

IV.—*Stray Notes on Cornwall.*—By R. N. WORTH, F.G.S.,  
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A FEW stray notes on Cornish topography and history have recently occurred to me in the course of my researches among some old MSS., which it may be interesting and desirable for the first time to put upon record. Some are taken from the Municipal Records of the borough of Plymouth, and others from the Autobiography of Dr. Yonge, an early Fellow of the Royal Society, and a distinguished physician of the latter half of the seventeenth century, who lived at Plymouth, but paid many professional visits to this county. I deal with the Municipal Records first.—

In 1496-7 I find "Itm. pd to Thomas Martyn and his cōpany to saylle to penle [Penlee] to speke wt Mr. Treffrye xvj<sup>d</sup>. Itm. delyvdyd vnto viij mē yt wer send by y<sup>e</sup> mayer to my lord of devonshyr yn Cornewalle to defende pkyn viij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>." These men were provided with "grene jaketts," 8 yards at 8d. the yard; "whitt," also 8 yards, cost 7d. the yard. "Pkyn" here is evidently intended for Perkin Warbeck, but the object of the Plymouth men was to defend the realm *against* him, not to aid his attempt.

1506-77—"Im. pd for a man and a horse ij tymes to go for nicolas adam of loo to make the crosse and the vanys on the stypell xvj<sup>d</sup>." Adam must have been an important personage, for he was also fetched on another occasion.

1511-12—"Itm. to John Gryslyng for a hoggshed of wyne which was sett a broche & dronken vpon the key when the pry<sup>or</sup> of plymton and his company were here to rescuwe the towne when it was said the frenshemen had brende fflowey xv<sup>s</sup>." This was a false alarm, fortunately.

1538-9—"Itm. pd for caryeng of a grey freere to the Gayle of launceston for suspecyon of trēason iiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>."

Plymouth took an active part against the Cornish rebels of 1548, who joined with the Devonshire and Somersetshire rebels

in the insurrection which broke out at Sampford Courtenay, for the restoration of Roman Catholicism. After they were defeated before Exeter, a party on their retreat assailed Plymouth, but were repulsed with heavy loss, though they burnt the "towne steepell." They were followed up by forces which included a Plymouth contingent, and who brought back with them an unfortunate Cornishman, who was done to death as a traitor on Plymouth Hoe. These are the entries which relate to the business.

"Itm. delyured to henry blase for hym his companye the viij<sup>th</sup> of Aprell when they Rode wt Sr Richard Eggecombe into Cornewall agaynst the Rebells there xxvj<sup>s</sup> viij<sup>d</sup>. Itm. paid for a dowsen of bowestryngs for them v<sup>d</sup>. Itm. pd for a dowsen of faggotts a quart of rede for doying thexecucyon vpon the Trayto<sup>r</sup> of Cornewall viij<sup>d</sup>. Itm. for tymbre for the gallowes xij<sup>d</sup>. Itm. for makyng the gallowes and for workyng at the howe xiiij<sup>d</sup>. Itm. paid to John Wylstrem for doying execucyon vpon the Traytor vi<sup>s</sup>. Itm. to lands man for leadyng the horse when the traytor was drawen to execucon iiij<sup>d</sup>. Itm. for ij pooles to putt the hede and the qrt<sup>r</sup> of the said trayto<sup>r</sup> vpon and for ij Crampys of Ieron for to staye the pole vpon the gyldhall x<sup>d</sup>. Itm. pd for the dyn. of the vndershyryff of Cornewall beyng here when the traytor was putto execucyon v<sup>s</sup>. Itm. paid to John Mattheuwe for Caryng a quart<sup>r</sup> of the trayto<sup>r</sup> to Tavystoke xij<sup>d</sup>. Itm. paid to Wyllm Byckford for wyne at the Receyvng of the traytor of Cornewall xij<sup>d</sup>." A horse "dyed in Cornewall at the subdeuyng of the Rebells," and for this William Brokyng had £1. A curious and not a pleasant picture this of the manners of the times.

The following topographical notes are from Dr. Yonge's memoirs. On his first voyage, for he served his apprenticeship at sea, he put into Scilly, 1657. Of this place he says:—

"Its composed of many Islands and dangerous Rocks. the bigg island called St. Maryes hath a castle well fortified and garrisoned, governed now by one Collo Hunkin; was taken from the king by Generall Blake s<sup>r</sup> *Jno Grenvill* now Earle of Bathe and govern<sup>r</sup> of plymmouth being y<sup>a</sup> governour thereof. here Is great plenty of Fish and good peas and a small town and a chappell. . . . These Rocky Islands spread broad lye in y<sup>e</sup> way of ships falling in with the land; by which meanes a multitude of men ships and vhaast treasure hath been shipwrecht thereon."

In 1659 his vessel, the *Constant Warwick*, was chasing a Biscayan vessel off the Land's End. "Towards evening hee was not above a myle from us, and was shott in just with the Long Ships, that is a Ledge of Rocks starting from y<sup>e</sup> Land's end of England, hee could not weather y<sup>m</sup>, but boldly wore between them, and lay into y<sup>e</sup> bottome of y<sup>e</sup> bay called Whitesand, had hee tacke or come out we must soon have him, at length wee did weather the rocks and lay as neare the shore as wee durst firing at him: ye noyse of ye guns drew multitudes of people to the shore, our shott flew among y<sup>m</sup>. At last y<sup>e</sup> pickeroon yielded to us & came out."

In 1667 the Dutch Admiral de Ruyter "lay in Plymmouth Sound, drove our Straights fleet Into Dartmouth o' Virginia fleet Into Fowy."

In 1675 he rode to Liskeard. "Thro the moor in wch I saw the cheesewring a great flatt rock layd on the topp of another like a capp soe that one man can loose or shake him, but a many cannot throw him off. I also saw y<sup>e</sup> Hurlers w<sup>ch</sup> are many moore-stones as bigg as those used about gates stuck into the earth. Supposed to be done in memory of some battle. they are now easily numbered but the people have a story that they never could till a man took many penny Loafes and laying one on each hurler did compute by the rem<sup>a</sup> what number they were." Liskeard is described as "a small county town, a mayor and sends Burgesses to Parliament."

In 1681 he rode a "Ghoonhilly" (pony) to London.

In 1682 visited Fowey, "a very pretty harbour much like Dartmouth, hath a narrow going in but a great inlet. In the Duch warr a fleet of Virginia men saved themselves here and some of them ran soe farr up y<sup>e</sup> River as 2 or 3 myles. The town is very small many Ruined houses in it, hath a pleasant walk on the sea side from y<sup>e</sup> town to the out poynt, by y<sup>e</sup> way there is an old castle w<sup>ch</sup> at the distance of about 100 yards makes the distinctest eccho I have ever heard, y<sup>e</sup> castle doth stand under the hill on w<sup>ch</sup> y<sup>e</sup> walk is and the echo perfect & distinct in ye space of 7 (?) yards only."

Of Padstow he says, "Its a bar place, hath several small vessels belong to it, and is navigable as farr as Warebridge w<sup>ch</sup> is 4 myles from It."

1685, "I waited on my Lord of *Bathe* [then governor of Plymouth] to his delicious house *Stowe*. It lyeth on y<sup>e</sup> ledge of y<sup>e</sup> north sea of Devon, a most curious fabrick beyond all description."

In 1707 he embalmed the body of Sir Cloudesley Shovel in Plymouth Citadel, brought thither from Scilly, and had £50 for it.

These are merely random notes from a book which was never intended for publication, but time has given them not only interest, but value.