

THE COMMON SEALS OF DEVON.

PART II.

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SINCE the publication of my paper on the Common Seals of Devon, read before the Association at Sidmouth last year, a few additional facts and some seals not previously described have been brought under my notice. These are included in the following pages, as supplementary to what has already appeared.

EXETER.

CITY SEALS.—Oliver's *History of Exeter* contains several references to corporate and other seals. Thus in 1292 (p. 70) he states that a new seal was provided, having as its device the King crowned, with a lion passant regardant on his breast, and a castle on each side, in allusion to his wife Eleanor. Legend: s · EDW · REG · AUG · AD · RECOGN · DEBITOR · APUD · EXON. The reverse bore a lion couchant, with the legend: ·CIVITATIS EXONIE.

On the back of the old city seal, described at page 89 of last year's *Transactions*, is the inscription + WILL' PRVDVM · ME · DEDIT · CIVITATI EXONIE · CVJVS · ANIME · PROPRIETVR · DEUS AMN. The handle of the seal is marked LUCAS · ME · FECIT. Dr. Oliver (*History of Exeter*, p. 224) suggests that Prudum was the founder of St. Alexius Hospital, in 1170.

MAYOR'S SEAL.—In describing the Mayor's seal (*Hist.*, p. 225), Oliver says the figure is not that of a king, but of an archbishop; and that the head in the niche below is that of a lion or leopard crowned with a ducal coronet. The latter identification appears very doubtful.

BAILIFF'S OR PROVOST'S SEAL.—Oliver (*Hist. Exon*, p. 225) states that this seal was octagonal. Device, a tower in three stories, battlemented; above the tower a lion passant between

two banners; on each side of the tower in chief a star; in base, a lion passant. Legend: \pm s' PREPOSITORVM · CIVITATIS DE EXONIA.

SEAL OF STAPLE.—This seal was occasionally used by the mayor, and Dr. Oliver found it on a bond of 3rd January, 1528. His description (*Hist. Exon.*, p. 226) is: On a diapered ground a castle, triple-towered; a large gateway in the centre, with portcullis raised; under it a lion couchant; beneath the castle, in base, a *fleur-de-lis*. Legend: s' MAIORIS STAPVLE CIVITATIS EXON.

CHAPTER SEALS.—A seal used by the chapter at the end of the 12th century bore the legend: + SIGILLVM CAPLĪ SCI PETRO EXONIE. One used in 1344 had a building upon it, and the words AD CAVSAM.

BISHOP'S SEAL.—This seal is a pointed oval, containing the impaled arms of the bishop and of the see. The shield is surmounted by a mitre. The legend is: THE SEAL OF FREDERICK TEMPLE, D.D., BISHOP OF EXETER, 1869. The arms of the see are the keys of St. Peter in saltire, with the sword of St. Paul, on a field gules.

PLYMOUTH.

CHAPTER SEAL.—The chapter of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Plymouth have a common seal, of a very elegant design. In the centre, in a pointed oval, is the figure of Bishop Boniface (to whom, with St. Mary, the cathedral is dedicated), under a Gothic canopy, fully vested, holding in his left hand an archiepiscopal staff, and in his right an open book with the letters LEX DNI IMM CONV ANIMAS. Where the staff has struck the ground a fountain gushes forth. In the background on one side is a church, and on the other a tree with the trunk half cut through. The *vesica piscis* is enclosed in a quatrefoil, within which there also appears the lamp of life, and the sword and palm of martyrdom. The legend, in a quatrefoil border, is: SIGILLVM · SCI · BONIFACII · EP · M · APLI · GERMAN · CAPITVL · PLYMOVTH. The saint is thus described by his full style of bishop, martyr, and apostle of Germany.

BISHOP'S SEAL.—The seal of the bishop, a pointed oval, bears his arms impaled with those of the see, surmounted by the episcopal hat, the four rows of tassels to which indicate the dignity of an assistant at the pontifical throne. Under the shield are the concluding words of the bishop's family motto, *Dduw a dygon*, "with God everything." The legend is

SIGILLVM · GVLIELMI · EPISCOPI · PLYMOVTHEN.

The arms of the see are barry of ten arg. and az., a saltire gu. (St. Andrew's cross), surmounting a pastoral crook, and charged with the keys of St. Peter.

TIVERTON.

BOROUGH.—The present borough seal is in the main a reproduction of one that was cut when the town was incorporated by James I., but was lost many years afterwards, when the existing seal was made. The old seal is engraved on the title-page of Harding's *History of Tiverton*. It was rather larger than the present; and the details of the device were somewhat different. The river flowed entirely round the field; and the castle was by no means prominent, if indeed it was meant to be represented at all. Legend: + SIGILLUM: OPPIDI: TIVERTON.

MAYOR'S SEAL.—There is a small seal used officially by the Mayor of Tiverton. It is circular, has for device a wool-pack, and bears the legend: BOROUGH OF TIVERTON · THE MAYOR'S SEAL.