were in a bad state, were now taken by the government, which sent down five iron Dutch twenty-four pounders, that were taken at Camperdown. These were placed three at the edge of the Watchbell Cliff, and two a little farther back, on the spot where now stands the Independent school. In this same year the corporation subscribed 1007. to the state for carrying on the war against France.

By the commencement of the eighteenth century the old defences of the town had ceased to be of much value; part of the town ditch, between the Land-gate and the Postern-gate, had been let in 1698; the remainder was now filled with mud, which was overgrown with high reeds, and this was let in 1736 to the respective owners of the adjoining property, on leases of 1000 years, with the power of resumption on the part of the corporation in case the town should ever be again fortified. The lessees were to drain the ditch, to fence it with a quickset hedge, and to leave a road on the outside of twelve feet in width.

In 1734 the stone gateway at the Gun-garden and the portcullis at Land-gate were pulled down and sold. Two years after this the Postern-gate shared the same fate. In 1767 the wall near the latter was taken down, to widen the entrance sufficiently to allow carriages to pass up and down the Conduit-hill, and the stones were given to the churchwardens, to repair the churchyard wall; and at the same time the Strand-gate was ordered to be taken down, and the stones to be applied to the same purpose; but the last order does not seem to have been carried out to its full extent then, as, in 1817, a further order was issued for pulling down this gate and part of the wall, previous to which last-mentioned period (if our memory serves us right) one half of the old arch was standing. The wooden gates attached to the Land-gate way were pulled down in 1760, and all these places remain at present as they were then, of which more minute particulars are given in another chapter.

We shall conclude this portion of our history with a few memoranda to elucidate the events of the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth century, that is, down to this present year 1845.

In 1701 the corporation decreed that every housekeeper within the walls should once a week cause the streets before their houses to be swept clean, and have the dirt carried away, otherwise to pay a fine of sixpence to the scavenger.

The public finances seem now to have improved, for we find an order to entertain civilly and treat the Governor of Dover Castle, whenever he should come to muster the train-band.

In this year the widow of Samuel Jeake the elder gave the corporation ten pounds towards the new laying the market-place of this town, on condition that she might lay out the same as she thought fit, which was acceded to, and thanks returned her by the mayor.

The flow of the sea was now so much altered, that the marks, which heretofore were upon the castle and Camber Point, were directed to be removed to some fitter spot. According to this direction there were two convex lights placed up at the Camber Point, which was on the east side of the harbour entrance; but in 1721 further changes had taken place, and it was found necessary to place an additional one in the prison, or in some convenient place in the Gun-garden; while in 1724, or before, a light was placed on the south-west angle of the church.

The corporate body in 1731 gave five pounds to Blandford, and the same sum to Tiverton, in consequence of these towns having suffered by fire.

In 1732 the corporation sent a very spirited letter, signed with their common seal, to the representatives of the town, to oppose the Excise laws, which were very unpopular at this time, and therefore this remonstrance on their part did them great credit. As a proof of their distastefulness, we may quote Dr. Johnson's definition of the word "Excise," "a hateful tax levied upon commodities."

In consequence of the murder of Mr. Grebbell by John. Breeds, as related in a former chapter, it was ordered, in 1743, that an inquisition should be taken to find the murderer's estate, which escheated (according to the Charters) to the corporation.

The old corporation of Rye was ever a most loyal body, various proofs of which have been already given, and here we may add, that in this year they presented an address to his Majesty George II, to congratulate him on the discomfiture of the French fleet, which was then assembled off Dunkirk for the purpose of conveying an army of 15,000 men over to England to aid the Pretender in his attempts on the crown of this country, and which was disconcerted by the appearance of Sir John Norris, who, with a superior fleet, made up to attack them, when they were obliged to put back. This Sir John Norris was at this time one of the representatives of the town of Rye; consequently this act was a double source of honour to the corporation and the inhabitants at large.

We had occasion to regret, when we spoke of the visit of Queen Elizabeth to Rye, that the records of the corporation gave no direct particulars of the fact, and we have to repeat this regret with respect to those of Charles II in 1673, of George I in 1725, and of George II in 1736.

The visit of George I was accidental, the ship in which he had embarked having been driven into this haven by stress of weather. His Majesty landed, and was entertained while on shore by James Lamb, Esq., who was then mayor of the town.

Of the visit of George II we have a few more particulars, not from public records, but from traditionary reports. The same gentleman, Mr. James Lamb, was then mayor also; and it is said the King landed at Edward's Dock, near the Strand, being the west end of the Rock Channel, to which spot a horse was taken for the convenience of his Majesty, and when he mounted it the mayor held the stirrup, and conducted him to his residence, being a house still standing at the south-west corner of the present Middle street, facing the western entrance into the churchyard, and which is now the property of the Rev. George Augustus Lamb, D.D., the great-grandson of the then mayor. Here the king was entertained for several days, and his sitting- and bed-room are still shown, the latter of which, a lofty apartment, wainscotted with oak, goes to this day by the name of George the Second's chamber.

In the good old times of 1744 it was customary to have the newspapers laid in the court-hall by the mayor's sergeant, where the freemen were allowed to go and read them; and one John Haffenden was reprimanded for going to the post-office before the sergeant and taking the papers, and in case of a repetition of the offence, he was to be debarred from going to the hall henceforth to read them.

In 1748 the books and papers of the corporation were ordered to be put and kept in order, and the former to be bound. This last order was faithfully executed, and to this we are indebted for the very excellent preservation in which these records now are, so much to the credit of the municipal authorities of those days, and of all their successors down to the present time, these books running over the long period of nearly 400 years, that is, from 1448 to 1845.

True to their character for loyalty, the corporation sent an address to George III, in 1760, to congratulate him on his accession to the throne. In 1761 they sent one to the king and queen on their nuptials, and in the same year had the honour of appointing four of their body to carry the canopy at their coronation.

In 1762 the corporation let the Brickwell field to the church-wardens and overseers of the parish for 99 years, to build a pest-house upon. The Brick-well is that now called Queen Elizabeth's, and the field so called is the ground on which stands the cottage now the property of Herbert Barrett Curteis, Esq. To this house were sent all those who were inoculated for the smallpox. It was not until the year 1721 that inoculation was first introduced, and then only partially. The first practitioner who adopted it in Rye was Mr. Frewen, commonly designated Dr. Frewen. This pest-house remained the property of the parish until 1790, when it was given to Thomas. Lamb, Esq., then mayor, in exchange for a house and garden situate in the Gun-garden in the town, and where the poor-house was built, and continued to be used as such up to the year 1844, when the Union-house having been completed, the inmates were transferred to the latter.

A circumstance occurred in 1764 worthy of notice, inasmuch as it marks a change in the practice, though none had as yet taken place in the constitution, of the Port. When Breeds murdered Mr. Grebbell, in 1742, he was tried, convicted, and executed within the borough; but twenty-two years after, when one Ann Westmore murdered her child, she was tried at Horsham, at the expense of the corporation.

Pollard's Wharf, so called from the Chamberlain's name at that time, was built in 1783, and this officer was allowed 147., which he had expended on its erection.

The first wharf at the Strand seems to have been built 200 feet in length, in 1790, by the corporation.

In 1794 Mr. John Southerden hired about four acres of land, on a lease of 21 years, at four guineas a year, for the purpose of building a factory for the making of sacks, hop-bags, &c., in which he employed the poor of the parish, whom he had taken to farm. This concern does not seem to have answered the projector's expectations, for four years afterwards the place was abandoned by Mr. Southerden, and hired by another tenant.

In 1804 the east cliff, commonly called Waters' Cliff, was planted with trees, and in 1845 the south end was filled up, where none before had been planted. In the latter year a handsome iron fence was put up, and a broad stone pavement laid down, immediately above the last-mentioned plantation, a work doing the town council great credit, more particularly when it is known, that when the finances allow of it, it is to be continued all the way to the northern end, which will make it a very pleasant parade for the town's people.

In 1817 the baths were erected near the Fish-market, by several subscribers; but it has not turned out a fortunate speculation.

Fearing we may tire the patience of our readers by any more minute details, we will here bring this branch to a close.

CHAPTER II.

THE PUBLIC REVENUES OF THE TOWN OF RYE.

THE post of danger is the post of honour, or, in other words, where there is no danger there is no honour. The south-eastern coast of England has ever been, and still is, the particular part which is most exposed to the incursions of a foreign enemy; and for its defence, at a very early period, the Cinque Ports and ancient towns here situate were endowed with numerous and valuable privileges. They had the honour of forming the vanguard of the kingdom, and with the honour they had its concomitant dangers, acting as drawbacks therefrom. Among these latter may be reckoned the difficulty, and the danger arising from this difficulty, in case it should prove to be insurmountable, of raising the means wherewith to provide for the unavoidable expenses attendant on the fitting out of their shipping, and on the other services which they had to perform. There were two sources from which their supplies were drawn: one direct and the other indirect; the former bringing money into their treasury, and the latter preventing it from being taken out. The first may be called grants, and the last exemptions. We will first speak of the last, which are thus specified in their Charters: "That they (the Barons of the Ports) may be quit of all toll and of all custom, that is to say, of all lastage, tallage, passage, carriage, rivage, from ponsage, and all wreck, and of all their selling, buying, and rebuying, throughout all our land and dominion, with soc and sac, and thol and thew. And that they may be wreck-free and wit-free, lastage-free and lovecope-free." By reference to the glossary, our readers will see the value of all these exemptions, the exact amount of which cannot be correctly estimated in pounds, shillings, and pence. The various sources from which the Ports drew their direct supplies were these: "They had den and strond at Yarmouth; they had their findals in sea and land; they were quit of shires and hundreds; to have infangthef and outfangthef; to be quit of right prise (that is) of one tun of wine before and another after the mast. They had their wardships and marriages. They levied tolls on all ships trading to their Ports."

The original constitution of the Ports was not that of a corporation, as at present understood; but rather of a guild or trading company. From the fact, adduced in 1587, of the town holding a ship in common, a trading one, called "the town's ship," we have a proof of this; and hence we argue, that the profits arising from the lucrative commerce which, they carried on with France in wine went into the public treasury, and so also the profits accruing from the fishery at Yarmouth, or any other branch of commerce in which they were engaged, either as importers or exporters. Under the latter head may be mentioned the article of timber, which down to the reign of the sixth Edward was pretty considerable. In this latter item must be included billets, which continued to the seventeenth century. One source of revenue were the fines paid by the Barons on admission to their freedom, which must have been considerable, as all who were willing and able were invited to become members of the general body. All fines and amerciaments went into the town's purse. All goods, chattels, and other property belonging to convicted felons were forfeited to the Port in which the conviction took place. All tradesmen paid for exercising their calling; fishermen for their boats; foreign vessels towards the lights. The ferry tolls were let by them, as were the fish and fruit markets. In the earliest times it would seem that the king claimed the waste or unoccupied parts of the town, on which, when persons erected buildings of any kind, they paid a species of quit-rent to his bailiff. We have shown the various rents thus collected, and we saw at a much earlier period how the ground in the north-west part of the Wish was called the King's Wyst, or Wish." Some of these rents were afterwards granted to the corporation, and this body seized on all the waste not previously occupied by the king or any private person. These are the principal springs which flowed into the public treasury; but what was their amount at a very early period we shall not for one moment pretend to say, as we think the attempt would be useless, and therefore we shall confine ourselves, as a commencement, to the latter part of the seventeenth century, first premising, that in the chamberlain's accounts, beginning in 1448, we find the following entries, viz.:

MALTOD OF FISHING-BOATS BELONGING TO THE TOWN OF RYE.

Matthew Cliff, for 1 week tramelling	2½d
John Swan 3 ditto ditto	7½d
Peter Johnstone 1 ditto ditto	2½d
John Saunder 5 ditto ditto	12d
Ditto 6 ditto hooking	15d
Matthew Cliff 5 ditto with 5 rose nets	12½d
John Swan 5 ditto, 5 ditto	13d

POUNDAGE ON FISHING-BOATS IN SALTCOTE. d.

Robert Chapman	21
John Saunder	2½

RENTS IN THE TOWN OF RYE.

	s	d
Of John Hereyttesham, for two tenements at the Strand	6	8
Richard Stephyn, two tenements in the Market-place	1	8
Henry Smith, a stall in ditto	1	8

ADVOCANTS.

	S	d
John Warner, Gent., per annum	6	8
Robert Oxenbrigg, ditto	3	4
Stephen Marchand, ditto	3	8
Thomas Wymond	1	8
John Cobbe	2	0

The foregoing are given as specimens of the different sources of revenue enjoyed by the town at this time, the total amount of which was as follows, viz.:

MALTOD, GREAT AND SMALL, LEVIED ON FISHING-BOATS BELONGING TO RYE,

At the four under-mentioned periods:	£	s	d
At Christmas	2	9	0
At Easter	3	2	2
At the Nativity of St. John the Baptist	3	5	0
At Bartholomew tide	4	7	8
	£13	3	10
Poundage on boats at Saltcote	1	8	11
Amount of rents	1	18	0
Received of 41 advocants	5	7	4
Total	£21	18	1
Expenditure	£21	19	1

In 1461 the receipts had increased,

and reached the sum of £10 16 2

On August 20th, 1674, we see the following entry:

At this assembly Thomas Burdett (collector of the small box and petty passage-money) paid unto Thomas Welsh, the present chamberlain, the sum of ten pounds and ninepence, for the use of this corporation

£10 0 9

Also Bartholomew Breeds, as mayor's sergeant, paid to the said chamberlain six pounds sixteen shillings and fivepence, for beer money, Jue Midsummer last

£6 16 5

Also the said Breeds paid to the said chamberlain six pounds twelve shillings and tenpence, for shop-window or maltod money, due as aforesaid

£6 12 10

Also he paid to the said chamberlain thirty-eight shillings and fourpence, being money estreated on the last presentment

£1 18 4

total £25 8 4

The small box was town dues, and petty passage-money a species of harbour dues.

April 12th, 1675.

£ s d

Thomas Burdett paid into the hands of Thomas Welsh (land chamberlain) for small box and petty passage money, collected from September 2d, 1674 to this day

£13 4 0

Bartholomew Breeds also paid in part of beer money, due from the victuallers from Christmas

It appears there were three collectors, viz. The land chamberlain, the collector of town dues and petty passage, and one of beer-money, &c., in the town.

On February 9th, 1679, the town duty of market money, arising by fish and fruit, were let for five years, at an annual rent of 8l 5s.

Everything seemed to be turned to account in 1680; the lane leading from the Wash Well to the gate near the Butt was let at five shillings a year. This is the present Love lane.

August 28th, 1680.

The collector of the small box and petty passage-money produced his account, by which it appears that from May 1st to this day, being nearly four months, he had received

£15 3 10

Aaron Peadle brought in his account, by which it is shown that he received in the two last years, for beer-money and otherwise, the sum of

£ 31 4 3

Robert Swaine, yeoman sergeant, paid in, for butchers' head-money

£1 0 8

This last duty was then to be let for thirty shillings a year.

The chamberlain received out of the amerciament box on the hall table

£0 3 6

The following will show how the various trades were taxed in the town in this year:

1680. Every butcher paid a certain duty for every poll of ware which he killed, viz.

Every fellman (fellmonger) if a freeman, sixpence per quarter; if not free, twelve-pence.

Every shopkeeper the same.

Every carpenter, shipwright, mason, bricklayer, tanner, miller, pump-maker, rope-maker, and all other handicraftsmen (except curriers) being free, paid three-pence per quarter, and not being free, sixpence.

Every currier, being free, paid sixpence per quarter, and not being free, twelvepence.

On January 12th, 1681, we first meet with a statement of the annual revenues of the town, which on this day are reported to amount to £12l 14s. 2d.

In the enumeration of the more early sources of revenue, we omitted the prizes made in war. That the Ports had a claim on these is plain from the circumstance mentioned in the reign of Elizabeth, when, in the list of cannon and other warlike stores claimed by the queen, the town of Rye laid claim to one piece of ordnance called a mynian, which one of its ships had taken from the enemy; and if the town was entitled to this honorable but not very valuable trophy, so, no doubt, was she, in common with the other Ports, equally entitled to participate in the more substantial prizes which were taken by the united Ports navy in 1406, under the command of Henry Paye, and which consisted of 120 French ships, all laden with no worse merchandize than salt, iron, and oil, a most valuable booty. We should also mention, that when the Ports navy were detained over their fifteen days of annual service, they were paid by the king, and consequently their own expenses were then at an end for the time. The last ships were fitted out by the Ports in 1626, consequently we are now, in 1681, clear of all those charges, and leaving all the doubtful regions of antiquity, we may turn our undivided attention to the financial state of the town from that time to the present. We have shown many of the sources from which this revenue was derived; but no distinct account has yet appeared of the land rents, though there must have been some, as we have heard of a land chamberlain.. But let us endeavour to trace it out. The present North Marsh, Town Marsh, Factory Marsh, Gibbet Marsh, and Mill Salts were then overflowed by the sea at high water, both at neap and spring tides. The Butt Marsh, known by this same name; the Middle Marsh, Pole Marsh, Spring Marsh, and Garden Marsh (all known by the name of Saint Mary's Marshes) were inclosed and owned by the corporation. The remaining marshes in this part were the property of private individuals. In 1565 one Edmund Coppinger conveyed certain messuages, lands, tenements, and other premises to the corporation, and these, as well as the lands, must have yielded some rents. The marshes which had been inclosed up to this time contained about twenty-two acres; and now, from these data, we will venture to give the following analysis of the annual receipts, which are stated 112l 14s. 2d.

The Small Box farm and petty passage money	£60	15	4
Beer money, &c.	15	12	1½
Butchers' head-money	1	10	0
Fish and fruit markets	8	15	0
Love lane, herbage of	22	0	0
22 ac. Land, at 20s. Per acre	0	5	0
Quit-rents and sundries	3	16	8
Total	£112	14	2

The last two items are given at hazard; but we trust they are not very far from the truth. The amount of the disbursements was 123l 12s 0½d, exceeding the revenue by 10l 17s 10½d. In 1626 the Small-Box farm was let for 110l per annum; but, owing probably to the civil war which raged more or less from about 1640 to 1660, disorder and confusion reigned here as well as in other parts, and the dissolute reign of the Second Charles did not tend much to its improvement. Hence arose the necessity for the brief, which, in this century, was granted by the king for the relief of the town.

In 1680 one John Dixon, a seaman of this town, agreed to pay the corporation twopence a year for the ground, on which he built a porch to his house in Strand-gate ward.

In 1683 the present Town Salts were then called Badding's Marsh, and was ordered to be marked off, the boundaries being from the Badding's Rocks along northward to the rocks under the little mill. This, most probably, agrees with the old eastern boundary of the town, when Badding's gate was standing on that side.

The town dues were now leased for three years at the low sum of thirty pounds per annum.

The Rope-walk at this time was at the north side of the town, running parallel with the town ditch; and this spot is still designated the Old Rope-walk. This was let for seven years, with the herbage of the town ditch, from the Postern gate to Robert Browne's stairs, at twenty-six shillings a year. Browne's stairs were at the foot of Jarrett's yard, by which persons ascended and passed over the wall, then standing, and long since, into the town.

At the auditing of the accounts, in 1684, the corporation was found to be in debt to the chamberlain in the sum of 19l. 3s. 3d., and for this he received a bond. The amerciamment box contained 10s.

In 1686 the town dues were evaded by persons bringing to or carrying corn from the town, who pretended to be freemen of Rye or of other ports, and orders were issued that no one was to be exempt but upon oath of his being a freeman. But the town was at a very low ebb, for, in this year, the lessees of the town dues, the rent of which was only 30l a year, petitioned to be allowed to give up their lease. There were two years' rent due, out of which they paid 32l 16s., the corporation agreeing to take as the balance the sum of 271. 4s., being debts due to the lessees from persons in arrears to them for dues to this amount; this petition was granted. The harbour light, which was in the Gun-garden, was let for three years at 16l per annum.

The fish trade seems to have increased; for, at Michaelmas, 1686, the duty on it was leased for three years at 20 guineas a year.

The Small Box farm, lately abandoned by the last lessees, was now let at an annual rent of 31l.

In 1687 the corporation let the right, so far as they had the power of fishing in the harbour, for one guinea a year to be spent among the members of that body, and a dish of mullets. The lessees were to prevent the peter-boats from fishing.

The herbage from the Gun-garden to the Barham Rocks was let at 8s. A year.

It appears the corporation was now so poor, that no one would lend them the small sum of 120l. On security of the town lands, and they were obliged to mortgage them to their creditors for the amount of their claims, which was 129l. 4s. 6d. For the period of six years.

In 1688 the harbour dues were let for seven years at 16l. A year.

The Small-Box farm seems to have sadly declined in value; for, in 1692, it was let at the very low rent of 10. a year. In 1693 the harbour duties were let for five guineas a year.

The annual income, from August, 1691, to August, 1692, is stated to have been 112l. 15s. 94d., and the disbursements 114l. 8s. 11d.; so that it remained stationary from 1681 to this time.

That the financial state of the town was now at a low ebb is apparent from a letter, in the corporation books, bearing date February 12th, 1694, written by Mr. Jeake, in which he offers to give them the sum of threescore pounds at Midsummer, 1695, provided that, by a prudent management of their public revenues, they should complete the redemption of their mortgaged land in the space of two years.

By a subsequent entry, on July 6th, 1695, Samuel Jeake, merchant, in consideration of the 60l. He lately gave the corporation, was excused from all manner of offices belonging to this corporation, and from coming to all manner of assemblies therein in pursuance of his request to the same.

April 27th, 1694, Mr. Mayor paid the chamberlain the sum of 4l, which he received of my Lady Frewen for the use of this corporation.

From August, 1693, to August, 1694, the revenue is stated to have been	115l. 11s. 7d.
The expenditure	120l. 3s. 2½d.
Still showing a deficiency.	
From 1694 to 1695.	
Revenue only	95l. 10s. 0d.
Disbursements	102l. 14s. 11d.

In 1696 one William Terry agreed to pay 10s. Per annum for the liberty of landing and taking passengers at the Middle Rock, which belonged to the corporation. These passengers were brought from Guildford, formerly they were landed at the foot of Salt-Coate street; but, the sea having retired partially from that spot, the Middle Rock was now chosen for the purpose, which was probably near the Gun-garden.

The receipts, from 1695 to 1696, show a sad falling off, being only 78l. 1s. 10d.; while the expenditure was 132l. 3s. 2d., leaving a balance due to the chamberlain of no less a sum than 54l. 1s. 4d., for which the corporation gave him a bond for 50%, bearing interest at five per cent. Per annum.

Though the corporate body were thus in arrears it does not appear that they were backward in collecting all they could; for, in 1697, Thomas Seale agrees to pay twopence a year for his chimney, standing eight inches broad and twelve foot long, or thereabout, upon the town's ground, in a lane leading from the Watchbell street to the cliff.

In 1697 we have the first entry showing us the distinct rent of the land, for now we see that Abraham Kennett hired the town's fresh Marsh-land, being part of St. Mary Marshes, containing eighteen acres, more or less, and one piece of Salt Marsh containing five acres, more or less, for seven years, from Lady Day 1698, at the annual rent of 36l.

In this latter year we still have proofs of the poor state of the corporation in the fact of Mr. Chambers having given 5l. Towards making the stairs going down the Gun-garden cliff, but which, not having been required for this purpose, was directed, together with other moneys collected in the town, to be applied towards making the bowling green fit to play at bowls therein; the corporation to find the remainder.

The harbour dues now increased again being let, in 1699, for 8l. For one year; revenue, from 1697 to 1698, 94l. 11s. 6d. ; disbursements 106l. 14s. 94d. Here we see an increase in the revenue and a decrease in the expenditure; but still the latter exceeds the former.

The pasture of the town's waste and the profit of laying timber thereon was let for five years, from Michaelmas, 1699, at 3l. A year.

The Small Box farm, which was let in 1692 at 10l., was, in 1699, let at 17l.10s. A year.

All persons taking sand from the Gun-garden Rocks were to pay 12d. For every pack to any one informing against them. In 1700 the corporation gave a mortgage, on the town lands, to Thomas Gowen for the sum of 68l. 12s. 11d.

From St. Bartholomew, 1699, to St. Bartholomew, 1700,

the receipts of the corporation are stated to be	114	16	2
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The disbursements	80	0	0
Balance to corporation credit	28	16	2

We offer the following analysis of the above receipts, viz.:

	£	s	d
Town marshes	36	0	0
Small Box farm, or town dues	17	0	0
Fish and fruit markets	21	0	0
Harbour dues	8	0	0
Waste land	3	0	0
Charge on shoed wheels	2	3	0
Shop windows, fines on various trades, beer-money, &c.	114	16	2

Shoed wheels. Does this mean wheels shod with iron, they originally having been made of solid pieces of wood?

Dec. 10th, 1701. Mr. Jeake gives the corporation 10l. Towards repairing and new laying the market.

St. Bartholomew Tide, 1701.	£	s	d
Revenue	137	7	1
Expenditure	85	10	11½
Balance, Cr.	53	16	1½
St. Bartholomew, 1702.			
Disbursements	128	19	6½
Receipts	128	1	5
Balance, Dr.	0	18	1½
1703.			
Disbursements	116	2	3
Receipts	96	13	10
Balance, Dr.	19	8	5

The chamberlain is ordered to borrow money to pay this balance, at interest.

Sept. 28th, 1704. It is ordered that every merchant ship or vessel, not belonging to the town, shall pay threepence per hogshead for all the water they take from the public conduits.

1704.	£	s	d
Receipts	128	17	5
Disbursements	128	1	4
Balance, Cr.	1	16	1

March 29th, 1705. The assembly decreed that the following duties should be levied, to enable the corporation to defray their various necessary charges, the same to be added to the Small Box farm, viz.

		s	d
For every tun of brandy imported or exported, belonging to a freeman of the Cinque Ports or two ancient towns, the sum of	0	6	
For every do. Belonging to a foreigner	1	0	
For every tun of beer imported, belonging to a freeman	0	6	
For every do. Belonging to a foreigner	1	0	
1705.	£	s	d
Disbursements	131	13	11½
Receipts	93	13	6
Balance, Dr.	22	0	5½

To meet this and other arrears the corporation hired sixty pounds of Philip Lilbourne, for which they gave a mortgage on St. Mary Marshes, with interest.

June 7th, 1706. It was ordered that every fishing-boat, or vessel going the season to catch mackerel or herrings, should pay towards the

	s	d
Cleaning and keeping clean the Graven Place	1	0
Every trawler, do.	1	0
Every fishing-boat or vessel that is cleaned or caulked there, for each tide it lies there	1	0
Every fishing-boat or vessel lying on the Gravel Ground (except for the purpose of being cleaned or caulked) and preventing the small boats landing their fish, shall forfeit, each tide they lie there, to the corporation	1	0
Every ship or vessel, lading or unlading at the Graven Place, shall pay for the ten first working days they lie there Do. For every tide after the ten days above mentioned	5	0

The Graven Place, or Gravel Ground, is described as lying and being without Land-gate. It seems to have been a species of dock. A considerable sum of money was laid out on it in 1707; and in consequence of this the dues were increased, and it was let at a yearly rent of 3l. 5s.—the lessee to keep the place clean, and put upon the same such beach as was required, not exceeding twenty tons in a year.

1706.	£	s	d
Receipts	124	19	0
Payments	124	19	0

Philip Lilbourne laid out 30l. On the Graven Place, for which the corporation gave him a bond, with interest at 5 per cent. Per annum, This is the money alluded to above.

1707.	£	s	d
Receipts	106	16	8
Disbursements	106	16	0

The Graven Place was now let for 67. 10s. A-year. The next audit of accounts is in 1709,

	£	s	d
Receipts	130	6	6
Disbursements	128	6	6
Balance, Cr.	2	0	0
1710.			
Disbursements	139	4	6½
Receipts	134	15	9
Balance, Dr.	4	8	9½

Here we see an increase of income, but a greater increase of expenses, still tending to involve the corporation further in debt. With a view to economise their funds, an order was issued to curtail the expenses on rejoicing days. Formerly the bellringers received 6s. 8d. Each day, and the men who fired the guns 2s. 6d. ; now the former were to have only 3s. 4d., and the latter 18. 6d.

In 1712 the corporation sold several tons of spare lead, which fetched these prices, viz.:

	£	s	d
Pig lead, per ton	8	12	6
Sheet do. Per do.	9	2	6
Sheet lead is now worth	21	0	0

Pig do.		18	0	0
1712.				
Disbursements		100	12	6
Receipts		100	0	0
Balance, Dr.		6	11	6
To meet this balance the arrears are		£4	7	6

Among these we find four years' tax due for a shop, amounting to 8s., showing the annual charge to have been 2s.

1713.				
Disbursements		114	12	1
Receipts		100	0	0
		8	3	1
Arrears		5	12	6
Balance, Dr.		2	10	7

The ferry was let at 3l. A year.

1714.				
Receipts		119	19	0
Disbursements		103	1	0
Balance, Cr.		16	18	0

At Lady Day, 1715, an order was given to the chamberlain to enter upon St. Mary Marshes and lock up the gates, and preserve the grass until the same should be let. At the previous Michaelmas the tenant had agreed to leave, and now he is again allowed to hold it, on finding bondsmen for his rent, which was 20l. 13s. 4d. These marshes contain eighteen acres, consequently they let at 23s. Per acre; but there was no great demand for land, as the old tenant was to hold it (if he found sureties), although he was not approved of by the corporation. He did not find sureties, and these marshes were relet to William Osborne, at 28l. 10s. Per annum. In this hiring the Pole Marsh is mentioned, and thus seems to be included in the St. Mary Marshes. The rent is now at the rate of 1l. 11s. 8d. Per acre.

We may mention here that at this time the Pole Marsh was used by the fishermen for drying their nets in, and this right is reserved in the lease.

On the sealing of the lease the tenant was to spend a guinea, to treat the corporation; and this was a common custom long before and long after this time.

In 1715 complaints were made that many foreign butchers and other tradesmen infringed the market regulations, and it was decreed, among other things, that any foreign butcher who, on the market or other days, should kill any cattle, should pay the following fines, viz. :

		s	d
	For each bullock	10	0
	For each hog	2	6
	For each sheep or lamb	1	0
	For each calf	2	6
1715.	£	s	d
	Receipts	115	7 7
	Disbursements	92	13 10¼
	Arrears	30	8 0
	Balance, Cr.	53	1 8¼
1716.			
	Receipts	147	18 6
	Disbursements	134	11 6½
	Balance of last year	22	13 8¼
	Arrears	7	18 0
	Balance, Cr.	43	18 8¼

The accounts now assumed a healthy appearance. The income now seemed gradually increasing.

1717.				
	Receipts	159	1	2¼
	Disbursements	154	18	6
	Balance, Cr.	4	2	8¼
1718.				
	Receipts	112	7	4¾
	Payments	89	0	9¾
		23	6	7
	Arrears	5	12	0
	Balance, Cr.	28	18	7

We cannot fail to see a great difference in the receipts of the two last years, and which may be in great measure accounted for by observing that the arrears previous to 1717 were in this year collected up, giving thus a much greater income than the real one. Among the last arrears we find 10s. For one year's rent of a meal shop, while another only pays 2s.

1719.		£	s	d
	Disbursements	183	16	5
	Receipts	179	18	3
	Balance, Dr.	3	18	2

In August, 1720, St. Mary Marshes were let for five years, at 41l. Per annum. These marshes were the present Butt marsh, Middle, Pole, Spring, and Garden Marshes, the same as were before mentioned as being let to Abraham Kennett, and containing eighteen acres; besides which there were five acres of Salt Marsh, then uninclosed, and which we consider to have been the present Mill Salts, which are now embanked, and contain seven acres, while the others above enumerated contain at this time, altogether, 18a. 1r. 8p. These latter were the only marshes belonging to the corporation, on the north side of the town, a slip running through the centre being then the property of a Mr. Brown, from whom the steps leading over the wall into Jarrett's yard took their name, and which have been mentioned in a former part; while the four little marshes on the east side belonged to Mr. Montague, not having been purchased by the corporation until 1728.

It does not appear whether the Mill Salts were included in this letting or not; but as we have traced no separate account of them, we may conclude they were, and then we shall see that, in the space of twenty-three years, which elapsed between 1697 and 1720, the rent had risen from 36/. to 41l.

It was in consequence of these marshes not all belonging to the corporation that disputes arose, as to how the expenses of repairing the sluices and walls which protected them from the inroads of the sea were to be borne. The chief defence against this enemy was Leasham wall; and in 1720 a breach was made in the same, when the corporation repaired it, but considered very properly that, as the lands of the other proprietors were equally protected by this wall with their own, these latter should bear a proportion of their expenses. But to this they demurred, when the corporation took counsel's opinion; which being favorable to their views of the case, orders were given, on January 3d, 1721, to the town clerk to file a bill in Chancery against all such owners of the level as should not think fit to give in their answer and promise in writing, on or before the 1st of February next, to contribute their charges in repairing the sea-wall and sluice against St. Mary Marshes. The other owners not complying with this demand, the matter was, on March 27th, 1721, ordered to be referred to two arbitrators, one by the corporation, and the other to be chosen by the owners of the other marshes; and in case the latter would not accede to this, then the town clerk was to make application to the commissioners of the levels of Pevensey, Rye, &c., for a view in order for their report, for the scotting of the said level of St. Mary Marshes, at the next general commission to be held of the said levels of Pevensey, &c.

This proposal does not seem to have settled the business; for, on April 28th, 1722, we find an entry specifying that a cross bill had been filed in Chancery against the mayor, by Messrs. Benbrigge, Mannooch, Norton, Burwash, and Martin, who were the several proprietors of the other marshes in the level of St. Mary Marshes. To this an answer was sent; but not to be tedious, it is enough to say that, finally, the dispute was settled by the arbitration of David Polhill, Esq., of Chepsted, in Kent, and John Fuller, Esq., of Brightling, Sussex. In what way it was arranged the books do not show at this precise

time; but that it was satisfactory to the corporation appears from the fact that, on Sept. 22d, 1722, the town clerk was ordered to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Polhill for his good offices in the cause.

The damage done to the marshes was considerable; for the occupiers were allowed 121. for the injury done by the breaking in of the sea.

If the proprietors of this level then all contributed towards the expense of the repairs, such is not the case now, as the borough pays the whole, although there are still ten acres protected belonging to private individuals.

As the harbour dues belonged to the corporation, of course they form part of their revenues, and should be noticed accordingly. The following schedule was drawn up in the year 1721, viz.:

	s.	d.
Every vessel of 10 tons or under, coming in or going out of the harbour, light or laden	1	0
Every fishing shallop to pay, upon the fishing account only, yearly	5	0
Every do, belonging to neighbouring towns to pay for each voyage	1	0
Or, yearly	5	0
Every vessel of 10 tons, not exceeding 20 tons	1	6
Do. above 20 tons, not exceeding 30 tons	2	2
Do. above 30 tons, not exceeding 40 tons	3	0
Do. above 40 tons, not exceeding 50 tons	3	6
Do. above 50 tons, not exceeding 60 tons	4	0
Do. above 60 tons, not exceeding 80 tons	4	6
Do. above 80 tons, not exceeding 100 tons	5	0
For every 20 tons additional	1	0
Every stranger's or alien's shallop, without a deck	3	0

Every other vessel or ship belonging to strangers or aliens to pay double duties, according to the dimensions above mentioned, implying as a matter of course that the foregoing were the charges on vessels belonging to the port, serving to show that the original corporate principle was maintained of taxing foreigners higher than their own inhabitants, and which further appears from the following items, viz.:

	s.	d.
Every fishing vessel, being stranger or alien, to pay each voyage	7	6
Every French vessel, for every passage, either inward or outward	7	6

These duties, if not paid on demand, were to be levied by the sergeant at-mace, or water-bailiff; from which it appears that this latter officer was still in existence at this period.

In 1723 we meet with the following entry, viz. "A committee is appointed to treat with the landowners of St. Mary Marshes, to heighten the wall and beach the same," &c., showing that the other landowners did contribute towards the expenses.

All the foregoing memoranda, elucidating the revenues of the town from 1674 to 1727, are taken from that volume of the records entitled "Hundreds and assemblies, from Sept. 2d, 1673, to Aug. 27th, 1727." Up to Bartholomew Tide, 1719, the accounts were annually audited; but after this period, though committees were appointed for the purpose, there is no report made.

From the latest data on the subject we give the following rental for 1725:

	£	s	d
Saint Mary Marshes	50	10	0
Waste, Salts, &c.	10	5	0
Small Box farm	72	10	0
Fish and fruit do.	20	10	0
Harbour dues	16	5	0
	160	0	0

To these must be added something for shops, &c. ; but as we have no account of these since 1715, we are at a loss about them. They probably now ceased to produce so much as formerly, though they were not exempted from some payment for a century after this time. But as the produce of this item fell off, that on ground rents had considerably increased, and, therefore, we venture to add

	160	0	0
For shops, beer-money, &c.	10	0	0
Ground rents	15	0	0
	185	0	0

At the last audit of the accounts in 1719 the receipts are stated to be 179l. 18s. 3D, and, therefore, those from 1725 may not be considered as being very far from the truth. As in the hiring of the Waste the Salts are included, we see what was the rent of St. Mary Marshes alone—40l. 10s. For eighteen acres, or exactly 45s. Per acre, which must be considered a high rent, when we recollect that Arthur Young, in his *View of Sussex*, written in 1793, states the rent of marsh land in

Pett Level, at per acre	1	5
Winchelsea, do. do.	1	5
Pevensy, do. do.	1	10
Brede, do. do.	1	15

Saint Mary Marshes exceeding the highest of these by 10s. Per acre.

Frequent complaints were made of the corporation of Tenterden not having paid their composition money, as a limb or member of the ancient town of Rye; and, after many fruitless attempts to obtain the arrears, the town clerk was ordered to take the opinion of counsel as to whether the corporation of Rye had a right to such arrears, and as to the manner in which they should proceed to recover them.

In 1692 they paid 12l. For three years' composition money, which was at the rate of 4l. A-year; and in 1728 they agreed to pay all their arrears, which they seem to have done afterwards up to the year 1745; for in 1749 it is stated that Tenterden owes for four years' composition, at six marks a-year. In 1760 arrears then due were demanded, but refused. A law-suit followed, in 1766, which finally terminated in being dismissed with costs; when the Attorney-General's opinion was taken as to the propriety of any future proceedings. But nothing more seems to have been done; and thus a connexion of 400 years was dissolved for ever.

There was an old custom in the town for the mayor to take one bushel of salt, one bushel of wheat, or of any other grain which was brought by any vessel into the harbour for sale; but the legality of this custom was disputed by an inhabitant of Hastings, who threatened to sue the mayor for taking the above as a sample out of his vessel, and the corporation of Rye resolved to defend the mayor. This is recorded on Nov. 18th, 1696.

In 1727 the corporation order the purchase of one large, or two small water-engines, and two dozen of water-buckets, at their own cost; thus showing that at this time the corporation, and not the parish, found these machines.

In 1728 the corporation purchased lands in St. Mary Marshes containing thirteen acres, for which they gave the sum of 6107, as already mentioned.

In 1730 the corporation and other proprietors of St. Mary Marshes, which was the name given to all those at the back of the town, joined in the expense of raising Leasham wall. The corporation now possessed all they have at present in this level. After an interval of fourteen years we again find the accounts audited for three years ending at Bartholomew Tide, 1733, giving the

	£	s	d
Receipts for these three years	438	2	0¼
Disbursements, do	410	12	3¼
Balance, Cr.	27	9	9
Average yearly revenue	146	6	8
Do.do. Payments	136	17	5
Do. do. Balance, Cr.	9	3	3

In 1730 we find the following rentals.

Town dues	90	0	0
Spring and Garden Marshes	7	10	0
Pole Marsh	8	15	0
Middle do.	16	0	0
Butt do.	11	15	0
First and second do. (part of Montague's)	14	0	0
Third and fourth do. do.	16	10	0
Waste, Salts, and Rolvenden Lane	9	0	0
Fish and fruit farm	6	0	0
Ferry, lights, &c.	4	0	0
	£183	10	0

This exceeds the yearly average of 146l. 0s. 8d., just mentioned, by the sum of 37l. 9s. 4d. Besides which, there were ground rents and other small items not entered, and therefore this difference can only be accounted for by supposing there were some arrears at the time the audit took place in 1733. The yearly expense of pumping the water from the Water-house into the reservoir in the churchyard was, for the year 1736, 16l. 19s.; now in 1845 it is about 50l.

In 1736 the Rev. Thomas Curteis complains that the corporation have set up several small buildings on the Camber Beach, which he considers an encroachment on his property, and threatens to take legal proceedings, unless they come to some agreement with him on the subject. To this the corporation replied that they should make no allowance to Mr. Curteis for the standing of the lights, as they had time out of mind set lights and marks there for the benefit of the harbour.

From 1734 to 1736.	£	s.	d.
Disbursements	495	5	3½
Receipts	474	15	9
Balance, Dr.	20	9	6½

Here we have an annual receipt of 237l. 7s. 10½d.

On March 4th, 1736, leases for a thousand years were granted to the following persons of the Town Ditch, on condition that, should the town become a garrison, the leases were to be void, a road of twelve feet in width, from the Postern gate to Edwin Wardroper's, to be maintained by the respective tenants.

Tenants.	Feet.	Annual Rent.		
Davis and Swaine	60	0	3	9
John Fisher	225	0	12	6
James Hope	48	0	3	0
Robert Welch	234	0	15	0
Edwin Wardroper	158	0	10	0
Hall Rush	53	0	3	0
Joseph Cooper	77	0	5	0
	855	2	12	3

This account of the Town Ditch commences at Land gateway, and terminates at the north-west corner of the town, by the side of the road leading to the Strand, and is now occupied as follows. Viz. :

Tenants.	Feet.	Annual Rent.		
Henry Harnden	32	0	2	0
	28	0	1	9
Edwin Dawes	33	0	1	6
Stanes B. Bocket	192	0	11	0
David Stonham	48	0	3	0
James Barry	39	0	4	0
Lewis Meryon	54	0	5	0

William Holloway	15	0	1	6
Stanes B Brocket	80			
Samuel Barnes	46	0	4	6
Stanes B. Brocket	158	0	10	0
Heirs of William Aylward	77	0	5	0
Unknown	53	0	3	0
Total	855	2	12	3

Dec. 11th, 1739. It was agreed at an assembly that, considering the corporation was out of debt, and the revenues thereof much increased and in a flourishing condition, the free-men should be allowed to spend three guineas on every general sessions of the town, instead of thirty shillings, heretofore allowed them.

We have now arrived at a period when the corporation was out of debt, and therefore we have a fresh starting-point from which to trace any changes which may hereafter take place. One of the first fruits of this prosperous state of their finances. Was the gift of the corporation to the minister and church-wardens of the parish of 10l., to be distributed by them to the necessitous poor, according to their discretion. In 1740 the lands were let as follows for six years:

	£	s.	d.
Pole Marsh	10	0	0
Middle do.	16	0	0
Butt do.	11	10	0
First do.	7	10	0
Second do.	8	15	0
Third do.	8	15	0
Fourth do.	9	5	0
Brickwell Field	2	15	0
Waste and Rolvenden Lane	6	0	0
Town dues	56	0	0
Fish and fruit farm	4	5	0
Ferry and lights	3	0	0
Town Ditch	2	12	3
	£146	7	3

The Brickwell Field must have been part of the land on which the Pest-house was built. In the above rental the Spring and Garden Marshes and the Salts are not mentioned; but the latter may be included, as before, in the Waste. To this also were to be added various ground-rents and other revenues of a minor kind. Shortly after this, that is, in 1742, the two marshes and the Mill Salts were let at 8l. 15s. Per annum, which swells the income to 155l. 2s. 3d.

The financial prosperity of the corporation was of short duration; for in 1742 the old Court-hall was in such a dilapidated state, they were compelled to pull it down and build a new one. For which purpose the town clerk, in the following year, was ordered to borrow 600Z.; when the two members of the borough, Sir John Norris and Philips Gibbon, Esq., offered to lend them 900/., which offer was accepted; the interest was to be 3 per cent. Per annum. The old hall was sold for 38/. 10s.

	£	s.	d.
From 1742 to 1744.			
Receipts	1283	10	0
Disbursements	1326	7	3
Balance, Dr.	12	17	3

These receipts give an annual revenue of 641l. 15s., including, we suppose, the money borrowed.

In 1742 John Breeds was executed for the murder of Mr. Allen Grebbell; and, being a convicted felon, his estate (according to the Charters), became forfeited to the corporation; in consequence of which, on February 27th, 1744, it was ordered that an inquisition should be taken to find the same. Having done this (though the amount is not specified), on Dec. 6th, 1744, a committee was appointed to get a list of the debts of the said John Breeds, and likewise to take care of his children, and to provide them

proper masters for putting them out apprentices, or otherwise as they should think proper, with the rents and profits of their late father's estate, and to report at the next assembly; which they accordingly did, when it appears the debts amounted to the trifling sum of 9l. 13s. 8d., which was forthwith ordered to be paid; but what was the amount of his property does not appear, though by report it consisted of several houses, situated principally (if not wholly) in Pump street, on the east side of the churchyard.

In December, 1745, the ferry, lights, buoys, and beacons were offered to be let; but no one would hire them, showing the bad state of the old harbour, which never was worse than at that time, as appears by the commencement of the making the new harbour in consequence.

On July 29th, 1746, it was ordered that 3007. should be borrowed at an interest not exceeding 5 per cent. Per annum, towards discharging the debts of the corporation; which was done shortly after.

From 1744 to 1746.	£	s.	d.
Payments	462	6	1
Receipts	340	6	6
Balance, Dr.	113	1	7

This account gives annually 1741. 8s. 3d., which agrees with the income for several years past; but now they were clogged with heavy debts, so that their expenses exceeded their receipts.

In 1746 the leases of the marshes expired, when they were relet at rents a little lower than the former for another term of six years.

The accounts from June 30th, 1746, to March 22d, 1747, were—

	£	s.	d.
Receipts for three quarters of a year	505	10	0
Payments for do.	484	1	11
Balance, Cr.	21	8	1

The next item of expense is one of which every one must approve. We give the occasion of it in the words of the entry in the records:

“Whereas the books containing the acts and proceedings of this corporation were, till the year 1673, kept in a very loose and disorderly manner, sometimes on a few sheets of paper, containing no more than the proceedings of one year, some of which do not appear, and others by time are so worn and decayed as to be scarce legible, so that it is difficult, if not impossible, to be informed of the proceedings of some former times. In order to retrieve and remedy, as far as may be, the damages and inconveniences that have arisen, or may arise, from the loose and disorderly keeping of such books, acts, and proceedings, or, at least, to prevent greater, it is now ordered that a committee be appointed carefully to collect, examine, and inspect all the books and papers belonging to this corporation, and the same to range regularly in the order of time, and to report their proceedings herein to the first assembly after this work shall be perfected, and particularly to draw a list thereof, that it may be seen if any and what books, or parts of books, are missing, or otherwise worn, torn, or obliterated, so as not to be legible.”

This was dated July 22d, 1749, and on Aug. 23d following, the committee were further empowered to have the records bound in volumes, as they might find proper and necessary, at the expense of the corporation.

“Oct. 4th, 1751. The committee are empowered to send three small unintelligible parchment deeds-viz. A deed dated 3 Henry VIII, Aug. 8th, 1511; one dated 3 Henry VIII, Aug. 3d, 1511; one dated 3 Henry VIII, Jan. 20th, 1512; and another, dated 5 Henry VIII, Aug. 1, 1513—to London, by the hands of the present mayor, in order to have the same translated, at the expense of this corporation.” And on the same day, at their recommendation, a box was immediately ordered to be made, for the greater security and safety of the records of the corporation.

To these orders we are indebted for the high state of preservation in which the records of the borough of Rye are now found, being all neatly and strongly bound in large volumes, and kept in glass cases, commencing in the year 1448, and reaching, with little interruption, down to the present time.

On July 22d, 1749, complaint was made by Mr. James Lamb, sen., that a parcel of wine landed by him at Dover had been stopped for prisage to the Duke of Cleveland, in direct violation of the privileges of the Cinque Ports, the freemen whereof are, by charter, exempt from prisage. Upon the hearing of which the corporation of Rye took steps to assist the said James Lamb, who was a freeman of their town. They wrote to the agent of the Duke of Cleveland, from whom they obtained no redress. They next took counsel's opinion; which being favorable to their view of the question, they called on the Mayor of Dover, who was the Speaker, to call a Brotherhood and Guestling, so that the question might be submitted to these bodies for their decision. Agreeably to this demand the Cinque Ports parliament met on July 24th, 1750, and appointed a committee to examine into this affair, when they reported that they had inspected the Charter of Charles II, and found that in virtue of this the Barons of the Cinque Ports, two ancient towns, and their members, were exempt from the payment of the prisage of wine. On receiving this report the Brotherhood resolved, "that it was the opinion of that assembly that the seizing such wines, notwithstanding the same was landed at Dover, was an infringement upon the rights and privileges of the Cinque Ports, two ancient towns, and their members."

From 1748 to 1749.	£	s	d
Payments	355	0	10
Receipts	222	14	0
Balance, Dr.	£132	6	10]

In 1749, Sir John Norris having died, his executors called in the money lent by him to the corporation; when Thomas Pelham, Esq., who was elected the representative of the town, in the room of Sir John Norris, paid the money to the executors, who assigned over the bond to him.

From 1749 to 1750.	£	s.	d.
Receipts	157	14	8
Disbursements	157	9	9
Balance, Cr.	0	4	11

In 1752 the leases of the marshes expired, and they were relet for six years, as under:

	£	s.	d.
First Marsh, per annum	7	0	0
Second do	7	10	0
Third do.	7	10	0
Fourth do.	8	0	0
Middle do.	15	0	0
Pole do.	9	0	0
Butt do.	10	0	0
Brickwell Field	2	5	0
Waste, Rolvenden Lane, and Salts	6	5	0
Mill Marsh, Garden do., and			
Salts near the mill	9	5	0
Fish and Fruit farm	6	10	0
Town dues	75	0	0
	163	5	0

We cannot say what were the ground rents. The land let for something less than it did twelve years before. We hear nothing now of shop-money, shoed wheels, butchers' head-money, &c.; while the entry about the ferry, lights, &c., says they are put to Mrs. Gawen for one year, for which she is to be allowed the sum of 7., under the same covenants as in former leases, and to give security as usual; the number of buoys in the channel to be five. There must have been some rent, but not much; and the 71. were allowed for finding buoys, poles, beacons, and such things.

In 1753 the auditors of the accounts merely report that the corporation is in debt to the chamberlain to the amount of 251. 9s. 10d. This chamberlain was William Davis, who left the office in 1752, when Henry Peach succeeded him, and his year's accounts to 1753 were-

	£	s.	d.
Disbursements	152	4	8
Receipts	145	12	6
Balance, Dr.	8	12	2

In 1754 a new bridge was built over the South Channel, leading towards Winchelsea. It was a drawbridge, and was erected at the Bridge Point, when the road to the latter town ran on the sea-side of the present military canal. This cost (according to bills now produced on June 6th) 495l. 11s. 44d.; and to meet them the chamberlain was ordered to borrow 500l. At interest not exceeding four per cent. Per annum. Additional bills were afterwards brought in, amounting to 24l. 9s.; and Mr. Thomas Lamb lent the corporation 500l. To provide for the whole. On this bridge was levied a toll.

The 900l. Borrowed in 1743, of Sir John Norris and Philips Gibbon, Esq., were still owing by the corporation; the former was transferred, in 1749, to Thomas Pelham, a relative of the Duke of Newcastle; and on Jan. 14th, 1755, Mr. Gibbon wrote the following letter to Mr. Lamb:

“Sir,-His grace the Duke of Newcastle and I desire you to deliver to the mayor, jurats, and freemen of Rye, in order to be cancelled, the two bonds of four hundred and fifty pounds each (principal money) which they entered into at Michaelmas, 1743, to the late Sir John Norris and me. His grace and I most heartily wish the gentlemen of the corporation and of the town of Rye may long enjoy in perfect health the benefit of those public buildings for the payment of which that money was lent.

”I am, Sir, your most humble servant,

“PHILIPS GIBBON.”

The bonds were delivered up into the hands of the mayor, and were cancelled by tearing off the seal of the corporation; and a letter of thanks sent to the two munificent donors, whose gifts were extremely acceptable to the town, as its finances were not so flourishing as they had been some years previous.

On Jan. 31st, 1755, Chiswell Slade, a freeman of Rye, complained that the city of Exeter had commenced law proceedings against him for the recovery of town's duty on divers parcels of wool sold there on his account, from which charge he was exempt, being a freeman of this ancient town. On Feb. 4th the committee appointed to examine into this business wrote a letter to the mayor and jurats of New Romney, Speaker, requesting him to summon a Brotherhood, so that it might be communicated to the other Ports and towns. In compliance with this request, the Speaker wrote his circular letter to the different Ports and towns on the 12th of the same month, when, in reply to this, the majority refused to call the meeting. Romney and Rye were the only two that approved of the measure; and it is very singular that the five Ports which refused their consent, that is, Hastings, Winchelsea, Hythe, Dover, and Sandwich, had harbours or communication with the sea, whereas Romney had none. The question was thus of no importance to the latter, but was of some to the former. Sandwich declared she was unwilling to incur any expense, and the fact, we believe, to have been that these old privileges were becoming in great measure obsolete, and no longer of the same value and importance they originally were.

About this same time also complaint was made by the lessee of the town's dues that Messrs. Mackerill refused to pay the accustomed duty of 4d. Per pack on wool shipped from this port, and that, to evade this, they put it on board at the East Point, instead of at the Rye Quay. They were supported in this by the corporation of Winchelsea, which set up a claim to dues, as the East Point, they said, belonged to them; which could not be true, as their jurisdiction never extended on the west side of the harbour beyond the boundaries of their walls, but a very short distance.

Having met with such little encouragement in their application for a Brotherhood in the Exeter affair, the corporation now wrote a letter to their representatives in Parliament. What effect this letter produced does not directly appear, but indirectly we learn it was of no avail; as on Dec. 20th, 1756, an action was commenced by the corporation against Messrs. Mackerill and Son, for non-payment of town dues to them, and at the same time one against the city of Chester, for claiming dues from Chiswell Slade on a cargo of corn unshipped there by him.

The corporation proposed to indemnify Messrs. Mackerill against the claim of any other party if they would pay their dues; but to this proposal they did not consent. By an entry, dated April 23d, 1760, it appears they continued to ship their wool and other merchandize at the Camber (Eastern) Point,

refusing to pay; and the corporation abandoned their claim, reimbursing the several lessees of the town dues so much money as they would have received from these parties had these dues been paid.

With respect to the Chester affair, the corporation obtained from the Speaker of the Cinque Ports the loan of the Ports' Charter, which was always kept at Romney, and for the re-delivery of which they gave security, but what security does not appear. What was the termination of this suit we have been unable to discover.

The Eastern Point was that near Camber Castle, on the west side of the channel.

Previously to the year 1757 the Fountain-head under the cliff, on the east side of the town, had been open, for now an order was issued to have it covered over, so as to keep the leaves and other sillage out of the water.

From 1755 to 1757.	£	s.	d.
Disbursements	479	18	6
Receipts	439	14	6
Balance, Dr.	40	4	0
Average yearly income,	219	178	3d

The marshes were again let at Michaelmas, 1758, at rents a trifle higher on the whole than the preceding ones. The town's dues were let at 85l. 10s., being 10l. Higher; the fish and fruit farm at 8l., being also higher-showing an upward tendency in rents since 1752. But still, in spite of this, we find an additional 200l. Borrowed in this same year, 1758.

On the day of electing the mayor, in 1759, the tenants of the fish and fruit farm were empowered to levy one shilling yearly from every fishing-boat coming to the town, and in consideration of this sum they are to keep the fish-market clean.

In 1759 the pew in the church set apart for the use of the mayor and jurats was repaired at the expense of the corporation.

	£	s.	d.
From 1757 to 1759.			
Disbursements	1125	8	5
Receipts	1079	9	1
Balance, Dr.	45	19	4

In 1760 a further sum of 300l. Was borrowed, at 4 per cent. Per annum.

From 1750 to 1761.

Receipts	1331	9	10
Payments	1202	14	7
Balance, Cr.	128	15	3

The receipts of these and the former years immediately preceding must be supposed to include money borrowed, and do not show the exact income.

In 1762 orders were given either to repair the old, or to build a new sluice in Leasham Wall, to drain and protect the corporation marshes, but no mention is made of consulting the other proprietors; from which we may conclude that now the corporation took the whole charge upon themselves; and this leads us to remark that many changes now took place, arising out of political motives. In 1758 an agreement was entered into by the ruling parties in the corporation, for the purpose of narrowing the franchise, and of absorbing the profits of the public property in their own hands. With a view to keep off too busy eyes from scrutinizing their conduct too closely, such little things as this, taking on themselves the expense of protecting the marshes, were adopted by them.

In 1763 it was unanimously agreed at an assembly that, if the mayor and jurats, should refuse to admit any one to their freedom, whom they might imagine had no right thereto, the corporation would bear them harmless against all losses, charges, damages, and expenses which they might sustain in defending any cause or mandamus brought for the admission of such person.

At Michaelmas, 1770, the leases of the marshes having again expired, it was ordered at an assembly, held on Dec. 15th, 1769, that a committee should grant leases for six years of such of the lands as were occupied by freemen, at and under the same rents and covenants as are contained in the present leases, and to let the lands occupied by non-freemen at the present rents to such freemen as shall be willing to hire the same, or otherwise to the present tenants at their discretion.

In accordance with this last order, the lands were let to free-men at rents differing but very little from those of 1752 down to the year 1826, when, owing to the political excitement at that time in the town, they were let by public auction, and they fetched the following rents on leases of seven years, (the Town and North Salts being uninclosed, fetched merely nominal rents):

	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
First Marsh	2	1	20	15	10	0
Second do.	2	3	22	16	10	0
Third do.	2	3	16	15	10	0
Fourth do.	3	1	2	26	10	0
Factory do.	3	2	0			
Gibbet do. (west part)	3	3	9	19	0	0
Do, do. (east part)	1	2	22	38	0	0
Mill Salts	7	0	30	40	0	0
Butt Marsh	4	3	13	34	0	0
Middle Marsh	6	3	17	42	0	0
Pole do.	5	0	8	27	10	0
Spring do.	0	3	0	19	10	0
Garden do.	0	3	10	19	10	0
Town Salts, about	25	0	0	Total	294	0
North do. do.	80	0	0			
Total	150	3	8			

These rents far exceed the former, but they must not be considered as the just value of the marshes; because, owing to the excitement then raging, the competitors ran each other up beyond the mark.

The Gibbet Marshes and Mill Salts had been inclosed since 1752, while the Town Salts, though uninclosed, were only over-flowed at spring tides.

In 1833 the lettings were as under:

	£	s.	d.
First Marsh	7	0	0
Second do.	9	0	0
Third do.	10	0	0
Fourth do.	10	0	0
Factory do.	15	10	0
Gibbet do. (west part)	12	0	0
Do, do. (east do.)	5	0	0
Mill Salts	19	10	0
Butt Marsh	15	10	0
Middle do.	22	0	0
Poll do.	15	10	0
Spring do.	5	0	0
Garden do.	6	0	0
	152	0	0
Town Salts	11	0	0
North Salts	42	0	0
	205	0	0

Independent of the Town and North Salts, which were still uninclosed, there were 45a. 3r. 8p., which produced 152l., giving an average, per acre, of 3l. 6s. 4d.—a very reasonable rent. In 1840 the rents

were as follows, viz.:

	£	s.	d.
First Marsh	13	0	0
Second do.	18	0	0
Third do.	17	0	0
Fourth do.	18	0	0
Factory do.	18	10	0
Gibbet do. (west part)	15	0	0
Do. do. (east part)	10	0	0
Mill Salts	29	0	0
Butt Marsh	27	0	0
Middle Marsh	37	0	0
Pole do.	28	10	0
Spring do.	7	0	0
Garden do.	8	10	0
Total	246	10	0
Little North Salts	29	10	0
Great do.	142	0	0
Town Salts	38	0	0
Total	455	10	0

The 45a. 3r. 8p. First mentioned brought 246l. 10s., an average, per acre, of 57. 7s. 6d., being an increase of more than 50 per cent., without any particular cause, except the desire of hiring lands so near the town, affording an accommodation not elsewhere attainable.

This letting by public auction is undoubtedly an excellent plan, equally beneficial to both parties, doing away with favoritism, enabling the proprietors, by means of competition, to obtain the best market price, and giving every inhabitant of the town an opportunity of hiring a piece of land at the competing price of the day, and, even should this price be somewhat exorbitant, as was the case at this last letting, the tenants, supposing them to be townsmen, have still the consolation of reflecting that the more the borough revenues are increased, the better must it be for the public prosperity of the place.

The increased rents of the Town and North Salts are accounted for from the circumstance of their having been inclosed since the last letting.

Having brought the land revenues to a close, we must revert to those arising from other sources, and recommence our researches in the year 1762, when the Brickwell Field was leased to the churchwardens and overseers of the parish, for them to build a pest-house on, at the annual rent of 31. for the space of ninety-nine years. This is the spot where Mr. Curteis's cottage now stands, in a garden near Queen Elizabeth's Well, and which, from this well having been bricked round, obtained the name of Brickwell Field. It contained one acre, more or less, and was at that time let to Mr. William Cuckow, who was an apothecary in the town, and whose lease had two years to run, at a rent of 2l. 5s. A-year.

The town dues were let as under, viz.:

	£	s.	d.
In 1762, at, per annum	86	0	0
1704, do.	73	0	0
1765, do.	76	10	0
1767, do.	71	0	0
1769, do.	74	0	0
1771, from June 1st to Jan. 1st, 1772	31	0	0

This branch of revenue seems now to have fallen off considerably; this sum of 31l. For seven months only giving an average of about 53l. A-year, or 20l. Less than at the former letting; and when this last hiring expired, Thomas Cooke was employed to collect the dues, on a commission of two shillings and sixpence in the pound. In the following year he only received one shilling and sixpence poundage. We may conclude that some parties refused to pay their droits or dues; and this would account for the

difficulty the corporation had in finding a tenant for them, as in 1776 it was resolved to bring an action against any person refusing to pay the same.

From Jan. 1772, to Dec. 25th, 1781, the same Thomas Cooke continued to collect the dues at two shillings and sixpence in the pound (excepting one year, when he only received one shilling and sixpence). At this latter period they were let at the very low annual rent of eighteen guineas.

	£	s.	d.
In 1782 they were let at only	9	9	0
1783	25	0	0
1785	25	0	0
1786	46	0	0
1787	56	0	0
1788	65	0	0

In 1790 we again find an opposition to the payment of the dues, and then we find the lease abandoned, and a receiver appointed, who, down to 1800, received two shillings and sixpence in the pound for collection, and afterwards three shillings; and this system continued down to the year 1812, when the corporation being nonsuited in their trial at Lewes, the dues were entirely abandoned. From 1789 to 1812 they were never let to any tenant.

The fish and fruit farm, which was neither more nor less than the tolls on the market, originally held twice a-week under the Court-hall, for fish, fruit, poultry, &c, were let as under, viz.:

In 1762, at, per annum

	£	s.	d.
1763	7	0	0
1764	8	0	0
1765	4	15	0
1760	5	5	0
1767	6	0	0
1708	6	0	0
1769	6	12	6

This item of revenue fell off so much at this time that, for the three following years, no one would hire it; and in 1772 it was only let for the trifling sum of 2l. 2s.

	£	s.	d.
In 1773 it let for only	1	10	0
1774	1	10	0
1175	1	15	0
1776	4	0	0
1777	4	5	0
1778	3	17	6
1780	3	5	0
1781	6	11	0
1782	4	5	0
1783	4	1	0
1784	3	7	6
1785	3	3	0
1786	2	2	0
1787	2	10	0
1788	3	5	0
1789	3	5	0

From 1790 down to 1804 these dues or tolls were collected with the town dues by the chamberlain, and after this date they were given to the clerks of the market, who shared the profits between them till the

year 1833, when they were let by public auction, on which occasion they fetched 24l.; but they soon fell from this price down to 8l. At which they have since remained, scarcely remunerating the tenant for his trouble.

Thus this branch of the revenue, which in 1699 let at twenty guineas a year, has gradually fallen off, until it is become, in the present day, of scarcely any value at all.

In 1740 the ferry and lights were let at 3l. A-year; but after that time the rent seems to have ceased, and we find that the corporation paid a certain yearly stipend to some one to look after the lights, buoys, and beacons. In December, 1745, we see this entry: "The ferry, lights, buoys, and beacons were offered to be let; but no person appearing to hire the same, it was postponed to the next assembly." At the next assembly it is said, "The ferry, lights, buoys, beacons, and poles are let to Mr. James Lamb for one year from Christmas next, for which he is to be allowed the sum of 9l. Under the same covenants as in the former lease, and to give security as usual The number of buoys in the channel to be five."

This sum varies, going down to 6l. In some years, while in 1771 the chamberlain was ordered to pay Richard Curd, for looking after the ferry, &c. for one year, 14l.

	£	s.	d.
In 1776 this payment was raised as high as	18	0	0
1786	20	0	0
1788	21	0	0
1791 it was reduced to	10	0	0
1792	10	0	0
1793	19	0	0
1795	21	0	0
1796	22	0	0
1800	23	0	0

In 1802 the same sum was paid, and here the entries cease altogether, in consequence, we suppose, of the harbour having been put into a regular commission, and henceforth managed by that body. The change which took place shortly after the year 1740 may be accounted for by the very bad state into which the old harbour had then fallen, and which had occasioned the application to Parliament for an act to enable the town to make the new harbour in 1724, and which was in operation at the period above specified.

	£	s.	d.
From 1763 to 1765.			
Disbursements	558	12	1
Receipts	552	5	9
Balance, Dr.	6	6	4
Annual average, £229 68.			

In 1766 the corporation borrowed 150l.

In 1768 the town clerk's salary was raised to 10l. 13s. 4d.; and the chamberlain's to 5l.

As a proof of their want of money at this time, we may observe that the tenants of the Small Box and Fish and Fruit farms were, in 1769, to be allowed five per cent. Discount on prompt payment of their rents; but though thus needy themselves, they gave ten guineas towards the repairs of the harbour at Broadstairs.

In 1770 we find a very singular transaction, which is this: the new harbour was now in progress, and money was required to complete it, when the corporation undertook to lend the commissioners the sum of 1000l.; but not having money of their own, they actually borrowed this sum for the purpose. The rate of interest was the same on both sides, viz. Four per cent. Per annum; and we can only account for it on the supposition that the corporation felt a deep interest in the harbour, and that their credit was greater than that of the harbour commissioners, and people would lend to them when they would not trust the others.

In the following year they borrowed 200l. On their own account.

From 1760 to 1771	£	s.	d.
Disbursements	661	18	11
Receipts	656	8	3
Balance, Dr.	5	10	8
Average annual income.	328	4	1¼
Deduct half 200l. Borrowed	100	0	0
	228	4	1¼

This agrees with the average previously quoted from 1763 to 1765, and therefore may be fairly assumed as the real annual income at that time.

Among their items of expenditure were the following: salaries of the town clerk, chamberlain, and other officers; poundage on collecting town dues and market tolls; interest of money borrowed; the average expense of water-works for ten years, amounting to 55l. 15s. 8d.

In 1773 further orders were issued that no leases for the future should be granted of the Salts to any but freemen.

In 1774, the corporation being nearly 200l. In debt, orders are given to borrow 250l. At four per cent. Per annum.

In September, 1775 the sum of 200l. Is ordered to be borrowed; but whether this is besides the former 250l. Does not appear.

1773 to 1775.	£	s.	d.
Payments	1434	10	4
Receipts	1403	14	5
Balance, Dr.	31	1	11

These receipts must include a good deal of borrowed money, otherwise we cannot account for the great increase.

The corporate body does not seem to have set any value on the old maxim, "You must be just before you are generous;" for while borrowing money with one hand, they gave away with the other. On December 20th, 1775, they give ten guineas to the American loyalists, and borrow 1007. to pay off another debt.

1775 to 1777.	£	s.	d.
Receipts	1317	15	8
Disbursements	1316	9	4
Balance, Cr.	1	8	4

1777 to 1778.			
Receipt	437	0	9
Payments	407	4	5
Balance, Cr.	29	10	4

In 1779 the corporation gave thirty guineas towards defraying the expense of raising a corps of volunteers, consisting of five companies of seventy men each, while the inhabitants subscribed 84l. 10s. 6d., making in the whole 116l. 0s. 6d. The lord warden paid a bounty of seven, and the town of Rye of five, guineas to each volunteer; the number allotted to the town was eighteen, the charge for which was 90 guineas, so that the subscription more than covered the expense.

1775 to 1779.	£	s.	d.
Disbursements	437	0	9
Receipts	407	4	5
Balance, Cr.	29	16	4

To meet this deficit it was ordered that money should be borrowed.

1778 to 1779.			
Disbursements	351	19	9
Receipts	210	16	5

Balance, Dr.

141

3

4

December 11th, 1783. It was ordered that the sum of 147. be allowed to Mr. Richard Pollard, the chamberlain, which he had expended in building a wharf on the eastern part of the Salt Marsh lands belonging to this corporation. This wharf is still remaining, and is known by the name of Pollard's Wharf. When first erected it was of much more use than at present, as then it was the principal quay for unloading of vessels.

From 1780 to 1783.

Disbursements	1472	16	7
Receipts	1336	10	10
Balance, Dr.	136	5	9

Average of one year, 455l. 10s. 3d.

In 1784 the corporation expended 45l. 7s. 6d. In rebuilding the almshouses at Land-gate.

In this same year they borrowed money to pay off former sums taken up, and yet at the same time, in the midst of their poverty, they presented the Rev. Peter Collett with a gown and cassock, as a compliment to him for his many years' residence in, and services to the corporation, and for his attending the prisoners a great many times in the gaol.

1783 to 1785.

Payments	786	1	4
Receipts	628	18	0
Balance, Dr.	157	3	4

For this balance the chamberlain was to be allowed five per cent. Per annum until paid. Of this officer they had borrowed 2007. the previous year.

In 1785 four guineas were paid for the erection of a building or shed in the Gun-garden, on the same spot, we suppose, as that on which one is now standing, forming a look-out for sailors and others interested in the maritime affairs of the town.

In 1786 an order was issued that no one should dig or carry away any sleet from the corporation lands without leave, and then only on the following terms:

Each freeman to pay, per waggon-load, twopence.

Do. do. Per cart-load. One penny.

Every other person, not a freeman, to pay double.

In 1788 the corporation very considerably ordered a shed to be erected near the Gun-garden Rocks, as a place of shelter to the fishermen in wet or bad weather.

From 1785 to 1789.

Disbursements	1082	15	11
Receipts	773	12	8
Balance, Dr. 309		3	3

Here we have the yearly receipts 1937. 18s. 2d. Only.

In 1762 the Brickwell Field (as already mentioned) was let for ninety-nine years to the parish, to build a pest-house on. Some time between this year and 1791 the lease seems to have been transferred to Thomas Phillipps Lamb, Esq., who then obtained full possession of it by giving the corporation, in exchange a messuage, garden, and piece of land in the Gun-garden. This was the spot on which the poor-house was afterwards erected.

In 1794 the corporation purchased certain warehouses at the Strand, of Mr. Procter, for the sum of 900l., for which they were to pay interest (until the debt was liquidated). And they ordered 1000l. To be borrowed to pay it off.

This body seems now to have been overwhelmed with debts; for we see nothing but orders for raising

sums of money to pay off old debts-borrowing with one hand to pay with the other.

1794, July 2d.	Order to borrow	300	0	0
Aug. 23d.	Borrowed	500	0	0
1796, Jan. 23d.	Mr. Procter and Miss Slade demanded payment of	1200	0	0
April 22d.	Borrowed	500	0	0
1797, Nov. 27th.	Order to borrow, to pay off another debt of 500l	600	0	0
1798, Oct. 8th.	The warehouses in the Strand sold for	620	0	0

Enough, we presume, is here recorded to show the disastrous state of the finances of the town, without going into further details.

From 1797 to 1798

Receipts	446	12	1
Payments	436	18	10
Balance, Cr.	9	15	3

1801 to 1802.

Receipts	389	4	9
Payments	380	6	1
Balance, Cr.	8	18	8

1802 to 1803.

Receipts	425	9	8
Payments	429	2	1
Balance, Dr.	3	12	5

1804 to 1805.

Receipts	425	14	5
Payments	413	9	10
Balance, Cr.	12	4	7

The above receipts show an annual revenue of about 4007., or rather more; but from 1813 to 1816 of only 134l. 14s. 4d.

The receipts having been	404	3	1
Disbursements	371	6	4
Balance, Cr.	32	16	9

a difference so great we cannot account for.

To bring this part to a close, we will give the financial state of the borough at the present time, that is, for the year ending August 31st, 1843.

Annual rents of marsh lands	455	10	0
Do. ground rents	154	10	0
Do. water laid on to houses	32	0	0
Annual revenue	612	0	0

EXPENDITURE.

Annual interest payable on mortgage debts	196	14	6
Working up water into the town	31	4	0
Land-tax	14	15	9
Insurance	1	3	6

Police-officers' salaries	26	19	0
Borough officers' do. (treasurer, &c.)	62	4	3
Gas lights	22	10	0
Mr. Charles Thomas's compensation	5	8	0
Scots on marsh land	17	13	0
Mrs. Horsefield's charity	4	0	0
Balance, Cr.	382	12	0
To which must be added a borough rate			
of 6d. In the pound, producing	170	0	0
	429	8	0

And this goes to meet the incidental expenses; such as tradesmen's bills, labour, &c.

The whole amount of mortgages owing by the borough is 4188l. 12s. 2d.

Interest on	£2918	2	6, at 5 per cent.	£145	18	1
Do. on	£1270	9	8, at 4 per cent.	£50	16	5
Principal	4188	12 2	Interest	£196	14	7

Of these mortgages we may observe that the one held by the harbour cannot be considered as any incumbrance, as the rents accruing from the North and Town Salts, over which it runs, far exceed the interest, which is only 50l. 16s. 5D, while the rents are 209l., leaving a balance in favour of the borough of no less than 158l. 3s. 7d., which more than covers the interest of all the other mortgages; and seeing that the finances are thus prosperous, we may reasonably hope the town will, ere long, reap the advantage of this position, either by the abolition of the borough rate, or in some useful and ornamental public works, which, improving its general aspect, may invite an influx of industrious and wealthy inhabitants, and thus tend to promote the general interest and prosperity of the ancient town of Rye.

A Statement of all Moneys received and expended on account of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Rye, in the County of Sussex, from the 31st August, 1845, to and inclusive of the 31st August, 1846.

RECEIPTS.

Rents of lands and houses	500	0	8
Dues for water	14	0	0
Borough and district rates	258	1	1
Fines on convictions	1	12	0
Miscellaneous	0	7	6
	744	11	2½

PAYMENTS.

Balance to treasurer	15	1	7½
Salaries	160	5	2
Pensions and allowance			
to municipal officers	5	8	0
Rates and taxes	18	18	5
Insurance	1	3	6
Police and constables	52	17	0
Lighting	27	0	0
Prosecutions	48	2	8
Gaol expenses	18	11	11
Maintenance of prisoners,			
vagrants; county expenses	30	10	0
Coroner	16	8	10
Repairs of corporate buildings			
and premises	47	7	7½
Charity	4	0	0
Preparing and printing burgess			

lists, &c.	7	14	0
Stationery	5	15	4
Law expenses	47	7	0
Interest paid	125	0	0
Miscellaneous	22	16	4
	774	11	2½

Rye, 9th Nov. 1846.

J. VIDLER, Mayor.

CHAS. TAYLOR, JOHN TYRRELL, Auditors.

H. E. PAINE, Mayor's Auditor.

CHAPTER III.

PUBLIC CHARITIES NATIONAL AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

BENEFIT SOCIETIES. MERCHANT SEAMEN'S FUND. SAVINGS BANK.

THE earliest public charity in the corporation of Rye was that of Saint Bartholomew's Hospital, which was erected for the support of decayed freemen and their wives, or, at all events, for women as well as men, for the fifty-ninth article of the Customal says, "and in the said hospital be both brothers and sisters, sometimes more, sometimes less." None were to be admitted without the consent of the mayor and commonalty, as appears from these words in the same article: "Neither brothers nor sisters shall be admitted into the said hospital without it be by assent of the mayors and of the commons." It was also further ordered that "the rules and statutes of the said hospital be read before the brethren and sistern, which shall be accepted and received before that he be received."

The hospital was under the immediate superintendence of a chaplain, for the article says, "the mayor of Rye and jurats, forthwith the commonalty, shall have the nomination of the chaplain, which is called the Custos of the Hospital of Saint Bartholomew, besides Rye, which said chaplain, his name, in time of peace, shall be sent unto the Abbot of Fyscamp; and, in time of war, unto the Lord Chancellor of England, and by one of them he shall be presented unto the Bishop of Chichester, and by him he shall have institution; and also the mayor of Rye shall take account of the said chaplain of Saint Bartholomew four times in the year, if he will." From this it appears that the mayor and commons nominated the custos when his name was submitted either to the Abbot of Fyscamp or the Lord Chancellor of England for his approval; if approved of, then the Bishop of Chichester was to institute him in his office. The abbot or the chancellor, on sufficient reasons, might reject the mayor's nominee, but they could not nominate a chaplain themselves.

The object of the hospital is more fully set forth in the sixtieth article of the Customal, which says, "the mayor may, by the assent of the jurats, when he findeth, amongst his commons, man or woman which hath competently borne charges with them in their time for the welfare of the town, and they be now impoverished and impotent, decayed of their goods and chattels, and little goods have to live with, he may put the good man or woman unto the hospital to take their sustenance among the brethren and sistern of the said hospital, without anything paying for it unto the said hospital. And the mayor and jurats shall have the keeping of the seal of the said hospital, so that the brethren and sistern of the said hospital shall nothing sell or diminish, without it be by assent of the mayor and jurats."

At what exact time the hospital was founded we have seen no record to inform us; but that it was at a very early period, either in or before the reign of Edward the Confessor, is apparent from the fact that this monarch gave the town of Rye to the Abbot of Fyscamp in Normandy, and this ecclesiastic had to confirm the Custos, who was nominated by the mayor, a power which he obtained from Edward by this donation.

This charity must have fallen into decay at a very early period, for Jeake makes no mention of it, nor is there any tradition among the inhabitants, as to the spot on which it stood. We sought a long time in vain for the site, though we had an idea that it stood without the town to the northward, on the west side of the road leading up Rye Hill, just within the bounds of the corporation, and this idea has now been confirmed by the following words in the document by which Henry III, in the year 1246, resumed the town into his own hands, where, speaking of the boundaries of Rye, it says, "*Sicut regale chiminum se extendit usque ad scaleram que est super feod. Bricii Palmarii et a dictâ scalerâ per quandam semitam usque ad terram Hospitalis Sancti Bartholomei et inde versus occidentalem in longitudine terræ dicta Hospitalis usque Dodeswell.*" Which we have before Englished thus: "As far as the King's Road runs to the steps which are on the lands of Brice Palmer, and from the said steps through a certain footpath, until you come to the land of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, and thence towards the west through the whole length of the land of the said hospital as far as Dodeswell." Assuming Dodeswell to be the present Queen Elizabeth's Well, and for the truth of which we conceive we have given good grounds in a former part, then the land of St. Bartholomew's Hospital must have been on the north side of a line drawn from the present road near Mountfield upper gate to Queen Elizabeth's Well, and thus indicates the spot we have alluded to, extending from the present Deadman's lane, northward, parallel with the turnpike-road, to the bound-stone of the corporation, near which is a well which was formerly open, but many years back a poor unfortunate negro was found dead in it, after which it was covered over. It is still in existence, having a good spring of water, which a few years ago was conveyed by a pipe across

the road to a cistern for the convenience of watering horses, and which is never dry in the hottest summers. This well we suppose to have belonged to the hospital, and the grounds which surrounded it must have been about eleven acres. The lower field now bears the name of the King Field, but whether this be indicative of some monarch's endowment of the hospital we will not take upon ourselves to say. The upper one is called Well Field.

St. Bartholomew seems to be held in high estimation by the Cinque Ports; for there was an hospital at Hythe and another at Sandwich dedicated to him, while, besides honouring him by giving his name to their hospital, the Barons of Rye always elected their mayor every year on the Sunday next after the Feast of St. Bartholomew the Apostle. But the glory of this saint has now departed from the town of Rye; the site of his hospital is with difficulty traced out, and the Municipal Corporation Bill, by fixing the 9th of November as the day for electing the mayor, has blotted his name out of the records of the town.

To those who love to give wings to their imagination and to sport in the regions of antiquity, it may be gratifying to believe that the tall elms, which grow on either side of Deadman's lane, may be the offsprings of some which, in the thirteenth century, formed the southern boundary of the lands of the hospital of St. Bartholomew.

We venture to place the date of the last-named charity some time in the eleventh century, and the next we shall mention belongs to the sixteenth, and though this does not relate directly and entirely to Rye, yet, as this town is indirectly benefited, and, moreover, as the donor was an inhabitant of the place, we shall not hesitate to insert it here.

In the year 1526, James Wilford, a ripper of Rye, left an annuity of 7l. To be laid out in repairing the ruinous part of the high road between River Hill, in the county of Kent, and Northiam Church, in the county of Sussex. The annuity was purchased of the Merchant Tailors' Company, and, after the death of his executors and relations of the name of Wilford, was to be vested in the parson and churchwardens of Rye; but, in case they should neglect their duty, then in the parson and churchwardens of Northiam, and, on their neglect, in the parson and churchwardens of Newenden, in Kent. The vicar and churchwardens of Rye lost the management of the money, but at what time is uncertain. The rector and churchwardens of Northiam received the annuity down to Midsummer, 1799, when it passed into the hands of the rector and churchwardens of Newenden. In 1804 the Company of Merchant Tailors refused to pay the money any longer, until they knew to whom they legally ought to pay it. No application was made for the arrears until 1819, when a petition, signed by the church-wardens and other inhabitants of Northiam, Rye, and Newenden, was presented to the company, praying them for the future to pay the money to the vicar and churchwardens of Rye. These latter parties now receive it, and pay it over to the commissioners of the turnpike, leading from Rye to Flimwell, who lay it out in such parts of the road as are considered at all dangerous.

The rippers of Rye were men of some importance in ancient times, being employed in carrying fish to London, where they enjoyed considerable privileges in the sale of it. Having to carry their merchandise in panniers on the backs of horses, they were well acquainted with the road between Rye and the metropolis, knew the value of a good and the inconvenience of a bad road. Bad as the highways generally were, we may conclude the worst part of this lay between Northiam Church and River Hill, and, in accordance with the will of the donor, the money, since it has come into the hands of the commissioners of the turnpike, has been disposed of in the following manner:

	£	s.	d.
In 1819 there were twenty years due, which, at 7l. Per annum, amounted to	140	0	0
Deduct twenty years' land tax at 28. per annum	28	0	0
August 26th, received	112	0	0
1821, August 8th, received	11	4	0
1623, November 24th, do	11	4	0
1826, March 7th, do	11	4	0
1827, September do	11	4	0
1830, August 5th, do	16	16	0
1838, July 6th, do	41	16	0
	218	8	0

This gives the exact revenue from 1799 to 1838, being a period of thirty-eight years, showing the annual receipt to be 5l. 12s. After deducting 1l. 8s. For land tax; and this money has been laid out as

follows:

	£	s.	d.
1821, May 8th, paid for putting up 181 posts with chains on the road leading from Northiam to Newenden Bridge.	98	14	7
1822, August 3d, do. On the same road	22	8	10
Stamped Receipts	0	3	0
October 11th, 1827. Repairs on same road	35	9	0
1830, October 14th. Do. On the road at Clay Hill, between Field Green and the Four Throws, in the parish of Hawkhurst, Kent	15	0	0
1838, July 20th. Do. Between Northiam Church, Sussex, and Highgate, in the parish of Hawkburst, Kent	9	2	6
1840, April 27th. do. do.	35	13	6
	216	11	5
This leaves a balance in hand of	1	16	7

In conclusion we may state that the will says he, James Wilford, had made the road from Northiam Church to River Hill.

In 1550 died Alexander Welles, and gave to the corporation of Rye a small spot of waste ground at Land gate, in trust to build an almshouse thereon for the use of poor, sick, aged, and infirm persons of the parish of Rye.

This gift is thus described on the tablet in Rye Church containing a list of the charities. In a little pamphlet, published by Captain Thomas Clark, on December 21st, 1818, entitled 'Rye Charities,' it is stated that Alexander Welles gave certain lands for the benefit of the sick and infirm poor, but where those lands are situate the corporation have not stated; but they say the lands do not produce any rent, and that they have built a house on it. The general tradition, among the old people of Rye, is that the lands, left by Alexander Welles, are those at the bottom of Mount's Field, and inclosed in the grounds belonging to the house there; but for which no rent is paid. The fishermen well remember drying their nets on the ground immediately below Mountfield House, and that they always had free access to it.

Neither of these descriptions is quite correct, as will appear from the perusal of the original, which is a deed of gift and not a will, bearing date April 10th, 5 Edward VI, A.D. 1551, written in Latin, of which the following is a translation: "Know, all men present and to come, that I, Alexander Welles, of Rye, in the county of Sussex, have given, granted, and by this, my present indenture, confirmed unto the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of the town of Rye, one piece of waste land, lying and being without the gate of west, and containing, in that part, twenty-one feet of common legal measure; to the common lands of the said town, towards the north, to be had and held the said piece of land, with all and singular its appurtenances, by the aforesaid mayor, jurats, and commonalty, and their successors and assigns for ever. Nevertheless, on the condition and form following, that is, that the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty, before the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist next, after the date of these presents, shall erect a certain house and closes, and make a garden adjoining to the said house for ever. And the aforesaid house and fences to the land they shall maintain for ever, and to the use of the poor of the same town, namely, of the decaying, the sick, the diseased, the feeble, and the infirm, on the nomination and appointment of the mayor and jurats of the said town for ever, to be known and constituted as a place of relief and a hospital for ever. And I truly, the said Alexander and my heirs, the said piece of land, with its appurtenances, in form and manner, to the aforesaid mayor, jurats, and commonalty, their successors and assigns against me, the said Alexander and my heirs, and his and their goods and chattels, and their heirs, will for ever warrant and defend.

"In witness of all these things, to one part of these presents remaining with the aforesaid mayor, jurats, and commonalty, I, the said Alexander, have affixed my seal. To the other true part, remaining with the said Alexander, the said mayor, jurats, and commonalty have affixed the common seal of the said town. Dated the tenth day of April, in the fifth year of the reign of the Lord Edward the Sixth, by the grace of God, King of England, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and, on earth, of the Church of England and Ireland, the supreme head.

His (A. W.) seal.

"ALEXANDER WELLES."

From this deed it appears the ground given by Welles was waste ground, and part of his own estate surrounded by it on three sides, viz. East, south, and west, and on the north by waste or common lands belonging to the corporation. Originally its dimensions were thirty-two feet on the east, twenty-one feet on the west, and sixty feet on the north and south; but now they are much curtailed, being thirty-two feet on the east, and about twenty-two feet on the west; but, instead of being sixty feet from east to west, it now only contains twenty-two feet, being thus deprived of thirty-eight feet, more than half, and which formerly constituted the garden. Its then jurats of Rye, and Edward Miller, of Rye, mercer. He also conveyed to them one annuity or yearly rent-charge of 32l. Issuing out of a certain barn, up-lands, and marsh-lands, containing by estimation fifty-six acres, situate in the parishes of Rye and Udimore, or one of them in the county of Sussex; and likewise a certain annuity of 4l.

Arising out of a tenement or messuage, situate in the Middle street of the town of Rye, called the Mermaid. The building, erected in the High street, Rye, was to be employed as a free school, ever afterwards to be kept there for the use of such schoolmaster and his scholars as should, from time to time, be nominated and allowed to keep the said school, by the mayor and jurats of the town of Rye, for the time being, or by the greater number of them; and also the rent-charges of 32l. And of 4l. Should be, for ever afterwards, converted and employed for the maintenance of such schoolmaster as should, from time to time be appointed and allowed to keep school there, by the mayor, jurats, and learned counsel of the said town of Rye, the reparations of fencing and inclosing the said school-house, back side and garden being first deducted. It was further provided that when only three were remaining out of the nine feoffees and grantees, these three should convey the said school-house and premises to the use of themselves, and such six other of the chief inhabitants of the town of Rye, as should be nominated and appointed by the mayor, jurats, and learned counsel of the said town. Lastly, he constituted the mayor, jurats, and learned counsel of the town of Hastings auditors and inspectors of his school, to whom yearly the trustees should be accountable, and in case they should be found to have abused or misapplied their trust, then the said trust should devolve on the mayor, jurats, and learned counsel of the town of Hastings. In 1644 the property was conveyed to the trustees by the executors of Peacock who was then dead.

The above is the substance of the will of Thomas Peacock, by which we see that he gave a school-room and other premises, together with an endowment of 32l. Arising out of lands purchased by his executors, and of 4l. Issuing from the Mermaid Inn, situated in what was then called Middle, but now Mermaid, street. This latter annuity was, in the year 1758, redeemed for the sum of 50l. Which was lent to the trustees of Saunders's school (of which we shall speak hereafter), who pay yearly to Peacock's trustees 50s. Thus the annual income of Peacock's school is 34l. 10s., independent of the school-house and garden. The lands, out of which the rent charge of 32l. Arises, are called Uplands, Clifflands, Rye Marshes, Gateborough, and Cadborough, situate in the parish of Rye.

The first master appointed, after the establishment of the school, was Mr. Hartshorn, of whom it has been said he was very worthy of the office, and, while he held it, he qualified several pupils for the university. From this remark it seems the school was then well managed, and happy would it have been for the trustees and highly advantageous to the town, if it had always been equally well conducted, but such was not the case.

On the death of the Rev. Mr. Collett, in 1790, the Rev. William Jackson, in 1791, was appointed to the joint mastership of Peacock's and Saunders's schools, when they were so much neglected that the number of scholars in the two was reduced so low as to render them of little or no value to the town, as may be seen by the following account:

Year.	Number of Boys.
1803	16
1804	14
1805	14
1806	16
1807	14
1808	15

This neglect was now become so glaringly apparent that, in the year 1812, an application for redress was made to the Court of Chancery by Captain Thomas Clark, a native and inhabitant of the town of Rye, and on which the Master of the Rolls did, after a due consideration of eight years, give his judgment, in the year 1820, as follows: "His Honour doth declare that under the devise contained in James Saunders's will, to the mayor, jurats, and town counsel of the town and port of Rye, an estate in fee of and in the charity estates passed to the said defendants, the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of

the town and port of Rye, and their successors as a corporate body; and his Honour doth declare that the said defendants, in their capacity of a corporation, are trustees of a charity given to the said town of Rye by the said testator's will. And his Honour doth order that the schemes approved of by the master, for carrying on the said charities in his report mentioned, called Saunders's and Peacock's Charities to the town and port of Rye, be carried into effect, and the schools, in the said report mentioned, be established and carried on under the regulations contained in the said master's report, from the quarter-day next following that, in which the costs of this suit, hereinafter directed to be paid, shall be fully satisfied."

The regulations alluded to were these: the two schools were to be separated and a master appointed to each. The master of Peacock's school was to educate fifty boys, and Saunders's seventy. The yearly accounts of Peacock's and Saunders's schools to be kept separate from all others, and to be examined and allowed by the master of the schools, the corporation of Rye, and the corporation of Hastings, and a copy of the same to be kept by each of these three parties, open to the inspection of any of the inhabitants on the first of every month, from ten in the morning until five in the afternoon, when they might make extracts. These are the principal regulations; but, unfortunately, they were not to be carried into effect until the costs were paid, which amounted to the enormous sum of 900l.; and, having been ordered to be liquidated at the rate of 30l. a year, it will, of course, require thirty years to discharge it, and, as the decree was dated February 8th, and 10th, 1820, the whole will not be discharged until Feb. 1850. However, the present trustees, to obviate the disadvantages arising out of this suit, as far as possible, did, on the death of the Rev. William Jackson, in 1828, separate the two schools, appointing the Rev. Robert Rowe Knott master of Peacock's, and Mr. William Stone Stocks of Saunders's. Under the management of Mr. Knott this school was greatly improved, and many scholars received an excellent classical education. On the latter gentleman leaving the town in 1835, the present master, Mr. George Easton, was appointed, the trustees require him to educate forty boys, to whom he does ample justice, instructing those in Latin whose parents require it, and each scholar in all useful branches of learning. Under his management the school is of great value to the town. The education bestowed on the boys could not be obtained anywhere at a less expense than 25l. each, consequently the school is worth to the parents whose children are educated there fully 1000l. A year. Thus, seeing how valuable this establishment is to the town, and how excellent a master now presides over it, it is only to be regretted his emoluments are so inadequate to his services.

In the year 1657, thirteen years after the commencement of Peacock's school, a commission of charitable uses for the town and port of Rye was issued by Cromwell, of which the following is a copy:

"Oliver, Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the domynions thereto belonging: To our trusty and well-beloved Herbert Morley, John Fagg, William Hay, Nathaniel Powell, John Busbridge, Thomas Collens, Samuel Coote, William Spence, Esqs.; Edward Polly of Burwash, Thomas Jealfes of Hastings, John Everden of Selscum, Thomas Brumfield of Udimore, Mark Thomas of Rye, and John Marten of Northiam, gentlemen, greeting: Know yee that wee, for the due execution of a certain statute made in the High Court of Parliament, holden the 27th of October, in the 43d year of the reign of the late Queene Elizabeth, entituled an Act to redresse the misemployment of lands, goods, and stocks of money heretofore given to charitable uses; and, having special trust and confidence in your approved fidelities, wisdomes, and discretions, have authorised and appointed you to be our commissioners. And, by these presents, do give unto you, or any fewer of you, full power and authority to inquire as well by the oathes of twelve lawful men, or more of the towne and port of Rye, in the county of Sussex (as well within as without liberties), as by all other good and lawfull waies and means, according to the purport and true meaning of the said statute, what lands, tenements, rents, annuities, profits, hereditaments, goods, chattells, money, or stocks of money, have at any time or times heretofore byn given, lymitted, appointed, or assigned by any king or queene of England, or by any other well-disposed person or persons, bodies, pollitique or corporate, for the relief of aged, impotent, and poor people, maintenance of sick and maymed soldiers or mariners, schools of learning, free schools or scholars in universities, repair of bridges, ports, havens, cawsewaies, churches, seabanks, or highwaies, education, or preferrment of orphan's reliefe, stock or maintenance for houses of correction, marriages of poor maydes, supportation, ayde or help of young tradesmen, handicraftsmen, of persons decayed, reliefe or redemption of prisoners or captives, or ayde or ease of any poor inhabitants concerning payment of fifteenes, setting out of soldiers or other taxes in any parish or place within the towne or port of Rye aforesaid. And of all and singular the abuses and misdemeanours, breaches of trusts, negligence, misemployment, not employing, concealing, defrauding, misconverting or misgovernment of the same lands, tenements, rents, annuities, profitts, hereditaments, goods, chattells, money, or stock of money, or any of them heretofore given, lymitted, appointed, or assigned to or for any the charitable and godly uses before rehearsed, according to the purport and true

meaning of the said statute. And upon such inquiry, hearing and examining thereof to sett downe such orders, judgments, and decrees as the said lands, tenements, rents, annuities, profitts, hereditaments, goods, chattells, money, or stocks of money, may be duely and faithfully employed to and for such of the charitable uses and intents before rehearsed, respectively for which they were given, lymitted, assigned, or appointed by the donors and founders thereof, according to the purport and true meaning of the said statute. And therefore wee command you that, at certain daies and places, which you or any fower or more of you shall appoint in this behalfe; yee or any fower or more of you doe make diligent inquiry and inquiries upon the premisses, and all and singular the same, and all other things appointed by the said statute, for you or any fower or more of you, to doe and execute, that yee, or fower of you at the least, performe, doe, and execute with effect, in all points and in every respect, according to the said statute and the true intent and meaning thereof. And the same inquisition and inquisitions, and every of them, together with all decrees, judgments, orders, and proceedings, which you or any fower or more of you shall, according to the said statute thereupon, make or sett downe, that you, or fower, or more of you, have, before us, in our chancery, with all convenient speede, or, at the furthest, in the morrowe of the Holy Trinity, next comeing, under the hands and seales of you or any fower, or more of you, and the hands and seales of them by whom the same inquisition and inquisitions shall be made, togither with this our commission. And wee also comand, by authority hereof, the governor of the Castle of Dover, his lieutenant or deputy in office there-that, at such tymes, daies, and places, as you, or any fower, or more of you shall appoint to them, they shall cause to come before you, or any fower, or more of you, such, and as many honest and lawful men of the said towne and port (as well within liberties as without) by whom the truth in the premisses may best be knowne to inquire of the premisses, upon their oathes, as you, or any fower, or more of you, shall require and comand them. Willing also and charging, and commanding all and singular our justices peace, mayors, sheriffs, bayliffs, constables, headboroughs, and all other officers and mynisters of justice, to whom, in this case, it shall or may apperteyne to be ayding, helping, assisting, unto you our said commissioners, or to any fower, or more of you, in the due execution of this our commission, as they and every of them tender our pleasure, and will answere the contrary at their uttermost perills. In witness whereof wee have caused these our letters of commission to be sealed with our great seale. "Ourself, at Westminster, the second day of June, in the yeare of our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty-seaven."

To this document is appended a magnificent seal, circular, almost six inches in diameter, bearing on one side a representation of the interior of the House of Commons, with the members assembled, the speaker presiding in his chair at the upper end, with two clerks writing at a table below him. Around this impression is the inscription,—"1651. The third year of freedom, by God's blessing restored." On the reverse is a map of Great Britain and Ireland; on the upper part, between the two islands, is a shield bearing a cross, the same as is seen on the silver coins of the Commonwealth; at the lower is another shield bearing the harp of Ireland. The water separating Ireland from Great Britain is called the Irish Sea as at present, while the English Channel is there designated the English Sea. This inscription encircles it,—"1651. The great seale of England." Of the origin of this seal we have the following account: "On January 9th, 1649, a committee of the House of Commons was appointed to consider on the propriety of having a new great seal, who reported it should have on one side the map of England, Ireland, Jersey, and Guernsey, with the arms of England and Ireland, and the inscription-The Great Seale of England, 1648; and that on the other side there should be a representation of the House of Commons sitting, with the speaker in the chair, and the inscription—In the first year of freedom, by God's blessing restored, 1648." This seal was immediately ordered, and a sum of 607. voted towards the expense of making it."

When this commission was issued there were only three charities previously founded in Rye that we are aware of, and these were St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Welles's lazar-house, and Peacock's grammar-school; but this latter had been only opened about seven years. It would be very interesting to see the return (if any was made) to this commission, to learn whether the first charity, above mentioned, was still in existence, and what was its then state. We have said if any return was made, for we rather suspect there was none, from the circumstance of the commission which we have copied being still in the archives of the town of Rye, which, we judge, would not be the case had a return been made, from the following words: "And the same inquisition and inquisitions, &c. &c., that you, or any fower or more of you, have before us in our chancery, with all convenient speede, &c., together with this our commission." We conclude that, with the return, the commission was also to be sent, and as this was issued in June, 1657, and Cromwell died in September, 1658, the whole matter fell to the ground.

Allusion is made, in this commission, to a certain statute made by that wise and energetic Queen Elizabeth, by virtue of which it was issued. Had this law been more frequently acted upon, Lord Brougham's "Commission for inquiring concerning charities" need not have been issued in 1818. The

pious and benevolent intentions of the original donors would not have been so shamefully perverted as, in many instances, they were; the poor would not have been robbed of their inheritance, and the rich would not have been disgraced by a participation in the iniquity of the acts whereby the robbery was effected.

The next charity, in point of time and importance, is Saunders's school. James Saunders, of Winchelsea, in the county of Sussex, yeoman, by his last will and testament, bearing date January 7th, 1708, appointed William Mercer and John Tilden his executors, and also named certain other persons to be overseers to assist his executors, and he directed these, with all convenient speed, to place out at interest, on good security, all and singular the remainder of his personal estate, and should so continue out the same for the space of ten years after his decease; and he also directed his executors to receive and take up the yearly rents and profits of all and singular the messuages, lands, and tenements, in the Isle of Oxney, or elsewhere, for and during the full term of ten years after his decease and no longer; but that his executors should, from time to time, as they should receive the same, by and with the consent of his said overseers, or the majority of them, place out the said rents and profits so received at interest on good security, and should so continue the same until the end of ten years after his decease. And at the end of these ten years he directed his executors to call in all his personal estate both principal and interest, and all the principal money arising from the rents and profits of his said estate, with the interest thereof, if any had been made. And he directed his executors, with the approbation and consent of the overseers, or a majority of them, to purchase a good freehold, messuage, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, in the counties of Kent and Sussex, or one of them, with all his personal estate and the interest thereof, and the rents, issues, and profits of his said real estate, with the interest thereof, which said freehold lands, tenements, and hereditaments, with their appurtenances he directed, should be purchased in the name of and settled upon the right worshipful the mayor, jurats, and town counsel of the ancient town of Rye, for the time being and their successors for ever, upon trust and confidence, that the said mayor, jurats, and town counsel, should, immediately from and after purchasing the said premises, provide a good convenient school in the said town, and should also provide a good, sober, and discreet school-master, who should teach and instruct the poor children of the ancient town aforesaid, to read in English, and write, and cast up accounts, and to teach and instruct them in the art of navigation, gratis, so as they should not exceed the number seventy at any one time, and that the said children should be sent by the nomination of mayor, jurats, and town counsel of the ancient town of Rye for the time being, and that the said school should be continued in the said town of Rye for ever hereafter, and that the said yearly rents and profits thereof, that was to say, of all and singular the messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, so to be purchased, as aforesaid should be, from time to time, for ever thereafter received by the said mayor, jurats, and town counsel of the said ancient town of Rye for the time being, and should be by them paid yearly to the said schoolmaster for such service and care therein, so as the rent of the said school be thereout first deducted and paid. And the said testator thereby expressed his will to be, that the said mayor, jurats, and town counsel of the ancient town of Rye, for the time being, should, for ever after the founding the said school, be taken, deemed, and accounted to be the governors of the said free charity school, and that they or the majority of them should for ever have the nomination and appointment of such schoolmasters, and should have full power and authority to remove, put out, and displace such said schoolmasters at any time whatever, upon his neglect of the said school or insufficiency in managing the same; but should within three months next, after the death or removal of any schoolmasters, nominate and appoint another sober and discreet person that should be fit for such an employ.

Mr. James Saunders, the founder of this school, died in 1709; when, pursuant to the directions contained in his will, his executors, in the year 1719, sold and conveyed an estate in the parish of Udimore, adjoining that of Rye, on the north-west, to Philip Gybbon and others, in consideration of 720l. in trust, for the mayor, jurats, and town counsel of Rye, for the maintenance and support of the charity school in Rye. This estate is now known by the name of the School-house Farm, and contains as follows:

	A.	R.	P.
Landlord's (or outside) measure	50	1	14
Tenants' (or inside) ditto	44	3	27

Besides the rent of this land, there was a drowned rent, that is, a rent issuing out of twelve acres of land in the Wet Level, in the parish of Wittersham, in the county of Kent, overflowed at times by the fresh waters in the season of floods, and which amounted to 7l.10s. A year; but out of which was

deducted 1l. a year for land-tax. At the time the farm was purchased there was a mortgage of 250l. Upon it, the interest of which had also to be deducted from the rent; but we must defer the financial part of the school for the present, as a more fitting time for its introduction will offer itself hereafter.

On March 19th, 1720, the trustees met and drew up the following articles for the management of the school, the original of which is still among the records of the town of Rye.

“Articles of qualification for a candidate to be master of the charity school within the town of Rye, founded by James Saunders, late of Winchelsea, in the county of Sussex, yeoman, deceased, agreed upon the 19th March, 1720, by Allen Grebell, mayor of the said town of Rye, Nicholas Mannooch, Thomas Grebell, Thomas Marrow, Walter Waters, Morgan Warner, Richard Higgins, Ralph Norton, Nathaniel Pigram, John Slade, Samuel Jeake, and James Lamb, jurats of Rye aforesaid, and Jeffery Gilbert, Esq., learned counsel in the law of the said town, pursuant to the last will and testament of the said James Saunders, as follows:

“1st. Imprimis. That he be a man well affected to his Majesty King George and the present constitution; a man of a sober conversation, good morals and manners, and especially one who hath not misbehaved himself, or given any just cause of offence to this corporation of Rye.

“2d. Item. That he be well qualified to fulfil the said will of the said founder in teaching to read and write, and particularly arithmetic and navigation in all their parts.

“3d. Item. That no freeman of this corporation shall be capable of being chosen a schoolmaster.

“4th. Item. That no person who has in any former school misbehaved himself, or neglected his duty, shall be capable of being chosen a schoolmaster.”

On March 24th, 1720, the same trustees again met, and framed the following orders and directions for the better government of the same school, viz.:

“1st. Imprimis. That the trustees for the time being provide a convenient school-room, and a good, sober, discreet, and learned master, who shall answer the several qualifications set down and annexed to these present articles; which said master shall be elected and placed for the space of three years from Lady-day next ensuing, and from the expiration of the said three, for three years longer, and so from three years to three years; and shall be allowed, for his care and pains in teaching of the charity children of the said town of Rye, for the first three after the rate of twenty pounds per annum, to be paid quarterly; and from and after the said years, such allowance as the estate purchased for the use of the said charity school will admit (consideration being had to the incumbrance thereon).

“2d. Item. That the founder of the said school being a dissenter, and no person or persons, either of the Church of England or of the Protestant dissenters, being excluded by the founder's will from the same privilege with those of his own persuasion, no schooler or schoolers shall be required by the master to goe to any certain place of worship, or to learn any Catechism, without the consent and approbation of his or their parents or guardians, so as they goe to some place of worship on every Lord's day (sickness or other infirmities excepted).

“3d. Item. That the schoolmaster for the time being shall not suffer his schollers to use or speak any opprobrious or reproachful language to or against the other schollers, upon the account of the said schollers or their parents being Protestant dissenters.

“4th. Item. That the schoolmaster shall exhort his schollers to goe to some place of worship upon every Lord's day; and upon every Monday morning (or the first time of their coming to school that week) shall examine his said schollers if they have been at some place of worship, and in case they have not, and refuse or neglect so to do, that then such schollers shall be dismissed by the mayor, jurats, and town counsel for the time being, or the major part of them.

“5th. Item. That the schoolmaster shall carefully and diligently teach and instruct such children of the inhabitants of the town and parish of Rye as shall be sent to the school upon the foundation by the trustees (so as such children do not exceed the number of seventy at any one time) to read English, to write, to cast accounts, and in the arts of arithmetic and navigation, freely, without demanding or requiring any money or other reward, directly or indirectly, for his care and pains therein. The names of such schollers shall be registered in this book to be kept for that purpose in the court-hall at Rye, with the times of each scholler's admission; and the master shall keep the like register, and shall compare the same with this four times in every year, within fourteen days next after each and every the following feasts, viz. Christmas-day, Lady-day, Mid-summer-day, Michaelmas-day, and at such other times as the trustees shall require.

“6th. Item. That the master shall deliver into the court-hall of Rye a true register, under his hand, of all such persons or schollers as shall be by him taught in the said school, not on the foundation, with the time of their admission and leaving the school, in such manner and form as shall from time to time be required and directed by the trustees.

“7th. Item. That if the said master shall be chose a freeman of the town of Rye, then he shall be ipso facto deprived of his mastership, and be absolutely incapacitated to be re elected schoolmaster of the said school.

“8th. Item. That the master shall begin on March 10th in every year, and so continue every school-day until October 10th then next following, to teach his schollers at seven o'clock in the morning, and shall not leave until five o'clock in the evening (except two hours about noon on every such day, and also except the holydays as they come in course, Saturdays in the afternoon, and from three o'clock on Thursdays in the afternoon); and shall begin on October 10th in every year, and so continue every school-day until March 10th then next following, to teach his schollers at eight o'clock in the morning, and shall not leave off until four o'clock in the evening, during the time last mentioned (except one hour and a half about noon in every such day, and except such days as before excepted).

“9th. Item. That the times of vacation or recess shall be as follow, viz. Not exceeding twenty days at Christmas, ten days at Easter, ten days at Whitsuntide, and three days at Bartholomewtide.

“10th. Item. That the master shall not absent himself from the said school (excepting holydays and times as are herein-before particularly mentioned, or shall be prevented by sickness or other infirmities) without leave of the trustees.

“11th. Item. That when it shall happen that the master shall be visited with any sickness or disease, yet his salary or allowance appointed for his maintenance shall be fully allowed and paid him during his sickness or disease, provided that his place be, within convenient time and in a reasonable and fitting manner, supplied by his deputy, at the proper cost and charges of the said master.

“12th. Item. That whereas the donation of the said charity school was principally intended for the benefit of the poor children of the town and parish of Rye, if the said master shall take or receive any strangers of other parishes to be schollers, or so great a number of the town of Rye (not of the foundation) so that he cannot duly, as he ought, by reason of the multitude of his schollers, teach and instruct the charity children of the said town and parish of Rye, then the said master shall, at his own proper cost and charges, provide a sober, discreet, and proper deputy under him, or in default thereof, that then the said trustees shall limit the said master to a certain number of schollers that are not on the foundation, above which number it shall not be lawful for the said master to receive or take any other schollers.

“13th. Item. That the mayor, jurats, and town counsel for the time being shall be overseers and visitors of the said school; and that they, or the major part of them, calling to their assistance such person or persons as they shall think fit (if they shall think fit to call any) shall have authority, annually, or as often as they please, to goe into the said school, and there to inspect, examine, and prove the schollers, and to inform themselves how the said master has observed and kept these present articles and orders, and if they shall find out any great neglect or default, the schoolmaster for the time being may be discharged

and displaced by the mayor, jurats, and town counsel for the time being, or the major part of them, anything before in these present articles mentioned to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

“14th. Item. That every schoolmaster of the same school shall have a true copy of these present articles, orders, and directions, to be by him, or at his cost and charge, copied and written out, which he shall keep by him, to the end that he may from time to time the better observe, perform, and keep the same.”

These articles, though framed as far back as 1720, remain, down to this year 1845, with very slight alterations, and these relate to the hours of going into school, and the periods fixed for the vacations. As regards the first, instead of going into school at seven in the morning from March to October, and at eight from October to March, the boys enter all the year round at nine; while, instead of having twenty days' holiday at Christmas, ten at Easter, ten at Whitsuntide, and three at Bartholomewtide, they now have fourteen at Christmas, fourteen at Midsummer, and fifteen in the hop-picking season, which is generally in September, when they go and assist their parents at this work.

Having settled the qualification of the master and framed the rules for the school, the trustees, on the same 24th March, 1720, proceeded to choose a master, and the following is a list of these, with the date of their respective appointments, viz :

1720, March 24th	Mr. William Hawney.
1733	Mr. William Wybourn.
1744, November 21st	Mr. John Hogben.
1769, April 10th	Mr. George Jewhurst.
1772, January 13th	Mr. John Hill.
1786, July 7th	Rev. Edward Leece Fleming.
1788, May 23d	Mr. John Sturley.
1791, May 10th	Rev. William Jackson.
1728, September 29th	Rev. John Simpson Myers.
1832, January 11th	Mr. William Stone Stocks, who is the present master in 1845.

According to the seventh article, any master who should be chosen a freeman of the corporation of Rye was to be incapacitated from holding the office any longer; but Mr. John Hogben having been made a freeman on August 20, 1760, while master of Saunders's school, this rule was repealed on the very same day, and Mr. Hogben was continued in his office; the reason of doing away with this regulation being stated to be, that it might “tend to discourage persons of ability from offering themselves as candidates for the mastership of the said school upon any future vacancy.” We are not surprised at this change; but only wonder why the article was ever framed.

We give the following list of the boys who were first admitted into this school, as it may be interesting to trace the changes which have occurred among the family names herein.

Nicholas Harvey.
 John Hall.
 William Godden.
 Edward, son of William Fowl.
 Richard, son of Richard Fowl.
 Edward, son of John Adams.
 Edward Waters.
 James Welch.
 John Kelsey.
 Thomas Powel.
 Lewis Merion.
 Richard Tayler.
 Robert Broad,
 John Hounsel.
 John, son of John Dadd, the sexton.
 Philip Oak.
 William, son of Richard Fowl.

Henry Wait.
 James Scott.
 William Holston.
 Thomas, son of Thomas Breads.
 Richard, son of John Lucket.
 David Swain.
 Thomas Gilbert,
 William Sissley.
 Henry Edwards.
 William Adams.
 Thomas Grailling.
 Michael Chandler.

These were the first who were admitted; twenty-three on April 19th, 1720, and six on February 20th, 1721. The number never seems to have been very great at any one time, the stipulated maximum of seventy having never been reached until January 6th, 1730, ten years after the first opening of the school, when many of those originally admitted had left, as appears by the register in which the time of leaving is set against the name of each boy on his entrance, and from this we see that no less than fifty-two had left, leaving only eighteen in the school at this time.

When this school and Peacock's were both placed under one master in 1792, the scholars became very few indeed, being sometimes not more than twelve; but according to the decree of the Master of the Rolls in 1820, after the expenses of this suit should be paid, the number of boys was fixed, according to the will of the founder, not to exceed seventy; but as this debt will not be fully discharged until the year 1850, the trustees having separated the schools on the death of Mr. Jackson, in 1828, allotted the number of forty to the present master, which is generally borne on his register, though it is with great difficulty they can be made to attend. Indeed it is a melancholy truth that neither children nor parents seem to have a just idea of the great value of education; of what chances it gives them of rising in the scale of society, as the wheel of fortune makes its great revolutionary cycles. It is also to be regretted that the seafaring class of inhabitants do not avail themselves of the advantages here offered them, of having their children instructed in the noble and useful science of navigation.

The number of boys admitted since the first foundation of the school is 1004. Up to 1792 there had been 331; from 1792 to 1820 there were only 175 new admissions; while from 1820 (the date of the Chancery decree) to 1828, there were 177, being two more in these eight years than in the preceding 28; while from 1828 to 1845, a period of only 17 years, 321 fresh scholars were admitted, fully showing the good effects arising out of the decision of the Master of the Rolls, and the necessity which unfortunately then existed for this extreme measure. We shall now proceed to the examination of the financial portion of Saunders's school.

The farm consisted of 44a. 3r. 27p. Of land, which was purchased for 7207., leaving a mortgage on it of 250/., the interest of which was to be paid out of the rent; but what this latter amounted to it is difficult to say, and, in the absence of any direct account, we must endeavour to make it out in the best way we can.

In the first article drawn up for the regulation of the school, we find it settled that the master was to have for the first three years 201. a year, and after the said years, such allowance as the estate would admit (consideration being had to the incumbrances thereon). Besides this 207. he was to receive 40s. a year to pay for the hire of a school-room. We have before stated, that independent of the farm, there was an annuity of 71. 10s. Arising out of certain drowned lands at Wittersham, out of which was to be deducted 17. a year for land-tax, leaving a balance of only 67. 10s.

We have seen no receipts for the salary paid to the school-master previously to 1735, when we have one signed by William Wybourn, amounting to 221., which gives 201. for salary and 21. for rent of school-room; and this is the exact sum agreed on at the very commencement. From these data we may learn the rent of the farm to be as under:

	£.	s.	d.
Amount of salary	20	0	0
Drowned rent (deducting land-tax, 20s.)	6	10	0
	13	10	0
Interest on 250l. At 4 per cent. Per annum	10	0	0

Total rent of farm	23	10	0
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which gives an annual rent of little more than 10s. An acre, and this state of things continued until the year 1759, when we find the following receipt:

“January 15th, 1759. Received of Mr. Jeremiah Curteis, eighteen pounds seven shillings and sevenpence three farthings, for one year's salary (being the net produce for one year of the school lands, except Mr. Jones's interest, being two pounds ten shillings, which is not paid this year, being usually paid but once in four years) and school rent, due to me at Lady-day, 1759, as master of the free school founded by the will of Mr. James Saunders, deceased. By me,

“181. 7s. 72d.

”J. HOGBEN.”

The 2l. 10s. Alluded to in this receipt must have been the interest for the 50l. Borrowed of Peacock's trustees, being the money received by them for the redemption of the annuity of 4l. Arising out of the Mermaid Inn, and which was redeemed in 1758 for this sum of 5l. And lent to Saunders's trust.

	£.	s.	d.
Then, from this sum of	18	7	7¼
we must deduct this interest	2	10	0
and school rent 2 0 9	4	10	0
	13	17	7¼
 Drowned rent	6	10	0
Add Interest on 250l.	7	7	7¼
Clear annual rent of farm only	17	7	7¼

The salary, after this time, differing from year to year, we give it up to the year 1771, as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
1759, July 4th, half a year	11	19	9
1760, January 14th, ditto	8	15	8
1761, January 12th, on account	10	0	0
1762, January 7th, to Lady-day, 1761	19	18	9
May 24th, to Michaelmas, 1761	11	1	9
1763, July 4th	9	18	4 ¾
1764, July 3	13	10	9
1765, August 6th, half-year's rent of farm, after deducting bills	11	6	3
Two years' drowned rents 12 18 0	24	4	3
 The rent of the farm was, to Michaelmas, 1764			
Drowned rents to Lady-day, 1765	109	7	3½
Deduct seven years' drowned rents, at 67. 10s. Per annum	45	10	0
Amount of rent for six years and a half.	63	17	3½
Annual clear rent	9	16	6
Add yearly interest on 250l.	10	0	0
Real rent	19	10	6

So that the rent scarcely altered in the last thirty years.

1768, August 18th, half a year's rent of farm to Michaelmas 1767	9	12	7½
One year's drowned rent 6 13 0	16	5	7½
1769, May 24th, drowned rent	17	9	9
1770, June 12th, on account	9	9	6
November 26th, half year	11	6	10
1771, June 8th, half year, doe Michaelmas, 1770			
Half a year, farm			

Drowned rent	7 1	5	10
	62	7	6½
Deduct drowned rents	30	16	9
3½ years' rent	31	10	9
Annual ditto, clear	9	0	2
Add interest	10	0	0
Real rent	19	0	2

Though we call this real rent, it is not quite so, because certain expenses were deducted for repairs, &c., as is clear, from the small amount received in June, 1771; however, this will serve as a tolerably sure guide.

For several years previous to 1771 the farm was let to a tenant by the name of Whiteman, and the rent, though low, may be supposed to have been a fair one for the time; but about the year 1788 it was let to Mr. John Prosser, a jurat of the corporation, and from this period we may date the origin of that malversation which eventually led to the affairs of this and of Peacock's school being thrown into Chancery, and which involved the funds of Saunders's in an expense of 900/., or rather more, and from which debt they are not yet extricated. I quote now from a pamphlet published by Captain Thomas Clark, in 1818, through whose praiseworthy exertions the two schools were once more restored to their original state of usefulness to the town.

"Mr. Prosser became the tenant at the annual rent of 327.; but owing to many deductions being made, it did not realize more than 187. On his death his widow held it until 1798, when another jurat, Mr. Richard Butler, hired it at a rent of 50%. a year, but with the express understanding that when the son of the late Mr. Prosser, who was born free, should be of age and take up his freedom, then it was to be given up to him, and which was done in 1809, at a rent of 897. a year, though at that time as much as 1307. might have been obtained for it; but this would not have answered the purpose of the corporation. In 1816, in consequence of the proceedings in Chancery, the farm was let to Mr. James Smith, at 110/. a year."

At the last letting of the farm, in the year 1838,			
The rent was	93	0	0
Drowned rent	7	10	0
Gross rental	100	10	0
from which various deductions must be made, and which are as follow, viz.:			
Annual allowance for repairs	2	10	0
Interest on mortgage of 140l.			
at 5 per cent. Per annum	7	0	0
Ditto on 50l. borrowed of Peacock's trust	2	10	0
Annual payment on account of debt			
incurred in Chancery suit	30	0	0
Master's salary	58	10	0
From which must be deducted,			
for rent of school-room	12	0	0
Net master's salary	52	10	0

The Chancery debt will be liquidated about the year 1850, when the master's salary will be 82l. 10s., which will enable the trustees further to increase the number of scholars, and thus to carry out the benevolent intentions of the founder.

We have stated that the farm was mortgaged for 250l. At the onset, and that when Peacock's trust lent Saunders's 50l. In 1758, this went in liquidation of so much of the said mortgage, and this we did on the faith of the evidence given before the court of Chancery; but we now find this was a mistake, for, in an entry of 1769, it is recorded that there is a mortgage of 250l. due to Edward Swaine, besides 50l. borrowed of the trustees of Peacock's school, making a total debt of 300l.

However, at present, as we have shown,			
The mortgage is only	140	0	0
Debt to Peacock's school	50	0	0
Total debt	190	0	0

but how thus reduced it does not appear.

The next charity is thus mentioned in the assembly-book of the corporation:

“October 14th, 1721. Whereas Mr. John Bradley, late jurat of this corporation, by his will bequeathed to the poor of the parish of Rye five pounds to be paid thirteen months after his wife's decease; and that the said five pounds should be paid by his friends Nicholas Mannooch and Edward Wilson (his trustees), to the chamberlain of Rye, for the time being, for the use of this corporation; this corporation giving such security as the said Nicholas Mannooch and Edward Wilson should think fit to pay five shillings a year for ever, to be distributed yearly upon Good Friday in bread, as the minister and overseers, for the time being, should think fit. Now it is agreed by this assembly that the mayor, jurats, and commonalty of this corporation, and their successors shall pay the said sum of five shillings a year, according to the direction of the said will. And the town clerk is ordered to draw a proper instrument to be sealed with the common seal of this corporation, for securing the payment of the said sum of five shillings per year.”

This interest of five shillings is paid by the treasurer of the borough to the churchwardens of the parish of Rye, who give it away in bread to the poor.

On March 28th, 1730, we find the following entries: “At this assembly it is agreed that this corporation shall accept of five pounds from the Rev. Mr. Edward Wilson, and that a security shall be forthwith made for the payment of five shillings per annum in such manner as the security entered into by this corporation for the payment of Mr. John Bradley's charity of five shillings per annum, Mr. Wilson paying the charge of such security.”

This last donor was the vicar of Rye, and the interest of his 5l. is paid in the same way as that of Mr. Bradley's.

These bonds are not now in the hands of the churchwardens, nor in existence, as far as we can discover.

On December 15th, 1769, another charity is thus recorded: “At this assembly the legacy of one hundred pounds, given to the mayor, jurats, and freemen of this town, by Margate Horsfield, late of this town, widow, deceased, in and by her last will and testament in writing, bearing date the twenty-second day of September, 1756, and proved at Doctors' Commons the sixteenth day of August, 1769, for them to put out to interest, and to distribute the said interest yearly, at the Nativity of our Lord, to sixteen of the industrious poor inhabitants of the said town of Rye, who should not receive relief from the parish, was paid by Mr. Matthew Moore, executor of the said will, into the hands of Mr. John Hogben, the chamberlain of this corporation.”

Beneath this, written in a different hand at a much later date, appears the following: “And it is ordered that the chamberlain of this corporation do pay out of the revenues of this corporation, coming to his hands, the sum of five shillings a piece to such sixteen industrious poor inhabitants of the town of Rye, who shall not receive relief from the parish of Rye, as shall be annually nominated by the mayor, jurats, and commonalty, so long as the said sum of one hundred pounds shall continue in the hands of this corporation. And, in case the same be put out to interest, then that the produce thereof be by him received and applied in like manner.

This money is still held by the corporate body, for which they pay four per cent. Annually, and this is distributed every Christmas to sixteen poor widows; the will of the donatrix specifying (as mentioned on the board containing a list of the charities in the church) that preference was to be given to such.

All persons intending to apply for this charity are directed to give in their names, at Michaelmas, to the treasurer of the borough, who delivers them to the mayor, aldermen, and town council, who thus have time to examine into the merits of the respective applicants, previously to the distribution of the money annually, at the following Christmas.

The last record on our board says, “Lady Gower, at her decease, gave one hundred pounds in the three per cents., the interest of which was to be applied to the education of poor children in the town.”

The original trustees were the rector of Winchelsea, the vicar of Rye, and Mr. Curteis; but the present are the rector of Iden, with the vicars of Icklesham and Rye.

The statement on the board that her ladyship gave 100l. Three per cents. Is not quite correct, because

the principal sum in that stock amounts to 117l. 2s. 6d., which we suppose was purchased with the money left, and which therefore, most probably, was 100%. sterling.

The interest is 3l. 10s. 2d. A year, which is received by the vicar of Rye, and by him added to the funds collected for the education of the children in the national schools of the town. No date is affixed to this gift; but we find that, as far back as 1740, the Right Honorable Mary Countess Gower was Lady of the Manor of Kitchenour in Beckley, and continued to be so until 1774, thus making her a proprietrix in the vicinity of Rye.

This is the end of the list of charities properly so called; but there are other things which, we conceive, may fairly be classed under this head, and which we will proceed to enumerate.

The Pole Marsh, from time immemorial, has been appropriated to the sports of the town, and in consequence of this the tenant is never allowed to mow it lest he should interfere with the amusements of the townspeople. In this marsh all the cricket-matches were formerly played; but within these few years these have sometimes taken place on the Town Salts, which may now be considered as set apart also for the inhabitants to sport on, as appears from the following entries in the corporation-books. In the early part of the year 1834 the Town Salts were embanked, and on June 5th, in this year, at an assembly held on that day, it was ordered that a plan should be prepared, to be submitted to the next assembly, for appropriating the Town Salts as small inclosures for grazing, or gardening, or pleasure-grounds, and that such plan should be adopted previously to letting the land.

On August 23d, 1834, at an assembly, held this day, a plan was produced for setting out part of the Town Salts as gardens and pleasure-grounds; but the probable expense not being stated, a committee was appointed to consider on the best mode of carrying the improvements into effect, and to report the same at the next assembly, which took place on Sept. 22d, 1834, when the following entry was made, viz.: "The committee not having come to any satisfactory conclusion, it was moved, and carried unanimously, "That it does not appear, at this time, advisable to incur the expense of laying out the marshes proposed for sporting-grounds, so as to form bowling-greens, cricket-grounds, or gardens, therefore the most eligible plan for the present would be (both for the accommodation of the public and for the sake of economy) to form such marshes into a level space, to which the public should, at all times, have access and admission, there to amuse themselves at their pleasure, doing no wilful damage to the fences or inclosures."

We know, because we were present at the time and took a part in the proceedings, that it was the full intention of the members of the corporation to set apart this piece of land as a sporting-ground for the inhabitants for ever. They saw that their town was circumscribed within very narrow limits, and that, unless that opportunity was seized, no other was ever likely to offer itself to furnish them with grounds on which the inhabitants might take air and exercise; and we sincerely hope that no one will attempt to throw a barrier in the way of the people's full enjoyment of the rights and privileges which were thus fully intended to be conferred upon them.

We have made these few latter remarks because we have heard that the town council have levied a small fine, by way of acknowledgment, on certain parties amusing themselves on the Town Salts, that they have no actual right to sport there. Now, if this be true, we sincerely regret it; for, as we have before said, the corporation in 1834 fully intended to give this land freely to the inhabitants at large, so that they might for ever hereafter disport themselves thereon, without any let, hinderance, or molestation. Again, when we consider how anxious the leading people in all our great towns are to obtain pleasure- and sporting-grounds, and to what great expenses they go to obtain this desirable end, seeing how essential it is to the health of their inhabitants, and how much it tends to promote a good state of feeling between the different classes of society, we do intreat the town council (if the report to which we have alluded, be true) to reconsider the subject, and to throw no obstacle in the way of the inhabitants having the full enjoyment of the Town Salts, agreeably to the good intentions of the corporate body, as described in the resolution entered in their assembly-book on September 22d, 1834. Rye fought many hard battles to regain her rights, and the men of Rye felt a worthy pride in leaving this sporting-ground as a memorial of their victory, showing to their posterity they were not undeserving of it. Feeling such to be the case, God forbid that any man should lightly invade the people's rights!

Besides Peacock's and Saunders's schools, at which are jointly educated fourscore scholars, we have two national schools, one for boys and one for girls, attached to the church, at which are educated altogether about 180. The Wesleyan Methodists have at their Sunday schools about 100 boys and as many girls. The Baptists have 130 children, and the Independents 30; thus making a grand total of 540 children educated by the charity of private individuals, independently of the two schools first

mentioned.

The sacrament money collected at the church, which is of uncertain amount, in part is distributed weekly, on every Sunday, to eighteen poor people, men and widows, in bread, and the remainder to sick persons.

Friendly benefit societies have long been established in England, and were first taken under the protection of the legislature in the year 1782. So early as 1758 one was established in the town of Rye, bearing the name of "The Friendly and Charitable Society of the Ancient Town of Rye, in the county of Sussex." This having been dissolved a new one was established in 1828, called "the Ancient Towns' Friendly Benefit Society." It received this title from some of its members being inhabitants of the sister ancient town of Winchelsea. This society had several "honorary members," and numerous "benefit members;" the former subscribing to the funds, but deriving no benefit from them; the latter having and receiving relief in time of sickness. This society went on prosperously until the end of the year 1836, when the majority of the members being desirous of remodelling it on a new basis, it was dissolved and a new one established on January 1st, 1837. The difference of the two societies was this: the former established a permanent fund, while the latter agreed to divide theirs every third year, leaving the sum of 10s. Each behind to form a new one to supply their immediate wants before the monthly contributions were sufficient to meet the claims of sick members.

The following is the introduction to the book of printed rules regulating the new society: "As the body of man is liable to many infirmities, by which he may be reduced so as to be incapable of providing for himself, we, whose names are hereunder written, have agreed to subscribe the sum of ten shillings each, and a further monthly contribution of two shillings, as a stock to be made use of, as well for our mutual help and relief as for the mutual help and relief, in time of sickness and otherwise, of such other persons as may be admitted members of "The Ancient Towns' Friendly Benefit Society," according to the rules hereinafter set forth. And it is further agreed that every person, who may be admitted a member, shall subscribe his name hereunto. Dated the 14th day of November, 1836."

In case of sickness a member receives 10s. A week for the first twenty weeks; and after this time, if he still remains ill, 5s.

The 28th rule gives the members the power, if they think fit to exercise it, of contracting with a medical gentleman to attend them in case of sickness. This plan has been since adopted, the medical gentleman receiving 50l. a year (payable quarterly), which at first was provided for by an additional subscription of 6d. Per month from each member, but now is paid out of the original monthly subscription of 2s.

On the death of a member his widow (if he leave one) receives 5l. from the society's fund, and a contribution of 1s. from each member besides, which (considering there are nearly two hundred members) amounts sufficiently high to be of great service in paying the funeral and other expenses contingent on the death of the head of a family. If the member leave no widow then the above payments are made to his children, or, if he have no children, to his father or mother, and if no father or mother, then to the brothers or sisters of the deceased.

The members meet on the first Monday in every month, and, on the first Monday in January they dine together, after having gone in procession round the town and to church, where the vicar gives them an appropriate discourse.

Every third year, on the first Monday in January, they divide their funds, leaving 10s. Behind from each member, as was done at its original foundation.

This is the principal society at present in the town, and these are the principal rules whereby it is regulated.

There are other societies somewhat similarly regulated; some dividing their funds annually.

There is one or more coal societies, the members of which subscribe small sums, and with the receipts (when sufficiently large) purchase a cargo of coals at the wholesale price, and which are divided among the members at the prime cost.

Within these few years a club of "The Manchester Odd Fellows" has sprung up in the town; whose rules are secret, partaking something of the nature of those of Freemasonry.

There was formerly a Freemason's Lodge in Rye, which was pretty well attended; but the members are

very few at present. So far back as the year 1722 an act was passed to provide for seamen belonging to the merchant service who might be maimed in fight against any pirate, by admitting them equally with those who were wounded in the king's service into Greenwich Hospital. But this hospital not being sufficiently large to admit even all those belonging to the navy, another act was passed in 1747, for the express purpose of providing for the relief and support of sick, maimed, and disabled seamen, and of the widows and children of such as shall be killed, slain, or drowned in the merchant service. At the same time certain governors were incorporated for the management of the funds which were to be collected, under the name of "The President and Governors for the Relief and Support," &c.

Each seaman and master of a vessel was to pay sixpence a month.

The governors above mentioned were stationed in London, and into their hands the money collected in the out-ports was pretty generally paid, although one clause in the last act empowered each of the latter to appoint trustees of their own, to receive and distribute their respective funds; and, under this clause, the merchants and shipowners of the port of Rye, in the year 1826, elected trustees, and have since that time distributed the funds, greatly to the benefit and satisfaction of all those who are interested therein.

The following is the state of the account, as printed and published, up to Dec. 31st, 1844:

RECEIPTS OF THE PRECEDING YEAR.

	£	s.	d.
Cash collected at Rye	70	16	0
Do. do. At Hastings	26	2	6
Do. do. At London	5	1	1
Interest on mortgages	39	11	3
Dividends on stock	4	7	6
Donations	18	5	0
	164	3	4
Expenditure	121	1	2
Balance, Cr.	43	2	2

From this balance of 43l. 2s. 2d. We must deduct, as due to the bank on the former year's account, 32l. 11s. 9d., leaving a balance in hand of 10l. 10s. 5d. The real expenditure was 121l. 18s. 2d., disposed of as follows, viz.:

Commission on receipts	5	1	11
Postages	0	1	8
Annual pensions	92	11	11
Temporary relief	23	5	8
	121	1	2

The trustees possessed at this time the following moneys, viz.:

On mortgages, at 5 per cent. Per annum	1200	0	0
In the 3¼ per cent, stock	100	0	0
Interest due	100	0	0
Balance in bankers' hands	10	10	5
Total	1340	10	5
Out of the principal sum on mortgage of	1200	0	0
There was collected by donations	205	3	7

Of these donations, amounting to 205l. 3s. 7D,

There was given at Rye	202	8	1
And at Hastings	2	15	6

During the year 1844 there were nineteen pensioners on the fund, and ten received temporary relief. The usual allowance to pensioners is as under:

Masters of vessels, when ill in consequence of any injury received while on duty, have, per week	0	12	0
Seamen, do	0	6	0
The widows of masters, annual pension	6	0	0
Do. seamen, do.	3	0	0

The children, until fourteen years of age, receive as pensions, each, half as much as their mothers.

Masters now pay two shillings per month, and seamen one.

The branch institution at Rye has become very prosperous and very beneficial under the fostering care of the trustees; but now, unfortunately, when they have created a good fund for the support of those who may become applicants for relief, the Government threaten to destroy all the branches of the out-ports, and to make the port of London the one great receptacle of all the moneys collected throughout the kingdom. The doom of the out-ports has been reprieved for this session of parliament; but it is very much to be feared it is only a temporary

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reprieve, and that an act will ere long be passed, adding one more link to that chain of centralization with which our different ministers bid fair, in a few years, to bind all the nation. How far this inroad on our old Saxon principles of self-government may eventually injure the national spirit, this is not the place to discuss; but, considering as we do that this has been one of the great corner-stones on which our national greatness is based, we cannot refrain from saying we deeply regret that any steps should be taken to overturn it.

The last subject we shall mention under this head is the Savings' Bank, which was first established in Rye, in October, 1816.

The deposits have been as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Oct. 1817, the first year	1033	5	0
1822, they amounted to	6399	11	2
1827, do.	10690	13	3
Nov. 1832, do.	11846	17	2
1837, do.	29055	14	11
1842, do.	36895	7	7
1847, do.	42406	18	11#

The great increase between 1832 and 1837 is accounted for by the junction of the Tenterden Bank with that of Rye. In 1841 the secretary was called upon by the government to make a return of the profession, business, or occupation of the different depositors, of which the following is a copy:

SAVINGS' BANK RETURN, MARCH, 1842.

Return of the Deposits in the Savings' Bank at Rye, in Sussex, showing the amount on the 20th Nov. 1841, classified according to the profession, business, or occupation of the depositors.

Number of Accounts	Amount		
	£	s.	d.
305 Infants and Children	2826	2	6½
192 Servants	4657	12	3½
97 Spinsters	3509	8	7½
84 Married Women	2820	18	9½
42 Widows	1679	7	3
12 Apprentices	168	3	0½
9 Mariners	373	3	3
17 Shoemakers	520	19	2½
4 Carpenters	625	12	3
6 Agricultural and other Labourers	3133	15	8½
13 Dressmakers	536	10	10
1 Town-crier	4	3	3

2 Merchants	78	7	0½
3 Farmers' Sons	29	13	1
3 Innkeepers	55	16	1½
5 Executors and Administrators	372	14	10½
2 Butchers	147	3	6
1 Hairdresser	76	3	0½
1 Solicitor	104	1	0
1 Corn-dealer	6	18	7½
1 Governess	126	11	8
1 Van-driver	43	9	5
3 Millers	69	14	2½
3 Gardeners	102	0	3½
2 Yeomen	191	7	11½
4 Gentlemen	80	3	0½
1 Spirit-dealer	1	7	7
7 Grocers	342	15	7½
3 Tailors	123	6	5½
3 Lookers	102	17	11
3 Wheelwrights	26	12	9½
1 Superannuated Officer	156	8	1
1 Chemist	47	16	6½
1 Bookseller	7	0	5
4 Graziers	124	15	3½
1 Sawyer	10	16	4½
3 Tallow-chandlers	32	8	10
1 Milliner	53	15	3½
1 Hatter	108	3	8½
2 Bricklayers	15	7	5½
3 Potters	47	0	11½
1 Cooper	24	16	11
1 Bargeman	62	2	0½
1 Pilot	56	13	10
2 Bakers	141	12	0½
1 Parish clerk	151	9	9½
4 Blacksmiths	155	16	5½
2 Dissenting Ministers	95	19	9½
3 Surgeons	218	15	11
4 Gamekeepers	69	11	0½
7 Clerks	253	17	10½
6 Coast Guards	304	0	1
7 Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses	149	12	8½
22 Farmers	846	4	2
1 Straw-bonnet-maker	9	19	6½
1 Ostler	0	10	6½
2 Glaziers	30	5	8
1 Revenue-officer	13	2	1½
1 Shipwright	20	15	9
1 Saddler	5	7	0
1 Excise-officer	31	17	8
2 Drapers	74	16	6
1 Carrier	30	7	9½
1 Churchwarden	30	6	8
1 Brewer	2	10	0
1 Marine	3	0	2
1 Fisherman	20	0	0
2 Bailiffs	56	6	0

248 Trustees for infants and children	3747	9	5½
4 Do. for charities	2170	41	11½
4 Do. for labourers	390	0	9½
8 Do. for servants	243	15	1
1 Do. for a widow	3	3	8
1 Do. for a bailiff	18	7	6
10 Do. for spinsters	341	13	5
9 Do. for married women	230	4	2½
3 Do. for apprentices	32	10	0
1 Do. for a bricklayer	20	13	6
1 Do. for a chapel fund	6	11	0½
1347 Total	£33760	16	6

The present interest allowed to depositors is 3 per cent. per annum.

The following is the last summary of the accounts up to Nov. 20th, 1844, with which we conclude the History of the Savings' Bank, and also of all our charities.

A General Statement of the Funds of the Rye Savings' Bank, Nov. 20th, 1844.			
To balance on the 20th November, 1844	£42406	18	11
By sums invested with the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt (including interest) on 20th Nov., 1844			
	£41436	8	10
Do. on account of separate Surplus Fund	140	17	7
By cash in the hands of Messrs. Curteis and Co., Treasurers			
	829	12	6
Total	£42406	18	11

The balance on the 20th day of November, 1844, is made up as follows:

916 Depositors whose respective balances on the 20th Nov. (including interest) did not exceed £20 each	5827	1	10½
358 Do. were above £20, and not exceeding £50	11258	5	9
171 Do. above £50, and not exceeding £100	11933	0	9½
43 Do. above £100, and not exceeding £150	5084	5	4½
33 Do. above £150, and not exceeding £200	6710	11	3
1521 Total number of depositors	39813	14	0½
47 Charitable societies	2325	4	2½
Balance invested on the separate Surplus Fund Account	140	17	7
1568 Total number of accounts	42279	15	10
Surplus on 20th November, 1844	127	3	1
Total	42406	18	11

Hy. Stocks, Secretary.