

MEN AND MANNERS IN STUART PLYMOUTH.

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(Read at Exmouth, August, 1883.)

LAST year I had the pleasure of laying before the Association some extracts, illustrating "Men and Manners in Tudor Plymouth," from the Municipal Records of that borough, with such illustrative notes as seemed desirable or necessary. I now continue the series through the Stuart reigns, dealing in the main, as before, with matters of general as distinct from purely local interest. Most of the extracts are from the Receivers' Accounts.

1604-5.

Item rec of wm Jerman & John Jope Butchers for killinge of
a Bull before he was bayten v^s

It was the proud prerogative of an English bull at this date, and long afterwards, to afford sport to the populace by being baited before he was killed; and if a bull was denied the privilege of thus leaving the world with honour, his executioners had to pay the penalty. It is curious to observe here the old form "bayten."

Item p^d for two sermons to two strange preachers xiii^s iiij^d
Item p^d to the Ent'lude players to departe the Towne
without playing ij^s vj^d

Plymouth Puritanism was developing in strength. A few years previously strolling players had been made heartily welcome. Now it became the custom to pay them to go away. Yet the "moric dancers and musicians" retained their fees of vij^s iiij^d on May day. Plymouth was "virtuous," but there were still some "cakes and ale."

1605-6.

Irish people sent away in Mr. Streng's ship.

For many a year it was the custom in Plymouth to send Irish folk back to the place from whence they came; and at one time it was compulsory on masters of vessels trading between Plymouth and Ireland to take a certain proportion of Irish immigrants as part of their return cargo.

Thomas Love received 5s. for horse hire to ride to Exon about "the Virginia voyage." This was no doubt in connection with the original formation of the Plymouth Company, for which see my paper in last year's *Transactions* (vol. xiv. pp. 337-363).

Itm pd for the Gunners for shooting of the Ordynⁿce vppon
the tryvmpe for ye Joyful deliverance of ye King and
State from the Treason of Pircie & others ij^s

The earliest local celebration of Guy Fawkes' day.

1606-7.

Itm pd for Ducking a woman and for a swiftling gardell &
Cordes to make her fast vj^s vjd

Let us hope she merited her fate.

In this year a shambles and guildhall were built at a cost of £794 8s. 1d. The building of the guildhall was directed by "Thomas Apsey of Nettlecom."

1607-8.

Mention made of a "greate froste," which burst the leaden water pipes. The Corporation *Black Book* records "a prodigious snow fall."

1608-9.

Itm to two men y^t warded at y^e Barbacan to see y^t no
victualls were carried aboard y^e Piratts one day xvj^d

Moorish and Algerine pirates infested the Channel during the opening years of the seventeenth century, and carried many a Devonshire and Cornish man into dread captivity. These pirates, however, were in all probability found nearer home.

Item pd for paper for ticketts the said yere for Corne xij^d

This may have some connection with new regulations consequent on the erection of a new corn market. See also next year.

1609-10.

Itm p^d for a dynner for divers gentlemen of the Countrie
w^h came hither about a Composition for the Corne
markett xl^s

A new corn market-house had been built, and this probably refers to an agreement about tolls.

A bye-law was this year made that, save for the supply of ships, the Sabbath should not be broken by carrying beer through the streets on that day in vessels—penalty 40s.

1611-12.

Item rec of Mr. James Bagg for the moorstone pillars of the
market Crosse xl^s

Apparently the cross had been pulled down in connection with the erection of the corn market. It stood in what was then known as Old Town—now Old Town Street. Bagg was the rapacious and obsequious minion of Buckingham—"that bottomlesse Bagge," as Elliot called him.

1612-13.

Item p^d for taking a boye out of his grave to his bodie
vewed viij^d
Item pd for ayde money to the Ladie Elizabeth v^{li}

Upon her marriage with the Elector Palatine, afterwards King of Bohemia, an exaction of feudal times, originating probably in the fact that the Corporation held the borough in fee farm from the King.

1614-15.

Two dollars taken from a Fleming as base silver and gold.

Having obtained funds for his daughter, James tried for himself; and there was paid him as a "free gift" according to letters received from the Privy Council, £106, of which £80 17s. 4d. was subscribed by the inhabitants; details are given.

Here followeth the names of such as did contribute towards the free guift to the Kinge by order of a l^{re} from his maties privy Counsell and the seu'all some by each of them disbursed Anno RRg Jacobi Anglie 1615.

It is interesting to note that this *free gift* was made to order. "No compulsion—only you must." The mayor and most of his brethren gave 40s. each; the "twenty-four" were mostly content with 20s., and the amounts varied thence

down to 1s. We have the names of 183 donors, including one woman, Elizabeth Sheere, widow; and what is equally to the purpose we have also the names of those who would not volunteer, even under compulsion.

Here followeth the names of such as did absolutely refuse to contribute towards the free guift to the King in the yeere of our lord 1615.

These muster thirty-seven, and include, strange to say, the names of Mr. James Bagg, and several other leading townsmen. In two cases very plain reasons are given for the refusal.

Mr. Jo. Trelawney doth not pay because the king owth him xx^{li} on a privy seale.

Ro : Rawlyn hath not paid because the kinge oweth him xx^{li} on a privy seale.

Probably the 220 names given include those of all the resident freemen and principal inhabitants. The whole entry is valuable as showing the way in which authority was used, apart from Parliament, to fill the royal coffers.

Monthly collections were this year instituted in church for the relief of the poor and the release of captives.

1615-16.

Robert Alden, recusant, sent to London on suspicion of high treason.

1616-17.

Itm Rec of Mr. Abraham Jennens for the Custome of certaine figgs w^{ch} he bought of a Duchman that rann awaie and left it vnpaide the rest to be recou^ded of the Dutchman when he shall be founde (!) xv^s

Petty customs were regularly levied by the Corporation, and this very year an anchor was seized belonging to a Fleming who would not pay. The grant of customs dated certainly from the reign of Richard II., and the right is not quite extinct yet, so far as fish are concerned.

Itm pd for drawinge of S^r Frances Drake's picture and other charges towards that lijs

This is the portrait on panel now in the possession of the Corporation, a photograph of which appears in my *History of Plymouth*. The same year the guildhall was beautified within, and the arms of Sir John Hawkins and Sir John Hele set up in the windows.

Allowed Mr. Robert Trelawnye being mayor for entertayninge S^r Walter Rawley and his followers at his house wh was done by a grall consent . . . x^{li}
 It paid the Drummer for calling S^r Walter Rawleigh's company aboard . . . xij^d

Both entries of course refer to the departure of Raleigh on his last unfortunate voyage. In the next year the Black Book enters his return and fate.

1617-18.

Itm p^d for amendinge of the Kinge's Armes, and for two newe armes the Princes and the Dukes . . . xxv^s

It was deemed politic to worship the rising sun, especially where Buckingham was represented by his self-styled "slave" —Bagg.

1618-19.

Itm given by a free consent towards the buylding of the lone bridge in Plympton Marsh [40s., the amount, is struck out].

Perhaps connected with this is a reference to a meeting about the enclosure of the Lawry=Lary=Laira, though the Lambhay *may* be meant, about this date called Lammy. Longbridge is a familiar name still, though the marshes have so long been embanked as to make it a misnomer.

1619-20.

Rec for two old rapiers w^{ch} sometymes did belong vnto one Emilie and Harris, and w^{ch} were sold towards the defraying of their charges in Sending them to the goale vj^s viij^d
 Itm pd Peirs the Footpost for bringing of lres from the Lords concerning the Plantation in the Newfoundland xij^d
 Itm pd for taking downe the gates of the Towne and placing them in the Steeple and Castle . . . xvj^s ix

Danger seemed distant, and so the defences were stored.

£20 given to Strode the recorder for his services in Parliament, and for "assisting the Towne in wth standing the Patent for packing and salting of fish and for other things." The pilchard trade was still a very important one at home, but was being rapidly distanced by the growth of the fisheries at Newfoundland and New England, in which Plymouth was deeply interested.

This same year there are also entries of account with Thomas Sherwill, which show that the town protested in London against two trading companies, known as the French

and the Spanish; and also withstood a "plantation in the Newfoundland." Colonies were thought to militate against general trade.

Itm allowed this sayd Mr. Mayor for entertayning of doctor
 Prideaux Vice Chancellor of the Vniversitie of Oxford
 his company and followers who lodged in his house, w^h
 sayd Doctor at the request of the Towne hath been help-
 full and beneficiall to two poore schollers sent out of this
 towne ix^{li}

The mayor was Thomas Fownes. There are several entries showing an interest on the part of the Corporation in "higher education."

1620-21.

Itm given to Sr Robert Mansell Knight Generall of his
 M^{ties} Fleet agaynst the Pyrats of Algeir at his goeing to
 sea two fat sheepe, two sugar loafes, twelve capons, and
 six fat ginnies v^{li} ij^s iiij^d
 Itm given to two heralds (vizt) St George Richmond and
 Blewemantle w^h came unto the Country to veiwe the
 armes and seales of all Corporacons and gentlemen for
 the fees for themselves and their Clarkes iiij^{li} xvij^s iiij^d

1621-22.

William Hele was sent by the mayor to the Privy Council in October and November, 1621, "to shewe cause w^h other port Townes" of the "decay of trade and scarsity of mony in this kingdome." Scarcity of money has since these days become a chronic complaint; but I doubt whether it was quite new even then.

Order that none but the Recorder's and Justices' wives should sit in the Mayor's seat at church. The ladies had more than one quarrel about precedence.

This year John Glanvyll, the Recorder, had a bason and ewer of silver gilt given him for his service as a burgess in Parliament. They cost £33 17s. 3d. Engraven on the basin was "a mapp of the Towne of Plymouth" after a "Plott" by "Robert Spry the Paynter."

1623-4.

Itm p^d for Alexander Baker the Jesuit for charges concern-
 yng him xiiij^s vij^d

There is an entry of "the charge disburst for the putting down of the Lyzard light, w^h would have been burdensome to all the cuntrie." In the following year Edward Nowell

was sent to the Privy Council about the same matter. If there was no light on the Eddystone, clearly none was needed at the Lizard. Two centuries before, however, Plymouth itself had a very perfect lighthouse system, the light of the chapel of St. Michael, on the Rame Head, leading for that of the chapel on St. Nicholas Island, and that again for St. Katherine's, on the Hoe.

1624-5.

Itm received in mony w^{ch} remayned in two purses in the
deske w^{ch} was taken from Duch Pirats . . . xliij^s ij^d

Pirates, as already noted, were formidable in these days, and the orders issued from the Privy Council to guard the coast, against the Sallee rovers more especially, must have had some result; for this year a company of Turks were sent to gaol.

Itm pd for clensing of the sinks and other buy lanes against
the Kinge's coming to this towne . . . xxij^s iij^d

One of many entries referring to the visit of Charles I. to Plymouth, September, 1625, to set forth the fleet against Spain, on which occasion £150 were given to him in a purse which cost £3 6s. 8d., while his attendants had £33 3s. 4d. As the Recorder's scarlet gown was new trimmed for the occasion, the gilding of the maces may have been due to the same desire to make a good appearance before Royalty.

1625-6.

In this year there are many entries referring to the presence of the plague in the town, and the erection of temporary hospitals, &c. The plague had been introduced by the soldiers on their return from sea, and raged with great virulence, upwards of a couple of thousand being reported to have died. One of the most curious entries reads:

Itm pd for the charge of the setting vpp of the house in the
feilds out of the Towne wherein the Mayo^r was chosen,
being wholly occasioned by meanes of the plague then in
towne . . . xxviiij^s xi^d

1627-8.

Itm p^d Liuetenēt Burthogg being enterteyned by the Toune
for the exercising of the youth of the towne in military
disciplyne . . . x^{li}

An ominous entry, which thence appears yearly. The discipline was turned to good account when the war broke out between Charles and the Parliament.

Itm pd Mr Nicholas Sherwill for powder and match for suppressing the Saylers when they were in a mutiny. xvij^s viij^d

The sailors broke the town pikes, which cost 1s. 6d. to mend. And no wonder; they had to steal provisions to keep themselves from absolute starvation. Such was the Royal Navy under Charles I.

News sent to the Lords of the Council upon the first intelligence of the Earle of Denbeighes departure from before Rochell with the Fleete without relieving the said Towne x^{li}

This is a large outlay. Perhaps Plymouth, as the place whence the expedition sailed, was the first recipient of the intelligence.

Itm allowed hym [the Mayor] for a Journy to Truroe in Mr Blake's mayoraltye to conferr with the Maio^r of Truroe concerning the shippe required by the Lords of the Counsell to be sett out xvij^s

The earliest local mention of ship money, afterwards so troublesome.

1628-9.

Itm rec of Regynald Streamer one of the overseeres of the poore for Fower yeares Rent of three tenem^{ts} whereon the Workehowse for the setting of the poore on worke is lately built neare the Churchyard ended at Michaellmas 1629 ix^{li} xij^s

This was the Hospital of Poor's Portion, now removed—a workhouse in deed, and not in name only, but a true charity in its origin in the best sense of the term. When the Guardians of the Poor of Plymouth were incorporated under Anne it passed into their hands.

Itm pd a wanderer that came to shewe feats of activitie to be gonne x^s

Puritan feeling again.

1630-31.

Itm recd of William Warren [vintner] for suffering of Thomas May and Stephen Caunter to play at dice in his howsse. xl^s

This Warren afterwards gave the site of the New (Charles) Church, and had a pew and grave granted him in return.

Itm rec^d of Thomas May and Stephen Caunter for playing at dice at the howse of William Warren and Mary Morgan xxvj^s viij^d

Itm rec^d of diverse other persons for playing att vnlawfull games j^{li} vj^s iiij^d

Puritan professions could be made to pay, and this would

seem to have been a year of strict reform and administration. Witness sundry other entries more secularly practical. However, as these notes were made by the Receiver in error, belonging really to the "poor account," perhaps the year was not so exceptional in its strictness after all.

Itm recd of John Pike [vintner] for selling of a quart of
beer for two pence xx^s

An offence against the laws regulating the prices of commodities.

Itm recd of William Darke and Henry Old for giving inter-
teynem^t att vnlawfull tymes contrary to the statute xx^s

Itm recd of a Lubicker for heating of pitch aboard his
shipp w^{thin} the caverse [Sutton Pool] xx^s

Itm rec^d of diverse persons who swept durte into the Cannells
and wasted water att the Conduitts contrary to the order vj^s x^d

1631-2.

Itm paid to watchmen for watching of a child kild by
Johane Cradocke ij^s iiij^d

1633-4.

One Eliot, of Exon, fined £3 for buying tallow of an Irishman, "being a straunger and making breach of the priviledges of the towne." The freedom of a borough meant a great deal in these days to the trader, and the Plymouth Corporation seem to have looked very strictly after "forrainers," as all non-Plymothians, English or alien, were called.

Itm paid for boat hier for goinge to howe sterte to view the
breach of the Sea ther iiij^s ij^d

How Stert or Point is now Mount Batten, and the low isthmus which connects it with the mainland has been more than once breached in very violent storms. This entry indicates such a tempest.

1634-5.

Itm paid for M^r Maio^{rs} and other chardges in riding Fiue
iurneys to Exon about the twee shippes and towards M^r
Clem^s Journeye to London about the same businesse ij^{li} vij^s x^d

Ship money again.

Itm paid Edward Arnold in full dischargde of a demaunde
due from Jno Lawrenson Hebr high Jerman whoe was
maynteyned att the Charity of the Towne of Plymouth
att the Unv^rsitye ij^{li} xvij^s

There is no clue to the cause of this liberality.

£10 paid to Michael Herring, merchant, of London, which he had disbursed "about the Newfoundland trayne, which sayd sume is to be made good agayne vnto the Toune on the next Newfoundland rate."

1635-6.

Itm payd for the freeinge of two escapes of murther this
yeare iiij^{li} xij^s

1637-8.

Itm for a prsent given Mr. Risdon to pcure out of his hands
such writings as concerned Vauter's Fee, lately bought
by the Towne of Mr John Hawkyns, and a man and
two horses two Journyes to fetch the sayd writeinges . v^{li} iii^s

The manor had been bought by William Hawkins the elder, of Sir Hugh Pollard for 1000 marks. The deeds were enrolled in 1640-41.

1638-9.

Itm payd the saltpeter men for not troublinge ye Towne for
carriage and to gett his carriage elsewhere . . . v^{li} ij^s

1642-3.

Itm payd for makeinge a wall att Mr. Alsopp's house an
other by Dr. Wilson's howse and a third in the way
leadeinge to Totehill iiij^{li} vj^s xd

Itm pd for carryeinge gunnes into Mr. Fowells and Mr.
Elliotts gardens when they were mounted for y^e better
defence of the towne agst Sr Ralph Hopton and to
gunners y^t attended one moneth there iiij^{li}

Itm payd for Carriage of gunnes to the Town Gates and
unto the Old Towne and for Lanternes for the guardes
and for shott xxix^s ix^d

These are the earliest entries of expenses connected with the Siege of Plymouth in the Receivers' Accounts; but in later years the Committee of Defence kept a ledger, which is still in existence. The Earl of Stamford and Colonel Ruthin were suitably entertained this year. Plymouth seems to have taken a leading part in promoting the ineffectual treaty of neutrality drawn up between Devon and "the Cornish gent." Among the entries of entertainment is one of £10 spent on "some of the Burgesses of Parliam^t att there being in Plym^o aboute the treatie betweene Devon and Cornewall." The treaty was concluded at Stonehouse.

1643-4.

A Spanish pike with a head bought for the town standard.
The siege was now in full operation.

Itm payd for a jarre of oyle for the makeing of salue for
scalded soulders vij^s

Itm pd for a rolle of Spannish tobacchoe sent the Speaker of
the howse of Comons assembled in Parliam^t for a gratuitie
from the Towne vij^{li} x^s

A sad falling off here since the days of King Jamie's
Counterblast. The Speaker must have been well stocked.
Lord Robartes in the following year had to be content with
"wine and sweets."

Itm pd for two large verre beames for the Towne Crookes x^s

Fir poles for the hooks used to pull down burning houses
in the days of fire-engine squirts.

1645-6.

Itm pd for a Sermon preached in Marke's day being a fee
of Marke Cottles x^s

£5 given by the town to Mr. Vinnie, minister. £20 spent
in entertaining Fairfax and others.

1646-7.

Itm reed of Mr. John Alen for goods distrained & sould
of Joⁿ Marris drap for refusing to beare y^e office of a
Comon Counsellman beinge lawfully elected hereunto
the s^d goodes being sould in open survey x^{li}

Office meant a good deal in these troublesome days, and
was to be avoided if possible. A mayor was allowed six
years breathing-time before re-election.

Itm reed of Mr. Thomas Sherwill of London for eight yeares
arrearages of an annuitie of vi^{li} per annum given by Mr.
Thomas Sherwill M^{re} decd out of his lands att Houndis-
combe to the towne to buy powder two yeares of the
eight being abated him in regard of the troubles his
being the firste payment of that annuitye beinge to Con-
tinue five and twenty yeares xxx^{li}

The Sherwills were a notable family, Roundhead and Puri-
tan to the backbone, largely concerned both in the foundation
of the Hospital of Poor's Portion and Orphan's Aid; and in
the next generation by one of their members, Nicholas Sher-

will, the mainstay of Plymouth nonconformity. This bequest for the purposes of town defence is a very singular one, and appears to indicate that the elder Thomas anticipated a long struggle.

Itm pd Christopher Tyacke Chirurgeon for visiteinge shippes
whose company were diseased and came from the west
indies v^s

By no means an overpaid Medical Officer of Health.

1648-9.

It paid for a shallop sent out to the parliament shippes for
the gyvinge notice of the passage alonge of the revolted
shippes i^{li} iiij^s vj^d

1649-50.

It paid William Gaire the stone Cutter for renewinge of the
Freedome stones being spoiled by the late warres i^j^{li} ij^s vj^d

Freedom stones = boundary stones. It is the custom at present to erect two or three in memorial of each mayoralty, so that in the course of about 20,000 years the belt will be complete.

This is the last year in which Roman numerals were used in the accounts.

1650-1.

It pd for a hoggshead of Sacke p^resented to Admirall Blake.
£12 06 06

Three years later he had a butt of the same beverage. His bowels were buried in St. Andrew's Church by the mayor's pew.

1651-2.

"Money collected within this Burrough for towards the supply of New England" sent to London by Mr. Herringe.

It paid for makinge & settinge vpp the States Armes in the
Guildhall 04 00 00

The royal no doubt were removed; since "dni regis" was battered out of the town seal.

It paid S^r George Aiscues seamen to drinke for appeasinge of
them in a mutinie in Towne after they returned in the
States Service from Barbadoes 00 15 00

Liquor had charms to sooth the sailor's breast.

1652-3.

An annuity of 10/- a year left by Ann Pryn, the founder of some alms houses, charged on a house in Nut [Notte] St. to the mayor and Commonalty "to be by them employed for the preaching of a sermon yearlie for ever on the Third day of december in Remembrance of the Townes then deliverance from the enemy Anno 1643."

This was the famous "Sabbath-day fight" on which the town was all but taken, and the final struggle of which came off in Freedom Fields—the incident commemorated in the Siege window in the Plymouth Guildhall.

1653-4.

Item paid for expences in wyne and Bisketts and other charges on proclayminge the Lord Protector . 02 00 00

We shall see by-and-by how very economical this was. £2 10s. were spent on a banquet for "Mrs. Trosse, daughter of Mrs. Burroughs of the city of Exon and her Companye." An honourable woman of Puritan stamp and kin. So rarely were the Corporation gallant that such entries as these merit special note. For the reverse of the medal see the next entry.

1654-5.

It Recd of Margaret the wife of Anthony Skynner for a Fine beinge Convicted for breach of a Late Ordinance of the Lord Protector against Duells Challenges and all provococs therevnto in abusinge Mary the wife of Benjamin Dymond whereof the said Dymond's wife had £10 soe Remaines £20 . . . 20 00 00

Surely the law must have been sorely strained here. It is impossible, however, not to admire the ingenuity with which the ancient Corporation of Plymouth, from the earliest times, appear to have been able to supply their exchequer.

It pd to Daniell Call and severall other psons for makinge vpp the Towne Lyne and to Scouts and other Charges at the Cavaliers last Cominge into the west at Southmolton . . . 011 03 00

This would be in connection with Penruddock's rising, I presume.

It pd for an Indictmt agt Quakers . . . 00 03 00

The Friends were always available for persecution, whether Puritan or Episcopalian was in power—the one point of agreement between these contending parties in the State.

1656-7.

It pd to Henry pike [vintner] for entertayning the Turkish
ambassador That came from Argerie to his highnes the
Lord Protector 004 01 08

No doubt on his landing here.

1657-8.

£3 10s. spent at the "proclaymunge of his highnes the
Lord Protector [Richard] of the Commonwealth of England."
This was very economical. But see *post*.

1658-9.

Abraham Blocke paid 10s. for liberty to trade this year;
while Hendricke Blocke and Hendricke Peterson paid £3
each for leave to "open their shop windows" for the year.
There are other entries of similar licenses of the "unfree."
These men were probably Flemings.

It paid for a peece of plate Beestowed on Mr Howe Minister
by the Towne for a gratuity for his favo^r done the Towne
in Solicitinge the town buisnesse with the late lord
Protecto^r 7 2 0

The celebrated John Howe, some time of Torrington.

1659-60.

Item paid m^r Tymothy Allsopp for newes Bookes and post-
age of letters the said yeare 4 0 0

Allsop was member, and kept his constituents and towns-
men duly supplied with the news of the day. The next
entry is not a pleasant one, and shows how the old spirit had
for the time departed. One of the pieces of plate therein
alluded to is the wine fountain, now among the Royal regalia.

Item paid m^r Tymothy Allsopp for two Royall pieces of
plate bought by him of Alderman Vynar of London, by
order from the maior and Cominalty of this Burrough,
which vpon there speciall Request was presented to the
Kings most Excellent majesty vpon his happy Restaura-
tion to the Government of his Dominions by the hands
of Sir William Morrice knight, the kings chiefe Secra-
tary of State and Samuel Trelawny Esq^r Burgesses of
the Burrough in this p^rsent parliament, Sergeant May-
nard Recorder of this Burrough and Edmond fflower Esq^r
the Towne Councell, the sum of fflower hundred pounds.

The Corporation did not do things by halves, for they spent £49 15s. 9d. in proclaiming the King; and the cost of setting up his arms in the wall within and on the outside of the Guildhall was £16 14s. 4d.; while 17s. 6d. were paid to William Gefferie for painting them on the end of the new shambles. There were other smaller items of expenditure in the same direction, so that the new-fledged loyalty of the town cost it this year very nearly the whole of its ordinary income (exclusive of fines for leases). But its professions were only skin deep. Charles trusted it so little that he founded the Citadel to be a check upon the turbulent spirits of the old town; and, by a singular irony of fate, Plymouth was the first Corporation in the kingdom to declare for William of Orange, and its Citadel the first fortress put into his hands. So much for the real value of the congratulations upon the "happy Restauration."

There is an entry in an old court book of the persons who in public court declared their humble acceptance of His Majesty's gracious pardon, June 4th, 1660. The declarations were made in open court, before John King, Samuell Northcott, and Robert Gubbes, the elder, who also "laid hold on and accepted" the pardon aforesaid. Nevertheless, the Roundhead ringleaders were almost to a man ejected from the Corporation when, in 1662, it was "regulated" by the Commissioners.

1661-2.

It paid Doctor Lyonell Gatford, Doctor in Divinity as a
p^resent fro y^e towne £20.

By way of consolation, I presume. Gatford had been chaplain at Pendennis Castle, and was presented to the living of St. Andrew. George Hughes, its holder, the Puritan leader of the West, had, however, been regularly instituted, and was not ejectable until Bartholomew Day, and Gatford had only his present for his pains.

1663-4.

Item paid for a great Bullroape for a Stake and vnto the
Smith for beatinge of Bulls 16s.

Possibly at this time the bulls were baited at the spot still called the Bullring below the Hoe.

Item paid Richard Philpe & Abraham Appleby for their
charges in goeing to the Assizes to give evidence agst
the blind preacher 03 04 06

There is no record as to who the blind preacher was; but in the following year we read:

Item paid to Richard Philpe and John Wolfe charges as witnesses against Daniel Northerne 03 00 00

This Daniel Northerne may have been one of the early Nonconformists; and indeed it is very likely, since he was subsequently placed in the pillory at Plymouth, and £3 4s. paid to five men, who guarded him therein.

1665-6.

Itm paid vnto John Watkins his ptticular disbursements against Onesimus Cad for the Takeinge and Carryenge away of his bible, by an attachment of the Court of the Hundred of Roborough in m^r fowens his mayoralty 2 10 0

I cannot suggest an explanation here. No Fownes had been mayor since 1619.

1669-70.

Item paid the Sarjeants charges for carrying Quakers to Exon 1 10 0

Itm paid Mr. William Jennens for fee and charges to S^r John Maynard for advice about the conventicle act 1 6 6

Itm paid Samuel Carkeete for his charge and horse hire in rideing to Exeter to precute a meeting which was at Mr. Yeabsley's house 2 5 0

This meeting, however, was by no means effectually put down, though Jennens and others did their best. It was one of those licensed in 1672, and subsequently again fell under the lash of the law.

1670-71.

Item paid severall ministers for preaching in the old and new church att severall times for a halfe year since Mr. Brawler went away 15 5 0

Brawler—what an unfortunate name!—was probably the lecturer whom the Corporation always claimed to appoint, and whose right the appointment, though more than once usurped by Crown and bishop, indeed was.

1671-2.

Thomas Westcott presented for refusing to take an apprenticeship contrary to the statute of Elizabeth.

1672-3.

Captain Akerman's maid and Fowler's maid fined £1 each for throwing filth into the "Channel," but let off for 12s. each.

1675-6.

Two women executed at Cattedown. This was for poisoning. A young servant girl, set on by a nurse, poisoned her mistress. The Puritan minister Quicke wrote a book about it—*Hell Opened; or, the Infernal Sin of Murder Punished*—and the original depositions are still among the Plymouth archives.

In February, 1675-6, an attempt to break out of prison is recorded in the Examination Books. George Higgins, worsted comber, agreed to find a "barriron" for three shillings and a coat. The bar was to be passed in at the prison window one dark night. Edward Witchalls—a name familiar in connection with North Devon and the Lynmouth district—was the leader in the attempt, and had a file and an iron with a gimlet on the end conveyed to him in a pasty by his sister. However the party were betrayed.

These Examination Books throw a by no means pleasant light upon the moral status of the community at this date. Cases of bastardy were common, and full details are given in a very unrepeatable form. The following note will be interesting as showing one form of dealing rough justice to delinquents, which has not altogether died out now.

Margery Hoopett testifies (April, 1676), "her husband being from whome in the country one Nicholas Steer came to this examt doore and putt upp hornes and the people did ask the said Steer why he did wear the hornes, and the said Steer said that he did wear the hornes in despise of her husband Simon Hoopett." The next day sundry unpleasant names were called, and an assault followed.

1676-7.

Item paid for erecting of a seate in the old church when his

Majesty King Charles the Second was here at Plymouth 32 10 4

On this occasion his most sacred majesty touched for the evil. He also kissed such pretty Plymouth ladies as he met upon the Hoe in his morning walks, and in this aided by his brother James.

There are many raids upon the Nonconformists recorded in the old Examination Books about this time. It is unfortunate that those for 1662 are not extant.

Thus on Sunday, April 1, 1677, Robert Ould and George Sims, soldiers of Captain Richard Morgan's company, went, between eight and nine a.m., "to the house which was formerly Mr. Thomas Yeabsley's," where they understood there would be a conventicle. Saw one hundred persons go in at the back door—"when any of the said psons came to the dore there was one that stood at the dore & opened itt to lett them in & as soone as they were gott in the dore was pssently shutt." Listening at the door the spies heard some one praying, and they add, "The said house is commonly made vse of for a meeting house (there is sett vpp in itt a pulpitt and seates)."* Hearing that the mayor and justices were coming, the congregation decamped "in a disorderly manner.

The same day four other soldiers—Ben. Burnard and Wm. Vanson, of Col. Hugh Piper's company, and Thos. Bartholomew and Henry Plimpton, of Sir Bouchier Wrey's company—about eight o'clock (congregations met early in those days), went to a house "neere Charles Church . . . formerly a mault house, since converted to a publick meeting house." Over one hundred persons went in, and praying was heard. Two of the spies went off to tell the mayor that a conventicle had been found; the other two tried to get in; but a person stood within who let in "severall psons whom he thought fitt, but refused to lett in them." However when the mayor and justices threatened to break in it was opened, and this "vn-lawfull assembly vpon the acct of Religion" was dispersed.

A week later the Quakers were assailed by the constables at their meeting house, on the site they still occupy. The mayor on that occasion was fetched from St. Andrew. One Samble, a tailor, of Falmouth, was preaching, who would not "forbeare his discourse" until he was "taking downe." "Being demaunded what he made att a publick meeting within this burrough this day contrary to law, saith that it was to serve god in spiritt and in truth, and being demaunded by what authority he tooke upon him to instruct the people which were then there mett contrary to the law, saith that his authority is not from man, but from the Lord . . . and being demaunded whether he were worth three score pounds to satisfy the forfeiture of his first and second offence, for preaching or praying at two severall conventicles of Quakers mett contrary to law, saith that he shall not give an answer as to that, but saith that he doth not intend in his conscience to pay one penny for it."

* The words in parentheses are scratched over.

These will suffice as samples of several other entries of the same sort concerning the unlucky Presbyterians, Baptists, and Quakers of those days; but the latter deserve special credit for their pluck, since it appears that when their meeting house was closed against them, they met openly in the street outside.

In 1678 the house of Richard Hall, a "supposed Papist," was searched for arms. He resisted, sword in hand.

1677-8.

Item paid for mending the drum which was broken on freedome day and to severall men which were then abused by some rude fellowes . . . 1 9 6

Freedom Day—the day on which the bounds were beaten—was a regular saturnalia, and about this time disturbances appear to have been both frequent and serious.

Here is a curious entry from the Examination Books, showing how difficult it was to shift your parish in the seventeenth century :

26th Oct. 1678.—Robert Hawkings late of Stockclimsland in the County of Cornwall sargeweaver saith that he Margary his wife and Thomas and Mary their sonne and daughter came from Stockclimsland where he was borne and lived about a fortnight since to this Towne in the parish of Charles where he liveth in the house of the late Constantine Sams which he took of John Kendall att the yearly rent of five pounds and brought also with him one Blanch Sergeant a servant to him.

Ordered in open sessions that the said Robert Hawkings with his said wife children and servant be removed from this place to Stockclimsland abouesaid being the place where they were last legally settled by warrant If he doe not remoue within this three dayes.

1679-80.

£37 10s. paid for "a large silver salver Cawdle Cupp and cover embost and thick washed with gold," weighing seventy-five ounces, given to John Sparke, one of the burgesses in Parliament, in token of the "Respect and Gratitude of the Towne for his faithfull and diligent service." Regular payment of members in cash went out in Plymouth with the Protectorate, but presents were given, as here, at intervals during the next half century. Then the tables were turned, and the representatives commenced to pay their constituents. The two first to do this were Charles Trelawny and George Byng, who in 1710-11 gave £100 each for the use of the

Corporation. The last payment of a member was in 1694-5, when John Trelawny had 100 guineas "in consideration of his services to the town in parliament."

1682-3.

Itm paid unto Peter Millett & Samuel Greere John Bosaverne Francis Spurrell & other constables toward their charges in carryeing Mr Jacob and Martyn Nonconformist preachers to the high gaol	4	5	0
Itm paid unto Richard Stephens & John Pane constables toward their charges in carrying severall Quakers to prison	4	9	0

Jacob and Martyn, with the exception of Nicholas Sherwill, were the only Nonconformist ministers then in the town. In the following year there are entries of payments to Richard and Henry Hall, father and son, for their expenses in giving evidence against Nonconformist ministers at the assizes.

1683-4.

Itm paid for the pictures of the Kings most excellent Matie his Roy ^l Highnesse James Duke of York and John Earle of Bath now remaining in the Guildhall	16	2	0
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The portrait of Charles is yet among the "art treasures" of the Corporation. Loyalty was still so much in vogue, that the "famously loyal" Judge Jefferies was invited to pay the town a visit, and entertained at a cost of £20.

1687-8.

Item paid Richard Reade the baker towards his expenses at the Assizes for psenteing of Peter Marten the miller for mingling and mixing of stinking and putrified corne & pease with good and wholesome corne and for vsing other cheats in the towne mills	7	0	0
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Care had always been taken that the victuals sold in the town should be "holsom for man's bodye."

1689-90.

£88 18s. 1d. spent in raising fortifications on Pigg's Point and Mount Batten when the French fleet were on the coast, with ammunition and "vtensills of war." Of this amount £16 18s. 10d. were subscribed privately.

1694-5.

Two "poor criples of the Towne sent to the Bath" at a cost of £9 3s.

1696-7.

Itm pd Mr John Hellier the Lymner for drawing the Kings picture at large with a gilt carved frame and for repairinge other pictures in the Guildhall ffourteene pounds

The portrait of Queen Anne, still in existence, was painted by Nathaniel Northcott, jun., in 1703-4, for £6 8s., including the gilt frame and varnishing other pictures.

1699-1700.

Item paid towards defraying the charges of putting vpp Morrestones on Dartmoor in the way leading from Plymouth towards Exon for guideing of Travellers passing that way the sume of £2

Many of these old track-stones are still to be seen on the Moor. They were originally placed at such intervals apart that each might be readily seen from that immediately adjoining, and ere the Moor was intersected by properly made roads in the modern sense must have been of considerable importance. Without such indications Dartmoor, to those unfamiliar with it, was a trackless waste indeed.