

THE COMMON SEALS OF DEVON.

PART III.

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

(Read at Torrington, July, 1875.)

SINCE my last notes on the common seals of Devon, three hitherto undescribed seals have come under my notice, which are here dealt with.

PLYMOUTH.—I have found among the corporation muni-ments of Plymouth impressions of a small seal used by the mayors in the latter half of the 17th century. It bore the borough arms—a saltire and four castles—and the motto, "*Turris fortissima est nomen Jehova.*" This is the first instance of the use of the borough motto with which I am acquainted, and I am inclined to think it was adopted as a memorial of the Siege which the Plymouth Roundheads successfully endured between the autumn of 1642 and the spring of 1646.

SIDMOUTH.—Mr. P. O. Hutchinson has kindly favoured me with particulars respecting the seal of the Local Board of Sidmouth. When the Local Board was established there was no known seal belonging to the place, which never had either a mayor or a corporation. Before the Conquest, Mr. Hutchinson informs me, the manor belonged to Ghyda, the mother of Harold. William gave it to the abbot of St. Michael's Mount in Normandy. Henry V. handed it over to the Monastery of Sion in Middlesex. Henry VIII. seized the manor and left it to his successors. James I. sold it to a Mr. Mainwaring, and it has since continued in private hands, now resting in the Balfour family. Neither the St. Michael's Mount nor Sion seals could with propriety have been adopted by the Local Board; and Mr. Hutchinson suggested a fishing boat, rigged with two lug-sails, as most of the Sidmouth boats are. This device was adopted, and it is accordingly borne by the seal of the Board, with the words "Sidmouth Local Board."

STONEHOUSE.—The Stonehouse School Board have adopted for their seal the arms of the ancient family of Stonehouse—azure on a bend cotised argent, three martlets sable; surrounded by the words "Seal of the East Stonehouse School Board."