

MEN AND MANNERS IN TUDOR PLYMOUTH.

BY R. N. WORTH, F.G.S.

(Read at Crediton, July, 1882.)

THE discovery by myself, in January, 1881, that a large folio MS. book, which had been found among the muniments of the Morshead family, at Widey Court, near Plymouth, was a long missing volume of the accounts of the Receivers of the borough of Plymouth, made the financial history of that municipality practically complete for some four centuries. That history embraces many features of peculiar interest, and I have made such selections from the period of our Tudor monarchs, as seem to have special value in the general illustration, either of men and manners in the West in the sixteenth century, or of the connection of Plymouth with the national life. Matters of merely local interest are excluded. To the extracts such notes are appended as their elucidation seemed to require.

1486.

Itm payd fior vj lovys of sugg^r weyyng xxxviij q^r at vj y^r
lb y^e whyche was gevyn to my lord steward and vnto Syr
John Sapcott at plymton when we made owre benevolence
of C mark for the whole town of p xiiij^s ij^d

A portion of this was disallowed. "My Lord Steward" was Lord Willoughby de Broke, of Berealston, the first Lord High Steward of Plymouth whose name has been recorded.

Itm payd to y^e men y^t made clen the pytt ffor the cok yng
stoll v^d

Itm payd vnto John Gell y^e sarment agaynst Crymas
[crimes?] yn Redy mony at y^e May^{ors} commandyment iij^s iij^d

This was disallowed. The pay was fair, all things considered—nearly equal to thirty shillings—but by no means extravagant.

Itm payd vnto Syr John em ffor John brown ys tabyll y^e
playyd to organs for iij wekks iij^s

This also was disallowed. Table, of course, is board.

Itm payd vnto mast^r tresawell when he went to london y^e
xviij day off december ffor to speke to my lord broke
for ye benyvolence xx^s

Tresawell was Recorder. He must have travelled cheaply.

Itm payd vnto to men that fyt y^e tymbr owte off aman ys
hovs when he was troblyd ij^s

Was the "troubling" lunacy?

Itm payd ffor ij gallons off wyn ffor y^e mayer and his
brethron when they sawe y^e franchyse a but xvjd

The first entry of payments made on account of "Freedom Day," when the bounds were beat, a custom which has survived with much of the olden form to the present time.

Itm payd to John Gell ffor setyng on the ffytters a pon
y^e prest his lyggs ij^d

This could hardly be the Gell who preached against "Crymas." Fettering priests, too, was a somewhat dangerous procedure four centuries since.

Itm payd to y^e stanyer off totnys ffor y^e taynyng off ij
standers ffor y^e town w^t vj^s viiij^d y^e y^e may^r paid xiiij^s iiij^d

Itm payd vnto y^e stayner off totaneys ffor staynyng off ye
gret baner ffor y^e town xx^d

Itm payd vnto Wyllm Seyet y^e westment maker ffor frang-
gyng off y^e gret stremer ffor y^e town ij^s iiij^d

By "stainer" we must, I presume, understand "dyer," and the presumption also is that at this date Plymouth did not possess one of these "artists." In most other respects it seems to have been well supplied. Thus we have

Itm payd vnto Jhamys the goldamyhe ffor mending off
rystaffer [Christopher] ys mase x^d

And the Corporation maces came so frequently to repair that one is tempted to believe they were used to keep order in no formal sense, but according to their original intention.

Itm payd ffor foreys to make the ffyr bekyn at hawe iij tymys ix^d

Itm payd vnto the whaycheman att Rame ffor kepyng off
ye bekying ther & brinyng iij tymys iiij^d

Itm payd vnto Wyllm bovy ffor the kepyng off the bolwerke
ffor a yere vj^s viij^d

These are entries illustrative of the fact that the town had to see to its own defence. It had a few guns on the Hoe in bulwarks, some of which were known by personal names, as "Thyckpeny ys bolwerke;" but depended largely upon the warning given by a look-out man at Rame Head. William Bovey was this year the "captain of the fort." "Foreys" is of course furze.

Itm p^d to master mayer to be burges of the plement . xxvj^s viij^d

The first entry of the payment of members of parliament.

It p^d to the olde man the synger by the comaundement of
master mayer, master henscot & oders for to go to
plymton to fetch mass y songs xii^d

That is, in all likelihood, to Plympton Priory. There are sundry entries in another old account book so far back as 20th Edward IV. (1481) of receipts and expenditure on St. Andrew's Church, continuing over several years, but irregularly. The most curious are those for receipt of "dawnsyng" money of various women, including "agnes dowster of Katyn hoker" 11s.; "Johne sruant of Thomas Groype" 11s.; "Jonett potter" 9s. 9d.; "Johna filia will Nycoll" and Roger Payne. This went with other monies at this date to the erection of "Seynt John ys Ile yn Seynt Andrewe ys churchc."

1494-5.

It paid to Cotewyll for y^e renewyng of y^e pyctur of
Gogmagog a pon y^e howe vij^d

The first entry in the Records referring to the ancient work of hillside sgraffito, which was supposed to commemorate the legendary combat between Corinaeus and Goemagot. Carew a century later describes it as consisting of two figures, "the pourtrayture of two men, the one bigger, the other lesser, with Clubbes in their hands." It continued to be "renewed" at intervals until the practice ceased with the spread of Puritan ideas; and the last vestige must have disappeared when the Citadel was erected by the second Charles. The "pyctur" was at this date even apparently of some antiquity, and in some way associated with the corporate life. We have no means of knowing whether it preceded or followed the publication of the *Chronicle* of Geoffrey of Monmouth.

In this year there occur a number of items concerning a suit pending between the town and (apparently) Sir John Crocker (of Lyneham?). Some of the entries are very edify-

ing revelations of what in the present day would be regarded as perilously akin to bribery and corruption. It may have been in all innocence that wine was given to the Judges—Halewyll and Sapcote—and the Sheriff, but we cannot so easily explain away and justify the following:—

It to G. Fforde for a hogghshed of wyne ge vyn to M^r Shyryff
to be cure good mast^r yn making of S^r John Crocker is
vij panels ayenst vs xxiiij^s iiij^d

The under-sheriff had 3s. 4d. with a quart of Malmsey for "making of o^r vij panels," and the Sheriff another hogshhead. "Four rybbys" of beef cost 10½d. The trial was heard at two assizes, and there was paid "to helpe to rewarde y^e jury" £1 6s. 8d. once, and 6s. 8d. the other time.

It to S Willia^m Courteney at S. Carsewyls hows ij galons
of wyne at his dyn^r & a galon at Sop [supper] by cause
he was one of o^r best Jurors ij^s

William Thykpeny also laid out money at Exeter to help to pay the jury. He was then Recorder.

The townsfolk were always desirous to stand as well as they could with their more powerful neighbours, and they seem to have been on terms of special amity with the Edgcumbe family. The first reference of this kind I have been able to trace is the following:—

Coste done to mast^r Eggscomb by advys of m^r Mayr m^r
Record^r the xij & the xxiiij when he was made Knygt
and Shyryff.
ffirst for ij Sug^r loffe weyeng x li qrtr iiij li qrtr y^e of at
xvij and ye vj li at ij v^d sm^a iiij^s xi^d
It ij botells of Redde wyne pce ix^d
It a potell of Malmsey viij^d
It a Galon of Claret wyne & bayne wyne viij^d
It a botell of bastard v^d
It do dos of pownegarnarde a pownde sedo & a dos do of
Orenges viij^d

The "xij" and "xxiiij" were the aldermen and councillors.

1495-6.

Itm p^d to William Thykpeny and to Willm Bree burgs of
the pliament the same yere xl^s

In the next year the Recorder had 20s., and Bree 13s. 4d.

1496-7.

Item p^d to aman y^t was send vnto Exetr when the Captyn
 was at Exet^r to Spy tydyngs ij^s vjd
 Item delyv^yd vnto viij mē y^t wer send by y^e mayer to my
 lord of devonshyr in Cornewalle to defende pkyn viij^s iiij^d

They were dressed in "Grene Jaketts," which cost 8d. the yard. These entries refer to the expedition of Perkin Warbeck, against whom Plymouth sent a small contingent. It is curious to note "defend" used here in the sense of oppose, which has continued to the present day in France.

1498-9.

This year a gallows was put up which cost 4d. for timber and 1s. in making; and a pillory provided which cost 3s. 8d. They were put in speedy use. The authorities of Plymouth at this date inflicted capital punishment.

Item for a ladder to peryn Erle to hang the thevys x^d
 Item p^d to vj men to go to the Galowes w^t Jagge vjd
 Item yn ale vppon the same mē iiij^d
 Item yn halter for to hange the thefys and to bynde ys
 armys v^d
 Item to Russell to sett y^e ij pson's in the pelory iiij^d
 Item to John Wylle for setting on of the pson's ys Geves
 and for smytyng of the same vjd
 Item p^d to John Gryelyng for xxx galons iij pts of bastard
 geven to Mr. Bowryng for his comyng hyder to do ex-
 ecucion vppon Cornet & Kelly xviij^s xjd

Bowryng had become Recorder.

1499-1500.

Item yn mony yeven to pyyncyall of the whytt frers for a
 Sorman xx^d

Sermons had gone down in value since John Gell's day.

1500-1501.

Item p^d for iij potellys of wyne when mast barefote made a
 armon xij^d

Two "Canons of Plympton" had a potell also, cost 4d., and the Dean of Exeter three gallons of wine and two loaves of sugar. Dignitaries were always credited with a sweet tooth. "Mast barefote" was of course a preaching friar.

Item p^d to the pryer of whytefryers for a nelme [elm] for y^e
 stockys & the skytyngstole iij^s iiij^d

Item p^d for a chayr to y^e aktyng stole vj^d

I have not elsewhere met with this colloquial name for a close stool.

Item more y gave a Reward vn to my lord steward ys sruant
for bryngynge of a bucke the which my lord sent vn to
y^e mey^r & hs bretheryn iiij^s viij^d
Itm p^d for flour to bake y^e same venyson viij^d
Itm p^d for pep to y^e same viij^d
Itm p^d for trencherys i^d
Itm p^d for bred ix^d
Itm p^d for Red wyne xviij^d
Itm p^d clarett wyne ij^s vj^d
Item p^d to byrdwoode for bakynge of y^e venison viij^d

"My lord steward," as already noted, was Lord De Broke of Beer, high steward of the town, for whose reception subsequently the Guildhall was beautified with plaster of paris, and "paynted cloth" made.

1501-2

We now come to a very interesting series of entries, connected with the landing and reception of Katherine of Arragon, who was entertained at her arrival by a Plymouth merchant named Payuter.

Itm p^d to Richard Gewe for vj oxen the wich wer psented
to my lady prynces vj^{li} vj^s viij^d
Itm p^d to Gelan Mellow Bocher for xx shepe the wich wer
psented to my lady princes xxxiiij^s iiij^d
Itm p^d to Willm Chapyn for iiij shepe that wer psented to
my lady princes viij^s viij^d
Itm p^d for ij hogshedds of Gaston wyne wich was psented
to my lady princes xls
Itm p^d to Mr. Yogge for a hogshed of clarett wyne psented
to my lady princes xvj^s viij^d
Itm p^d for a pipe of meskedall psented to my lady prynces xlvj^s viij^d
Itm delyu^ryd to my lady prynces ys amner [almoner] to
wryte oure supplicacion yn Spaynysch and in latyn and
to be owre salucyt' x^s
Itm a Reward to the prynces ys mylstrells ij^s
Itm to the Erle ys mylstrella of Spayne xx^d
Itm to the prynces ys ij fotemen at his deptyng ij^s

There is an evident "derangement of epitaphs" in the mind of the writer, or he never would have called Katharine "ys." Perhaps he was not used to royalty, and so scared out

of his grammar. And we also have a reference to the death of Prince Arthur.

Itm pd to the bell ryngers for my lord prynces ys dyryge
and at masse xij^d ob

1504-5.

About this time there was considerable expenditure on guns, &c., and two great guns were bought, of all places in the world, "owte of Spayne." They were made under an agreement, and paid for by "xxij doss of whytta" worth £7 11s. 8d. This cloth was packed in canvas and sent to Saltash (!) for exportation; and we also have

Itm for iij cheays sent yn Spayne for a reward to the
makers of y^e same Gunys pmysed vppon the bargyn . . . x^d

The freight of the guns from Spain was 11s. Other guns were bought with dried hake at 13s. 4d. the hundred, also in Spain.

1505-6.

Itm p^d to the purcevant for bryngyng of the kynga lett^r
when the Knyg of Castell landed here ij^s

This would presumably be Philip the Fair, who married Joanna, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, and who, after the death of the latter, succeeded in right of his wife. Probably he put in on his way from the Netherlands to Spain.

1507-8.

It for xx quarters of Stone cole for the kyll at Castell
pce the qtr xx^d sum xxxij^s iiij^d

This "stone coal" would be culm, probably from the North of Devon, the use of which for burning lime has continued to this day.

1509-10.

It deluy^d to John Bryan for harry Strete and hym beyng
burges of plement for the towne for ther labo^r and Ex-
pences duryng the plement and for rewards and pleasurs
gyven to dyus lordes of the Courte to be fryndeley to
the towne x^{li}

A very suspicious entry, and only one of many pointing in the same direction. The Mayor, "twelve and twenty-four," were autocrats within the town, but had to be very wary of their ways without.

1510-11.

Itm for a hoggs hed of bayne wyne which was dranke yn
the mkett at the pcession for the byrthe of the
prynce xiiij^s iiij^d

Four gallons of Rompney at 8d. were also drunk at the
same time. The market was then in Old Town Street.

1511-12.

Itm to John Gryalyng for a hoggs hed of wyne which was
sette a broche & drunken vppon the key when the
pryor of plympton & his Company were here to rescuwe
the town when it was said the frenshemen had brende
[burnt] fflowey xx^s

These monks of Plympton were true members of the church
militant.

Itm p^d to the hermyte of Seynt Katyn to mende the tyle
yn the Chapell the which was broken w^t the gynne iiij^d

The chapel of St. Katharine was on the Hoe.

Edmund Peryn, of Totnes, was taken up on suspicion of
felony because he had certain gold on him, and was sent to
Exeter. The town had the money, and paid the Recorder
£3 16s. 6d. "because he laboured that the towne had the
golde which was taken w^t the same man." It is perfectly
clear that whether Peryn had or had not a right to the money,
the Corporation had none; but they were engaged in heavy
expenditure just then, upon a new "causey" [= causeway] or
pier; they applied "xxi dokatts" of their treasure trove in
that direction; and no doubt were perfectly satisfied that the
end justified the means.

1512-13.

Itm for copenll of Capons of Chekins & for puffyns
for a pcent to my lorde Admyrall & for a fisher bote
to sett m^r Mayre & his Company a borde my lorde is
shyp xij^s vj^d

Puffins were held a dainty in those days, and formed part
of the rent of the Scilly Isles.

1513-14.

In this year we get a curious insight into one of the ways
in which an ancient Corporation of shrewd intelligence might
increase its borough funds.

m^d that ther was taken owte of a flemyng shyp this yere yn the tyme of warre vj ffrenshe men psons w^t the which was taken of ther goods yn the said shyp viij butts & j hoggshed of Romney where oon butt went to vlage the other so remayned but vij butts & j hoggshed of the whiche ther was solde to dyus psons vj butts & j hoggshed pce for the butte liij^a iiij^d & the hoggshed for xxij^a iiij^d sm^a xvij^{li} iiij^a iiij^d

Itm Rec^d of oon of the forsaid ffrenshemen that were taken psons yn the said flemyng shyp the which was a pilott yn the same shyp for his Raunson (xls) & of ij other of them (xr^a) a pece beside oon of them that dyed & beside ij of them the whiche went home for their Raunson and came not ageyn iiij^{li}

One visit to Plymouth was evidently enough for the defaulting men. Those might keep parole who would; they preferred to keep themselves.

The £21 3s. 4d. was not all profit. The master of the Fleming was honourably paid £3 10s. for the freight of the wine, and the cost of landing and putting it into John Paynter's court was 10s. Paynter was paid for cellarage, and 8d. was paid to watch it. Paynter's house is supposed to have been the recently destroyed Palace Court in Catte Street, where Katharine of Arragon was entertained. The seventh cask of wine was given for work done on the "causey." Six other Frenchmen was made to pay £1 ransom, one each being taken out of a Spanish and a Flemish ship, and four captured "by the towne." The Fleming who told the Mayor the Frenchmen were in the Flemish ship had 1s. 6d. for his pains.

The shot for the guns were this year made of "moor stone;" i.e. granite, afterwards the red sandstone of Staddon was employed.

1515-16

It gyuyn in Rewarde to the Kyng's Bereherde v^a
It in Rewarde to luskum for his dogge at the bere baytynge. iiij^d

Probably the poor dog paid the penalty of his pluck.

1518-19.

It p^d to mast^r Jerman of Exett for arrs of his paymet to hym due at thexecucion of the Spaynarde in the tyme of Willm Brokyng m^r vj viij^d

This was the end of an affray in which "Thomas Rowland and ffote were slayne," by Spanish sailors. Observe, the executioner is "master."

It for a waynescott for the kyngs armes	viiij ^d
It for makyng of the same	viiij ^d
It for golde to paynte the same	vj ^s vj ^d

The arms were for the Guildhall, which had been re-edified.

1520-21.

Bishop Veysey came to the town, and was notably entertained.

It payd to Symon Wering for hys labor aboute the ordenns shotyng at my lorde bysshopp beyng here	xvj ^d
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The Mayor and some of his brethren spent 15s. 4d. in riding to Chudleigh to give the town present to his lordship, to wit:

It payd for v greayd Congers for my sayde lorde of Exetter is present	xxj ^s
It for ij ^c of suete Orynges & ij ^c of seure orynges	ij ^s iiij ^d
It for a box of fyne marmalade	ij ^s
It for ij potts of conarua	ij ^s
It for a frayle of grete figgs	ij ^s
It ffor xx ^{li} of Reasons of the son	xx ^d
It pd for the Caryeng of the same present	ij ^s iiij ^d

In the following year the Corporation gave the Bishop congers and marmalade, which reminds one of the proverbial "cream and pilchards."

1521-22.

It gyuyn in Rewarde to the dyver that dyvyd vnder watr	ij ^s iiij ^d
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They had something to do with the fixing of a chain and boom at the mouth of Sutton Pool to protect it against the enemy.

1523-4.

Itm gyuyn in Reward to the kyngs Joculars	vj ^s viij ^d
Itm in Reward to hym that Caryed the Kyngs Camell	ij ^s
Itm in Reward to the wayte on mydsom ^r nyght watch	vij ^s
Itm p ^d for pap threde & Caryng of gonnys into the Churche yarde & makynge of wyldefyre at the Watche	xij ^d

"Joculars" for Jugglers supplies a tempting etymology.

Itm p ^d for wyne sent to the Commyssoners at the ffryers	xv ^d
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At the Whitefriars, or Carmelites.

1524-25.

Itm p ^d for ij gallons of Wyne sent to Sr pyers Eggecombe & to my lady his wyff at theyre fyrst home comyng	ij ^s
Itm for a hogged of Gascoyne wyne gyuyn to my lady Egge- combe	xxxij ^s iiij ^d

It p^d for i^c of wode at the Tryvmphe xvij^d
 It for a hoggd of wyne & Caryage of the same at ye
 tryomphe xx^s iij^d

1526-7.

It p^d to Mr Mayre & his breth^{er} for theyre costs redyng to
 Exetter ffor reformation of the Tymes xxvj^s viij^d
 It p^d for vpysettyng [setting-up] of a Clok in the geldhall
 & for the same Clok bought of Ro laurence xxiiij^s vj^d
 It p^d for Weyer for the Clok xv^d
 It p^d for yreworke for the Clok to Coke the Smyth xv^d
 It p^d for nayles for the Clok frame iij^d ob

The town did not long enjoy its "Clok" however; for in the next year we read—

Itm Rec of master herford for the Clok of the geldhall that
 he bought of the Towne xxvj^s viij^d

Still the Corporation only lost 8^d. by the transaction.

1527-8.

Itm Rec of tharrogasye [the argosy] for defendynge theyre
 shyp ageynst the ffrenshemen that wold have taken
 her xvj^s xiiij^s iij^d
 Itm Rec of ij Spaynards for lyke defens xxvj^s viij^d
 Itm p^d for wyne at the welcom of the ffrenshe Kyngs
 capteynes when they were comaundyd to com a lond
 out of theyre shippes to be spoken wthall for the peace to
 be kept wthn the porte ij^s
 Itm p^d ffor fyndyng of the said Capteynes & theyre Sruants
 iij dayes when they were kept alondageynst theyrewylls, xxvj^s viij^d
 Itm spent in wyne when the ffrenshemen want hens xij^d
 Itm spent in wyne when the Spaynards p^d theyre money xxj^d

These are very curious entries, and show that the Mayor and his brethren, while determined to keep the peace, were equally resolved not to go to war at their own charges. However the defence for which they made the argosy pay so handsomely did cost them something out of pocket. They manned the bulwarks in force under the charge of the leading members of the Corporation; and to show they were quite as ready to fight as to threaten, bought 196 lbs. of gunpowder of William Hawkins the elder at 6d. a lb.

1528-9.

Itm gyuyn in Rewarde to the Duke of Suffolke's arunt wth
 the daunsyng bere & the daunsyng wyff xx^d

The "daunsyng wyff" I take to be a monkey, a suggestion which I hope the ladies will pardon.

1531-2.

Itm Receyued for a broken Chalice that was sold in pte of
 paymet of the dett due by the Church to the Towne
 wayeng xvij vncs & iij qters price the vncs iij^s vj^d iij^{li} ij^s ij^d
 Itm p^d to Mr Brokyng to acqute home a broken Chalice
 that lay w^t hym to pledge xxv^s

So in 1534-5 twenty-five ounces of plate "Receyued of
 the prysts comen store" realised £4 3s. 4d.

1533-4.

It p^d for iij qters hake sent Mr Crumwell xx^s
 So in the following year.

It p^d for srten dry hake sent to m^r Secretary xiiij^s iijij^d
 It p^d for cariage of the same from hense to london xij^s viij^d

Hake was in as much estimation then as salmon now, and
 welcome even to the "Hammer of the Monks."

1535-6.

It p^d for the exequyes holden and kepte ffor the soule of
 Sr Wyllm Cortenay knyght in his lyff tyme a speciall
 good master to the Towne vj^s x^d

I am not sure that Courtenay did not fill the office of
 Lord High Steward.

1536-7.

Itm for a potell of white wyne geuyn to Sr pers Eggecomb
 the pryo^r of plympton and other gentlemen when they
 sate yn Comysayon at the white freres viij^s

About the dissolution of the monasteries. (?)

Itm gyuyn in Rewarde to the Quenes Sruant that brought
 the quenes letters of newes of the byrthe of oure moeste
 noble pnce Edward vijs. vj^d

A curious entry, showing how state intelligence was in
 those days transmitted direct to the local authorities of
 important towns.

1538-9.

Itm for a fustyen blankett & for a harte of Sylu^r and gilte
 which was taken from lytell Rawe the taylor for an
 Excheyte to the Towne vj^s

The "Mayor and his brethren" were adepts at utilising
 "unconsidered trifles."

Itm p^d for caryeng of Thoma mychelson the clerke to the
 byshop of Exeters pryson x^s vj^d

Itm p^d for caryeng of a grey ffreare to the Gayle of launces-
ton for suspecyon of treason iiij^s iiij^d

Itm p^d for a paynted pap to sett upon the hed of Richard
Clowter marayn^r for open purgy iiij^d

1539-40.

Itm p^d to the pyshe preste and to v other p^{ts} iiij Clerks iiij
Ringers and the bedeman for master hyllersdons obytt ij^s vj^d

The Reformation at this date was evidently, so far as Ply-
mouth was concerned, rather political than religious. Hill-
ersdon had been Recorder. We next have a very curious set
of entries of the dealings with church jewels, plate, and
furniture, which point in quite another direction.

here followth thacompte of willm hawkins, mchaunt, made
before the auditors in the tyme of John Thomas mayre a^o xxxij
h viij of certen of the Church Juella & other thyngs to the said
willm hawkins delyuyd in the tyme of his laste mayraltie a^o xxx
h viij firste delyuyd to the said William hawkins a chalice be-
longyng to o^r lady store ij Cruettes of Silu^r a lytell pax of Silu^r the
Roode shoes a Crowne for the ymage of o^r lady certen small beds
stones of silu^r a Crucifix of Silu^r, a bokell & a pendant of a
gurdell weyeng lix vn^{cs} & do.

Itm more delyuyd to the said willm hawkins an olde Crosse
that stode yn the hande of the ymage of Seynt Savyo^r
weyeng i vn^{ce} & iiij q^{trs}

Itm more delyuyd to hym certen offeryng pens & a lytell
shype of Silu^r hangyng upon Seynt Clere cloth
weyeng i vn^{ce} & do

Itm more delyuyd to hym by the hands of Thomas Clowter
a Chalice that was at o^r lady chapell at quary well
weyeng xij vn^{ces}

Sm^a lxxij vn^{cs} & iiij q^{trs}

The which was sold one wth a nother for ij^s and iiij^d the
vn^{ce}

Sm^a of the money xij^{li} ix^s ij^d

Itm more the said willm hawkins had of Seynt Clere store xliij^s xi^d

Itm more he had & rec of John bovy for wax of Seynt
Clere taps and other taps viij^s ix^d

Sm^a liij^s ix^d

Sm^a Tot^l Rec by the said willm hawkins xv^{li} xxiiij^d
Whereof paid to willm wike for that he paide to Robert
Dighton for Seynt Katyn Chalice that lay wth hym to
pegge xx^s

Itm p^d to John Moone to acqute a chalice of the church
that lay wth hym to pegge xxxiiij^s x^d ob

Itm m^o John hale hath in his honde a chetyll whiche he had
of the wardyns of Seynt Andrew is store at Compton.

m^o to call for o^r ladyes Cote & her childs cote & for the vestments of Crymson velvett that Dr. John Melyn gave to the Church.

We also read under 1543-4

plate & juellis delyuryd to willm hawkyngs m^{ch}nt the
 xij daye of february a^o xxxvjth h viij yn the tyme of
 Thomas holway to by therwth for the Toune gunpowder
 bowys & for arrowys ffirste the foote of the crosse
 weyang xlv vn^{cs} & do gilte at iij^s & x^d the vn^{cs}
 Sm^a vij^s iij^s vj^d
 Itm iij Silu^r candelstycks pcell gilte weyang xv vn^{cs} & do
 at iij^s vj^d the vn^{cs} Sm^a liij^s iij^s
 Itm a Chalice vngilte weyang xij vn^{cs} & j qtr at
 iij^s vj^d the vn^{cs} Sm^a xlij^s x^d ob
 Itm a Chalice gilte weyang xx vn^{cs} iij qtrs at iij^s vj^d the
 vn^{cs} Sm^a iij^s xix^s vj^d ob
 Itm a shyp of Silu^r pcell gilte weyang xvij vn^{cs} at iij^s iij^d
 the vn^{cs} Sm^a iij^s iij^s
 Itm more the said Mayre delyuryd hym to sende on to
 london xv^s
 Sm^a of the vn^{cs} cccxvij
 Sm^a of the money xlij^s xij^s v^d
 Whereof rebate for tynne & sawdyer vij^s & also p^d
 thereof to the said Willm hawkyngs & to Thomas Mylls
 to them due for money that they layde owte for the
 townys busynes iij^s
 So reste xxxvij^s xj^s v^d

Of this Hawkins spent £21 5s. on ten barrels of powder in London, 1000 lbs., at 5d. a lb.; £2 for 20 bows, at 2s. each; £2 15s. "for xxxth sheffe of arrowys at xxij^d the sheffe;" £2 15s. for a cwt. of saltpetre. Canvas for bow cases, carriage, &c., came to £3 19s. 1d., leaving with Hawkins £5 1s. 11d.

In 1545-6 William Hawkins paid £18 12s. in part payment of plate sold by him in London; and £14 11s. 8d. were received for plate sold by Richard Saunders to pay for ordnance. Nearly one hundredweight of plate at 2½d. the pound fetched £1 1s. 10d. This "plate," I take it, was pewter.

We have here probably a nearly complete inventory of the plate, jewels, and furniture belonging to the churches of Plymouth which fell into the hands of the Corporation at the Reformation; and it is curious to note the very practical use that was made of them. "Master Hillersden's obytt" was one of the last important acts of compliance with the older ritual before the restoration of Catholicism under Mary.

Plymouth, as we might judge from the ready fashion in which Church property was secularized by its authorities, became strongly Puritan—its Puritanism being fostered in the reign of Elizabeth by the constant resort to its harbour of Huguenot privateers, and by the incessant expeditions against Spain. This William Hawkins was the father of Sir John, and the pioneer of English discovery and trade in the South Seas.

1540-1.

Itm p^d for the Repacion and mendyng of James Walshe is bote of Kensale in Ireland the whiche his Cosen John Walshe stole away in Ireland & brought hither to this towne for Carpynter wage mete and drynke pycche tarre yreworke & makyng of thacquittance the whiche bote for dyurs consideracions was delyu^yd to the said James xlvij^s v^d

It p^d for ix yerds of cloth to make a coat for Tom hordson the floole pce the yerd viij^d vj^s

If the town fool or jester, the only one recorded.

1541-2.

Itm p^d for the shroudyng & buryeng of Johanne lyons whose hangyd her selfe by meanes whereof her goods wer forfeytt to the Town iij^s iij^d

It is somewhat remarkable that even so much should have been expended. Perhaps the forfeit was a valuable one, and the authorities felt bound to be grateful.

Ferrers, burgess, had a doublet of satin for his fees.

This was the Ferrers in whose person the immunity of members of the House of Commons from arrest for debt was first established.

1543-4.

Itm for a can of ale that was dronke at the hye croce xv^d

Itm to the waycheman at Rame when the bakenys were burnyd iij^d

Itm for his comyng hether by nyght when the new founde land men came in viij^d

A reminiscence of the early fishing voyages, in which Devon took the leading part. The Newfoundland men were taken for a hostile fleet.

1544-5.

Itm for vytallyng the pynnys that dyscryed the coste viij^s viij^d
 Itm to the company that went in the pynnys xx^s
 Itm to the carpenters whyche amended the pynnys iiij^s ij^d

There is a prior entry of 3s. 11d. for bread and beer for the men of the pinnace when they "went to the see."

Itm to John Elyott for v pound of gunpowdre for shott for the pynneys iiij^s

Itm to John Isand for xiiij pownde of ire shott ij^s iiij^d

It behoved the townsfolk to keep a sharp look out against sudden attack. Plymouth of old time had suffered severely from French assaults, and not many years later the Spaniards did effect a partial landing at Cawsand.

1545-6.

Itm pd for caryng of ij empty pypys to make boyes for the gunners to shote to ij^s iiij^d

That is for practice, from the bulwarks on the Hoe.

1546-7.

Itm for the dyryge & herse w^t other charges for the buryng of kyng henry the viij viij^{li} vj^s & ob

Itm payd for the chargs at the tryvmphe for the coronacyon of Kyng Edward the vj xliij^s

Itm payd to S^r Came for makynge a Sermon here at the Coronacion v^s

1547-8.

There was a "tryumphe" for the "victory in Scotland," at which a hogshead of wine was drunk, and a "bankett" had.

Itm pd to them w^{ch} made the bankettyng house and for nayles viij^s

Itm p^d for meate & drynke for them w^{ch} played the antycke the same tyme xij^s

Itm pd to them w^{ch} toke paynes to fett forthe the boats to fetch the vysytars from Aysshe xij^s

It is strange to find so much made of such a battle as Pinkie; but any excuse held good for a holiday. Note the next series.

Itm delyured to henry blase for hym & his companye the viijth of Aprell when they Rode w^t Sir Richard Eggecombe into Cornewall agaynst the Rebells there xxvj^s viij^s

Itm paid for a dowsen of bowestryngs for them v^s

Itm pd for a dowsen of faggots & a quart of hede (?) for doying thexecucyon vpon the Trayto ^r of Cornewall	viiij ^d
Itm for tymbre for the gallowes	xij ^d
Itm for makyng the gallowes & for workynge at the howe	xiiij ^d
Itm paid to John Wylstrem for doying execucyon vpon the Traytr	vj ^s
Itm to lands man for leadyng the horse when the traytr was drawn to execucon	iiij ^d
Itm for ij pooles to putt the hede & qrt ^r of the said trayto ^r vpon & for ij Crampys of Ieron for to staye the pole vpon the gyldhall	x ^d
Itm pd for the dyn of the vndershyryff of Cornewall beyng here when the trayter was putto execucyon	v ^s
Itm paid to John Mathewe for Caryng a quart ^r of the trayto ^r to Tavystoke	xij ^d
Itm paid to Wyllm Byckford for wyne at the Receyvyng of the Traytr of Cornewall	xvi ^d

William Brokyng had 15s. for a horse that died at the riding into Cornwall against the rebels, and afterwards another 5s. for "his horse that dyed in Cornewall at the subdewyng of the Rebells."

These entries refer to an incident in the Western Rebellion for the restoration of Catholicism, in which Exeter was besieged and Plymouth attacked, as appears from the following entry in the Corporation Black Book.

In this yere was a greatte insurrecyon throughtoutte all the Royallme of England and eesspecially in the Counties of Devon and Cornwall in w^{ch} tyme the Cytee of Exceastre and the Castell of Plymothe were valyently defendel and kept from the Rebelles vntyll the comyng of the Lord Russel . . . then was our stepell burnt wth all the townes evydence in the same by Rebelles.

Plymouth was thus evidently assailed as well as Exeter, and followed up its defence by pursuing the attacking force, which may have been a party from Exeter on their retreat into Cornwall. We have no clue to the identity of the unfortunate "traitor" who was made so horrible an example and spectacle upon the Hoe.

It is curious that associated with such grim entries as these we should have

Itm paid to the kyng's fydlr	v ^s
Itm p ^d for Englyshe songs for the quere	viiij ^d viij ^d

While in the next year there occurs

Itm to a syngyng man w ^{ch} holpe the quere	ij ^s
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Songs, of course, are hymns in the vernacular.

1549-50

Itm paid for a quer of paper to make a boke for the gathering
of the money for the poure peple iij^d

An early informal poor rate.

Itm paid to the players w^{ch} played in the Church x^s

Itm for my horses hyre & my charges in Rydyng to Mr.
Recorder aboute the women w^{ch} gatheryd to Saynt
franca xij^d

A survival of old Catholic days, speedily put down.

1559-60.

Itm p^d to players of london w^{ch} plaid at the mayors requests
in the Vycarage xij^s iij^d

Lord Dudley's players had 20s. for "playing in the Church
at the Mayor's commaundment." Churches in those days
were put to many strange uses, without scruple; and special
sanctity seems to have attached only to chancels. In 1564-5
there were players in the church "vppon St. John is daye;"
and in the same year we have

Itm payed to the scole m^r & children of Totnes whiche
played christmas x^s

So in 1566-7.

Itm gave to the compayny of St. Budokes on May day x^s

While the morice dancers had 5s. for a breakfast. Miscon-
ceiving the original use of the word, many have fancied that
these were specially the days of "merry England."

1568-9

Itm payed to Robert Kylburn for one quart^r is wages to
beate the beggars out of towne ij^s vj^d

The multiplication of beggars consequent upon the disso-
lution of the monasteries and suppression of doles was one
of the great plagues of that time.

Itm Rec of a flemyn for shotynge in a hand gonne &
killynge of a heron w^{thin} the causee xxiiij^s

We should stare to see a heron in Sutton Pool now.

Itm payed for drynke geven to the Egiptians x^d

The first local entry I have been able to note of the
appearance of the Gipsies. They were very differently en-
treated later on.

Itm payed to Robert Sprye for paynctyng of the maye pole
and the ball at Mr Mayres vj^s iiij^d

Spry belonged to a family which for three generations at least did artistic work for the Corporation in drawing maps, plans, &c. The name still continues at Plymouth.

1570-1.

A fine of 12d. levied for serving an Admiralty warrant "w^hin the libertie of Plymouth contrarie to the auneyent libertie & Custome of the same burghes beside iiij dayes imprysonm^t." The Mayor never failed to assert his dignity when assertion was safe, and sometimes when it was not.

Itm payed for a bote & men to cary the proclamation aboard
the prince of Orenge is shippes iiij^s

As already noted, Plymouth was a great resort for Continental Protestant privateers; and there are many references to the visits of those of the Huguenots, or, as they are often called, "Rochellers," and the Dunkirkers. This proclamation was the order of Elizabeth prohibiting the supply of the Dutch patriots with meat, bread, or beer.

1573-4.

Itm p^d to John Grepe for carrieng of one to the Gowle that
cutt a pryst vj^s viij^d

"Cut a purse" would seem more likely, but the words are clearly as given.

1574-5.

Itm p^d to hym thatt played upon the hoby horasse vj^s

Two yards of canvas for the horse cost 2s.

Itm p^d to Margaret Vile for healyng of Mary Notte xij^s iiij^d

A similar payment to Margaret Cruste.

Itm p^d to the barber for healyng of her throte that wold
have killed her self xij^s iiij^d

There is no clue to the reason why these were matters of municipal concern.

1575-6.

Itm p^d to Ballamy for cuttyng of the flamyns eres xij^s

Bellamy was the town factotum, beadle, and executioner, and his name often occurs. In the following year he had 3d. for "whippinge of a man."

1576-7.

"A drawyng tayble of wenscott" and a frame, for the school, cost 12s.

1577-8.

A man called Clerk hanged on the Hoe; 7s. 6d. was paid for the gallows, carrying the ladder cost 4d., and the hangman had 3s. 4d. Total charges, 11s. 2d.

Sixpence paid for "suger" when "Sir Richard Grayneville did muster apon the hawe."

£86 3s. 3d. spent in entertaining my lord and lady of Bedford on two visits. The Earl was Lord High Steward.

1578-9.

Sixteenpence spent on a gallon of wine for Sir Humphry Gilbert.

1580-81.

Itm rec of Sr frauncis Drake keneighte imployed in the howse appoynted for ye Bridewell 1^u

It is probable that this was the return of an "adventure" on the part of the town in Drake's voyage of circumnavigation. The Bridewell seems to have been afterwards known as the Marshalsea, part of the Dominican monastery yet standing in Southside Street, Plymouth, and the first public place of assembly of the Plymouth Nonconformists. The refectory is intact with the original roof.

Itm p^d to Robert Sprye for the picture of the Turke on Mayedaye [also 2/ for painting it] xvj^d

The Spryes, as already noted, were the town limners. Most of the existing Elizabethan plans of the town, its harbour, and surroundings are by Robert Spry.

Itm paide for sendinge for Edwarde Wents woman to Totnes xx^d

An unceremonious entry, and not too lucid.

1583-4.

Itm gewen to a scholler to bringe hym to Oxenforde vj^s viij^d

Itm p^d to two schollers the xjth of June iij^s iij^d

Query, strolling students of the German and Spanish type.

1584-5.

Itm paide to the goodwife Bulle for amendinge of the windowes of the Guildhall viij^d

More to hym [the Receiver] xxvj^{li} for money disbursed by hym this yere to S^r Francis Drake knyght for the townes adventure wth hym in this viage.

This paid a very fair interest; for we have in 1586-7

Itm rec of S^r Fra drake Knight for the Townes advent^r xvij^{li} xv^s

Itm p^d to the fletcher for fetheringe of seaven sheaves of arrowes vj^s

One of the latest references to the use of bows and arrows in warfare traceable in Plymouth or the West.

1581-2.

In this year there were some cases of plague; 26s. 8d. was sent to relieve the afflicted Kingsbridge people, and £3 7s. 8d. for maintenance of the sick people in "Heywood's house."

Itm p^d to Mother Cornelis for bathinge Riches daught^r x^s

Itm p^d to a woman that attended her xij^d

Four pounds spent in entertaining "Deigo Bottello," the Portuguese ambassador.

1582-3.

Itm paide for the entertayment of S^r frauncis drake Knights, when his ladie came firste x^{li}

This was Drake's second wife.

Itm p^d for wyne gewen to the prince of Cundie [Conde] v^s x^d

Itm p^d to the drumer to call the prince of Cundies company aborde xvij^d

Itm p^d for the hire of a bote w^{ch} was sente to Cawson the xxvijth of Auguste to knowe what the shippe was there ij^s

Itm p^d for victualls for the Bote w^{ch} was sente over into Brittain for the discoverie of the Spaunische Fleete xxv^s i^d ob

1586-7.

Itm p^d to certaine Laborers working at the dicke sente thither when the Brut [bruit = rumour] was of y^e Spanniards viij^s xi^d

There are many entries of a kindred character, which show that for some time prior to the arrival of the Armada the town was in a state of chronic alarm.

1587-8.

Item for Conveyinge to Stonehouse of the dombo man that was made to speake ij^d

Stephen Kaye had 1d. for leading "the man that would not speake."

A "miracle," probably performed, like Duke Humphry's, by the aid of beadles and "things called whips."

Itm p ^d to Mr. Ric Hawkins for a Silver Cuppe w ^{ch} was geiven to the Lo Warden	xij ^{li}
Itm p ^d for iiij ^{li} of powder spent at the cominge in of Sr Fraunces Drake	iiij ^s vj ^d

Salutes are a very old institution, and Plymouth folk were fond of them.

Itm p ^d to Robte Scarlette for goinge oute to discover the Spaynish Fleet	vj ^s
Itm p ^d to John Gibbons and Henry Woode for watching at Rame hedd iiij daies when the Spaynyerds were vpon the Coaste	x ^s
Itm p ^d to Philipp Boyes in Consideracon of certayne Treasure Trove	xx ^{li}

This was the Armada year; but these are the only entries that may be regarded as definitely connected with that event; except some which refer to the ship and pinnaces found for the fleet by the town and district. Towards this Sir John Hawkins gave £20, and we read in 1588-9:

Itm paid to George Sterling for riding to Mr. Champron [Champernowne] of Molberie w th Sir Fraunces Drake his lre for staieng of the monies w ^{ch} hath ben gathered of Armenton hendred for fitting out of the Shippe . . .	xviij ^d
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Letters were written to the justices for "monie w^{ch} we should receaue for fetting out of a Shipp against the Spaniards."

Itm to John Jope bestowed vpon the shipp and the Pynnaee that Srved vnder the Lo : admirall	iiij ^{li}
--	--------------------

George West was the town gunner.

About this date the Corporation appear to have displayed unusual activity in maintaining authority and good order. Thus we have in this year and next.

Itm pd for a horse hire to drawe the Carte when the Irish woman was carted	iiij ^d
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The cart, as was usual after these ceremonies, had to be "amended."

Itm paid to Ballemay & his fellow for whipping of women about the Towne	xij ^d
Itm paid to Ballemay for Carieng of a fackebon (!) to the Tithingman of Compton	iiij ^d

Compton was the place where Plymouth in those days shot most of her moral rubbish, though Stonehouse and Stoke had a turn. "Hores" chiefly went to Compton, and one Syme was taken there to be whipped, "Fackebon" is a beautiful example of early phonetics.

Itm to Ballemale for whipping a Queane ij^d
 Itm paid for thongs to make whips i^d

Sometimes the carted were treated to "rough music."

Itm to a Boie for Ryngyng of a Bason before them ij^d

1588-9.

Itm paid to Edward Hill for rowing up to Howe to adu'tise
 the Lo: Chamberlen of the Spaniard that Cam into
 Bigberie Baie ij^a

1589-90.

Itm pd to ye bell Cryer yt none shoulde goe to Stonehowse
 & for whippinge of six hoares viij^d

There had been much sickness in the town, caused apparently by the congregation of soldiers for the expedition under Drake and Norris. Sick soldiers lay in "Vincent Scoble's barn;" 3d. was laid out with John Gybbons for "frankencense" for fumigation. Cycely Pennye had 1s. for shrouding two women, and Barnacote 2s. for burying them. The entries read as if there had been a fresh outbreak in Stonehouse, which was therefore put under a kind of quarantine.

Itm pd for a Clocke burnt of one of exeter yt deed of the
 plauge v^s
 Itm pd for Charges of Spanyardes brought in by the Rawe
 Bucke & Gallion dudeley for theirs dyett & sendinge
 theym & for theirs guyde xxiiij^s

They must have been very peaceable folk if they did not need to be guarded as well as guided.

1590-1.

Itm rec of m^r Thos Myddelton to be employed for Certayne
 godly vses xx^{li}
 Itm rec of Ric Hawkins gentleman and James Bagge for
 theirs fyne comynge tarde on St^t Lamberts Daye vj^s viij^d

The Mayors were chosen on St. Lambert's Day, and no member of the Corporation could be absent without leave on pain of fine.

A new pillory cost 14s. 4d.

Itm p^d to one that all his stufe was Burned for avoidinge
the sicknes x^s

Itm p^d to M^r Founes w^{ch} he disbursed to suche as theire
howases were shutt vppe of the Plague v^{li} xix^s

Itm p^d to Mr. Founes toward the Charge of suche as were
kept in for avoidinge of sicknes v^{li} xix^s

Humphrey Fownes sailed with Hawkins to St. Juan
d'Ulloa, became Mayor of Plymouth, and is now represented
by Colonel Luttrell, of Dunster.

Itm p^d to Willyam Royett for kepinge a post horse xx^s

In the next year we have "Peter the post," "Russell the
post."

1591-2.

Itm p^d fower men to watche the townes end for to stay the
people of the infected places xvj^d

This points to the establishment of a cordon. The sani-
tary ideas of Plymouth in these days were rather advanced.

Itm p^d Rychard Willyams a man whypt and sent away ij^s vj^d

No reason is given for the payment of this "consolation
money. Perhaps "some one had blundered."

Itm p^d for a dynn^r to S^r Frunce Drake at his Comynge
from London and his ladye and other gentlemen and
others of the towne iiij^{li}

Itm p^d for a dynner, expectinge S^r Robert Cessell Comynge
w^{ch} came not, but my ladye Drake M^r Harris, M^r
Stroude and some of the M^o of the toun iiij^{li}

A supper to "S^r Walter [Raleigh] and his company" and
others, cost £3.

Hospitality was a characteristic of those days.

1592-3.

Itm rec of a ducheman for a fyne for a hains offence by hym
and his compayny done ccc^{li}

We are left quite in the dark as to the nature of this
enormity, but I very much misjudge the Corporation if they
greatly regretted an event which produced such satisfactory
results—to them.

Itm paid a woman mysused by the boyes of her appells
and baskett on Saynt Mathewes daye vj^d

"This was "Freedom-day," when the boys had a right to
take whatever they could lay hands on that was eatable.

1593-4.

Thomas Ford paid £5 to be dismissed of the "twelve."

That is, of the "aldermen;" and so relieved of the periodical burden of the mayoralty, which he had three times filled. The fine for refusing office was then £40, equal to at least £200 now.

Itm p^d for buryenge a neger on Cat Downe vj^d

I am not quite sure that we are to understand "negro." If we are, this is a significant indication of the low esteem in which the black man was held in Elizabethan Plymouth, and in the days of the early slave trade.

1594-5.

Itm rec of a Flemynge to whom the Irelande [Island] made
a shotte xij^s

That is, a shot was fired from Drake's Island to make him bring to, or salute.

Itm rec for a fyns of one that wilfullye kylled Joseph
Gubbes his pigge in the streate x^s

A privileged porker, no doubt, with commonable rights on the highways.

Itm p^d for hue & Crie made after S^r Fr^{ances} Drakes
musitions ij^s vj^d

They were not to hand when Drake and Hawkins were about to sail on their last voyage, and had to be hunted up.

Itm p^d for passenge awaye of a mvlato w^{ch} laye about the
streate vj^d

Another dubious entry. Some poor starving wretch brought home in one of the many Southern expeditions, got rid of, no one can say how. He had no parish to be "passed" to, and was probably of no value as a chattel.

1595-6.

Itm p^d a foteman sent to Saltayshe for oysters for my lord
admirall vj^d

The molluscan fame of Saltash has descended to the present day.

A "bridge barrel" sent to London, "found at Causham baye, and left there by the Spaynyards."

This was a time of great alarm in the town, for there was almost hourly expectation of a Spanish descent. So in

1596-7

Itm to John Drummer for warninge all the Inhabitaunts to
be in aredynes wth their armor. vj^d

Afterwards they were ordered to "muster on the hawe."

Itm p^d for 4 pounds of powder to shoute of the pieces in
the Church yarde iiij^d

Itm p^d for 18 pound of powder that charged the 4 pieces of
ordynⁿce in the Castell at the landinge of Earle of
Essex xvij^d

After the expedition to Cadiz. Thanks were returned in
St. Andrew's Church.

Itm p^d Thomas Edwards & Vinsent for killinge of a dogge
in the Towne by Mr. Maior's order xij^d viij^d

Itm p^d him [Edwards] for calling wth his bell all saylors
before the presse master ij^d

Itm p^d for erectinge of the barracathes and for other Charges
layed out aboute the same clxxij^d vj^d ij^d

A Spanish descent was thought to be imminent.

1597-8.

Ten pounds received of certain constables "towards the
chardge of settinge fourthe of ye Shippe at Cales Viledge"
(voyage). £132 6s. 8d. paid by Edmond Dockett gent "to
redeeme his goodes w^{ch} he had forfeited beinge indited of
manslaughter in killing of one John Wilson."

Itm p^d Ballamie to make clene the angell vj^d

Some figure or house now utterly forgotten.

Itm p^d the Belman to Cause all those y^t hadd owinge vnto
theim anie thinge from the souldyers to seeke for the
same, they beinge then deptynges ij^d

"Crying down" the soldiery is a practice that has been
followed to the present day in garrison towns.

Order for the "m^yners of a shippe y^t Came from Barbarie
to remayne ^aborde in regarde of their sicknes." An early
example of strict quarantine.

Itm pd S^r Robte Cecyll for his yerely anuytie or fee given
him from the Towne during his life x^{li}

As Lord High Steward; the first entry of a salary to the
holder of the office, now held, unsalaried, by the Prince of
Wales.

Itm pd towards M^r Sparke M^r Baron and M^r Parker's
 Charges at y^e Courte aboute the Townes busynes [more
 than was collected*] viz to M^r Sparcke £13 8s. to M^r
 Baron £48 to M^r Parker £46 cxxxvijⁱⁱ viij^s

They had "endeavoured" that the Corporation should
 have command of the defences as in times past, the Crown
 helping with funds.

Capt. Parker had a "shippe y^t served the towne in the
 Cales action."

1598-9.

Twenty shillings received of the "Kinge's Chirurgione for
 his cheste" forfeited for manslaughter. He was fetched by
 hue and cry.

1599-1600.

Itm p^d a man for watchinge of leighe the Taylor suspected
 with Vinicombes wyeff iiij^d

As there is no other entry, we may hope the suspicion
 was groundless.

Itm p^d for London beere for my Lo Byashopp iiij^d

The outlay was not extravagant, but we are left to guess
 whether the Bishop preferred beer, or the Corporation de-
 clined to find wine.

1600-1.

Itm p^d Fredricke Chirurgion for ripping of Joⁿ Drumm^r ij^s
 John Drummer had also 3s. 6d. in his sickness.

Apparently rough surgery, and successful.

Itm p^d for calling in the Popes pdons and for making a fier
 to burn them v^d

Twenty-two chests full of bulls and pardons are said to
 have been "cremated" at this reasonable outlay in Plymouth
 market place.

1601-2.

Itm rec of Nicholas Goodridge of Totnes m^cchaunte vpon
 an agreement made between the Towne & him for an
 offence Comitted by him thesaid Nicholas in burning
 of a Cheste in the Councill Chamber wheren were
 Contayned divers evidences and writings Concerninge
 the Towne cⁱⁱ

The second occasion on which Corporate muniments are
 recorded as destroyed. Why Nicholas Goodridge came all

* The words within brackets are erased.

the way from Totnes to commit arson is less evident than his compulsory penitence.

John Battersbie was fined £20 for striking John Harris with his truncheon in Guildhall before the Mayor; and Harris £6 14s. 4d. for misbehaving himself towards Battersbie, as captain of the watch. Another choice illustration this of the ingenious way in which the "masters" of Plymouth turned everything to account. It is difficult to believe that both Battersbie and Harris were in the wrong, but we see very clearly that the Corporation were in the right.

Itm rec of Joseph Gubbes for an offence in speeches on St

Lamberts daie at thelation of the newe maior x*

This is the Gubbes whose pig was revenged so notably in 1594-5. He had now ungratefully spoken evil of the local dignitaries, using disparaging words, and making slanderous speeches, and was punished accordingly. The "twelve and twenty-four" were so harshly criticised about this time that mere fining proved insufficient to silence the malcontents. So in 1605 it was ordered that offenders should also be imprisoned ten days without bail!

Itm rec for a peece of gold taken for an escheate from Katheran

Briant, widdowe, being founde vnder the Southside Kaie,
and there hide by a Spaniard v^u

Mr Bagge paid £32 as a Burgess of the Parliament for himself
and man, 64 days at 10s.

This is the first specific entry of a regular charge for this service.

1602-3.

10s. paid to "Wrambie and his wife to keepe them out of Towne." Objectionable characters, no doubt, but evidently able to make terms to their own advantage.

Two Papists apprehended by Mr. Richard Hawkins's man.

Itm pd for 4 dayle bordes to stopp m^r Manlies dore iiij^s

This may have been for "sickness." In the next year we have 55s. 11d. spent "aboute keepinge of one William Plaster, who was sicke in the Plague."

1603-4.

Mr. Hitchings was paid 32s. 6d. owed him by one Robert Morrishe, "who was hanged, and the Town seased on his goodes."